

This month's story at the end of this email: "[Lucy's winter activities – a small dog's world?](#)"

Volunteers needed for the Pet Partner® evaluation and Canine Good Citizen test this weekend, Jan 19/20! Let me know if you'd like to help and learn about those tests. No pre-requisite required. I'll also need one dog/handler team for Sunday that already passed the test he's volunteering for. Sign-up for the seminar has already started, just fill out an online registration form and mail it with your payment! Please read the specifics below.

Sign-up is open as far as the calendar online shows! Check the schedule for a class that fits you, and just sign up for it! Look for the weekday that says "START CLASSES" to find out the exact date of a class start. Your payment is never lost, even if the class is already full. Your payment will 1) save you a spot at the class, 2) or save you a spot on the waiting list, or 3) can be carried over to a later class, 4) can be fully reimbursed 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 started.

Below you'll find:

- 1) Dates and times of upcoming classes**
- 2) How to sign up for the classes**
- 3) Information on the CGC-test and Pet Partner seminar**
- 4) Information on the Open Play Times**
- 5) This month's story: Lucy's winter activities – a small dog's world?**

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Behavior classes starting Feb 2nd:

The classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Mar 1st, and end Mar 22nd.

Saturdays 10-11am (first week: 10-12:30pm without the dogs): [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#)

Saturdays 11:15-12:15 (first week: 10-12:30pm without the dogs): [Foundation Class](#)

Saturdays 2-3pm: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#) (full and 3 dogs waiting)

Saturdays 3:15-4:15pm: [Elementary School](#) (full and 3 dogs waiting)

Saturdays 4:30-5:30pm: [Tricks 'N Clicks College](#)

NEW, UPDATED LISTING: Behavior classes starting Feb 18th:

The class will run for seven weeks and end Mar 31st.

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

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

Behavior classes starting Mar 5th/6th:

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Apr 16/17.

Wednesday 5-6pm (first week: 5-7:30pm without the dogs): [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#)

Wednesday 6:15-7:15 (first week: 5-7:30pm without the dogs): [Foundation Class](#)

Wednesday 7:30-8:30: TBA

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

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

Thursday 7:30-8:30: [Rally College](#)

Agility classes starting March 29th

The classes will run for six weeks, with a break on Apr 26th, and end May 17th.

Saturdays 1:30-3pm (includes set-up time): [Agility Beginners and Puppies](#) (full and 2 dogs waiting)

Saturdays 3-4:30pm (includes changing equipment time): [Agility Intermediate-B](#) (full and 4 dogs waiting)

Saturdays 4:30-6pm (includes taking down time): [Agility Advanced](#) (full and 2 dogs waiting)

Note: Any people on the waiting list will be the first ones to have a spot in the next agility class, which will start the Saturday after Memorial Day (May 31).

2) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

We have a new registration form, which should be easy again (pooh). You should again be able to hit any “register” button, to get to the registration form, and you’ll also find the online payment option in that area. Please be aware, **Agility has its own registration form and payment page!** You have to click on “agility classes” in the left menu first, to get to the correct form. My web designer is still working on that form, so it’s at times possible you can only pay, but not fill out a form.

Please note we also **changed our registration policy: Only the payment will hold your spot.** Spots are reserved in the order I receive payment for them. For P2 voucher holders, the voucher will be your payment and has to be mailed in or dropped off. You can always sign up for the class you want to join, even if it would be full. Only the payment will keep you on the waiting list, in case somebody else drops out before the class starts. If I can’t get you into that class, your payment will either be used for the next available class, for another class you wish to join instead, or fully reimbursed!

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!

3) CGC-TEST:

What is it: This test proves that you’re a responsible dog owner. After successful completion, you can ask the AKC to mail you a beautiful certificate, which you can use to show your landlord, animal control, friends, family... Just show us that your dog is under your control in 10 everyday situations!

If you are a Pet Partner workshop participant, you can use this test as a practice-run for the Pet Partner evaluation on the next day! We’ll use different volunteers, and it won’t count for the pet partner evaluation. To qualify for the Pet Partner program, you’ll still have to take the full test on Sunday.

Date and Time: Sat, Jan 19th, 1pm. No reservation required, just show up at 1pm for sign-up. We'll test in the order of sign-up, starting as soon as sign-up is done.

Cost: \$10 per dog per test on the day of the test.

4) OPEN PLAY TIMES:

Due to the success of the [Open Play Times](#), we'll continue offering those year-round, twice a week. We have moved the classes to the indoors, on Tuesdays AND Fridays. 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. First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, in case we ask for them!

Fee: \$5 at the door, punch card \$25 for 6 visits. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella).

Dates: every Tuesday and Friday evening

6-7pm: small, young or timid dogs

7-8pm: large and rambunctious dogs

You can check the web page www.bettercompanion.com for info on classes, facility, and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form...

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

5) LUCY'S WINTER ACTIVITIES – A SMALL DOG'S WORLD?

For those who don't know her yet, Lucy is my Jack Russell Terrier, now 4 years old. I adopted her 2.5 years ago and she's my first own small breed dog. She has the mind of a large dog, like most other "Terrors", and stands her ground against large dogs, mainly by being upfront, barking and snarling at them, to find out that they either are really afraid of her, or not, and then she runs away like the wind and hides in fear.

Then she looks like that typical small breed dog, underlined by a shaking body, which can come from excitement as well as from that non-existing undercoat, especially during the wintertime. Her thin hair and easily cold feet have turned me into a wardrobe-shopper for dogs. NEVER did I think I'd start that, but it can be quite an addiction, to look for the right coat for the right situations. We have already gathered several sweaters, coats against the wind, the rain, and the cold, a life vest for boating, a down sleeping bag (was a foot warmer for people), a couple sets of booties, and a warm bag to transport her on the snowmachine.

Lucy tells us the winter is not her weather. She shivers, she wants to be picked up, she wants to ride on the snow machine, either in my coat or in her bag, she stands in front of the door after she did her duties and wants to get in ASAP. After that big snowfall yesterday, she made the carport her elimination area and walks right behind me in my footsteps through the deep snow, trying to stay as dry as possible. Not her weather?

All of a sudden, she leaps forward to where Sally (my other dog, a Husky-mix) disappeared into the woods – was there a squirrel? Forgotten are the cold and the snow, she jumps like a gazelle, and when she's on the trail again, just shakes the snow off like Sally. Staying inside for several days at below zero temperatures makes Lucy and me miserable, and all the inside obedience games can't make up for a nice long walk or a ride on the snow machine to an overnight camping trip. It's not my weather either, when it's below zero, and the cold creeps under the skin, and it takes hours to get warm afterwards. What I do against it? Get dressed as warm as possible, especially my feet need to stay warm. And that's what I do now with Lucy: She gets booties on, and off we go!

Once Lucy realized that booties keep her from getting cold feet, and that she can still run in them, she started enjoying the winter. Maybe not below zero, but in the single digits and teens! And in the twenties, everything is fun! Lucy can even be hooked up in my small recreational team, and when she sees a Moose, she pulls like crazy! ☺ I sometimes let her run loose along with the team, and she also gets to ride in the sled, but I better hook her up, because she can jump off without even stumbling at 10mph! When we go overnighting with the snowmachine, Lucy gets to sleep in my sleeping bag, and boy does she love it!

If you'd like to see how Lucy rides on the snowmachine or runs in my sled dog team, just email me with that request and I'll send you those two pictures! I just can't attach them to the bulk mail, to avoid getting marked as spam. Allow a week or so to send the pictures, but you'll get them!

See you at the Regine Dog Training Facility,
Claudia

Your BetCo Team at

The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

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