

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “What is a CPDT - KA?”

We added a workshop for shy dogs! When: Sunday, April 17th, 10am-12pm. Where: indoors at our Regine Dog Training Facility. Cost: \$40 per dog, several handlers welcome. What: we allow up to 6 dogs, and work one dog at-a-time While the other dogs are in their cars, their owners will pose as the strangers for the one dog we work with. You'll learn how to help your dog to become more comfortable around people, and how to set up situations with your relatives and friends to practice afterwards. **Also coming up: a workshop for dog-reactive dogs in May. See below for details.**

The online calendar can look very confusing. Please don't hesitate to call or email us with any questions about upcoming classes or practices.

Did you receive emails from us with parts in HUGE fonts? That was/is an accident, not on purpose. We're working on fixing that problem, please don't take any of that personally! We're not sure where the root lies, but we are making changes when sending out emails.

We're looking for someone who'd like to help in the office. Are you a stay-at-home mom or retired? Have some experience in office work, organizing events and working with clients? You won't play with dogs, but with phone and computer. You'll “talk dogs” a lot!!! Only 2-4 hours at a time, several times a week, year-round. Call us if you're interested to set an appointment with Claudia.

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

Enjoy spring time,
Claudia

Below you'll find:

- 1) Information on upcoming events/ **workshops**
- 2) **New classes** and **workshops**: Dates and times of upcoming classes
- 3) How to sign up for the classes
- 4) Information on the Doggy Daycare and Open Play Times
- 5) This month's story: **What is a CPDT - KA?**

1) INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS:

Suzanne Clothier

March 18-20, at Alyeska Canine Trainers, Anchorage.

This was a GREAT workshop! Suzanne has a wonderful way of looking at the relationship with our pets. I can't copy any of her articles into an email, therefore I really urge you to visit her web site at www.flyingdogpress.com and read her articles there.

Treat and Retreat Workshop – for people-shy dogs

April 17, 10am-12pm, at the Regine Dog Training Facility, Wasilla.

We'll work with methods of Suzanne Clothier and other well established dog behavior specialists – to find the method that works best for you and your dog. We'll work with one dog at a time, all other dog owners being the 'strangers' for that dog. Dogs that aren't "on" can stay in the vehicle or in a crate inside if they can be relaxed and calm. You'll learn all perspectives and aspects of dealing with a shy dog, not only through the work with your own dog, but also by observing and being the stranger for other dogs. This will help you guide your friends/visitors even better when they meet your dog.

Date: Sunday, April 17th, 10am-12pm

Location: Regine Dog Training Facility, Wasilla

Fee: \$40 per working spot

Maximum 6 dogs, payment will reserve your spot.

Feisty Fido Workshop – for dog-reactive dogs

May 15, 10am-12pm, at the Regine Dog Training Facility, Wasilla.

We'll work with 1-2 dogs at a time, more if appropriate. You'll learn to read your dog for early signs, to work your dog "below threshold", and to handle "emergency" situations. Lots of "hands-on" practice for you and your dog. We'll be indoors or outside, depending on the needs for the dogs.

Date: Sunday, May 15th, 10am-12pm

Location: Regine Dog Training Facility, Wasilla

Fee: \$40 per working spot until May 1st, after that \$45

Maximum 6 dogs, payment will reserve your spot.

2) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Drop-in classes running right now:

Instructors: Claudia, January

Weekly every Tuesday

Indoors or outside – please bring clothes accordingly. Training punch card available online.

Nose Work (maximum 6 dogs – please call or email to reserve a spot):

- Beginners and Intermediate: **No drop-ins**. Now regular class, see below for start dates and times
- Advanced: Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm – **No practice on April 12, May 10, 17, 24; starting May 31 we'll probably move to 7:45pm. Field trips on 4/17 and 5/15.**

Rally Practice:

- No Rally Practice until further notice.

Puppy class starting April 12th:

Instructors: January, Claudia

The class will run for seven weeks, and end May 24.

Puppy 1 – Preschool (first week: 6:30-8:30pm without the dogs): Tuesday 7:45-8:45pm

- FULL

Treat/Retreat Workshop April 17th:

Instructor: Claudia

The class will run for 2 hrs.

Treat/Retreat Workshop: Sunday 10am-12pm

Nose Work Classes starting May 10th:

Instructors: January, Claudia

The class will run for 6 weeks and end June 14th.

Nose Work Intro to Odor: Tuesdays 5:15-6:15pm (starts WITH the dogs)

Nose Work Beginners: Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm (starts WITH the dogs)

Feisty Fido Workshop May 15th:

Instructor: Claudia

The class will run for 2 hours.

Feisty Fido Workshop: Sunday 10am-12pm

Behavior classes starting May 18th/19th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, and end June 29/30.

[Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs): Wednesday 5-6pm
[Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs): Wednesday 6:15-7:15
[Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs): Wednesday 7:30-8:30pm

[Tricks 'N Clicks College](#): Thursday 5-6pm
[Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#): Thursday 6:15-7:15pm
[Elementary School](#): Thursdays 7:30-8:30

Agility classes starting June 4th:

Instructors: Claudia, Kat

The classes will run for 6 weeks, with a break on July 2nd (in observance of Independence Day) and end July 16th.

We might add a second beginners class, which will then shift the times around a little. We'll try to keep them within 1/2hr of the times posted below.

[Agility Puppy/Beginners](#): Saturday 10am-12pm (class 10:30-11:30am)

[Agility Skills Training](#): Saturday 11:30am-1pm (class 12-1pm)

Lunch break: 1-2pm

[Agility Sequencing](#): Saturday 2-4pm (class 2:30-3:30pm)

[Agility Trialing 1](#): Saturday 3:30-5pm (class: 4-5pm)

[Agility Trialing 2](#): Saturday 5-6:30pm (class:5-6pm)

Introduction to Flyball on June 19th:

Instructor: Karla

Sunday 10am-12pm: [Intro to Flyball](#) (without your dog)

Flyball Beginners Class starting June 22nd:

Instructor: Karla

The class will run for 4 weeks and end Mar 29th.

Tuesdays 5:15-6:15 or 6:15 -7:15pm: [Flyball Beginners](#) (without your dog)

Upcoming classes:

This summer will be filled with Agility outdoors, Nose Work and more Flyball action besides our regular classes! We'll try to find room for **Rally and Flyball Practice** as well as **more workshops, like recall and leash walk training**. Watch our schedule for upcoming classes and events.

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 and workshops**. 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 a minimum of **14 days before the start of your class**. Please read our cancellation policy on the pricing page – you almost can't lose!

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 us the voucher number, 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 refunded 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) DOGGY DAYCARE AND OPEN PLAY TIMES:

Doggy Daycare: Our regular hours are now from 6am-7pm That means NO SURCHARGE for drop-offs any time after 6am!

The fee for the monthly daycare is \$325. We need to know your dog before coming to daycare. Also appointments/ reservation are necessary. We're getting full on some days now, so please remember to

- 1) reserve your spot for daycare and
- 2) we might mark you off if you didn't show, if we had to turn away another dog that day.

Reminder: For all daycare participants the **worm status is only good for 6 months**. We ask everybody to either deworm their dog or have a fecal sample checked every 6 months.

Open Play Time: 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. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella). We also require having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, we want to see them! Dogs over 6 months, please for the first time make an appointment with us to come on a Friday, when

Claudia and Frank are managing the play times. After that, we'll discuss with you which hour will be best and if you can come Mondays as well.

Fee: \$7 at the door or punch card \$35 for 6 visits.

Our Open Play Times (indoors + outdoors) have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to our 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 limited to 8 dogs, and reservations can be made in advance. Just call us and we explain the details.

Every Monday AND Friday:

5-6pm: puppies, 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 adult dogs over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors: 10 dogs max)

8-9pm: By appointment only – limited to one dog for evaluations. \$35

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) WHAT IS A CPDT - KA?

The CCPDT's certification program is the first national certification for dog trainers. Until the creation of the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers in 2001, there was no nationally available certification process for dog trainers. Many schools teach dog trainers and offer certification for their specific programs

These certificates, therefore, reflect the teachings and quality of a specific school. Other organizations offer take-home tests for "certification." These tests are not monitored, nor are the testing processes standardized, or checked by a psychometrician. The CCPDT administered its first test September 28, 2001, during the Association of Pet Dog Trainers' (APDT) Annual Educational Conference in Ellenville, NY. Since then, the test has been administered two times a year at 700 sites throughout the US. All test sites are professionally secured and moderated by Professional Testing Corporation of New York.

This professional testing program was originally created by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, the largest association of dog trainers in the world. Early on, the APDT recognized the need for certification for its profession. Pet dog trainers needed a credible means of measuring their knowledge and skills and the dog-owning public needed a credible barometer for choosing a trainer.

A task force, of approximately 20 nationally-known dog training professionals and behaviorists, worked for three years to research and develop the comprehensive written examination. The APDT also hired Professional Testing Corporation to ensure the process met professional testing standards. It then created a separate, independent organization-the Certification Council for Pet Dog Trainers (CCPDT)-to manage the accreditation and pursue future development. Today, the APDT and CCPDT are two completely independent and separate organizations.

Candidates who pass the CCPDT's written examination for professional dog trainers earn the title Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed and may use the designation, "CPDT-KA," after their names. All certified trainers must earn continuing education credits to maintain their designations. They must also adhere to a strict Code of Ethics in their dog training practices.

Neither the handbook, the examination application form, the examination, nor the CPDT-KA credential constitute a contract between the candidate or the certificant and the CCPDT. The CCPDT reserves the right to change any of the requirements concerning its CPDT-KA credential, including but not limited to the eligibility requirements, examination content, recertification requirements, fees, use of the mark, name of the mark, and the website. Information published in the current version of the Handbook for Candidates on the CCPDT website supersedes all other printed or electronic versions of the Handbook.

The CCPDT on its web site offers dog owners how to best choose their dog trainer:
How to Choose a Dog Trainer for Dog Owners

As a dog owner, the CCPDT understands how important it is for you to find a dog trainer that you can trust has the knowledge necessary to meet the needs of you and your dog. Dog training and behavior change is a science but it is not a regulated science. There is no licensing and no oversight. With the CCPDT designations, you can gain the confidence you need to choose a dog trainer for your dog.

Begin your search for a dog trainer by looking for the CPDT-KA designation. This stands for Certified Professional Dog Trainer-Knowledge Assessed and indicates that a dog trainer has a minimum of 300 hours of experience; references from a veterinarian, client, and colleague; and has passed a comprehensive, psychometrically sound examination testing the dog trainer's knowledge of learning theory, canine ethology, animal husbandry, classroom management, teaching techniques, and more.

Next, go meet the trainer and ask to observe a training class. Are they professional in their appearance and in their marketing materials? Can they knowledgeably and clearly answer questions regarding dog training and their dog training methods? Do you feel comfortable with them personally? Are they patient and thorough in answering your questions or the questions of students in their classes? Do they have experience in working with the issues that you are experiencing with your dog? Can they provide references from clients?

There are also several things that should raise red caution flags in your assessment of a trainer. If the trainer talks about wolf behavior more than dog behavior, has a focus on dominance and submission, or bases their methods on force, they are not meeting the current standards of care in the dog training industry.

Our CPDT-KA designation gives you the assurance that the trainer has the knowledge necessary to train dogs and teach others to train their dogs. Your interview can tell you whether they can meet the individual needs of both you and your dog.

Happy training,
Claudia
Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA
(Certified Professional Dog Trainer)

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