

Dear dog enthusiast,

This month's story at the end of this email: [“A fun day at the Doggy Day Care”](#)

Additional agility classes will be offered on Tuesday afternoons, starting April 1st. **This is not a fool's day joke!** So far I've opened two spots, for beginners and intermediate levels, but this could change depending on the sign-ups I get. So if you're a beginner and the earlier time doesn't fit you, but you could make it to the later class, let me know! It's possible that we'll have beginners in the later spot instead of intermediates.

The next round of classes starts Mar 5/6 and there're still openings! We'll offer two P2 classes, one on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm, and one on Thursdays from 5-6pm. The follow-up class for P2 and FC graduates is Elementary School, and the next obedience level for ES graduates is Rally College! If you'd like to strengthen the basics, feel free to repeat P2 or ES, you wouldn't be the first one doing that!

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 Open Play Times
- 4) This month's story: A fun day at the Doggy Day Care

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

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: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

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

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

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

Behavior classes starting Mar 29th:

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

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

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

Agility classes starting March 29th:

The classes will run for six weeks, with a break on Apr 26th, and end May 10th.

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 alternative/next agility class, which will start Apr 1st or May 31st.

Agility classes starting April 1st:

The classes will run for six weeks, and end May 6th.

Tuesdays 2:30-4pm (includes set-up time): [Agility Beginners and Puppies](#)

Tuesdays 3:45-5:30pm (includes changing equipment time): [Agility Intermediate-B](#)

Requirement for Ag IM-B: Mastering all equipment successfully after Ag Beginners. You can take IM-B before having done IM-A. You'll need two IM classes before moving up to Advanced. To make that more fun, we offer two different IM curriculums.

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. The best way to the registration site is to click on "DOG CLASSES" on the left menu, then on "REGISTRATION" in the list of subtitles. 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) 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 play 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 (up to ~40#, very timid or small dogs will play within the additional safety of a pen)

7-8pm: large and rambunctious dogs (over 50#)

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 us by email or phone (see below).

4) A FUN DAY AT THE DOGGY DAY CARE

I can't tell who loves the day care for dogs more: the owners, the dogs or us. When we moved the office from our home to the training facility, we didn't realize we'd take half our live with us. While Frank watches over the dogs and gives them potty breaks 1-2 times per hour, I sit in the office on my computer, taking care of emails, projects, the phone... And whenever I need a break to stretch my legs, I meet Frank and the dogs in the training arena, where they run around, take short breaks, and play with each other almost constantly.

The biggest fun for me always was and still is to observe the dogs and their behaviors: play chase, play wrestling, invite to play, accept or deny that request, invite again, tease a little, run away, hope to be followed, hide behind the chair, change direction like a rabbit, start and stop... and on and on it goes. I need to get back to my computer, now, really, no guys, I can't stay with you all day long, go ask Frank to pet you! I'll see you when Frank takes you through the office for a potty break in the fenced potty pen, feel free and stop by at my desk then ☺.

It's a blast to watch when they come in the morning: owners with all those things on their mind they need to get done, dogs with only one thing on their mind: hurry, let me in, I can't wait to meet my buddies! We introduce them one-by-one, especially any "newbie", and eventually they all get along together in the big 40'x56' play area. With group sizes of about 5 dogs we often even mix smaller dogs in with big success. First we have them meet one bigger dog at a time in the extra pen, and then we show them Lucy's hiding place at the desk, where they can sneak through the fence and the big dogs can't follow. From there the small dogs develop the confidence to come out and play with the bigger

dogs, because they can run and hide in their safety zone at any time. Together with Lucy they learn fast how to interact with the larger dogs and have fun.

Since I often have classes in the evening, I take the mornings off and come in at lunchtime. Then Lucy is a welcome distraction, everybody wants to play with her, and she barks and chases the dogs around and increases the play activities again. By 3-4pm, the dogs visibly start resting for little longer periods. That means more than 5 seconds, now we're at maybe 3 minutes 😊 before they start playing again, which then sometimes seems to be even heftier, due to the prolonged rest.

Most of the dogs are now ready for pick-up, and here comes the dog owner's beloved part: they're picking up a tired dog, ready for a looong nap! Owners sometimes tell us that their dogs are still calmer the next day, and overall more balanced and less hyper at home. They saw the effect of the tiring playtimes also when taking the dog to a class the same or the next day. Their dog could focus better and wasn't as hyperactive as at other times. Owners aren't always able to pick up their dogs at 4pm, and we then crate the dogs until they come. So far we didn't have any problems with that, because the dogs happily take a nap while waiting for their 'parents'. If you had your dog at our Doggy Day Care already, send in your testimonial!!!

See you at the Regine Dog Training Facility,
Claudia

You received this email because you were interested in or already enrolled in any of the services of The Better Companion. Your email address is kept confidential and not given to third parties. If you know somebody who might be interested in any services of The Better Companion, don't hesitate to forward this email to them. If a client signs up for a class and mentions your name (the registration form asks 'whom may I thank for your referral?'), **you'll receive a \$5 coupon** for your next class. These **referral coupons** can be accumulated - up to getting a whole class for free! We hope that you enjoy receiving monthly class information from The Better Companion. If you prefer not to receive future emails, please send a little note to unsubscribe.

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