

Dear dog lover,

After we enjoyed some rain-free days, I hear again that familiar noise on our metal roofing as I'm writing this... Here's to sooth our soul: We can let our dogs play and learn indoors, and keep the rain outside! **All Open Play Times can be indoors now if the weather is nasty.** There's **NO Open Play on Aug 29th**, the Friday of Labor Day weekend.

Let's do the rain dance for one more outdoor event, our **demonstration at the State Fair on Doggy Day, Aug 24th**! Come and cheer us on at our two 30 minute presentations at 4 and 6pm, and see what The Better Companion is all about!

This month's story: "Alaska's roaming dogs – join our POLL!!!"

August Doggy Day at the State Fair Aug 24th: The Better Companion will, for the first time, have two **presentations at this year's Alaska State Fair**, on Aug 24th, their Dog Day! The Better Companion **will represent YOU AND YOUR DOG**, and how you both benefit from the services here. We'll have playful puppies in a play pen, show some obedience exercises and how they help in real life, demonstrate the benefits of clicker training and let the kids in the audience click for Sally doing some clicker tricks. The presentations will be 30 minutes long at 4 and 6pm, please come and cheer us on!

Road construction on Fairview Loop Rd: When you drive to our facility coming from Palmer/ Eagle River, please note that there's **road construction on parts of Fairview Loop Rd until 9/15**: Fairview Loop Rd is closed between the Parks Hwy and Old Matanuska Rd, which is the first mile. Detour is over the frontage road from Fairview Loop Rd to Seward Meridian Hwy, then turn left onto Seward Meridian Hwy (towards Wal-Mart), pass Wal-Mart until you get to a 'T' intersection, turn left at the 'T' and then turn right onto Fairview Loop Rd, to cross the railroad tracks (this is mile 1 Fairview Loop Rd).

Upcoming classes: **The calendar is already up on the web page until December!**

We still have some spots available in our **September classes on Saturdays**. I added an overflow Puppy 2 class on Friday evenings from 5-6pm.

I might cancel the **Tricks N' Clicks Class on Saturdays**, unless I get enough sign-ups before/on Tuesday, Sept 2nd. This class could help our agility dogs to bridge the time until the next set of agility classes! TCC is for any dog of any age that did ONE/ANY class with us, and can help channeling the energy of a very active dog as well as increasing a dog's confidence. Teach your dog to bring you the shoe instead of destroying it, to roll-over, to jump through a hoop, and more....

We'll start **High School on Thursday evenings on Sept 4th**, to **prepare dogs for the Canine Good Citizen-test**, which is offered several days after the class is over on Sunday, Sep 28th, when we'll celebrate Responsible Dog Ownership Day!

The next agility classes won't be offered until December.

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: Your tale – clients telling their dog's story

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Canine Good Citizen-class starting Sep 4th:

Instructor: Claudia

The class will run for FOUR weeks, and ends Sep 25th.

Test offered Sep 28th (test fee of \$10 not included with class)

Thursdays 6:15-7:15pm: [High School-CGC](#)

Behavior classes starting Sep 5/6th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Oct 17/18th, and end Oct 24/25th.

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

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

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

Saturday 2-3pm: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

Saturday 3:15-4:15: [Elementary School](#)

Saturday 4:30-5:30: [Tricks 'N Clicks Class](#)

Behavior classes starting Oct 1st/2nd:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Nov 12th/13th.

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

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

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

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

Thursday 6:15-7:15: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Thursday 7:30-8:30: To Be Announced

Coming up later:

Dog gear swap meet: Oct 5th

Pet Partner® seminar and evaluation: Seminar: Nov 8th/9th, evaluation: Nov 16th.

Helpful classes: FC, ES, HS

Weight Pulling Class: Four-week course, starting Nov 8th, 3-4pm

2) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy now!!! Just use the yellow 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 on "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.

Please note **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. After you filled out the registration form, you can email me the number of the voucher, mail the voucher to us or drop it off at the facility. **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. 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!

Reserve your spot! 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. **We now can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility** (any time Claudia is there personally to log into the virtual terminal ☺).

3) 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. First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, in case we ask for them!

Fee: \$7 at the door, punch card \$35 for 6 visits. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella).

Dates: every Tuesday and Friday evening

NEW: Tuesdays only: 5-6pm: toy breeds and tiny puppies (up to ~15#, very timid dogs can be heavier)

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#)

From now on all **play times can be moved inside if it rains! No Open Play Times on Friday, Aug 29th**.

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) ALASKA'S ROAMING DOGS – JOIN OUR POLL!!!

I'll handle all answers anonymously, and give a summary of the outcome next month!!! Just hit the reply-button and type your answers either down here or at the top of the email.

Question 1: Do you let your dog(s) roam?

- a) Always
- b) Often
- c) Sometimes
- d) Never
- e) Only specific dog(s)

Question 2: Write us the reason(s) why you do/don't let your dog(s) roam

- a) I/we let our dog(s) roam because...
- b) I/we don't let our dog(s) roam because...

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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