

Dear Dog Lover,

**Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Finding the Time to Train your Dog”**

**CLASSES:** We'll **delay the start for the High School** by a couple weeks, to give the current Elementary Class students a chance to join. So instead of June 15<sup>th</sup>, High School will start July 6<sup>th</sup>. High School is our 4-week “Manners Practice” class, working with the dogs through everyday situations, like loose leash walking, meeting a stranger, or chatting with another dog owner. These everyday situations and more are tested in the CGC-test (an AKC program), held in September. This class is useful practice no matter if you decide to take the test later on or not.

Like last time you'll find all changes from the June newsletter in **RED** below. Please, even if you're already signed up, check the schedule below to see if your class is affected.

Enjoy the summer, get out with your dog(s),  
Claudia

**Below you'll find:**

- 1) Information on upcoming events**
- 2) REVISED: Dates and times of upcoming classes**
- 3) How to sign up for the classes**
- 4) Information on the Open Play Times**
- 5) This month's story: **Finding the Time to Train your Dog****

## **1) INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday, Aug 29: Dog Day at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer**

We'll have our presentation at 6-6:45pm in the corral.

We'll again need dog/handler teams to help us with our demonstrations of playing puppies, Elementary/ High School exercises, Tricks 'N Clicks exercises, and hopefully a Nose Work Presentation?

**Saturday, Sep 11: Responsible Dog Ownership Day at the Regine Dog Training Facility**

We have lots of plans already – stay tuned for more info!

Some highlights: We'll have a silent auction for some of our agility equipment, Canine First Aid seminar, agility and nose work demos (who wants to demo???)

**Saturday, Sep 25: 2010 WDMA (Willow Dog Musers Association) Symposium in Willow**

We've been asked to give a demonstration about the new dog sport Nose Work.

Who wants to help???

## **2) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:**

### **Drop-in classes running right now:**

Instructors: Claudia (NW, RP), January (NW), Cheri (RP)

Weekly every Wednesday until June 30. July/August will be on Thursday evenings.

Outdoors classes in fenced field. **Punch card available online.**

### **Until June 30<sup>th</sup>:**

Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm: Nose Work (maximum 6 dogs) **FULL**

Wednesday 8-9pm: [Rally Practice](#) (maximum 6 dogs)

### **Starting July 8<sup>th</sup>:**

Thursday 6:30-7:30pm: Nose Work (maximum 6 dogs)

Thursday 8-9pm: [Rally Practice](#) (maximum 6 dogs)

### **Behavior classes starting June 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, and end July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday 6:15-7:15: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Tuesday 7:30-8:30: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

### **Behavior class starting July 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: Claudia

High School runs for 4 weeks and **ends July 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Tuesday 5-6pm: [High School](#)

### **Behavior classes starting July 21/22:**

Instructors: Rose, **Maggie**, Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, and end Sep 1/2.

Wednesday 5-6pm: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

Wednesdays 6:15-7:15: [Elementary School](#)

Thursday 5-6pm: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Thursday 6:15-7:15: **FC or P1** (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Thursdays 7:30-8:30: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

### **Behavior class starting Aug 11th:**

Instructor: Claudia

High School runs for 4 weeks and ends Sep 1st.

Wednesday 7:30-8:30: [High School](#)

### **Agility classes starting July 24:**

Instructors: Claudia, Kat, Heather

Saturday 9-10:15am (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 10:30am-12pm (including change): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 11:30am-1pm (including change): [Agility Skills Training](#)

Lunch break: 1-2pm

Saturday 2-3:30pm (including change): [Agility Skills Training](#)

Saturday 3-5pm (including 2x change): [Agility Sequencing](#)

Saturday 4:30-6pm (including change): [Agility Trialing 1](#)

Saturday 6-7:30pm (including take-down): [Agility Trialing 2](#)

Times will change accordingly if we double less or different classes

### **Upcoming classes:**

Tentatively starting Aug 17: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) and [Foundation Class](#)

Tentatively Aug 17 and 24: Rehearsal for the State Fair demonstration (here at the Regine Dog Training Facility, outside)

## **3) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:**

It's easy!!! On our webpage [www.bettercompanion.com](http://www.bettercompanion.com), use the menu bar on the left. You'll find a button "Classes", with the subtitle "Registration", which brings you directly to the **one registration form for ALL classes**. After clicking "enroll" at the end, you'll get to the pricing and payment page, which explains all payment options, policies, and allows you to pay online, too. You can also check out the pricing page first, to learn about prices, payment and cancellation policies. Take advantage of our **pre-registration fee** by signing up a minimum of **14 days before the start of your class**. Please read our cancellation policy on the pricing page – you almost can't lose!

[Puppy 1 Preschool clients](#), please remember you can also purchase the **Puppy School Packet**, including P1 and P2 class. You only have to commit to the seven weeks of P1 class, and will receive a voucher for P2, valid for 1 full year! For [P2 voucher holders](#), the voucher will be your payment. After you fill out the registration form for P2, you can email us the voucher number, mail the voucher to us or drop it off at the facility.

**Reserve your spot!** Please note **our registration policy: Only the payment will hold your spot.** Spots are reserved in the order we receive payment for them. **Always sign up for the class you want to join**, even if it could be full. Only the payment will keep you on the waiting list, in case somebody else drops out before the class starts. **Your payment is never lost**, even if the class is already full. Your payment will 1) save you a spot at the class, or 2) save you a spot on the waiting list, or 3) can be carried over to a later class, or 4) can be refunded if I couldn't get you in the class you chose, or 5) can cause me to open an overflow class ☺. Just

as a note: I sometimes get up to three dogs per class moved in from a waiting list before the class even starts. **We now can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility.**

#### **4) SOCIAL HOUR - OPEN PLAY TIMES:**

Come with your dog for one hour of dog play and dog owner social time. Each dog must be supervised by an adult handler, one dog per handler only. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella). We also require having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

Please note the following dates when we'll be **closed for Open Play Times:**

**July 5: No OPT, no daycare** (Independence Day celebration)

**Sep 6: No OPT, no daycare** (Labor Day)

**First-timers:** bring your vaccination papers, we want to see them! Dogs over 6 months, please for the first time come on a Friday, when Claudia and Frank are managing the play times. After that, we'll discuss with you which hour will be best and if you can come Mondays as well.

**Fee:** \$7 at the door or punch card \$35 for 6 visits.

Our Open Play Times (indoors + outdoors) have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to the newer size restrictions for each group. Only timid and absolutely non-reactive dogs can be slightly heavier than the group limit. The group from 7-8pm is limited to 8 dogs, and reservations can be made in advance. Just call us and we explain the details.

#### **Every Monday AND Friday:**

5-6pm: toy and small dogs and puppies up to 25#

6-7pm: puppies and medium adult dogs 30-50# (giant breed puppies can be heavier)

7-8pm: Large adults over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors: 10 dogs max)

8-9pm: Large Dogs over 60# (if needed)

**You can check the web page [www.bettercompanion.com](http://www.bettercompanion.com) for info on classes, facility, and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form...**

Or contact us by email or phone (see below).

#### **5) FINDING THE TIME TO TRAIN YOUR DOG**

You'd like to get a better trained dog, you went to class with your dog, you know what you need to work on. It's just there's never enough time! Already during class you felt

guilty for not having practiced enough with your dog during the week. Now, the pressure of the class is gone, and it's even harder to make time for those exercises.

Believe me, I'm in the same boat with you! I have a hard time finding the extra minutes to practice with my own dogs. Here're some pointers on how to make it happen anyway:

1) Going to a class **MAKES** you work with your dog at least that one hour a week! And if you find an exercise you really like, you'll probably try that out a couple times afterwards. Bingo, there's your training! Maybe you can find a friend and come to class together with your dogs, inspiring each other and supporting each other to make it work.

2) If there's a specific behavior in your dog you'd like to change, make that your priority. It has to bug you enough to decide it's time for a change. If it doesn't become a priority, the behavior isn't that bad (yet). Now think about which exercise(s) will help you specifically to train your dog what to do **INSTEAD** of the unwanted behavior, and focus on rewarding that new behavior.

3) Pack the exercises into your daily routine. Remember, every time you interact with your dog (looking at, talking to, handling...), your dog learns something out of it! So turn specific routine interactions into training, by just adding little things.

The easiest routine is to have your dog sit before feeding. Now if you just change that into a down, or have your dog sit/down for longer (starting before you fill the dish), or further away from the dish, maybe even around the corner... There're tons of variations, to make that daily event a better training exercise, without adding much extra time.

Another routine is sitting at the door. That can be letting the dog in or out, going for a walk, or the car door. Wait for the dog to look at you, before you release them. That's like saying "please, can I go now?"

4) When you have dinner leftovers, from your fish or steak, that you'd like to feed to your dog(s), make sure they aren't "free-bees"! Think about a little more challenging exercise, for your dog(s) to **EARN** those extra treats!

Do you already have a good routine with your dog, or more ideas?

**Tell us about your routines and ideas for routines, and we'll publish all those ideas in our next newsletter!**

Happy training,  
Claudia  
Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA  
(Certified Professional Dog Trainer)

Your BetCo Team at  
**The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility**  
Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA  
Frank Sihler, Iditarod Finisher

Cindi Dupuis (office)

(907) 357-2521

[betco@mtaonline.net](mailto:betco@mtaonline.net)

[www.bettercompanion.com](http://www.bettercompanion.com)

1400 E Regine Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654