

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: **Trick Training - Focus, Fun and Freestyle**

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!

Do the spring dance,
Claudia

Our May Newsletter:

PART I: News

- 1) Upcoming Price Increase
- 2) Volunteers Needed for May Nose Work Trials

PART II: Classes + Workshops

- 3) Tricks 'N Clicks Class starting May 9th
- 4) Nose Work Beginner class starting May 13th
- 5) Workshops in May and June: Agility, Feisty Fido, Shy Dog, Recall, Loose Leash Walk

PART III: Other Events

- 6) PetExpo June 15th!

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- 7) Next scheduled closures: May 24th (OPT) and July 4th+5th (DDC, OPT)

PART V: Class Schedule

PART VI: Monthly Story

- 8) Trick Training - Focus, Fun and Freestyle

PART I: News

Upcoming Price Increase

We have put this off for a while now, but can't avoid it any longer. Some important improvements to the facility are necessary, and it seems our overhead costs have gone up. We'll increase the fees for our **classes and workshops** in two steps, one on **July 1st** and one on **October 1st**. We'll also increase our fees for the **Open Play Times** slightly. The **Daycare fees will stay as they are**, no increase there!

The pre-registration fee for a six-week class will be \$130 starting July 1st and \$140 starting October 1st.

All other fees will change accordingly, adding about \$5 - \$10 to the workshops as well.

Sign up for any class or workshop before these dates to avoid the higher fees!

For any **credits you have with us**, the credit is in the Dollar amount we have on file for you, not for a class. That means if you have a credit with us of \$120, this might not be enough to pay for a full class after July 1st.

We'll increase the fee for our **Open Play Times, OPT Punch Cards and Evaluations** on Fridays slightly as well. You can **buy up to two punch cards ahead** of time per dog to take advantage of existing fees. As of July 1st; new fees will be in place. We will also no longer be able to change a punch card into a credit for another service or give a refund. **Punch cards can still be transferred to another dog/person** if you can't use them for the original dog anymore for any reason, including being excused from the play.

The fee for a single visit will increase to \$8 on July 1st and to \$9 on October 1st.
The fee for the punch cards will be \$40 starting July 1st and \$45 starting October 1st.
Still a really great deal for fun and socializing for you and your dogs! 😊

🐾 [Volunteers needed for the May Nose Work trials!](#)

If you'd like to see what this sniffing sport is all about, come and volunteer! The dogs will search interiors, exteriors, vehicles and containers, much like a detection dog. Our dogs will be looking for the scent of birch or anise - a little swab hidden to the eye - and the handler will have to trust the dog (and training) in finding it and alerting to it. **Volunteers will get the best views!** 😊

Please contact us if you want to come to **Chugiak on May 3-5 (Fri-Sun)**, just for one day is fine, too! We need volunteers for any day, but especially Sunday. And if you'd like to start this sport with your own dog, we'll have a **Nose Work Beginner class starting Monday, May 13th**, at 5:15pm!!!

PART II: Classes + Workshops

🐾 [Tricks 'N Clicks Class May: Thursdays, 7:30pm; starts May 9th](#)

Teach your dog tricks while improving your dog's focus and 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!

🐾 [Nose Work Beginner Class May: Mondays, 5:15pm; starts May 13^h](#)

This class is for dogs of any age, from 9 weeks to 18 years! They can be sporty, mellow, high drive, shy, even reactive - this class helps them all! We'll work only one dog at a time, therefore we can allow reactive or barky dogs to join. Only 6 dogs maximum! We have seen improvement on all levels: gaining confidence; getting less

distracted; staying on task/focus better - not only in Nose Work; finding an activity without strain on the dog's (or handler's) body and easily copied at home without needing major equipment are only some of the many advantages of this class! And it's FUN!

 [Workshops May and June: Agility, Feisty Fido, Shy Dog, Leash Walk, Recall](#)

Mark your calendar for our popular summer workshops! We are already taking 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

PART III: Other Events

 [Anchorage Pet Expo June 15th, 2013](#)

Last year's Anchorage Pet Expo was such a success, we're doing it again!!! Come and join us together with other pet related trainers, groomers, retailers, stores, clubs, non-profits... Besides being all about dogs; you'll find cat rescues and retail booths, exotic pet rescues and clubs, games and demonstrations of flyball, agility, treibball, and maybe a little nose work, too! Bring your dog/people friendly dogs along for the day! There will be doggy "potty facilities" in the building.

If you'd like to help us either manning our booth for an hour or demonstrating treibball or nose work, please contact us!

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

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

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>May 2013</u>	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>July 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>				
Puppy 1	Sun 5/12	Tue 6/18	Sun 7/14	
Foundation Class	Sun 5/12	Tue 6/18	Sun 7/14	
Puppy 2	Thu 5/9		Sun 7/14	
Elementary School	Thu 5/9		Thu 7/11	Sep 2013
High School			Thu 7/11	Jan 2014
CGC-test (one day)				Sep 8 (one day)
C.L.A.S.S. - BA				Aug 2013
CLASS Evaluation	Wed 5/22 (one day)			Sep 2013
Rally College				Sep 2013
Rally Practice		Wed 6/5 4 weeks		Maybe Aug
Tricks 'N Clicks	Thu 5/9			Nov 2013
<u>Sports Classes</u>	<u>May 2013</u>	<u>June 2013</u>	<u>July 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
Nose Work Beginner	Mon 5/13		Wed 7/10	
Nose Work Odor				Sep 2013
Nose Work Practice	Mon 5/13		Wed 7/10	
Treibball Beginner				Aug 2013
Treibball Intermediate				Aug 2013
Treibball Practice		Wed 6/5 4 weeks	Mon 7/1 4 weeks	

Flyball Beginner			Mon, 7/1 4 weeks	Summer 2014
Flyball Practice			Mon, 7/1 4 weeks	
Agility Puppy/Beg			Sat, 7/13	Sept 2013
Agility Skills			Sat, 7/13	Sept 2013
Agility Sequencing			Sat, 7/13	Sept 2013
Agility Trialing			Sat, 7/13	Sept 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.

PART VI: Monthly Story

Trick Training - Focus, Fun and Freestyle

It was fun **going back to school** myself and taking my little Jack Russell Terrier Lucy to a **Freestyle Workshop in Anchorage with trainer Nancy Tanner** from Bozeman, Montana. Freestyle is the sport in which the dog and handler will move to music in a self-choreographed routine, including obedience moves and tricks along the way. I didn't intend to enter this sport, but was interested in the tricks they're using and how to put them together into a nice flow.

And boy was it a great experience! Learning how to improve a dog's focus, watching Nancy as she helped the different handlers through various issues along the way and seeing all the dogs excelling at their level of training was a wonderful treat!

Freestyle is not only a dog sport; it's a useful base for anything else to follow. Freestyle training can be used to improve the dog's attention in everyday situations, to increase the bond to the owner and to gain better performance in dog sports like Obedience, Rally, Agility and Treibball! Freestyle can be done in a small space, in the house, the garage, the yard and during walks. Freestyle doesn't require any equipment, just a way to reward the dog, mostly with a toy or with treats. The dogs seem to enjoy this game as much as the handlers, too!

One element of freestyle is to be able to work with the dog at a distance; sending the dog out and having the dog perform certain moves away from the handler. Practicing these distance tricks improves your dog's understanding of verbal cues overall and

helps you in consistency with any cues for your dog, either verbally or using your body language.

And even though I'm not a good dancer (Freestyle is sometimes also called dog dancing); adding music to the moves was an inspiring experience by itself! All handlers started floating along, having a brisker pace and the dogs were more attentive almost immediately!

I plan to integrate some of the newly learned material into my Tricks 'N Clicks class as well as into the heeling work in some classes, probably mainly in Elementary School and Rally College for now. When Nancy comes up again for Freestyle or Treibball workshops, I can only recommend to all of you to come and see her, with or without your dog!!! It'll inspire you as much as it inspired me, I'm certain!

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
AKC CGC® and STAR® Evaluator

Your BetCo Team at
The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility
Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KSA
Frank Sihler, Iditarod Finisher
Deb Frost (office)
Robin Jacoby (office)

(907) 357-2521
betco@mtaonline.net
www.bettercompanion.com
1400 E Regine Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654