

Dear dog lover,

The summer goes by without having even been here, and hopefully August will bring some more rain-free and a little warmer days. Some interesting **events are coming up in August**, you can read about them in this newsletter edition!

We now live at the facility, and decided to offer any **day care dogs to stay overnight** as well. They'll be kenneled for the night, and under constant supervision 24/7. We'll offer this extended service Tuesday through Saturday, with earliest drop-off Tuesday morning and latest pick-up Saturday morning. So if you're planning on a shorter trip during the week, or have odd or additional working hours and would like to provide your dog exercise and fun, this might be for you!

Also, our **mailing address has changed**: just delete the HC 35-address, and use **1400 Regine Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654** instead.

### **This month's story: "Your tale – clients telling their dog's story"**

**August dog show Aug 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>**: Find out more about dog shows and obedience trials, by visiting the biggest show in the Valley: The **Cook Inlet Kennel Club's August shows at the Palmer State Fair Grounds! Aug 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>**, it's the only three-day show in the Anchorage/Mat-Su area. Stroll around, meet the different dog breeds, and watch the obedience and Rally trials. **The Better Companion will have a booth there all three days**, and Sally will compete in the obedience and Rally rings on Fri and Sun. You'll be able to get closer to the rings without your dog, and I believe only exhibitors are allowed to bring dogs inside. So please leave your pooch at home, even though it may feel weird... Submission is free!

**August Dog Day at the State Fair Aug 24<sup>th</sup>**: The Better Companion will, for the first time, have two **presentations at this year's Alaska State Fair**, on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, their Dog Day! The Better Companion **will represent YOU AND YOUR DOG**, and how you both benefit from the services here. I haven't made a final decision on the schedule for the 25min show, but am planning on having playful puppies in a play pen, showing some signs of the ES (Elementary School) graduation rally (having several dogs show how they do that), and let the kids in the audience click for Sally doing some clicker tricks. The presentations will be at 4 and 6pm, so if you're interested in attending with your dog in any of those features, and you have already taken any services at The Better Companion, please contact me!

**Upcoming classes**: August will offer only classes for new puppies and adult dogs, the Puppy 1 – Preschool and the Foundation Class. If you'd like to take a continuation class like Puppy 2 – Kindergarten, Elementary School, or Rally College, you might want to check out already the schedule for September and October. Those classes could fill quickly! **September offers behavior classes on Saturdays**, a rare occasion, since we often fill that day with agility classes. I **added the Tricks N' Clicks Class on Saturdays**, which may help our agility students to bridge the time until the next set of agility classes! September also offers High School on Thursday evenings, to **prepare dogs for the Canine Good Citizen-test**, which is offered several days after the class is over on Sunday, Sep 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

**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 ☺).

**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:**

**Behavior classes starting Aug 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: Rose

The classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>, and end Oct 6<sup>th</sup>.

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)

**Canine Good Citizen-class starting Sep 4<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: Claudia

The class will run for FOUR weeks, and ends Sep 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

Thursdays 6:15-7:15pm: High School-CGC

**Behavior classes starting Sep 6<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: Claudia

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

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 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>:**

Instructor: Claudia

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

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:**

**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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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!

## **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 next week on (after July 28) almost all **play times can be moved inside if it rains!** Only exemption is the toy session, which will be outside until Aug 5<sup>th</sup>.

**You can check the web page [www.bettercompanion.com](http://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) YOUR TALE – CLIENTS TELLING THEIR DOG’S STORY**

**Maggie is a Husky(-mix?), adopted by Laurie at age 6 years (or so...).**

##### Her first story:

Maggie was on the carport deck when two dogs came by. Her level of barking alerted me to trouble. I went on to the deck to calm her. By the time I arrived she was standing on the deck rail ready to jump down. She jumped as I got to the rail. Fortunately, nothing broke when she landed. So I ran in the house, grabbed the hot dogs and went after her (and the other two dogs). She ended up next door. When she saw me she walked away with the other dog, THEN she looked back and came over to me (or the hot dogs). Remaining calm using a squeaky voice that she relates to and hot dogs worked. I clipped on her leash and we walked home like no big thing. BTW, she and the dogs go along fine. I, however, am resting with a cup of coffee.

Laurie

##### Another funny story:

Maggie, who hyperfocuses when she is on the scent, was headed up the deck stairs on the trail of something. I headed upstairs as I have the top of the stairs blocked off. WELLLLLL, the neighbor’s cat had one of my cats trapped. My cat went in the house when the door opened. Maggie just kept getting closer to the stray who was trapped next to a large trash

can. Being concerned about how Mag would react to a strange claw hitting her in the nose I grabbed the trash can and put it between the two animals. The cat took off and Maggie just fretted when she couldn't locate her prey. Me, I am standing on the deck with a trash can in my hand going "I can do this."

I think she has bonded with me as she keeps hiding pig ears under my pillow...that I can do without.

Laurie

**Osa could be a Plott Hound, but truth is she's probably a mix of unknown breeds, adopted from Anchorage Animal Control at 1 yr of age.**

Jim and I took Osa for a run yesterday, the day after her Elementary School graduation. At the end of a cul-de-sac, as we were turning around, a big dog that was unrestrained came running towards, barking vigorously. Right away, I stopped and told Osa to sit (she did, and so did Jim). I stood between Osa and the dog that was still running towards us, and very loudly and firmly told it to go home. The dog stopped, but it acted like it wasn't sure he really wanted to go home. I told it to go home again, very firmly, taking a step forward and pointing towards the driveway where it came from. The dog turned around with its tail between its legs and went home. Osa was still sitting in place. I couldn't stop smiling as we all resumed our run.

Carolyn

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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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