

Dear dog lover,

Again, LOTS OF EXCITING NEWS, so PLEASE, READ IT ALL!!!

Our **first annual Responsible Dog Ownership Day was held on Sunday, Sep 28th**, and was a big success! Congratulations to Ella-Kate with Fea and Emily with Cabela, who passed the Canine Good Citizen-test! I was very proud of everybody's performance at the test, even if they didn't pass yet. The improvement in each dog/handler team was very visible to me, and it was clear that you're all very responsible dog owners!!!

After the test, we had several booths being set up inside, including the Alaska Dog and Puppy Rescue and the Canine Blood Bank for local blood donors. Over ten different breeds were shown throughout the afternoon as a "meet-the-breed" event, including the Siberian Husky, Giant Malamute, American Staffordshire Terrier and the Borzoi. We also had some "can you guess what it is"-mixed breeds, and everybody had fun guessing. **Thanks to everybody who showed up!!!**

Our **Playn Fun - Doggy Day Care is now open Monday through Friday** – just call one business day ahead to reserve a day with us for your dog!

Enjoy this month's edition,
Claudia

This month's story: "Poll: How do you exercise your dog through the winter?"

NEW: Dog First Aid – Red Cross seminar: Learn how to help your dog on the trail or in the house in emergency situations. Your knowledge can save the dog's life, when the time until he sees a veterinarian could already be too long.

- Date: Saturday, November 22nd
- Time: 3-5pm
- Fee: \$35, includes book and DVD (value \$16.95). We can deduct the book value if you already purchased it.
- Just fill out the class registration online and you can call in your payment or drop it off.

Be informed and inform others – Dog Owner News by email:

- Would you like to hear about a health threat for your dog?
- Would you like to quickly reach as many dog owners as possible about your dog being lost or stolen?
- Would you like to hear about local dog-related events on time, instead of reading about them afterwards in the news?

Then sign up for our local BETCO Dog Blog! It's simple and easy.

Just go to <http://www.bettercompanion.com/bcblog/index.php> and register! To avoid spammers, we approve every sign-up manually. You'll receive emails automatically to your inbox.

To post a message to other dog owners, simply go to the blog (address above or www.bettercompanion.com, click on NEWS-BETCO Dog Blog), sign in, go to the index page and click on the forum "Better Companion". There you can create a new topic, or send a "reply" to an existing topic. Try it out!!!

You can always choose not to receive emails automatically, and look them up in the dog blog instead. (Although I feel that defeats the purpose of being informed.)

Upcoming classes: Some changes have been made to the calendar! See the schedule below for all classes starting Nov/ Dec 2008/ Jan 2009.

We added an **additional Puppy 1 and Foundation Class on Monday evenings**, starting Nov 3rd. This will replace the Puppy 1 class planned for Fridays, starting Nov 7th. All upcoming classes are listed below!

We still have room in the Weight Pulling class, starting Nov 1st. Learn from the owner of several weight pull champions how to teach your dog to pull about anything, from the kid's sled over the milk cart to the firewood, either by the log or being split in the cart/sled. Pulling some weight is not only practical and fun, it'll also help tiring your dog out. Just a tire can do the trick, and if your dog is talented, he might earn his dog food at the local weight pull competitions!

We have some spots available in the Dec Agility classes. For the first time, these are twice-a-week-classes, running Wed+Thu evening, from Dec 3-18. That was the only way to get additional classes in ☺. We offer Agility Puppy/ Beginners and Intermediate in that new time-slot.

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: Poll: How do you exercise your dog through the winter?

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Weight Pulling class starting November 1st:

Instructor: Kat

The class will run for four weeks and end Nov 22nd.

Pre-registration fee: \$75

Saturday 3-4pm: [Weight Pulling](#)

Behavior classes starting Nov 3rd:

Instructor: Claudia

The classes will run for seven weeks, and end Dec 15th.

Pre-registration fee: \$130

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

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

Behavior classes starting Nov 29th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Dec 27/Jan 3, and end Jan 24.

Pre-registration fee: \$130

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

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

Agility classes starting Dec 3rd:

Instructor: Claudia

These classes will run TWICE-A-WEEK on Wed+Thu and end Dec 18th.

Pre-registration fee: \$120

Wed + Thu 6-7:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Wed + Thu 7:15-8:45pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)

Agility classes starting Dec 6th: ALL FULL

Instructors: Claudia/Kat

These classes will run for six weeks, with a break on Dec 27/Jan 3, and end Jan 24th.

Saturday 1:30-3pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 2:45-4:15pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)

Saturday 4-5:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced](#)

Saturday 5:15-6:45pm (including set-up): [Agility Trial](#)

Behavior classes starting Jan 14th/15th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Feb 25th/26th.

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

Wednesday 6:15-7:15: Overflow class for P1 or FC

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

Thursday 5-6pm: Overflow class for P2?

Thursday 6:15-7:15: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

Thursday 7:30-8:30: [Elementary School](#)

Also coming up 2009:

Behavior classes on Saturdays in February (starting tentatively Feb 7)

Agility classes in Feb either on Saturdays or on Monday evenings

Agility classes on Saturdays in April (tentatively starting April 4)

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. **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! 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.

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 J. 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.**

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

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

Tuesdays and Fridays: 6-7pm: small, young or timid dogs (up to ~40#; timid or small dogs will play within the additional safety of a pen)

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

From now on all **play times are indoors!**

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) POLL: HOW DO YOU EXERCISE YOUR DOG THROUGH THE WINTER?

The last poll was such a huge success, I decided to ask another question! Please tell us up to three ways how you exercise your dog during the dark and cold days of our Alaskan winter.

You can write either down here or at the top of your reply. I'll again publish the answers anonymously in the next issue.

Thank you!

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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