



Redfern Ramblings

Early Fall 2008 Edition

Special Events

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

- **Redfern Therapy Group**
Oct 1, Nov 5 (Weds) 6:30 PM
- **Dog Scouts Troop 171**
Helen Krause Walk - Oct 4 (Sun) 1 PM
Hike (Greenbelt — Oct 18 (Sat) 4 PM
see website for directions)
Troop Meeting — Oct 19 (Sun) 4 PM
- **Mutt Movie Night**
FREE. A Feature-Length dog-oriented movie, with popcorn — bring your comfy chair & soft drink! *(We'll provide the ice.)*
Oct 4, Nov 1 (Sat) 6:30 PM
- **Kids' Klub**
Oct 5 & 26, Nov 9 & 23 (Sun) 4 PM
- **Dog First Aid Seminar**
Produced by the Red Cross
Nov 8 (Sat) 2-6 PM
- **The Power of the Clicker**
(Seminar on the use of Clicker Training & Operant Conditioning for Dog Training) Oct 11-12 (Sat-Sun) 9-4
- **Halloween Party** — Oct 25 (Sat) 4 PM
- **Choosing a Puppy**
(FREE) How to choose a puppy by breed & temperament to match your home situation & family lifestyle.
Nov 19 (Weds) 6 PM
- **Pictures With Santa**
Nov 29 (Sat) 1 PM — *benefits the Oxygen Mask Project*

Worth Repeating

"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."
— Groucho Marx (1895-1977)

Register Early to SAVE \$\$\$

Please note that prices will change for most classes and events effective October 1. Registrations received before Oct 1 will be accepted at current rates. See the website for details.

MOVIE NIGHT (Oct 4)

Saturday — 6:30 PM

The Shaggy D.A.

FREE — Popcorn Provided!

(Bring your own comfy chair and your favorite soft drink — ice and cups provided)

Now with larger projection area & stereo sound

Dog Scouts to Donate Oxygen Masks

Our dog Scout Troop would like to help save some lives!

Most area fire departments do not have oxygen mask adapters to treat dogs & other pets who suffer from smoke inhalation or respiratory trauma. Dog Scout Troop 171 wants to do something about that.

Our troop is beginning an effort to raise funds to donate special Oxygen Masks (designed for pets) to area Fire Departments and Emergency Crews. Beginning this Fall, and going on as long as it takes to cover those first responders who need them, we will be carrying on a campaign to educate the public regarding the need for such devices, and to solicit the funds (about \$80 per set) to cover the costs.

The oxygen masks designed for humans do not properly fit the long snout of most pets. As a result they are inefficient in emergencies when timing is critical. The special kits we will provide have 3 mask sizes that fit around a pet's muzzle and offer a much more efficient delivery of oxygen when minutes count.



Look for some upcoming fundraisers to get this program off the ground. Beginning October 1 we will be accepting donations and participating in fundraisers for the masks. We hope to be able to provide at least 25 sets, which will cost about \$2000.

Individuals who would like to sponsor a set (perhaps in memory of a pet, or in honor of a current pet or other reason) can do so on a special web page www.redferncanines.com/scouts/masks, or by contacting the troop leaders. Special presentations will be made for each set of masks provided.



A Very Special Friend

Susquehanna's Red Fern, 1995-2008

To say that Fern was special does not do justice to the extraordinary spirit that defined her mission in life.

More than a faithful companion, more than a willing partner, more than a loving soul mate, Fern had a way of being able to rise above the busy-ness of life and the pain and suffering around her to be able to look adversity in the eye and, without a word or a whimper, let us know that "it's all right, you are loved!"



She served for almost a decade as a "spokes-dog" and "poster child" for Susquehanna Service Dogs. She participated in countless therapy and crisis response sessions to bring a calming presence in the midst of a crisis or time of stress. She brought puppies into the world that carried her spirit through 4 generations (more than 70 so far), many of which have done her proud with the work they have done with their partners, their clients and their families.



She taught us how to love, and the importance of sharing that love. She inspired us to share what we learned from her with others who truly love their dogs.

It's hard, *really* hard, to say goodbye to such a special friend. But

we must rise above our self-centered temptation to focus on our loss to instead celebrate the wonderful life she provided for the hundreds, perhaps thousands of souls she touched.

We rest content to know that she is released from the pain and silent suffering she bore during her final months. And we know that if ever there was a dog who would wait patiently at the Rainbow Bridge, Fern will be there, with grace and style.

God bless you, Fern! We pray that we can live up to your belief in us!

Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor, those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together

— Author unknown

Dog Scout Troop 171



Troop 171 is heading into a busy fall season. Hikes, Community Events, Fundraising, Merit Badge Training, and lots of FUN are in store for the dogs who will be earning their red Dog Scout scarves.

We'll be participating in the **Helen Krause Foundation Walk** on October 4. Sign up your sponsors and wear your Troop 171 scarves to let the world know that we're supporting HOKAFI as a group.

Our next regular **Troop Meeting** will be Oct 19 at 4 PM. At that time we will be learning about some of the Merit Badges that we're working on, and beginning preparation for ringing bells during the Holiday season.

Some of the **Dog Scout Merit Badges** we'll be working on as a troop are:

- **The Art of Shaping.** Using clicker training to teach the dogs to PAINT!
- **First Aid.** Preparing you and your dog for emergencies.
- **Fundraising.** Dog & human team raise money to support local charities & community service organizations.
- **Community Service.** Dogs and humans team up to help out their local communities.
- **PhoDOgraphy.** Learning how to take better pictures of your dog, and how your training pays off by changing ordinary pictures into good composition and layout.
- **Backpacking.** Learning how to pack and hike with dogs.



Keep checking the website and announcements at the Training Center for additional future events.

The Dog Scout Badge



This is a continuing feature focusing on the requirements of the first badge earned by Dog Scouts. Each newsletter will highlight one of the skill areas.

The requirements of the Dog Scout Badge are:

1. Dog is friendly & comfortable with strangers & other dogs.
2. Owner manages dog's environment, keeps dog out of trouble, & masters the phrase "please keep your dog back".
3. Owner knows how to encourage proper greeting behavior between dogs.
4. Owner knows proper leash handling to discourage aggression.
5. Owner understands that aggression is normal dog "language", but also understands how to let the dog make other choices (deference behavior, etc.).

6. Owner understands the use of calming signals.
7. Owner can have dog perform a "Leave It" with food and another animal.
8. Owner understands the value of making the dog "choose", using indirect access exercises.
9. Dog can demonstrate the ability to heel on a loose leash without pulling.
10. Dog can sit when owner stops while heeling, will sit and down on owner's cue, will come when called & will stay (sit or down) while owner walks away.
11. Owner carries at least 2 plastic bags at all times & consistently practices responsibility by picking up dog's waste.
12. Owner knows the Dog Scout Laws and promises to uphold them.

This newsletter's highlighted skill is #11. Being a responsible dog "parent" means always cleaning up after your dog! Dog Scout parents carry 2 clean-up bags at all times so they will be prepared to clean up after their own or others' dogs.

Gift Certificates Available

Any amount — use for Classes, Seminars or Merchandise.

Current Class Listings

Class Title	Beginning Date/Time	# Sessions
Puppy Class	Sept 30 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Tricks Class	Oct 4 (Sat) 11:30 AM	3
Manners Class	Oct 4 (Sat) 12:45 PM	8
Rally -- Level 1	Oct 7 (Tues) 6:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	Oct 9 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	6
Agility -- Level 2	Oct 10 (Fri) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 1	Oct 10 (Fri) 7:45 PM	6
Manners Class	Oct 13 (Mon) 6:30 PM	6
Manners Class	Oct 15 (Weds) 3:30 PM	6
Puppy Class	Oct 19 (Sun) 1:15 PM	6
Rally -- Level 2	Oct 27 (Mon) 7:45 PM	6
K9 Sampler	Nov 2 (Sun) 12 Noon	5
Puppy Class	Nov 8 (Sat) 9:00 AM	6
Beginners Class	Nov 8 (Sat) 10:15 AM	6
CGC/Therapy Dog Prep	Nov 8 (Sat) 11:30 AM	5
First Aid Seminar	Nov 8 (Sat) 2 PM	4 hrs
Beginners Class	Nov 9 (Sun) 2:30 PM	6
Rally -- Level 1	Nov 11 (Tues) 7:45 PM	6
Rally -- Level 2	Nov 18 (Tues) 6:30 PM	6
Manners Class	Nov 20 (Thurs) 6:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	Nov 20 (Thurs) 7:45 PM	6
Agility -- Level 2	Nov 21 (Fri) 6:30 PM	6
Agility -- Level 1	Nov 21 (Fri) 7:45 PM	6
Manners Class	Nov 24 (Mon) 6:30 PM	6
Beginners Class	Nov 26 (Weds) 3:30 PM	8
Beginners Class	Nov 30 (Sun) 1:15 PM	6
Puppy Class	Dec 6 (Sat) 12:45 PM	6

NOTE — If the class you prefer is not scheduled at a time convenient to you, please let us know ... we may be able to make an adjustment, or schedule a new class based on general interest.

PLEASE REMEMBER (when registering online) to complete the Class Application AND Payment Forms. If a Payment Form is submitted without the Application it is necessary to contact you to get important information.

SEMINARS on Tap

The Power of the Clicker. A concentrated study of Clicker Training and Operant Conditioning for dog training. 2 full days.. Fee includes lunch. Oct 11-12, 9-4

First Aid for Dogs. Based on the Red Cross course, this afternoon seminar includes everything needed to earn the Dog Scout Merit Badge. Fee includes a manual and DVD. Nov 8, 2-6.

Choosing a Puppy. A FREE seminar on how to use breed & temperament to match your home situation & family lifestyle. Nov 19, 6 PM

Worth Repeating

"When I grow too old to walk my dog, too blind to see its beauty, too feeble to reach out and hug its furry shoulders or press its rugged head against my chest, when I grow too old to love my canine companion and cherish it for its deep devotion, too self-occupied to pay attention to its teaching me how to live, then it shall be time for me to cross the rainbow bridge where my departed canine friends from the past await me. In their company I shall be whole again and glad."

—Theresa Mancuso, *Dog People Do It Better*