

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: "The APDT - Association of Pet Dog Trainers"

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

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

Fall is here and we're looking into starting our **last classes for this year:**

- [Puppy 1 classes](#) start Oct 27 and Dec 4
- [Foundation Class](#) starts Oct 27, then again in January 2012
- [Puppy 2](#) and [Elementary School](#) start Oct 26, then again in January 2012
- [Tricks 'N Clicks Class](#) starts October 26
- [Treibball](#) starts again Nov 29, after that beginners will have to wait until spring 2012
- [Agility](#) classes will start Dec 3 (run 2 weeks, break of 3 weeks, then 4 weeks in January)

Check our full schedule below! We won't offer another Nose Work beginner class until February 2012.

We'll also offer our popular Skijor and Mushing workshops again this winter, keep an eye open for those!

Our [TTouch Workshop in November is filling up!](#) 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. We have **auditing spots left**, all working spots are filled as of now. You could pay for an auditing spot and let us know if you'd be interested in moving up to a working spot, if enough people before you cancel. It's a long time, and we expect to have some drop-outs - where life just comes in between. **Please read the specifics about the workshop below, we had a slight time change for Sunday!**

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

Enjoy the fall,
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: [The APDT](#)

1) Information on upcoming events:

November 2011: TTouch Workshop - new times for Sunday!

All working spots are full at this point, but you can sign up for an auditing spot, and if enough people drop out before then, you might still get a working spot for this wonderful workshop!

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
- Aging
- 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: **11am - 6pm** (one hour later than originally planned)

Monday, Nov 21: 9am - 4pm

Bonus Class DeStressing: Sunday, Nov 20, **7-8pm** (one hour later than original)

Location: Regine Dog Training Facility

Fees: One day with dog: \$150 regular fee (Oct 1 – Nov 20)

Auditing (without dog): \$95 regular fee (Oct 1 – Nov 20)

Come a second day and save \$30 off your registration fee!

Bonus Class: free for all Sun and Mon 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](#) For 'Intro to Odor' Graduates:
(maximum 6 dogs – please call or email to reserve a spot):
Supervisors: Claudia, January

Tuesdays 7:45-8:45pm. Sundays 6:15-7:15pm. **No practice on Nov 20, 22 and 27.** Reservation required.

- [Rally Practice:](#) Rally Practice for Rally College graduates:
Supervisors: Claudia, Ella-Kate

Integrated into the Rally class: Starting Sep 8, Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm. **No class/practice on Oct 13, finishing on Oct 20.** Reservation required. **No further practices planned for 2011.**

- [Flyball Practice:](#)
Supervisor: Karla

No further practices planned so far.

If the demand is there for some indoors box work at our facility, Karla can set something up for a Tuesday on or after Nov 29 after the Treibball classes. Contact us or Karla if you're interested!

Treibball Beginners Class starting Oct 11th:

Instructor: Karla

The class will run for 6 weeks and end Nov 15th.

[Treibball Beginners:](#) Tuesdays 5:15-6:15pm (starts WITH the dogs)

Nose Work Class starting Oct 11th:

Instructors: January, Claudia

The class will run for 6 weeks and end Nov 15th.

[Nose Work Intro to Odor:](#) Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm (starts WITH the dogs)

The next Nose Work Beginners Class will be offered Feb 2012.

Behavior classes starting Oct 26th/27th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for six weeks, have a break on Nov 23/24 (Thanksgiving) and end Dec 7/8.

Tricks 'N Clicks Class: Wednesdays 5-6pm

Puppy 2 - Kindergarten: Wednesday 6:15-7:15pm

Elementary School: Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm

Puppy 1 – Preschool: Thursday 5-6pm

Overflow P1 or FC (most likely FC): Thursday 6:15-7:15

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

Aqility classes starting Dec 3rd:

Instructors: Claudia, Kat

The classes will run for 6 weeks, with a break from Dec 17-Dec 31, and end Jan 28th, 2012.

Aqility Puppy/Beginners: Saturday 10am-12pm (class 10:30am-11:30am)

Aqility Skills Training: Saturday 11:30am-1pm (class 12-1pm)

Lunch break: 1-2pm

Aqility Sequencing: Saturday 2-4pm (class 2:30-3:30pm)

Aqility Trialing 1: Saturday 3:30-5pm (class: 4-5pm)

Aqility Trialing 2: Saturday 5-6:30pm (class:5-6pm)

Puppy class starting Dec 4th:

Instructor: January

The class will run for six weeks, with a break from Dec 25 to Jan 1, and end Jan 15th, 2012.

Puppy 1 – Preschool Sundays 5-6pm (All classes WITH the dogs)

Upcoming classes:

We'll continue our now outdoor sports (treibball, flyball, nose work) inside during the winter on Tuesday evenings. We'll work on offering Mushing and Skijoring again this winter, coming up Jan/Feb 2012.

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, 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 **Nov 21** (TTouch workshop) **and Nov 25**, Thanksgiving week

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 (large dogs) 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 for info on classes, facility, and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form and more.

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

5) THE APDT

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers was founded in 1993 by Ian Dunbar, PhD, BVetMed, MRCVS, CPDT-KA. A renowned veterinarian, animal behaviorist, dog trainer and writer from England, Dr. Dunbar created the APDT in the U.S. as a forum for trainers to network with each other and provide educational opportunities. This was after his effort to start a network of dog trainers in England had failed. The APDT is now the largest association of dog trainers in the world, promoting dog-friendly training methods. England has also made huge steps, and Victoria Stillwell from England is the best known TV promoter for positive dog training methods with her series "It's Me Or The Dog".

The ADPT writes about themselves:

"The Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) is a professional organization of individual trainers who are committed to becoming better trainers through education.

We were founded in 1993 by Ian Dunbar DVM, Ph.D. as a forum for trainers to associate with one another and to discuss topics of mutual interest. We have since become a member-driven organization producing educational conferences in locations throughout the United States. Our annual conference has grown from 250 participants a few years ago to 1500 participants.

Our membership has grown at a similar rate to almost 6000 members worldwide."

“The APDT is dedicated to building better trainers through education, promoting dog-friendly methods and encouraging their use. Our membership is composed of trainers from across the spectrum of training philosophies who have an interest in furthering their knowledge of positive training. Membership in the APDT does not necessarily ensure all members employ similar training methods, nor does the Association set standards of skill or competence.

Membership in the Association is open to all who pay annual dues and includes individuals with a wide range of experience, knowledge, and skill. The APDT is primarily an educational organization and encourages its members to make use of training methods that use reinforcement and rewards, not punishment, to achieve desired behavior.”

We can't and shouldn't force other dog trainers to change to dog-friendly methods, that wouldn't be 'human-friendly'. We can only recommend, educate, and prove through our results that traditional methods using force aren't necessary and can even cause negative effects in our dogs.

Any interested dog trainer and dog owner can join the APDT, go to their educational events, and learn more about dog-friendly methods as well as networking with other like-minded dog owners and dog trainers.

I'm looking forward to join their annual conference again this year (in October), for the fourth time I know I'll come back fully-loaded with positive reinforcement, new ideas and a confidence boost that will spill over to my students in the weeks and months to come.

Looking forward to share dog-friendly training methods with you,

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

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The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

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