

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Dog Sports – how do you keep your dog(s) busy during the summer?”

Are you enjoying this best spring ever as much as we do? The long sunny days invite to daytrips, and our field finally dried up enough to bring the **Open Play Times outside again**. The dogs enjoyed playing and running over the grass, hit a couple wet spots, and once those are gone, we'll have a pool for the dogs to play in. So, bring a towel for your dog, or have an area in the car where you can bring a wet dog home! ☺ We're also working on having the play times run through the summer without breaks while we're gone. The only breaks will then be on Friday, 5/22 for Memorial Day weekend, Friday, 7/3 for Independence Day weekend, and Friday, 9/4 for Labor Day weekend.

We're re-structuring our fees for daycare. The fees for single days stay as they are. The new punch card will allow to purchase only 6 full days, to make it more affordable and keep a better overview. Pay for 5 days and get the 6th one free, just like the punch cards for the Open Play Times. We keep the cards on file here, so that you can't lose or forget them. The new **punch card is \$175** and available immediately. We'll have to change our monthly rate for the dogs that come 3-5 times a week. The new fee for the **monthly daycare is \$275**, and will be effective June 1st. So if you'd like to try out our daycare for the low fee of \$199, we'll have to receive your payment by May 31st.

We're already planning for the fall, and will not only have our traditional **Responsible Dog Ownership (RDO) Day on Saturday, Sep 12th, but also a Pet Partner seminar Sep 25-27 at our facility.**

The RDO-day will include a dog gear swap meet, a CGC-test, meet the breed, and other interesting events. The tentative schedule includes a dog first aid class; showing a DVD about traps and how to prevent and help a dog getting trapped; networking about dog blood donors, dog and puppy rescue, dog sports and more. Everything will be free besides the CGC test (\$10) and the dog first aid class (\$35).

The Pet Partner seminar will prepare and test handlers and their dogs to visit nursing homes, hospitals, libraries or schools. Friday evening will be a seminar without dogs from 6:30-8:30pm, Saturday will be a seminar and workshop (half with the dog) from 10am-5pm, and on Sunday dogs and handlers will be tested by appointment. The fee will be \$115 and includes a book, lunch on Saturday, and the test on Sunday.

Contact us for more information and how to sign up.

Enjoy this summerly spring,
Claudia

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: Dog Sports – how do you keep your dog(s) busy during the summer?

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Agility classes starting May 30th:

Instructors: Claudia/Kat

These classes will run for six weeks, with a break on July 4th (Independence Day), and end July 11th.

Saturday 11-12:15am (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#) (we take waiting list positions)

Saturday 12:15-1:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#) (we take waiting list positions)

Lunch break: 1:30-2:15pm

Saturday 2:15-4pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#) (we take waiting list positions)

Saturday 3:30-5:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced](#)

Saturday 5-7pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced Trial](#)

Behavior classes starting June 1st:

Instructor: Rose

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a possible break on July 6th, and end July 13th or 20th.

Monday 6-7:15pm: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 5:30-7:30pm without the dogs)

Monday 7:30-8:30pm: [Elementary School](#) (first week with the dogs) (we take waiting list positions)

Behavior classes starting July 1st/2nd:

Instructors: Rose/Claudia

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

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

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

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

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

Agility classes starting July 18th:

Instructors: Claudia/Kat

These classes will run for six weeks, with a break on Aug 8th (Dog show at the Palmer Fairgrounds), and end Aug 29th.

Tentative times – will change if we need to add or cancel a class:

Saturday 11-12:15am (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 12:15-1:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Lunch break: 1:30-2:15pm

Saturday 2:15-4pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#) (we can open a second class if necessary)

Saturday 3:30-5:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced](#)

Saturday 5-7pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced Trial](#)

Behavior classes starting Aug 3rd:

Instructor: Claudia/Rose

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Sep 7th (Labor Day) and end Sep 21st.

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

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

High School class starting Aug 6th:

Instructor: Claudia

This class will run for four weeks, and end Aug 27th.

Thursday 5-6pm: [High School – CGC](#) (all weeks with the dog)

Also coming up 2009:

September: 9/12/2009 Responsible Dog Ownership Day, with CGC-test!

September: 9/25-27/2009: Pet Partner seminar and evaluation

2) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy now!!! On our webpage www.bettercompanion.com, use the 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 "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.

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 fill out the registration form for P2, you can email me the number of the voucher, mail the voucher to us or drop it off at the facility.

Reserve your spot! Please note **our registration policy: Only the payment will hold your spot.** Spots are reserved in the order we 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. **Your payment is never lost**, even if the class is already full. Your payment will 1) save you a spot at the class, or 2) save you a spot on the waiting list, or 3) can be carried over to a later class, or 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 starts. **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, we want to see them!

Fee: \$7 at the door, punch card \$35 for 6 visits. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella). We also recommend having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

Our Open Play Times have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to the newer size restrictions for each group. Only timid and absolutely non-reactive dogs can be slightly heavier than the group limit. The groups from 7-8 and 8-9pm are indoors limited to 8 dogs, and reservations can be made in advance. Just call us and we explain the details. We recommend the later hour for new-comers and new move-ups of 60lbs and more.

Every Tuesday AND Friday:

5-6pm: toy and small dogs under 30#

6-7pm: puppies and medium adult dogs 35-55#

7-8pm: Large adults over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors; 10 dogs max)

8-9pm: Large adults over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors; 10 dogs max)

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) DOG SPORTS – HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR DOG(S) BUSY DURING THE SUMMER?

I'm a typical weekend - dog owner. My dogs have calmed down/ mellowed out, and allow that now. We survive the busy work week with short walks here and there, playing ball when the arena is empty (not too often...), letting the dogs run in the field, and using our own little 'house trail'. They get to play with the daycare or play time dogs here and there, but the constellation has to be just right for my dogs to fit in. The weekend is doggy time for us! We enjoy different outdoor activities, and there're just not enough weekends to cover everything I'd love to do!

Alaska has a lot to offer, starting with exploring. We devote longer weekends to camping trips into the wilderness, usually with our ARGO (an 8-wheeler), or stake out our tent along Alaska's ocean, lake or river shores for boating trips. With less time, we pick a one-day or half-day hiking route, and sometimes just scout out areas for future opportunities. I'm glad Frank is willing to carry the gun, to protect us from any moose or bear, if necessary. So far we were lucky, but we're never unprepared. I know Sally is wilderness-smart, afraid of bears and will not challenge a moose that doesn't run. Lucy, I'm not so sure about ☺. We keep her in closer proximity, which isn't too hard, because she loves riding in the ARGO anyways.

Besides camping, I enjoy taking my dogs to different dog sport events. Agility is my favorite, rally/obedience the next, and I try to divide the 4 weekends of the month in 0-1 rally/obedience, 1-2 agility, and 1-2 camping/hiking experiences. You can see already that the summer is too short! This will be Lucy's first summer of rally trials, everything else we're doing since several years already

I'd love to start more sports, just don't know when... I'd like to try Sally in herding and hunting (not for trialing, just for the fun of it), and Lucy in lure-coursing (again, for the fun, not trialing). Lucy could also be fun in Flyball and earth dog training. There's sooo much to do out there! I always hear about the 'dog jog' in Anchorage, and just can never make it. Usually I have classes or even a trial that same day. Both my dogs have a good nose, Sally more in the air, and for trail finding, Lucy on the ground, for tracks. They both could have potential for tracking or even search and rescue.

All these sports and activities ARE out there! If you're interested in any of them, or anything else I forgot to mention, please contact us. We can tell you where to find people or forward your request to the right group. Let us know what YOU are doing with your dog(s) in the summer!

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. **We have been auditing our client list and you may have previously unsubscribed. If this is the case, please accept our sincere apologies for the inconvenience. You will not receive future emails if you unsubscribe again.**

Your BetCo Team at
The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

Claudia Sihler, CPDT
Frank Sihler
Rose Cotter-Lyford (instructor)
Kat Gambill (instructor)
Cindi Dupuis (office)
Sandy Wojtaszek (office)
Krystal Mitchell, CPCT (daycare)

(907) 357-2521

betco@mtaonline.net

www.bettercompanion.com

1400 E Regine Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654