

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: **The Class Clown - An Embarrassment?**

If you receive this email in full html, you can just [click on the events underlined and in light blue](#) to get to the correct page on our web site!

Enjoy the warmer days,
Claudia

Our June Newsletter:

PART I: News

1) Changes To Our Punch Cards

PART II: Classes + Workshops

2) Workshops in June: Agility, Loose Leash Walk, Shy Dog

3) Flyball Beginner 4-week class starts July 1st

4) High School (CGC) class starts July 11th.

PART III: Other Events

5) PetExpo in Anchorage (Sullivan Arena) June 15th!

6) Herding Clinic June 21-22, Herding Trial June 23rd.

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

7) **Next scheduled closures: July 4th+5th (DDC, OPT)**

8) Changes to Our Punch Cards

PART V: Class Schedule

PART VI: Monthly Story

9) The Class Clown - An Embarrassment?

PART I: News

Changes To Our Punch Cards

Training: We'll have one multi-use Training Punch Card (Sports Punch Card) to be used for Rally, Nose Work, Treibball and Flyball Practices. As before, the punch card for Agility needs to be purchased separately.

Starting July 1st, the new fee for the Sports Punch Cards will be \$105 for 6 punches, (paying for a single hr. of practice is \$22). Cards purchased after July 1st will expire 1 year after purchase date. All cards purchased before July 1st, 2013 will expire July 1st

2014. You can purchase/have up to two cards per dog per sport before July 1st for the old fee of \$90. Punch cards can be transferred to another dog/person, but not to another service or be refunded.

Open Play Times: The fee for our **Open Play Times, OPT Punch Cards and Evaluations** on Fridays will change July 1st. You can **buy up to two punch cards** ahead of time per dog to take advantage of existing fees. As of July 1st; new fees will be in place. We will also no longer be able to change a punch card into a credit for another service or give a refund. **Punch cards can still be transferred to another dog/person** if you can't use them for the original dog anymore for any reason, including being excused from the play.

Starting July 1st, the fee for a single visit will be \$8, the OPT Punch Card will be \$40 and the 30-minute evaluation will also be \$40.

Still a really great deal for fun and safe socializing for you and your dogs! ☺

Doggy Day Care: The fees for our daycare will NOT change. The punch cards will now expire after 1 year, starting with all existing punch cards expiring on July 1st 2014.

PART II: Classes + Workshops

🐾 Workshops June: Agility, Leash Walk, Shy Dog

Mark your calendar for our popular summer workshops! We are already taking sign-ups - and some of them fill quickly! All workshops are on **Saturdays**. More info [HERE](#) or contact us!

June 1: Agility Contacts and Loose Leash Walk

June 22: Agility Jumps and Shy Dogs

🐾 Flyball Beginner Class Mondays, July 1st

This sport combines running, jumping, retrieving a ball and the trick of slamming onto a box to release the ball, then turning as tight as possible (box turn) to come back a straight path over 4 jumps again. A great way to increase team work, exercise your dog and teach fun tricks to your dog. Our focus will be on individual training of each dog, no passing other dogs or group running at this time. No matter if you plan to compete or just enjoy playing with your dog, dogs of any size can do this!

Four Mondays, July 1st - July 22nd. Fee is \$75 until June 17th, after that \$80.

🐾 High School Class Thursdays, July 11th

High School prepares your dog to become a "**Canine Good Citizen**". We practice good manners in public through games and real-life role play. This class also helps to prepare you for the [Canine Good Citizen® Test](#) (not included); testing your dog in 10 everyday situations, proofing the dog's obedience, non-aggressiveness and non-fearfulness. The next test is offered on Sunday, Sep 8th here at our facility. We offer this test once a year, and the July HS Class ends conveniently a couple weeks before the test. It's an excellent way to show your community that you are a responsible dog owner!

Thursdays, July 11th - Aug 15th. Fee is \$120 until June 27th, \$130 until July 1st and after that \$140.

PART III: Other Events

🐾 Anchorage Pet Expo June 15th, 2013

Last year's Anchorage Pet Expo was such a success, we're doing it again!!! This event is free with free parking, and bringing your pet is allowed! Come and join us together with other pet related trainers, groomers, retailers, stores, clubs, non-profits... Besides being all about dogs; you'll find cat rescues and retail booths, exotic pet rescues and clubs, games and demonstrations of flyball, agility, treibball, and nose work, too! Bring your dog/people friendly dogs along for the day! There will be doggy "potty facilities" and watering stations in the building.

If you'd like to help us either manning our booth for an hour or demonstrating treibball or nose work, please contact us!

🐾 Herding Clinic and Trial June 21st-23rd, 2013

Two days herding clinic and one day trial at the Palmer State Fairgrounds, with John Holman. John is a popular USBCHA, AHBA, and AKC judge. Herding dog training for all breeds and all levels. Both sheep and ducks will be available to work. Contact Northern Tails Dog Training Alaska at heather@northerntailsdogtrainingak.com and check out more details at http://www.northerntailsdogtrainingak.com/?page_id=14.

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- **OPT** every Friday evening
next scheduled closure: **July 5th (4th of July weekend!)**

The fee for our **Open Play Times, OPT Punch Cards and Evaluations** on Fridays will change July 1st. You can **buy up to two punch cards** ahead of time per dog to take advantage of existing fees. As of July 1st; new fees will be in place. We will also no longer be able to change a punch card into a credit for another service or give a refund. **Punch cards can still be transferred to another dog/person** if you can't use them for the original dog anymore for any reason, including being excused from the play.

Starting July 1st, the fee for a single visit will be \$8, the OPT Punch Card will be \$40 and the 30-minute evaluation will also be \$40.

Still a really great deal for fun and safe socializing for you and your dogs! ☺

- **DDC** every Tuesday and Thursday
next scheduled closure: **July 4th (Independence Day)**

Doggy Day Care: The fees for our daycare will NOT change. The punch cards will now expire after 1 year, starting with all existing punch cards expiring on July 1st 2014.

PART V: Class Schedule

Listed are start dates. The classes will run once a week for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. A **“maybe” for a class means YOU can tell us** if you want this class to happen. Enough student interest could put it on the schedule! ☺

Click [here](#) to view the online calendar by month. To see who’s instructing the class you’re interested in, go to our online [calendar](#) and click on any week of that class to see the details.

Click [here](#) to register for a class.

Already registered? Click [here](#) to pay for a class.

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>July 2013</u>	<u>Aug 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>				
Puppy 1	Tue 6/18	Sun 7/14	Mon 8/12	
Foundation Class	Tue 6/18	Sun 7/14	Mon 8/12	
Puppy 2		Sun 7/14	Mon 8/12	
Elementary School		Thu 7/11		Sep 2013
High School		Thu 7/11		Jan 2014
CGC-test (one day)				Sep 8 (one day)
C.L.A.S.S. - BA				Oct 2013
CLASS Evaluation				Nov 2013
Rally College				Sep 2013
Rally Practice	Wed 6/5 4 weeks			Maybe Aug
Tricks 'N Clicks				Nov 2013
<u>Sports Classes</u>	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>July 2013</u>		<u>later</u>
Nose Work Beginner		Wed 7/10		
Nose Work Odor		Wed 7/10		Sep 2013

Nose Work Practice		Wed 7/10		Sep 2013
Treibball Beginner			Tue 8/13	
Treibball Intermediate				Oct 2013
Treibball Practice	Wed 6/5 4 weeks	Mon 7/1 4 weeks	Tue 8/13	Oct 2013
Flyball Beginner		Mon, 7/1 4 weeks		Summer 2014
Flyball Practice		Mon, 7/1 4 weeks		
Agility Puppy/Beg		Sat, 7/13		Sept 2013
Agility Skills		Sat, 7/13		Sept 2013
Agility Sequencing		Sat, 7/13		Sept 2013
Agility Trialing		Sat, 7/13		Sept 2013

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

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

PART VI: Monthly Story

The Class Clown - An Embarrassment?

“My dog is awful today!” I hear that very often at my group classes. “He can’t focus”, “She just wants to play with the other dogs”, “I can’t get her attention”, “He keeps whining and barking”, and the client is also thinking ‘how embarrassing’, ‘what will the other clients think’, ‘nobody can hear the instructor because of MY dog’, ‘this isn’t working’. And then sometimes they just leave, or don’t come back next time. It just seems like too much to take.

I want to say “NO, STAY!”, and help them understanding what’s happening and how they can help their dog. Often I can, but other times I don’t get a chance to address the issue fast enough. Here’s what I’d like to say to all of you out there who have the same and very common issue of a dog not behaving in public:

- ❖ You are NOT alone! This is a very common scenario, with our dogs having so few chances to socialize with other dogs as they grow up, living far from each other, often not leaving their own property besides coming to the class, and then having the social overload at the class, seeing all these people and dogs in such a small space, not being able to go over and say “hi” or play.
- ❖ Almost every time when the owner of a dog thinks how embarrassing their dog is, it turns out that other class mates and the instructor have seen a big improvement in the dog. When an owner quits class after 3 or 4 weeks, I always hear the other students saying “what a bummer, you could just see that progress!”
- ❖ People often tell me how great their dog has gotten at home, using what they learned at the class. That is MORE important than having the dog behave at class! We here just teach you the tools of the trade, so that you can use them in your home environment, where you want your dog to improve the most. If that is the case, mission accomplished!
- ❖ Sometimes the instructor will talk to you about your dog being suitable for a specific class or not. We might offer you a private lesson or two first to get more one-on-one help with your dog, before then joining a group class and using the repetition of the learned exercises in the much more distracting environment of a group. Sometimes we recommend repeating a class to practice the same exercises with new dogs as a new distraction. If the class is so distracting to a dog, it’s easier to repeat learned behaviors than to teach them something brand new. We want you and your dog to succeed!
- ❖ Easily distracted dogs are a great opportunity for the instructor to demonstrate how to help these dogs getting their focus back. Most other dog owners could run into a similar situation at another time outside the classroom, and then they have tools they can use as seen at class.
- ❖ I remember a handful of dogs in my classes (probably 5 out of 1000) that could absolutely not focus on the tasks at the class for most of the hour. But even these dogs would give us a Sit or Look here or there, and we were THRILLED! And every owner of such a dog would work the dog at home and end up with a better behaved dog at home for sure, because they kept coming back to class. They often even tell me how well their dog now behaves when they take them out; to friends homes, to a store, to the dog park, on a hike, etc. They then come back for another class with me, and sure enough, the class poses such a happy distraction again, that we can only get one Sit out of the dog that first hour ... 😊
- ❖ To bridge the gap between a well behaved dog at home and a super distracted dog at our class, it’s helpful to give the dog different, smaller distractions to deal with throughout the week: Working with them in the yard, on a short walk away from the property, taking them with you when running errands and giving them a short walk down-town or taking them with you when you visit friends, especially when you can take your dog with you in their home! The more varied the experiences, the easier it will be for your dog to learn to focus in a group.

- ❖ If your dog is a social butterfly and wants to play with other dogs, but never gets the opportunity, it can be really hard for them to focus when seeing other dogs at class so close and still out of reach. Giving them the opportunity to meet and play with other dogs on other occasions will make it easier to have them focus on you at other times around dogs. We have lots of dogs coming to our Daycare or Open Play Times AND to classes, and only in the beginning they are wondering about when they get to play. They soon understand that there're two different activities in our building; sometimes they get to play with other dogs and sometimes they get to play with their owners!
- ❖ If there's not much structure in place for your dog at home, because your dog is mainly a "run-along", and then suddenly you expect 'structure' from them in class, they won't understand. The exercises in class are meant to help you putting more structure in your daily routine with your dog. As that structure becomes the 'normal' for your dog, it'll become more natural at the class as well. Sometimes this just takes time.

So please don't give up!!! Bring your dog to class!!!

Training never ends! Enjoy every day with your dog(s)!
Claudia

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