

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: **The Alaskan Husky Dog - by Deb Frost**

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!

 April Treibball update/change!

Treibball Beginners WILL be offered starting Wednesday April 10 - to accommodate our clients' needs. We'll move **Treibball Intermediate to 5pm** and offer **Treibball Beginners at 6:15pm** - the best time of the evening! Our Treibball Advanced Practice students can choose to pay for the Intermediate Class to reserve a spot or join using their punch cards - depending on spot availability. We all can benefit from going back to the basics! The curriculum will be chosen (one of three IM curriculums) to best fit our new(er) IM students.

 Treibball Workshop Monday, April 8 - pre-registration discount ends March 25!

Nancy Tanner will review some basics first and then focus on intermediate skills with our dogs. This is a fun sport offering lots of game varieties with exercise balls. Watch my Aussie/Husky Mix Sally on YouTube enjoying this activity: http://youtu.be/8kQLO_h0y6w. Find more info [HERE](#) or contact us to sign up. I listed the prices below under Upcoming Events as well.

 Summer Workshops now scheduled - Agility, Feisty Fido, Shy Dog, Leash Walk, Recall

Mark your calendar for our popular summer workshops! We already take sign-ups - and some of them fill quickly! All workshops are on Saturdays. More info [HERE](#) or contact us!

May 11: Agility Weaves and Feisty Fido

May 18: Recall

June 1: Agility Contacts and Loose Leash Walk

June 22: Agility Jumps and Shy Dogs

➤ **Classes - sign up now!**

 C.L.A.S.S. Course: Wednesdays, 7:30pm; starts April 10th.

Does your dog have C.L.A.S.S. - meaning Canine Life And Social Skills? This 6-week course not only helps improving our dogs' manners, but also the communication with our dogs - working on the handlers' skills. Easy exercises like Sit while putting the food bowl down or opening a door are taken to a new level. Lots of games and role plays make this a fun class with lots of action. Only 6 dogs maximum assures lots of individual attention. Recommended for Elementary School graduates or any higher level. Good "proofing" for therapy dog or service dog prospects, too.

🐾 **Tricks 'N Clicks Class May: Thursdays, 7:30pm; starts May 9th.**

Teach your dog tricks while improving your clicker skills! Roll over, close the door, clean up your toys, bring me the slippers... Clients who took this class became so comfortable with the clicker and its training philosophy that they started using it more for all their other training as well, improving their dog's behavior even faster than before!

🐾 **Check our class listings below in our easy overview format!**

➤ **Open Play Time/ Doggy Day Care:**

- **DDC** every Tuesday and Thursday
next scheduled closure: **July 4th (Independence Day)**
- **OPT** every Friday evening
next scheduled closure: **May 24th (Memorial Day weekend)**

➤ **Upcoming Events:**

Mark your calendar for the following events in 2013:

🐾 **April 6/7: Freestyle/ Dog dance** workshop by Nancy Tanner in Anchorage at Alyeska Canine Trainers.
Contact: Karen Hill at akk9agility@aol.com.

🐾 **April 8: Treibball Workshop** by Nancy Tanner here at The Better Companion. We can take 8 working dog spots and additional auditing people. We now have the [prices](#) listed on the [web](#) page:
Working Spot pre-registration: \$125, regular fee: \$135;
Auditing Spot pre-registration: \$70, regular fee: \$75
Pre-registration ends March 25.

🐾 **May 3/4/5: Nose Work trials** level 1 and 2 in Chugiak. Contact: Liz at AK Dog Sports at akdogsports@aol.com. or go to www.akdogsports.com.

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

Stay warm,
Claudia

Upcoming Classes and Practices:

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>April 2013</u>	<u>May 2013</u>	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>				
Puppy 1	Tue 4/9	Sun 5/12	Tue 6/18	
Foundation Class	Tue 4/9	Sun 5/12	Tue 6/18	
Puppy 2	Tue 4/9	Thu 5/9		July 2013
Elementary School		Thu 5/9		July 2013
High School				July 2013
CGC-test (one day)				Sep 8 or 15, (one day)
C.L.A.S.S. - BA	Wed 4/10			Aug 2013
CLASS Evaluation		Wed 5/22 (one day)		Sep 2013
Rally College				Sep 2013
Rally Practice				Maybe June 2013 Wednesdays?
Tricks 'N Clicks		Thu 5/9		Nov 2013
<u>Sports Classes</u>	<u>Apr 2013</u>	<u>May 2013</u>	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
Nose Work Beginner		Mon 5/13		May 2013
Nose Work Odor				July 2013
Nose Work Practice		Mon 5/13		May 2013
Treibball Beginner	Wed 4/10			Aug 2013
Treibball Intermediate	Wed 4/10			Oct 2013
Treibball Practice	Cx!		Wed 6/7	July 2013 Mondays

Flyball Beginner				July 1, 2013
Flyball Practice				July 13, 2013
Agility Puppy/Beg				July 13, 2013
Agility Skills				July 13, 2013
Agility Sequencing				July 13, 2013
Agility Trialing				July 13, 2013

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.

MONTHLY STORY: THE ALASKAN HUSKY DOG - BY DEB FROST

With permission to reprint by the author. Original post: BellaOnline - The Voice of Women

Sled dogs were a main means of transportation in arctic regions long before airplanes and snow machines were invented. They may be used more for recreation than necessity these days, but if you visit bush Alaska, you will find working sled dogs still hard at work, doing the job they were bred for so many years ago.

Alaskan Huskies and Siberian Huskies are not (usually) the same breed of dog. Alaskan Huskies, better known in Alaska as Alaskan Sled Dogs or simply "sled dogs", are bred to a far different standard than the AKC Siberian Husky they sometimes resemble. In fact, some Siberian Huskies are Alaskan sled dogs. Confused?

Breeding top quality Alaskan Huskies is part science and genetics and a lot of mushing experience. These dogs are bred to a "working standard" rather than a strict conformation standard. Sled dogs can vary from kennel to kennel and even within the same kennel, depending on what traits a musher is attempting to develop or duplicate.

In fact, there are three main sub-categories within the Alaskan Husky dog breed; light-weight sprinters, distance runners and freight dogs. The most commonly seen and recognized are the "distance Alaskans". These are the dogs you see in the Iditarod, the Yukon Quest and other long-distance sled dog races.

The heavier variety of sled dog is referred to as a "freighter". This sled-dog type leans heavily towards the larger Malamute type of Spitz breeds and can sometimes have some St. Bernard, McKenzie River Husky or other large breed in them. Used mainly for

hauling heavy loads in the past, these dogs now also excel at weight-pulling contests.

Lighter-weight Alaskan Huskies or “sprinters” are referred to as Eurohounds in some circles. Contrary to the “sled dog” many people envision, sprint dogs are often fairly small, short-haired, highly enthusiastic athletes specifically bred for short, intense sprint races where there is no need to sleep outdoors or mush for many hours in frigid weather. These dogs look like mixed-breed mutts to outsiders, but the thought and care put into their breeding is as intense as the competitive sprint races they excel in.

The “average” Alaskan Husky is a hardy dog with upright or partially upright ears. Most Alaskan Huskies have a dense, short to medium-length double coat to protect from ice, wind and rain and the endurance to travel up to 100 miles in a 24 hour period while pulling 80+ pounds each. Alaskan Huskies come in any coat or eye color, but long-haired and single-coated dogs are discouraged in the breed.

On closer examination, an experienced dog breeder might discern traits of not only the Siberian Husky, Malamute, Samoyed or other Spitz-breed dogs that the Alaskan Husky breed was founded on, but also a sprinkling of Border Collie (superb intelligence), Pointer (enthusiasm and focus) and hound (sight-hounds like the Saluki may seem an odd addition, but these hounds of the desert add speed and endurance – invaluable assets in a sled dog). This is the ultimate “designer dog”!

Alaskan Huskies are not show dogs. It is unlikely that sled dogs will ever be recognized as a “true” dog breed because there is no true preferred type other than a generalized “northern dog type” and no pedigree or proven ancestry is necessary. They are bred for stamina, speed and the desire to pull a sled no matter what the conditions. This breed is based more on attitude than conformation.

The history of the true northern sled dog stretches back thousands of years and across literally all of the northern continents. The only source of land transportation used by early North American natives; the ancestors of our modern day Alaskan Husky were essential partners for hunting, trapping and protection as well as transportation. Without sled dogs, explorers like Byrd, Amundson and Peary would have found exploration and travel on the frozen tundra of two continents virtually impossible.

A breed apart ... the Alaskan Husky dog is ideally suited for the rugged country that it is so appropriately named for.

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

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KSA
(Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge and Skills Assessed)
APDT C.L.A.S.S. Evaluator
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Your BetCo Team at

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