

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: [Poll results](#); [Book review: Through a Dog's Ear](#)

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

Congratulations to the Pet Expo raffle winners!

We drew for one free class (value of \$120), one gift certificate of \$50, two gift certificates of \$ 25 and four BetCo T-shirts.

The winners are: Sarah Carpenter, Kerolyne DeJesus, Robert Mathis, Pamela, Monique Garbowicz, Melody Martynowicz, Kim Mehall and Staci Peterson. Congratulations!

Our Doggy Daycare is looking for a new staff member!

If you have experience working with multiple dogs off-leash, can commit to working 5-6 hours two times per week, year-round, and don't mind cleaning up after the dogs and doing some additional cleaning and little paperwork during your hours here, this might be the opportunity for you! Call or email us for more specifics! 357-2521 or betco@mtaonline.net.

We have added more classes and events, so please read through the next section carefully!

➤ **Upcoming classes:**

- **July Puppy 1 and Foundation Class:** Will start as announced on July 22nd. I had a brief thought of moving the start up to July 15th, but it turned out as unnecessary. So the class will stay as is, starting July 22nd and finishing Aug 26th.
- **July Puppy 2 class:** Due to the high demand we opened an overflow class. One Puppy 2 class will run on **Thursdays, 5-6pm, starting July 26th**, the additional class will run on **Sundays, 7:30-8:30pm, starting July 22nd**. We have several spots left now! All registered students will receive an email in which we'll ask them about their needs or preferences.
- **Rally and Flyball Practices:** We added a once-a-month practice for graduates to our schedule. In July, August and September, on the **second Thursday of the month**, we'll offer **Rally Practice for all Rally College graduates at 5:30pm** and **Flyball Practice for all Flyball Beginner graduates at 7pm**. This practice will be outside, and registration by email or phone is required.
- **Check our class listings below in a new easy overview format!**

➤ **Events:**

- **Sat, July 28, 10am: Recall Workshop:** Full-day workshop to improve your dog **coming to you despite distractions**. We'll switch between practice and short lectures, to give the dogs breaks. People- and dog-friendly dogs only, or just audit without your dog!

- **Mon, July 30, 4pm OR Sat, Aug 11, 2pm: Feisty Fido Workshop:** 4-hr workshop for dogs that are reactive to other dogs when walking on leash. This workshop will practice different exercises to **help your dog stay calm when encountering/ seeing other dogs**. Adult handlers only. Dogs should be people-friendly. Dogs need to be under full physical control of the handler. We have equipment for sale that will give you control over your dog without choking. This workshop is offered twice due to its popularity the last time we offered it! You also can sign up twice and get double the practice with different 'strange dogs'!
 - **Sat, Aug 4, 2pm: Treat/Retreat Workshop:** 4-hr workshop for dogs that are shy to strange people. Help your dog to overcome the fear of meeting new people. Learn how to help your dog come out of its shell faster.
 - **Check out our complete list of events below!**
- **Open Play Time/ Doggy Day Care:**
- Our OPT will be **closed on July 6** (4th of July-week)
 - Our DDC will be **closed on July 5th** (4th of July-week)
- **2012 is BetCo's 10th Anniversary!**
We will put **every class sign-up since April 1st into a drawing**, taking place on our anniversary celebration day; Doggy Day on Saturday, Sep 8th, 2012. You'll be automatically entered, and we'll give you one ticket for each class or workshop you sign up for between now and Sep 8th. **First prize will be a full free class!** Don't forget to mark Sep 8th on your calendar to join our celebration! You don't have to be present to win, but we sure encourage you to come and join in the fun!

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

Enjoy the Alaskan outdoors, remember: don't feed wildlife (= mosquitoes) ☺
Claudia

Below you'll find:

- 1) **Events/ workshops**
- 2) **Classes: NEW Table format!**
- 3) This month's story: **Poll results: How much Exercise?**
And book review: Through a Dog's Ear

1) Events/Workshops:

- **Review: June 9th Pet Expo in Anchorage**

The Pet Expo was great! We estimated about 3000 visitors overall, and people liked the demonstrations offered on Flyball, Agility, Treibball and Nose Work. We gave away a lot of free clickers, pens and other little goodies, and had a great

turn-out with our raffle. My Aussie/Husky Sally won the pet talent contest with her hat trick.

Exciting news! Due to the great turnout, the Pet Expo will be back next year!
Mark your calendar for June 15, 2013!!!

- **Workshops at BetCo in July/August:** Web page is now updated, click on links for description. 6 dogs maximum, unlimited audit. Offered once a year only!
Changes from the last newsletter in red:

- 🐾 [Recall](#) Workshop Saturday, July 28, 10am-5pm
- 🐾 [Feisty Fido](#) Workshop for leash-reactive dogs **Monday, July 30, 4-8pm** and Saturday, Aug 11, 2-6pm
- 🐾 [Treat/Retreat](#) Workshop for shy dogs Saturday, Aug 4, 2-6pm
- 🐾 [Loose Leash Walking](#) workshop **Saturday, Aug 25, 2-6pm.**

- **New Agility workshops:** maximum 6 dogs, 2-3 hours, regular fee \$50, pre-reg. \$45, audit (observing without own dog) \$25/\$20.

- 🐾 [Go Weave!](#) Saturday, Aug 4, 10am-1pm
- 🐾 [Independent Contacts:](#) Saturday, Aug 11, 10am-1pm
- 🐾 [Jumping Jack!](#) Saturday, Aug 25, 10am-1pm

- **June 30/July 1: Pet Partner evaluations (Anchorage):** Delta Society offers a new format of registering suitable teams as Therapy Animal Teams with them. An [online course](#) is now available to prepare for the evaluation of you and your dog.

Our High School class can help you prepare for this evaluation, as about half of the evaluation is a modified CGC®-Test, the other half tests the temperament of your dog. The next High School class starts July 26. Ask us about prerequisites for this class.

- **Sep 8/9: BAT for Dog Reactivity, Fear, Frustration and Aggression - Seminar with Grisha Steward at Sirius Ranch.** Hosted by [Northern Tails Dog Training of Alaska](#).

Fighting is expensive for dogs. Instead of jumping directly into fighting, most dogs give distance-increasing signals, from subtle to overt. But many dogs have also learned to give up on the subtle signals and leap straight to showing big aggressive displays, fighting, or fleeing in panic.

When dealing with aggression, fear, or frustration, **Behavior Adjustment Training (BAT)** builds social skills, confidence around the trigger, and trust in the handler. While food or other rewards are used with BAT in some cases, the main focus of BAT is on **using environmental rewards** that already maintain the

problem behavior. Go directly to NorthernTailsDogTrainingAK.com for more info on this seminar.

2) Upcoming Classes and Practices:

Listed are start dates. The classes will run once a week for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified.

Click [here](#) to view the online calendar by month. To see who's instructing the class you're interested in, go to our online calendar and click on any week of that class to see the details.

Click [here](#) to register for a class.

Already registered? Click [here](#) to pay for a class.

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

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>				
Puppy 1	Sun 7/22	Tue 8/14	Sun 9/16	Oct 10
Foundation Class	Sun 7/22	Tue 8/14	Sun 9/16	Oct 10
Puppy 2	Sun 7/22, Thu 7/26		Thu 9/6	Nov 1
Elementary School	Thu 7/26			Nov 1
High School	Thu 7/26			2013
CGC-test (one day)			Sun, 9/16	
C.L.A.S.S. - BA		Wed 8/15	Thu 9/6	Dec 2012
CLASS Evaluation	Tue 7/24		Oct 3 ?	
Rally College				Jan 2013
Rally Practice	7/12, 1 day 5:30pm	8/9, 1 day 5:30pm	9/6, 1 day 5:30pm	
Tricks 'N Clicks				Nov 1
<u>Sports Classes</u>				
Nose Work Beginner		Mon 8/13		Nov
Nose Work Odor		Mon 8/13		Nov
Nose Work Practice		Mon 8/13		Nov
Treibball Beginner		Wed 8/15		Oct 9

Treibball Intermediate		Wed 8/15		Oct 9
Flyball Beginner				Summer 2013
Flyball Practice	7/12, 7pm	8/9, 7pm	9/6, 7pm	
Agility Puppy/Beg			Sat 9/15	Nov 2012
Agility Skills			Sat 9/15	Nov 2012
Agility Sequencing			Sat 9/15	Nov 2012
Agility Trialing			Sat 9/15	Nov 2012

You can check our web page www.bettercompanion.com for info on classes, daycare, Open Play Times, 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.

3) POLL RESULTS: HOW MUCH EXERCISE? AND BOOK REVIEW: THROUGH A DOG'S EAR

Poll results:

- How much exercise do you think your dog requires per day?

All people answered with **1-2 hrs per day**, some recommending to split that up, e.g. in one time 1 hr and another time ½ hr.

- What type of exercise do you think your dog likes the most?

At the top of this list were **Dog Sports**, mentioning Agility, Treibball (herding balls), Nose Work, Tracking and Obedience training as well. It was also noted that the focus is not necessarily on excelling and competing in that sport, but getting the exercise for the dog, no matter at what level they're training in that sport. Somebody asked if squirrel chasing could be turned into a sport, and YES, lure coursing would copy that the best, and Nose Work will focus the hunting drive into a channeled exercise of scent-hunting for and finding a little birch oil-odor swab.

In second place came **toy games** like fetch with a ball or Frisbee and tether ball, followed by **hiking** and **loose leash walking**. Also mentioned as a favorite exercise was **swimming**.

- What training does your dog need the most to enjoy exercising together?

On the top of this list were a reliable **recall, loose leash walking, attention** to the owner and **Leave It**.

Also as important were seen the **Stay** exercise and being able to go “**On By**” a distraction.

Through a Dog's Ear - book review:

We know that our dogs' hearing is very sensitive, which can lead to noise phobias, anxieties, nervousness and even panic. But because of this sensitivity, we can also create an environment of sound to improve the health and well-being of our canine companions. Psychoacoustic expert Joshua Leeds and neurologist Susan Wagner have put together this book, including a CD of music which can enhance our dogs' lives! Clinical trials have demonstrated that this CD calms 70% of dogs in kennels and 85% in households!

This book features:

- How to use sound as a tool to help alleviate separation anxiety, excitement with visitors, thunderstorm panic, and other behavior challenges
- Tips and tricks for nervous dogs on how to make any house or apartment more comfortable for canines
- Keys to understanding how our dogs hear the human world - including orienting responses, sensory confusion, and over- and under-stimulation
- 45 minutes of classical music specifically enhanced and psycho-acoustically designed to soothe and calm dogs - *and* their human companions.

If you've ever wondered what's really happening when your furry friend perks up his ears and cocks his head - or when he hides under the bed - here is the first book to examine the powerful effect of the human soundscape on canines. Through a Dog's Ear provides an indispensable source of cutting-edge research, heartwarming stories, and practical, sound-based solutions to help your dog live a happier and healthier life.

Review by others:

“This book shows the impact of our over-stimulated world on both humans and our dogs, and gives us the tools we need to help lower the decibels, make change, and create healing.” Carol Komitor, founder of Healing Touch for Animals.

“I highly recommend this book and CD to anyone living with a dog with stress/anxiety problems. I have found that it provides a calming energy to dogs in homes, shelters, and boarding kennels. The music helps them become noticeable calmer and more focused.” April Frost, Animal behaviorist and author of Beyond Obedience.

We have a few books in stock and can order more, all including the CD. The price is \$18.95. 😊

And now have fun exercising your dogs, and then take them home into a calming environment!

Claudia

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Your BetCo Team at

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