

Dear Dog Lover,

**Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Treibball - the urban sport of herding”**

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

**[Last Nose Work Beginner class](#) for this year starts **Aug 23**. Sign up now!** We'll offer new Nose Work classes again in February. Our Nose Work Practices will continue throughout the winter.

Our **[Delta Society Pet Partner® seminar and evaluation in September](#)** has still some openings. This program trains volunteers and screens volunteers and their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and other facilities. We only offer this program every second or third year, so take the opportunity now! Check under “Upcoming Events” below for more info, or call us!

Sign-up has started for a **[TTouch Workshop in November!](#)** We have invited a TTouch instructor to teach us about this method to calm, increase confidence and lower stress in our dogs – at home, out and about or at the veterinary hospital.

Visit us at the **[Alaska State Fair](#)** on doggy day, **[Sunday, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>](#)**. We'll have a demo of Nose Work, clicker tricks and the new sport of Treibball at 1-2pm at the Mat Maid Corral.

Our **[Responsible Dog Ownership - Day \(RDO-Day\) on Saturday, Sep 10<sup>th</sup>](#)** starts to take shape! Besides the free admission, hot dogs, various vendors, and **door prizes** sponsored by PetZoo, we also offer “**meet the breed**”, showing off your dogs breed (or breeds?) to the visitors. We'll show the Alaskan Klee Kai, Icelandic Sheepdog, Siberian Husky, and whichever other breed you bring! There'll be a **\$5 nail trim** for your dog(s) by Pampered Paws, and a **low-cost microchip clinic and pet photography** opportunity put on by the Advocates for Dog and Puppy Wellness. Other events include “**Dogs and Traps - Sharing Alaska's Trails**” at 1:30pm, a real-life presentation by the Alaskan Trapper Association with hands-on trap training; a **Dog First Aid course** at 3pm by the American Red Cross (\$40 fee, includes book and DVD); demonstrations of Nose Work, Search and Rescue, Treibball, ...

We have now set our **[Weight Pull Class](#) for this year to **Sunday, Sep 11 and 18**, 2-3:30pm each day. Sign up now for this great opportunity to teach your dog to pull your kids, the firewood, or anything else around. This is a great pre-requisite for our Mushing workshop in the winter! Dogs should be 1 year or older.**

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

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

Enjoy the summer,

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: **Treibball - the urban sport of herding**

**1) INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Sunday, Aug 28: Dog Day at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer**

We'll have our presentation at 1-2pm in the Mat Maid Corral.

Please come and visit us to cheer us on!!!

**Saturday, Sep 10: Responsible Dog Ownership Day at the Regine Dog Training Facility**

**Every visitor will receive a little welcome gift! Come for hot dogs and cookies  
Make sure you receive your ticket for the: Door prizes!!!**

**10am-5pm: Vendor booths** – open to visit. **Also: gear swap, nail trimming (\$5), microchipping (\$20), photographer** on site. Would you like to have a booth at our event? No fee, we'd just like to know ahead of time to plan you in. The booths will be outside on grass. You could bring a pop-up tent, a table and a chair to set up your stuff. If you need any of those, please let us know. We can help with some of it!

**10am: Canine Good Citizen® test:** 10am: same-day sign-up; paperwork for everybody; then general briefing of all participants; testing starts after the briefing in the order of sign-up (payment received). Fee is \$10 (pre-registration) or \$15 (day of test) 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.

**11am (tentative time): Nose Work demonstration** – check out this new fast-growing sport for our four-legged friends! Every dog with a nose can do it! This sport builds confidence in shy dogs, mellows out dog-reactive dogs, and is fun for any dog of any size and shape!

**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! 😊

**12pm (tentative time): Search And Rescue** – Dog Trailing Demo

**2pm (tentative time): Treibball** – urban herding sport demo

**1:30pm: Sharing Alaska's Trails** – keeping (or getting) dogs out of traps in AK. Free presentation with hands-on trap practice (Alaska Trapping Association).

**2pm (tentative time): Agility demonstration** – watch our students practicing with their dogs on our school equipment. Agility is more than just having the dog take each obstacle safely. It's handler strategy, distance handling, focus training, and building that ultimate team of dog and handler.

**3pm: Dog First Aid seminar** – **pre-registration recommended**, fee is \$40 (pre-registration) or \$45 (at the seminar), including a book with DVD. You'll receive a card stating that you attended the American Red Cross Dog First Aid Class.

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

### **September 17, 18 + 25: Delta Society Pet Partner Workshop and evaluation**

We're able to take more sign-ups for this **therapy dog program**. Delta Society's Pet Partners program trains volunteers and screens volunteers and their pets for visiting animal programs in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, schools and other facilities.

#### **Dates for the seminar and evaluation:**

Seminar: Saturday, Sep 17, 10am – 5pm (without dogs)

And Sunday, Sep 18, 10am – 1pm (with working dogs)

Evaluation: Sunday, Sep 25, 10am – 4pm (students will reserve 30min slots)

**Fees:** working spot: \$135 regular fee. Book included.

Seminar Auditing (without dog): \$105 regular fee. Book included.

**Evaluation:** \$25 regular fee.

**Book only:** \$55.

Delta Society recommends, but doesn't require that new teams take the seminar before attempting the evaluation. If you choose to "self-study", contact us to order the book for you (price: \$55), and sign up for the evaluation only. The book is included in the fee for the seminar.

**You can pick up your book after September 1<sup>st</sup>, to study before the seminar.**

### **Saturday, Sep 24: K9 Athlete's Symposium in Willow**

Our Nose Work demonstration will be part of the symposium agenda. Check out the web page at [WDMA](#) for more information on this event.

### **November 2011: TTouch Workshop**

We now are ready to take sign-ups for this wonderful workshop! **We expect this workshop to fill quickly**, even though the deadline to sign up isn't that close.

Please read the full descriptions on our web page.

TTouch is a system of gentle touches and body work, non-habitual movement and groundwork exercises, to calm, relax and focus your dog. It enhances balance and well-being and can help your dog with:

- Nervousness, tension and stress
- Excessive barking and chewing
- Leash pulling and jumping up
- Fear and shyness, hyperactivity
- Car sickness

- Digging and scratching

### **Bonus Class: DeStressing through Energy Balancing**

3-5 techniques will be demonstrated and explained, for DeStressing your dog (and you), through energy balancing:

Chakra Connecting, Chakra Balancing, EFT, Acupressure, and EEM Daily Energy Routine.

This is a 1-day workshop with one bonus hour Sunday evening for all attendees.

**Dates and Times: Nov 20 and 21, 2011** (same workshop repeats next day)

Sunday, Nov 20: 10am - 5pm

Monday, Nov 21: 9am - 4pm

**Bonus Class DeStressing:** Sunday, Nov 20, 6-7pm

**Location:** Regine Dog Training Facility

**Fees:** One day with dog: **\$130 pre-registration (until Sep 30)**, \$150 regular fee (Oct 1 – Nov 20)

Auditing (without dog): \$80 pre-registration (until Sep 30), \$95 regular fee (Oct 1 – Nov 20)

Come a second day (with a different dog) and save \$30 of your registration fee!

**Bonus Class:** free for all attendees, all others \$25

Payment is required to hold your spot. **All payments are non-refundable.** Payments can be transferred to another attendee.

Maximum 10 working dogs per day.

Please bring your own lunch, we'll provide hot/ cold beverages and some snacks.

## **2) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:**

### **Drop-in practices running right now:**

Indoors or outside – please bring clothes accordingly. Training punch card available online. One card for all practices!

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

Supervisors: Claudia, January

- For 'Intro to Odor' Graduates: Tuesdays 7:45-8:45pm. Sundays 6:15-7:15pm. No practice on Aug 28 and Sep 4. Reservation required.

Rally Practice:

Supervisors: Claudia, Ella-Kate

- Rally Practice for Rally College graduates: Integrated into the Rally class: Starting Sep 8, Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm. Reservation required.

Treibball Practice:

Supervisor: Karla

- Treibball Practice, no pre-requisite: Wednesdays Aug 10 – Sep 28, 6-7pm. Reservation required.

Flyball Practice:

Supervisor: Karla

- Flyball Practice for Flyball Beginner Class graduates: Wednesdays, Aug 10 – Sep 28, 7:30-8:30pm. Reservation preferred.

**Nose Work Classes starting Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>:**

Instructors: January, Claudia

The class will run for 6 weeks and end Sep 27<sup>th</sup>.

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)

**Behavior classes starting Sep 7th/8th:**

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for six weeks, have a break on Oct 12/13 (instructor gone for continued education) and end Oct 19/20.

Puppy 1 – Preschool: Wednesday 5-6pm

Overflow P1 or FC: Wednesday 6:15-7:15

Foundation Class: Wednesday 7:30-8:30pm

Puppy 2 - Kindergarten: Thursday 5-6pm

Elementary School: Thursdays 6:15-7:15pm

Rally College: Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm

**RDO-Day Sep 10th:**

CGC® - test: Saturday 10am - pre-registration open

[Dog First Aid class](#): Saturday 3pm - **pre-registration open**

**Weight Pull Workshop Sep 11/18th:**

Instructor: Kat

Each of the two sessions will be 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the number of participants.

Dogs need to be 1 yr or older.

Saturdays, 2-3:30pm: [Weight Pulling](#)

**Delta Society Pet Partner Sep 17/18th + 25th:**

Instructor: Mary Troll; Evaluators: Sharon and Kathleen

Seminar: Full day Saturday, half day Sunday Sep 17/18

Evaluation: 30min time slots on Sunday, Sep 25

Saturday, 9/17, 10am-5pm: [Seminar](#)

Sunday, 9/18, 10am-1pm: [Seminar](#)

Sunday, 9/25, 10am-finished: [Evaluation](#)

**Agility classes starting Oct 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Instructors: Claudia, Kat

The classes will run for 6 weeks, with a **break on Oct 29** for an agility trial, and end Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

[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)

**Puppy class starting Oct 9<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: January

The class will run for six weeks, with a break on Sep 4<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day weekend), and end Nov 13th.

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

**Upcoming classes:**

We'll continue some of our now outdoor sports (treibball, flyball) inside during the winter, if the demand is there. Possibly on Tuesday evenings, sharing with Nose Work.

Check out our [TTouch workshop in November](#) in the events section above.

### **3) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:**

It's easy!!! On our webpage [www.bettercompanion.com](http://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. Please note that **some workshops have their own cancellation policy**, even though they use the same registration form as the classes. Take advantage of our **pre-registration fee** by signing up a minimum of **14 days before the start of your class**. Different deadlines might apply to some of the workshops and seminars.

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 six 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 can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility.**

### **4) DOGGY DAYCARE AND OPEN PLAY TIMES:**

**Doggy Daycare:** Offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6am-7pm, with their playtime ending at 5pm, at which time they'll be kenneled if not picked up before.

**Open Play Time:** Canceled for Mon, Sep 5<sup>th</sup>; **OPEN** on Fri, Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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 –for evaluations. \$35

**You can check our 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: [info@bettercompanion.com](mailto:info@bettercompanion.com), (907) 357-2521.

## **5) TREIBBALL - THE URBAN SPORT OF HERDING**

Treibball is a new way to play with your dog! It's a competitive sport for dogs of all ages and sizes—it promotes better teamwork and communication between a dog and his handler. It's great fun for any energetic dog who works well off-leash and needs a job, or any dog who likes to herd and doesn't have sheep!

If you haven't seen the game in action yet, watch the videos on the [American Treibball YouTube channel!](#)

**Treibball** began in Germany to give their energetic dogs some much needed mental and physical stimulation.

Dogs are 'herding' different sized exercise balls into a goal, towards the handler. They can push with their head and shoulders, but they can't use their paws.

It's a great game—perfect for American dogs and their owners, too! It's fun for any dog that loves to play chase games, to herd or just use their amazing, problem-solving ability. Competing in Agility takes special equipment, the ability to run with your dog and direct him through each obstacle. Treibball promotes the same kind of teamwork and communication, but does not put any physical stress on the handler. It also builds confidence for the shy dog, and helps reactive dogs with impulse control.

The American Treibball Association (ATA), a 501 (c) 3 organization, was formed to establish the sport in the United States. We encourage individuals, trainers and clubs to join ATA, form classes and start [sanctioned ATA competitions](#) throughout the U.S. As the



sport gains wider acceptance, more people and their dogs will enjoy this new kind of teamwork!

### **No Sheep? Try Treibball for Your Herding Dog**

Treibball is a new dog sport originating in Europe where the dog gathers and moves a "flock" of large balls. Typically the balls are those heavy duty inflatable exercise or yoga balls. Similar to herding livestock the human part of the team directs the dog in pushing the balls to or through the course to a goal.

Most sites describe something similar to pool as the "traditional" style. In this form the balls are set up in a triangle pattern. The handler stands some distance away at the opening to a soccer goal net. Typically the dog runs to the back of this pattern to work the rear most ball first. The dog drives the ball to the goal. The handler then directs the order in which the dog should drive the remaining balls to the goal.

As might be expected there are many variations in this sport. Sometimes obstacles are created made of cones or long objects like logs. The dog drives the ball through the channels created by the obstacles, perhaps in a meandering path pattern, or slalom like weaving the ball in and out.

Different web sites list different dates for the origin of the activity as a sport. It's suspected that in concept it has multiple independent origins, based mostly on when the large lightweight exercise balls started to become widely available. Certainly the activity of playing soccer (aka football) with a dog has existed for a very long time. There have long been hard shelled balls for playing with your dog. The hard shell prevents the dog from biting the ball and encourages pushing it with paws or nose. Indeed there is a ball called a "pig ball" that is hard shelled and created for pigs to play with. Some variations of treibball use the pig ball. The variation of using exercise balls seems to be what has encouraged this activity to develop into a sport. The physical qualities of the gym balls seem more suited to a more methodical controlled ball movement than the hard shelled balls.

Some sites list [Jan Nijboer](#) as the creator of the activity as a formal sport. He is currently based in Germany. His goal was to provide an activity suited to channeling the drives of the herding dogs in the urban environment. Much of the terminology in this form of treibball is taken from herding.

Since its formation the sport has grown, diverged and diversified. It has turned out to be suited to virtually any dog breed. Because it is low impact it can be enjoyed by older dogs or those with modest mobility limitations. Most of the sites I reviewed emphasize that the value of this sport is more than exercising the dog. It is in developing a working cooperative communication in achieving a goal.

The name of the sport "Treibball" is German, in English it may be described as "Driving Ball.". It is also variously translated as push or bump ball, or may appear in automated translations as "wax ball." I've also seen it translated as propellant ball or blowing ball. When reading automated translations if you encounter the word "wax", "propellant" or "blow" just substitute "push" to get the intended meaning.

YouTube has a number of [videos](#) showing this sport in action.

[Treibball discussion group hosted on Yahoo:](#)

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/treibball/messages>

This Treibball discussion group was started by the folks at Living With Dogs so it is in English and is largely USA based. At this time allows non-members to read the messages. It is a good way to get a feel for the sport.

[Treibball/ball herding rules and training - GermanShepherdHome.net:](#)

[http://www.germanshepherdhome.net/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/43495/Treibball\\_ball\\_herding\\_rules\\_a.html](http://www.germanshepherdhome.net/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/43495/Treibball_ball_herding_rules_a.html)

This site provides a translation of the Treibball rules from German to English

Watch our dogs at our State Fair demonstration. We'll show Nose Work and Treibball! We just started this adventure, so our dogs are still in Treibball-Kindergarten ☺. It's already fun!!!

Claudia

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA

(Certified Professional Dog Trainer)

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Your BetCo Team at

**The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility**

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA

Frank Sihler, Iditarod Finisher

Kelly Saunders (office)

(907) 357-2521

[betco@mtaonline.net](mailto:betco@mtaonline.net)

[www.bettercompanion.com](http://www.bettercompanion.com)

1400 E Regine Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654