

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Did You Know? – some important facts you should know”

First of all, a HUGE THANKS to all who came out to the State Fair on doggy day, to be part of the event, and to all who cheered us on! Thanks to Cabela, Ember, Huck, Jackson, Rocco, Huney, Darby, Jordan, River, Simon, Sheilah, Sally and their human companions, and to Frank and Rose, who all glowed like stars in the arena.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for our **Responsible Dog Ownership Day on Sep 12!**

The schedule now includes:

- Dog Gear Swap Meet (free for buyers and sellers);
- Vendors (free for vendors and visitors);
- Meet the Breed (show your purebred or mixed breed);
- Agility Demo: 1:30-3:30pm;
- Traps & Dogs Clinic: 1-2pm (free).
- CGC-test: 10am sign-up for all (\$10);
- Dog First Aid seminar: 3-5pm (\$45).

We'll show other videos in between, like Jack Russell Terriers at course-a-lure, the "Language of Dogs" by Sarah Kalnajs, and whatever else we can find 😊.

Come together with your well-behaved kids 'n dogs!

We'll have some games for the kids at the vendors booths waiting for them.

Also coming up is the **Willow Dog Musers' Symposium**, Sep 19 at the Willow Community center (visit our booth!) and the **Pet Partner Seminar** Sep 25-27 at our facility.

Like last time you'll find all changes from the August newsletter in **RED** below. Please, even if you're already signed up, check the schedule below to see if your class is affected.

Enjoy this beautiful summer, snow is coming soon!
Claudia

Below you'll find:

- 1) Information on upcoming events
- 2) **REVISED:** Dates and times of upcoming classes
- 3) How to sign up for the classes
- 4) Information on the Open Play Times
- 5) This month's story: Did You Know? – some important facts you should know

1) INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS:

Responsible Dog Ownership Day on Sep 12:

Would you like to have a booth or table at our event? No fee, we'd just like to know ahead of time to plan you in. Indoors spots are available after about 12pm, outdoors spots all-day. Indoors closed to the public during Dog First Aid seminar.
10am: Canine Good Citizen® test: 10am sign-up, then general briefing of all tested, testing starts after that in the order of sign-up. Fee is \$10 per tested dog. Would you like to see what a Canine Good Citizen® test is about? Then **come and volunteer!** No pre-requisite required, we'll teach you on the job. Let us know if you can help, so that we can schedule you in. Then show up at 9:30am, ½ hr before the sign-up starts.

1pm: Sharing Alaska's Trails – about traps in AK. Free DVD presentation *and hands on session* with live traps. Sponsored by the Alaska Trapping Association.

1:30pm: Agility demonstration (outside, about 2 hrs)

2pm: Jack Russell Terriers at their best – Nationals in Course a-Lure and Racing. Free DVD presentation, 1hr

3pm: Dog First Aid seminar – **pre-registration preferred**, fee is \$45, including a book with DVD. You'll receive a card stating that you attended the Red Cross Dog First Aid Class.

10-5pm: Swap meet – bring what you have, find what you missed! Dog gear and dog owner's gear.

12-5pm: Meet the Breed – have a purebred dog/ want a dog? Bring your dog and we'll present your breed to the crowd, talking about their temperament as well. Not purebred, but well-behaved? Bring him/her on and let us guess what breeds yours combines! ☺

We'll add more items as they're getting planned!

Pet Partner® seminar Sep 25-27:

This seminar prepares and tests handlers and their dogs to visit nursing homes, hospitals, libraries or schools.

Time-line: Fri, 9/25: 6:30-8:30 without dogs

Sat, 9/26: 10am-5pm (first half w/out dogs. Dogs can either be in the car or sit with handlers calmly)

Sun, 9/27: testing, starting at 10am. Appointments will be made on Saturday for the dog/handler-teams.

Fee: \$115, includes a book (\$30 value) and lunch on Saturday.

Sign-up has started, seminar is limited to 12 teams.

2) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Behavior classes starting Sep 9th/10th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Oct 21st/22nd.

Sorry, I had to cancel the Rally class/practice and added a Foundation Class.

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

NEW: Wednesdays 6:15-7:15: **FC or P1** (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Sign-ups are racing for both classes

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

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

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

Thursdays 7:30-8:30: [Tricks 'N Clicks](#)

Weight pull seminar starting Oct 3rd:

Instructor: Kat

NEW FORMAT: This seminar will run on two Saturdays, and end Oct 10th.

About 1.5 hrs each Saturday, fee is \$60, or pre-registration \$55

[Saturdays tentatively 1pm: Weight Pulling](#) (both Saturdays with the dog)

Behavior classes starting Oct 5th:

Instructor: Rose/Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, and end Nov 16th.

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)

Agility classes starting Oct 17th:

Instructors: Claudia/Kat

These classes will run for six weeks, and end Nov 21st.

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 2:15-3:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)
NEW: Saturday 3:30-5pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)
NEW TIMES: Saturday 4:30-6:30pm (including set-up+take-down): [Agility Advanced Trial](#)

NEW LISTING: Behavior classes starting Oct 28th/29th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Nov 25/26 (Thanksgiving) and end Dec 16/17.

Wednesday 5-6pm: [Rally College](#)

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

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

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

Thursday 6:15-7:15: **FC or P1** (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

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

Also coming up 2009:

Agility: Starts Nov 28 (2 weeks break over Christmas, finishing end of January)
We'll again plan for a skijor and mushing seminar for Jan/Feb sometime.

3) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy!!! 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. **Take advantage of our pre-registration fee by signing up latest 14 days before the start of your class.**

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.**

4) 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 group from 7-8pm is indoors limited to 8 dogs, and reservations can be made in advance. Just call us and we explain the details.

Every Tuesday AND Friday:

5-6pm: toy and small dogs up to **25#**

6-7pm: puppies and medium adult dogs **30-50# (giant breed puppies can be heavier)**

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

Cancelled until further notice: 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).

5) DID YOU KNOW? – SOME IMPORTANT FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for your dog to ingest. The lighter the chocolate, the more volume is necessary to poison the dog.
- Turkey makes us and the dog sleepy due to tryptophan, an amino acid
- Some chewing gums can be as dangerous to dogs as anti-freeze. If they contain Xylitol as sweetener, they can cause kidney failure.
- Winter is trapping season in Alaska. Trappers don't have to point out their traps. They can put the traps in the middle of the trail under the snow or hang them up wherever they want. Experienced trappers will use caution

- and be courteous to other trail users, but some trappers might not know about other trail users where they trap.
- Tapeworms cannot be transferred from dog to dog, but can be harmful to us
 - The eggs of roundworms and hookworms are very cold resistant and will survive an Alaskan winter in the ground
 - Fleas only survive on the dog, and their larvae develop in the dog's bedding, carpet, ... We have very few flea infestations in Alaska.

Do you know of other important little facts that help our dogs survive and live healthy? Email us and we'll post them in our next newsletter! Tell us if you'd like your name listed as the source for the tip (first name only or first and last name).

Claudia

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