



Redfern Ramblings

Winter 2010 Edition

Special Events

Mark your calendar NOW and plan to attend the following special events:

- **Dog Scouts Troop 171**
Troop Meeting — Jan 17 (Sun) 4 PM
Feb 21 (Sun) 4 PM
Mar 13 (SAT) 4 PM
- **PhoDOgraphy Seminars** (See details below) — 1/24 (Sun) 4 PM
1/31 (Sun) 4 PM
2/14 (Sun) 4 PM
- **Valentine's Party**
— Sat Feb 4, 4 PM
- **Introduction to Training (Seminars)**
— See Page 2 for information
Jan 20, 30, Feb 6, 20, 25, Mar 4

PhoDOgraphy

Here is your opportunity to enhance your skills as a photographer, and have some fun with your favorite furry friend.

The first 2 (of 4) sessions (*WITHOUT DOGS*) will help your photography skills:

Jan 24 (Sun) 4-6 PM — **Getting to Know Your Camera.** Bring your camera and we'll help to explain what all those buttons, dials, symbols and other strange doo-dads are all about.

Jan 31 (Sun) 4-6 PM — **Principles of Photography.** How to improve your pictures with composition, use of light, perspective and subtle tricks of the trade.

Feb 14 (Sun) 4-6 PM — **Preparing Your Dog for PhoDOgraphy.** Learn how to pose your dog, get them to stay, provide attention and give you the look you want.

Feb 27 (SAT) 4 PM — **PhoDOgraphy Badge Checkout.** (Only available for Dog Scouts) Bring your completed pictures and explain how you created your "masterpieces".

Costs for the first 3 sessions are \$5 (per person) each session or \$10 for all 3 for Dog Scout family members. *NON-Dog Scout persons are welcome to participate for \$10 each session or \$25 for all 3.*

(There is no charge for the Checkout session)

Worth Repeating

"Most female dogs decide by the time their puppies are weaned that the whole thing was a terrible mistake, the worst idea they ever had."
— Roger A. Caras, *A Dog is Listening* (1992)

New Training Format for "Entry-Level" Classes

Beginning in February, Redfern Canines is excited to announce a new, expanded program for its entry level classes! The Puppy, Beginners, and Manners classes have been totally revised and will now run for **7 weeks!** The additional week will allow Redfern to offer a more complete overview and introduction to training skills and techniques which will give new students a jump-start on training with their dogs.

Entry level classes will now begin with a **90 minute introductory seminar** which will focus on the use of positive reinforcement skills and operant training techniques. This seminar is designed for the human end of the leash only and **will not include dogs**, giving students an opportunity to concentrate on learning and practicing new training skills without needing to focus on their dogs. Students will learn about **choice of rewards, timing skills** in training, and how to use and then remove food/rewards when asking dogs to do something. This session will also cover basic administration items such as class schedules, weather cancellations, cleanup, and how to contact instructors with questions.

After completing the introductory seminar, students will then move into a 6-session class **WITH their dogs** in which all six hour long sessions will be spent directly teaching the dogs new skills and behaviors that are appropriate to their own dog's abilities and expertise.

Puppy Classes will be for dogs that are **6 months of age or younger** at the start of class and will focus on basic obedience behaviors (sit, down, come, walk nicely, watch me), socialization skills with other puppies and humans, and puppy development stages (housetraining, mouthing, jumping, fear periods).

Beginner Classes will be for dogs **7 months of age or older** at the start of class and will also focus on basic obedience behaviors (sit, down, come, walk nicely, watch me) in addition to dealing with breaking bad habits such as jumping on people, stealing food, inappropriate chewing, and barking.

Manners Classes will be for dogs who have already taken either Puppy Class or Beginner Class or who have **already RELIABLY learned** to sit, down, come when called, and walk 10 feet on a loose leash. This class will solidify those basic behaviors, begin teaching stay, introduce distractions during training and work with daily training problems and solutions. Dogs will learn to walk through doors nicely, walk nicely outside, leave toys and food when asked, and respond to both hand and voice cues. In addition, dogs will learn a new trick in each session and will learn to go to a mat or designated place and stay there when asked to.

Registration for entry level classes now will be a **2-step process.** Students should first choose and **register for the appropriate class** for themselves and their dog. Then students should choose and **register for the Introductory Training Seminar** that fits into their schedule. This seminar **must be completed before the first session of the Puppy, Beginner, or Manners class.** The cost of the Introductory Seminar is included in the registration cost for each of the entry level classes and will NOT need any additional payment.

VERNAL EQUINOX ON THE SUSQUEHANNA A Letterboxing Event Sponsored by Redfern Canines

The Letterboxing "bug" has really bitten many of the folks and pups at Redfern! Initially introduced to the Redfern Ramblers, Dog Scout Troop 171, Letterboxing has grown to have a life of its own!

For those of you who have not yet been infected by Letterboxing, it is a family and dog friendly activity in which you join in a sort of treasure hunt looking for a plastic, Tupperware-type box which contains a rubber stamp and a logbook. Following clues that you get from an internet site (www.atlasquest.com or www.letterboxing.com), you retrieve the box and stamp your personal,

(Continued on page 2)

Dog Scout Troop 171



A new year brings new activities for Troop 171.

We're expanding the distribution of Oxygen Mask Sets to area Fire Departments and Emergency Response/EMT organizations in Dauphin and

Perry Counties. So far, sets have been provided to

- Harrisburg Fire Dept
- Penbrook Fire Dept
- Paxtang Fire Dept
- Dauphin County Animal Response Team
- Susquehanna Twp Fire Dept
- Edgemont Fire Dept
- Hummelstown Fire Dept
- Hershey Fire Dept
- Lawnton Fire Dept

If you know of a **Fire Department or Emergency Response/EMT organization** in Dauphin or Perry County that would be interested in one or more sets of masks, please let us know. We want to get all those sets out so they can save lives for dogs, cats and other small animals in case of fire or other emergencies.

The Agility Training and Checkout sessions are underway and should be completed by January 23.

Letterboxing continues to be popular throughout the winter months. Several troop members have been actively planting boxes and searching them out throughout South Central PA. Redfern Canines is planning to host a Letterboxing Event later this spring. If there are any Dog Scout members who would like to help to develop that event, please contact Betsy.

Next meetings will be January 17, February 21 and March 13 at 4 PM. Please note that the MARCH meeting is on a SATURDAY. Bring a friend!

Bad Weather — Class Schedule

Just a reminder that although we try very hard to hold classes during winter months, sometimes the weather does not cooperate..

If we find it prudent to cancel classes due to weather or other factors, we will make every attempt to contact you prior to class. Please check your Email, and your Voice Mail for messages. Feel free to call 979-0132 if you have not heard from us prior to leaving for class..

Note that if a class needs to be canceled, the rest of the classes will be pushed back one week, so that no sessions will be missed.

HOWEVER, if you feel local conditions make travel hazardous for you and your dog, even though classes are NOT canceled, please trust your judgment and avoid travel if necessary.

Worth Repeating

*"My husband and I have worked out a system to get the dogs to do what he wants: He tells me, and I tell the dog."
— Susan Conant, True Confessions*

Current Class Listings

Class Title	Beginning Date/Time	# of Class Sessions
Beginners Class	Jan 19 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
<i>Introduction to Training (Seminar)</i>	Jan 20 (Weds) 7:00 PM	1* -- See Note Below --
Agility -- Level 1	Jan 22 (Fri) 6:00 PM	6
Manners Class	Jan 30 (Sat) 10:15 AM	6
<i>Introduction to Training (Seminar)</i>	Jan 30 (Sat) 2:00 PM	1* -- See Note Below --
Hearing Dog Training ----- NEW -----	Jan 31 (Sun) 2:30 PM	6
Manners Class	Feb 1 (Mon) 7:45 PM	7* -- See Note Below --
Tricks Class	Feb 5 (Fri) 7:45 PM	3
<i>Introduction to Training (Seminar)</i>	Feb 6 (Sat) 2:00 PM	1* -- See Note Below --
Reliable Retrieves	Feb 7 (Sun) 12 Noon	6
Beginners Class	Feb 7 (Sun) 1:15 PM	7* -- See Note Below --
Puppy Class	Feb 20 (Sat) 11:30 AM	7* -- See Note Below --
<i>Introduction to Training (Seminar)</i>	Feb 20 (Sat) 2:00 PM	1* -- See Note Below --
Beginners Class	Feb 22 (Mon) 6:30 PM	7* -- See Note Below --
Manners Class	Feb 23 (Tues) 6:30 PM	7* -- See Note Below --
<i>Introduction to Training (Seminar)</i>	Feb 25 (Thurs) 7:00 PM	1* -- See Note Below --
Rally -- Level 1	Feb 27 (Sat) 12:45 PM	6
Rally -- Competition Level	Mar 4 (Thurs) 5:30 PM	6
<i>Introduction to Training (Seminar)</i>	Mar 6 (Sat) 2:00 PM	1* -- See Note Below --

IMPORTANT NOTE about Entry-Level Classes (Beginning Feb 1)
All Entry-Level Classes (Puppy, Beginners and Manners) include participation in a 1-session "Introduction to Training Seminar" prior to the first class session (see page 1 for more information). The Introductory Seminar (for humans only -- no dogs necessary) is included in the course fee, and will be offered at a variety of times to enable all students to choose a session that fits their schedule.

(LETTERBOXING EVENT — Continued from page 1)
 signature stamp in the logbook while stamping the box's stamp in your Letterboxing journal.

Rumor has it that some of our Letterbox addicts have begun planting their own Letterboxes, have found nearly 50 hidden boxes, and go so far as to plan travel routes based on where there are boxes hidden. Not only that, but neither rain nor hail nor sleet nor snow.....

The BIG news, though, is that on March 21, Redfern Canines will host its first Letterboxing event from 10 AM – 5 PM. The day will include a pot-luck lunch, a chance (IF the weather cooperates) to find some of the local Letterboxes, workshops on carving your own stamps and making log-books, a chance to meet other Letterboxers, and maybe even a surprise box or two.

To register for the event, go to www.atlasquest.com, click on "Toolbox" to get to the Event Calendar, scroll down to March 21, and click on Vernal Equinox. That will get you to a screen where you will be able to click on "Join Event".

A word to the wise—this event promises to be lots of fun, but it DOES have a limit of 30 people. So sign up now if you are interested!

Dog License Time

With the new year comes the reminder that all dogs 3 months of age and older MUST be licensed in PA.

Licenses can be obtained from the County Treasurer's office and at some municipal offices.

Consider getting a PERMANENT license, especially if your dog is quite young. With a permanent license you will be spared the annual ritual of needing to renew the license. In order to qualify for a permanent license your dog must have permanent identification — either a tattoo or a micro-chip.

The cost of a permanent license for a spayed or neutered dog is only \$ 31. Permanent licenses can ONLY be obtained at the County Treasurer's office.