

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: "My Dog Got Kicked Out of Daycare"

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!

Enjoy our rain free days while we have them,
Claudia

Our October Newsletter:

PART I: News

- 1) Recapping our RDO-weekend
- 2) Second step of our price increase: October 15th.

PART II: Events - Oct

- 3) Oct 5: Willow Dog Mushers Symposium - not only for mushers!

PART III: Classes + Workshops

- 4) Oct 14: C.L.A.S.S. course - dog manners and handler techniques re-defined
- 5) Oct 15: Treibball Beginners - push on!
- 6) Oct 15: Freestyle class - brand new: dog dancing class
- 7) Nov 3: Weight Pulling class! Once a year only!

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- 8) **Next scheduled closure for Thanksgiving**
No DDC: Thursday, Nov 28
No OPT: Friday, Nov 29
- 9) OPT: prices increase on Oct 1st.
DDC prices will NOT change

PART V: Class Schedule

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- 10) My Dog Got Kicked Out of Daycare

PART I: News

Recapping our RDO-weekend

Our Responsible Dog Ownership weekend was a spectacle! We had about 150 guests, a dozen vendors were set up mostly inside, we had a different dog demo about every hour and presented over 25 breeds throughout Saturday. Frank grilled almost 150

hot dogs and we served soft drinks, water and cookies with it. On Sunday, 13 dogs participated in the Canine Good Citizen ®-test and only 2 dogs need a tiny bit more practice, the other 11 dogs passed! Congratulations to all of you, you all did wonderful! In the afternoon we had a good crowd attending our annual Red Cross Dog First Aid class - you'll all get the cards from the American Red Cross mailed to you shortly! Thanks to everybody who helped make this event a success!

Second step of our price increase: October 15th

We told you in the spring that we'll have a two-step increase of our fees, with the first step having taken place July 1st of this year. I'm delaying the second part a couple weeks until October 15th, to give everybody a chance to sign up for a class before that, especially our fun classes starting October 14 and 15. The class fee for a regular 6-week class will increase by \$10, so take advantage of the lower fee right now and sign up for the class of your choice before Oct 15th! Credits for a class in our credit list will have Dollar value, so you might have to add \$10 when you use a former full class credit after Oct 15th. You can avoid this by using your credit before October 15th to sign up for a specific class. **ANY class registered and paid for before Oct. 15th will be at the current price.** Open Play Time punch cards will also increase, daycare fees will not increase. See specifics about that below under PART IV.

PART II: Other Events

Oct 5: Willow Dog Mushers Symposium - not only for mushers!

The Willow Dog Mushers Association is putting on their annual dog event on Saturday, October 5th. They'll have vendors and a gear swap with lots of used stuff as well. Their full schedule will be available soon on their web page www.willowdogmushers.org. They usually have an interesting schedule with lectures and demonstrations lined up, not only for mushers!

PART III: Classes + Workshops

Oct 14: C.L.A.S.S. course

This class is designed to practice Canine Life and Social Skills (CLASS) in form of games and real-life role play. We'll work on handler skills like fading out treats and repeat cues, changing easy exercises into nice challenges while working on the dogs' manners for our regular day-to-day lives.

Oct 15: Treibball

We're planning on two hours of Treibball, one for new beginners and one for our intermediate and advanced students. Treibball is a great way to mix fun and control,

tricks and useful behaviors, and exercise for small or large spaces. Your dog will in a playful way learn to be sent out and to push an exercise ball - or not push it, which means self control once they know how much fun that is! For the intermediate and advanced Treibballers, we're planning on a practice for everybody who joins Nancy Tanner's online Treibball League for this winter. We'll help each other practice for Nancy's challenges and videotape each other to be able to send the results in. This is a private league and your videos never go public unless you choose that option. So you'll only have to pay the sports punch card fee, but will also have to pay for Nancy's league. Push on!

 **Oct 15: Freestyle class - brand new: dog dancing class**

Another way to improve your teamwork with your dog is this fun class! Heel to music, add some fun turns and easy tricks and voila - you're dancing with your dog! No dancing pre-requisites needed - most of the moves are obedience moves to music. Watch this [video](#) and get inspired, then come to this class taught by Ella-Kate. Only 6 dogs maximum to ensure lots of quality time with your dog! Experience for yourself how this activity improves your dog's focus on you in just 6 weeks!

 **Nov 3: Weight Pulling class! Once a year only!**

Teach your dog to pull the kid's sled, firewood, or just a tire for more exercise in the winter (and summer). Any dog over one year with a pulling attitude is welcome! No size restrictions! You'll learn about the equipment, how to encourage the dog to pull and how to increase the weight without losing the dog's interest. Equipment and harnesses will be provided for this class. If you have your own harness or equipment, bring it! Because of the specific harness the dogs will wear for this activity, this does NOT ruin your efforts to teach your dog NOT to pull when you walk them on a regular leash and collar or head halter. This class will consist of two sessions held on **two Sundays, Nov 3 and 10 from 1-2:30pm. Sign up before Oct 15 and save double!** Get the lower fee before the price increase AND the pre-registration discount.

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- **OPT** every Friday evening
Next scheduled closure: **November 29 (Thanksgiving weekend)**
- **DDC** every Tuesday and Thursday
next scheduled closure: **November 28 (Thanksgiving)**

 **New prices for OPT starting Oct 15th**

Open Play Time punch cards purchased on or after October 15th will cost \$45 for 6 sessions, a single play session will be \$9. An evaluation scheduled for a Friday evening after Open Play Times at 8 or 8:30pm will be \$45 per half hour. You can purchase up to

2 punch cards per dog approved for our Open Play Times before October 15th to take advantage of the lower rates.

PART V: Class Schedule

Listed are start dates. The classes will run once a week for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. A **“maybe” for a class means YOU can tell us** if you want this class to happen. Enough student interest could put it on the schedule! ☺

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>Oct 2013</u>	<u>Nov 2013</u>	<u>Dec 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>				
Puppy 1	Mon 10/14	Sun 11/3	Mon 12/9	Jan 2014
Foundation Class	Mon 10/14	Sun 11/3	Mon 12/9	Jan 2014
Puppy 2		Sun 11/3	Tue 12/10	Jan 2014
Elementary School	Thu 10/31			Jan 2014
High School				Jan 2014
CGC-test (one day)				Feb 2014?
C.L.A.S.S. - BA	Mon 10/14			Apr 2014
CLASS Evaluation		Mon 11/25 (one day)		May 2014
Rally College				Mar 2014
Rally Practice				TBA
Tricks ‘N Clicks	Thu 10/31			May 2014
Freestyle	Tue 10/15			Feb 2014
<u>Sports Classes</u>	<u>Oct 2013</u>	<u>Nov 2013</u>	<u>Dec 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
Nose Work Beginner				Jan 2014

Nose Work Odor	Wed 10/30			Mar 2014
Nose Work Practice	Wed 10/30			Jan 2014
Treibball Beginner	Tue 10/15			Feb 2014?
Treibball Intermediate				Dec 2013?
Treibball Practice	For IM +Adv Tue 10/15			Dec 2013
Flyball Beginner				Summer 2014
Flyball Practice				
Agility Puppy/Beg		Sat 11/2		Jan 2014
Agility Skills		Sat 11/2		Jan 2014
Agility Sequencing		Sat 11/2		Jan 2014
Agility Trialing		Sat 11/2		Jan 2014

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.

PART VI: Monthly Story

My Dog Got Kicked Out of Daycare

My Dog Got Kicked Out of Daycare Today

By Robin Bennett (originally posted at www.robinkbennett.com)

I received an email the other day that started with, “My dog got kicked out of daycare today.” It was from a dog owner I knew. She loves her dog and was looking for outlets for his energy. She is a fantastic owner — the kind every dog trainer wants to meet. She was bonded to her dog, committed to his well-being, and loved to hear advice from pet professionals on how to improve her dog’s life. So she emailed me to find out what she had done wrong. She needed to express her embarrassment with her dog, and wanted to cry on my shoulder (virtually) and find out what she should be doing to fix what she viewed as her dog’s problems.

She had a lovely dog, with no behavioral problems. The dog was friendly with people, well mannered in the house, walked nicely on leash and was absolutely adored by everyone in the family. But there was this one problem....her dog got kicked out of daycare today.

My advice to her? "Just don't go to the daycare and don't go to dog parks." That's it. No magic wand to fix a problem. No behavioral modification program to force her dog to tolerate the presence of large numbers of other dogs. No litany of tools and tricks she should use to get her dog to accept the environment of off-leash play. Just don't go to the daycare or dog park. That's it.

Far too often we try to force our pets into environments they may not like. And when we do, the dog suffers. I've seen shy dogs taken to crowded parades. The dog is not happy. I've seen sound sensitive dogs taken to fireworks displays. The dog is not happy. And I've seen dogs who don't particularly enjoy the company of other dogs taken to dog parks and daycares. The dog is not happy.

Most of the times these situations occur because well-meaning dog owners are trying to do things they think would be fun for their dog. In the excitement of taking the dog someplace new, many owners fail to notice how their dog is responding to the new environment. I recommend looking to the dog for clues as to what makes them happy. Watch for loose, wiggly body language in your dog. If your dog is hiding, shaking, jumping up on you, or appears more nervous than when you are hanging out at home, he's probably not happy.

Not every dog likes off-leash play and that's ok. It's not a statement about the dog or a fault in training. It's about an environment that just isn't a good fit for a particular dog. Just like an evening at the fireworks isn't the best environment for a dog who is sound sensitive and a crowded parade isn't the best environment for a dog who doesn't enjoy crowds, an off-leash play environment isn't the best place for a dog that doesn't enjoy playing with other dogs.

When a dog doesn't do well in off-leash play it is not necessarily a symptom of a problem, or a bad dog or a dog in need of behavioral modification. This might be the case, but more often than not, it's just a dog who prefers people. It's a dog who would rather hang out with the people he loves than dogs he doesn't know. It's a dog who would love a hike in the woods but doesn't enjoy off-leash play with a group of other dogs. This doesn't make the dog bad.

But is this normal? Don't all dogs want to play with other dogs? Shouldn't I socialize him so he gets used to it? I get asked these questions all the time. The truth is, there are far more dogs who do not enjoy off-leash play, than there are dogs who love it.

When a pet care professional dismisses your dog from daycare or recommends you don't go to the dog park, you should thank them. Thank them for caring more about your pet, than about making a buck by bringing your dog into their facility if the dog isn't

going to enjoy the off-leash environment. Thank them for seeing your dog as a unique animal with individual temperament traits. Thank them for trying to look out for the well-being of your pet and putting your dog's safety and comfort first.

What if your dog doesn't like the off-leash play? It's ok. You are not a bad owner and your dog is not a bad dog. Just find other ways to exercise your dog that don't involve interacting with other dogs. Go for a walk, take a hike, give your dog a massage, or try some activity such as agility, Rally, or nose work. You'll both have a great time bonding, and your dog will be happy.

For more information about off-leash dog play visit www.TheDogGurus.com

That's why at The Better Companion we don't offer only manners classes, but also lots of activity classes like Agility, Rally, Nose Work, Treibball and the different seasonal sports like Flyball, Skijoring, Weight Pulling and Mushing. Sign up today!

The Better Companion is a member of the new dog community The Dog Gurus - Your Best Resource For Off-Leash Dog Play. We want to stay informed and learn from the best about all the ins and outs of letting dogs play off-leash at our facility. Continuous education for us and our staff is a priority - the learning never ends!

Claudia

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