

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: [Lucy's Adventure](#)

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!

 **Is your dog a Canine Good Citizen?**

**Newly revised High School Class** prepares you and your dog for everyday situations you could encounter anywhere and anytime! We took the **format of our highly praised C.L.A.S.S. course, and added games and role plays** to the curriculum. **Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-8:30pm, 6 weeks.**

**Even if you missed the first week, it's still worth coming!!!** Special fee for weeks 2-6: \$110.

CGC-Test offered on **Sunday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>**, at our facility! This test is regulated by the AKC, is for all dogs (purebred and mixed breed) and no registration with AKC is required.

 **Wanted: State Fair volunteers!**

We'll again demonstrate what BetCo has to offer to the dog community at the **State Fair's "Dog Day", Aug 26<sup>th</sup>**. **Our presentation will be at 1-2pm.** We want to show some Nose Work and Treibball, and if time, some clicker tricks. If you'd like to participate with your dog or help without your dog, please contact us about the details!

**We have updated classes and events, so please read through the next section carefully!**

➤ **Sign up now!**

- **High School Class July:** Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm, starts July 26. Regular fee \$130, if you miss week 1, we'll for this time only cut down your fee to \$110!!!
- **Nose Work Class August:** Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm, starts August 13. This class allows you to learn from your dog! Let your dog guide you through his world of scent, by teaching them to only 'hunt' for the scent YOU have prepared for him. Help your dog working through distractions, ignoring other dogs and gaining confidence. This is the fastest-growing new sport in the country, so come and join us with your dog, no matter if s/he's 12 weeks or 12 years!
- **Treibball Class August:** Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15pm, starts Aug 15. Let your dog play with balls! We teach the dogs to push the balls TOWARDS you/ the goal, and to work away from you, directing them around the balls as if they were sheep needing to be corralled! Any breed can learn it! A wonderful way to improve your teamwork with your dog and to keep them focused on you even at a distance.
- **C.L.A.S.S. - B.A. Course August:** Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm, starts Aug 15. This is a fun way to practice manners, good behavior at home and in public, and

improve your teaching skills as a handler. We practice using only one command (instead of Sit! Sit! Sit!), keeping the leash slack, go to mat, and play already games for the higher levels (M.A. and Ph.D.).

- **[Check our class listings below in a new easy overview format!](#)**

➤ **Events:**

Most workshops have filled, but **you can still audit** (come without your dog) all of them. Auditing is half price, and you'll receive the same handouts as the participants to take home.

**Working spots are available for:**

- **[Sat, Aug 4, 2pm: Treat/Retreat Workshop for people-shy dogs:](#)** Is your dog barking at strangers from a safe distance? Is your dog hiding when visitors come to your home? Would you like your dog to trust people more so that it's easier to find a caretaker, or to re-unite the dog with you when lost? Help your dog to overcome the fear of meeting new people. Learn how to help your dog come out of its shell faster. 4-hr workshop for dogs that are shy to strange people.
- **[Sat, Aug 25, 10am: Jumping Jacks Agility Workshop:](#)** Does your dog LOVE the contacts and tunnels, but will go around a jump? Do you always have to go with your dog to the jump? Is your dog jumping slower over the agility jump than over a fallen tree in the woods? Then come to this workshop, to bring the fun back into jumping, and learn how to teach a reliable jumping performance.
- **[Sat, Aug 25, 2pm: Loose Leash Walking Workshop:](#)** Your dog doesn't pull, only IF ... a dog comes in sight, or another person, or ...? Your dog pulls constantly? Want to wean your dog off an anti-pull device? Then this is your chance! We'll practice loose leash walking on short leash, retractable or long-line, whatever your regular walking length is! We'll be outside, 6 dogs maximum, so there'll be a lot of one-on-one practice!
- **[Check out our complete list of events here!](#)**

➤ **Open Play Time/ Doggy Day Care:**

- **OPT will be closed on Aug 31 (Labor Day weekend)**
- **The next closure will be Thanksgiving (Thu and Fri).**

➤ **2012 is BetCo's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**Join us on Saturday, Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 4pm to celebrate with us!**

Check out our tentative highlights and timeline [here!](#) Free admission and parking, friendly dogs welcome! Vendors, give-aways, prizes, free hot dogs...

Dog Sport demos, Dog search team demo, pet talent contest, dog bite prevention, emergency preparedness, Dog First Aid class (\$45, at 4pm)

We will put **every class sign-up since April 1<sup>st</sup> into a drawing**, taking place on our anniversary celebration day; Doggy Day on Saturday, Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>. **First prize will be a full free class!** Don't

forget to mark Sep 8<sup>th</sup> 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,  
Claudia

### 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](mailto:info@bettercompanion.com), (907) 357-2521.

| <u>CLASS</u>                   | <u>July</u>             | <u>Aug</u>           | <u>Sep</u>           | <u>Oct</u> | <u>later</u>    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <b><u>Behavior Classes</u></b> |                         |                      |                      |            |                 |
| Puppy 1                        | Sun 7/22                | Tue 8/14             | Sun 9/16             | Wed 10/10  |                 |
| Foundation Class               | Sun 7/22                | Tue 8/14             | Sun 9/16             | Wed 10/10  |                 |
| Puppy 2                        | Sun 7/22,<br>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               |                         |                      |                      |            | Oct 3 (one day) |
| Rally College                  |                         |                      |                      |            | Jan 2013        |
| Rally Practice                 | 7/12,<br>1day<br>5:30pm | 8/9, 1 day<br>5:30pm | 9/6, 1 day<br>5:30pm |            |                 |

|                              |           |          |          |  |             |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|--|-------------|
| Tricks 'N Clicks             |           |          |          |  | Nov 1       |
| <b><u>Sports Classes</u></b> |           |          |          |  |             |
| 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](http://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](mailto:info@bettercompanion.com), (907) 357-2521.

## **MONTHLY STORY: LUCY'S ADVENTURE**

Some of you have already heard about it: My Jack Russell Terrier Lucy got lost and was found again! Thanks to everybody who helped - either spreading the word, or with prayers and good thoughts!!! Here's the full story:

My husband Frank and I planned on dipnetting at the Kenai River together with some friends. After a lot of convincing work, we finally agreed to buy a new motor for our boat to be able to dipnet from the boat. Now we were on the way, pulling the boat to Soldotna. Frank and I decided to camp at Skilak Lake, about 40 minutes before Soldotna, and then we'd meet up with our friends Monday morning for a first try at launching the boat. We had never been there before, and liked it at first sight.

We also wanted to test the boat with the new motor in a lake first, before launching into the Kenai River. After the test drive, Frank needed to make little adjustments on the motor mount and I started putting up the tent. I let the dogs (Lucy and Sally) out of the car, and both went right to our camp site to check it out. The camp site was easy to overview, bordered by the lake on the back side, a big parking lot to the left, an empty camp space to the right and the road to access further camp sites in the front. It started drizzling a little, and I tried to hurry up with the tent. I knew Lucy would soon try to get in there, to crawl into the warm sleeping bag. She gets cold so easily! I watched her closely for not bothering our closest neighbors two spots away, since I know her affinity to open car doors and human laps to sit in. Sally was just strolling around our spot, looking for any leftover crumbs. I'm always amazed at what she still finds after even the squirrels have already scavenged the place.

**Then I couldn't see Lucy anymore.** I asked Frank if he let her in the truck - no. I asked the neighbor campers if she came over to them - no. That was weird. Sally still hanging out, no sign of hunting mode. I ventured away to other campers on the other side of the parking lot, and the same answer there. **He did mention rabbits though.** He hadn't seen any rabbit, but knew there were some around usually. I hadn't seen any. Not on the drive over 15 miles of gravel road to get here, not since we're in the campground. Sally peeked into the woods once with a little more interest, but was easily called off, still off-leash. Back at the truck, looking behind me down the access road, I finally saw it. A rabbit crossing the road in plain sight! **Sally! Come! On leash you are!** Through the evening, I saw four more rabbits, and Sally now saw them, too.

I knew what that meant for Lucy: Calling her is pointless. **She's on the hunt and in a Terrier frenzy.** We can only overnight here and wait. I had a restless night, listening for any sign of Lucy coming back. Instead I heard a soft howling from the other side of the lake: a coyote? I was realistic - not much of a chance for Lucy to survive. She'll keep hunting rabbits until exhaustion, then sleep extra deep and not hear any predator coming. She'll be so far away from our camp site by the time she's ready to come back, that she won't find her way home anymore. IF she's on the way home, she'll meet more rabbits and get into a frenzy again - she just can't help herself.

We have seen her in a rabbit frenzy once before last summer at Belanger Pass near Eureka: She was close with us as we drove our ARGO over the trail, but when we stopped to talk to people in a four-wheeler, she suddenly took off. She headed up the mountain and we could hear a high-pitch hunting yip. We ran after her, trying to get close enough where she'd listen to our calls. After about two hours and climbing up half the mountain she came to me, and I carried her off the mountain. During that time, we saw more rabbits and I could hardly hold her in my arms. She was ready to go after them again. Sally was hunting, too, but she comes back faster, never goes as far, and never loses her head like Lucy does.

The next morning we needed to make a decision - staying or leaving? People were waiting for us to catch fish with them, and we didn't have any cell phone reception at our camp site. There was some reception towards the exit of the campground, but if I'd

have to wait for Lucy, it would be down at our camp site. But what am I waiting for? She'll most likely not find back, and rather finds a road where someone will pick her up. Who finds her will most likely bring her to town, to the shelter. I'm closer to the shelter in Soldotna than out here. So we drove to our Soldotna camp ground, directly at the boat launch and dipnetting site. I called anybody I thought should know that Lucy is gone, including rangers, shelter, local radio and my veterinarian, since she had her rabies tag on. Now we needed to wait. And I was needed to help with the boat launch and the dipnetting, so I did. We were never more than 5 minutes away from the boat launch, if I needed to get off.

Our day ended at 11:30pm, too late to drive to the Skilak Lake Campground now. I started to get a little nervous, wanted to get out there, even though it seemed pointless. Skilak Lake Campground was my only choice for a search, maybe driving up and down the gravel road for a bit. For the next morning (Tuesday) my friends decided to go dipnetting really early, getting the boat in the water at 6am. I helped them launching, and sat in the boat with them for an hour or so, and then couldn't do it any longer. I asked to be dropped off at shore, to drive with the truck to Skilak Lake Campground. **I had to do something!** By 9 am I was ready to go, had the boat trailer unhooked and a gas can for the boat taken out of the truck for them to refill later and was just about to leave, when my phone rang!

**My veterinary hospital called** - somebody left a message with their nightly answering service - **they found Lucy!** The message said Bill/Park Ranger and showed an out-of-state phone number. I called - and only got a voice mail box. I left a message to call me back and waited. Now I couldn't leave, not knowing where I'd pick up Lucy. It could be at the Skilak Lake Refuge, it could be the shelter in Soldotna or in Kenai... no sense in leaving now, so I stayed with the truck at the dipnetting campground. It took about two hours until I got called back - two hours of waiting, puzzling, calling other people to find out more about Bill, the park ranger - no Bill to be found. Finally, Mitch called me back. He never said he's a park ranger, he just said "I WILL bring her to a PARK RANGER, if nobody picks her up". The bad reception scrambled that message totally - he called **at 1am from Skilak Lake Campground!**

So in the end I did drive to Skilak Lake Campground, where the same people that were our neighbors camping there the night we were there, had just moved over a couple spots but were still there. That explained the out-of-state number - they were visiting the state. **Lucy showed up at their site**, and when they tried to approach her, she fled into the lake belly deep and stood there. They tried to talk to her softly, no effect. Then they remembered that they had some hot dogs, and threw pieces at her, to coax her closer. She came closer, without eating the hot dogs! Finally, when she was really close, she ate one piece of hot dog and Alaskan resident Ryan could take her by her collar. They bedded her in their tent next to their sleeping bags and kept her confined until I came. During that morning, Lucy was already up to hunt squirrels again, if they'd have let her!

When I arrived, they let Lucy lose and she came right up to me, happy to see me. I gave her one more hot dog and then some kibble, and with a little convincing she ate some of



those, too. Her stool later showed me that she had eaten meat, either rabbit or mouse... we'll never know. She didn't look very skinny, but was only gone 1.5 days - plenty for me! It still baffles me that there was no sign of rabbits at that camp ground at first, neither to me nor to Sally, who's behavior usually warns me on time to be pro-active and confine my dogs. And Sally must have missed Lucy's take-off completely, which is another mystery to me. They usually keep a close eye on each other, to see if the other one caught a scent or sight.

When we went to **Hatcher Pass** last Thursday, **Lucy had to stay on leash**, even though it was hard for both of us. I tend to give my dogs a lot of freedom, let them be dogs, and allow them to hunt for vermin, not big game. But there're some rules in place, one being to come back within a reasonable amount of time, which is minutes, not days! I'm now thinking, that all that freedom my dogs had and will probably have again, might have helped Lucy now to survive, and to find back. During the last 7 years with us she learned to drink from a lake or creek, to cross through shallow water, to run through the woods, and to follow tracks, including her own? Sure enough, without that freedom she'd have never taken off - right? But what if she'd have escaped me anyways? I sure don't want her to be gone again like that, and still won't just trust her to come back. There'll always be the fear of NOT getting her back, of NOT being so lucky. So for right now, there'll be less freedom and more recall practice again, more steak in my pocket and more structure, as if she'd be a 1yr old rambunctious adolescent to be trained. BTW, Lucy is 8.5 years old now.

Training never ends! Enjoy every day with your dog(s)!  
Claudia

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