

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “The Tale of Baxter’s Nose”

Since we had some links giving us great trouble in the past, we took all hyperlinks that would direct you to an outside web page out of this newsletter! We’re sorry for any inconvenience this might cause you. Please don’t hesitate to just contact us directly with any questions you may have!

Enjoy the sun,
Claudia

Our June Newsletter:

PART I: News

- 1) Outdoors field has opened for Open Play Times! Enjoy the summer sunshine!
- 2) We WILL demonstrate Nose Work and Treibball again at the Anchorage Pet Expo!
- 3) Second Foundation Class added in July - Elementary School prospects can take High School instead

PART II: Events

- 4) Treibball and Nose Work practice ‘field trips’ in June
- 5) Pet Expo in June

PART III: Classes + Workshops

- 6) Summer Workshops - participate as an auditor!
- 7) Flyball back on the schedule!
- 8) Nose Work Beginners - class in July?

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- 9) Next Scheduled Closures

PART V: Class Schedule

PART VI: Monthly Story

- 10) The Tale of Baxter’s Nose!

PART I: News

 **Outdoors field has opened for Open Play Times!**

We’re now outdoors with our Friday evening Open Play Times, unless it rains or blows us away. Dogs and owners enjoyed the outdoors last Friday already. The dogs found a few last **mud puddles which we hope will be fully dried off** after Memorial Day

weekend. The small dogs at 5pm had enough room to play without running through the few still wet areas, but the medium and large dogs were rather drawn to the water and mud and enjoyed cooling off in them. Most dog owners took our offer and hosed their dogs down afterwards, then dried them with towels provided. Everybody had fun!

🐾 We WILL demo Nose Work and Treibball again at the Anchorage Pet Expo!

Who wants to come and help??? **Please contact us if you can volunteer!!!** We could use a couple **people WITHOUT dogs** to help with the equipment and set-up and with the hides for Nose Work, and we sure need **people WITH dogs** as well! We need dogs that can demo any stage of the sport, from beginner through advanced! The area will be crowded with spectator people and their dogs, so your dog needs to be rather sturdy. This year the event will be at the Dena'ina Center, on **Saturday, June 14.**

🐾 Second Foundation Class added in July - Elementary School prospects can take High School instead

The demand for another Foundation Class (FC) was too high to be ignored, so we decided to **cancel the Elementary School (ES) in July** and offer a second FC instead. There were already a few sign-ups for that Elementary School class, but knowing these dogs, we could very comfortably offer them to **take our High School class (HS) instead** (same day, later time). The class names can be a little misleading, since HS is not necessarily a much higher level than ES. HS just leans towards a different goal; **the Canine Good Citizen (CGC)**-test, and includes a lot of practical applications in real-life of what was learned in FC (and ES). ES practices more Stays, Focus and Loose Leash Walking and introduces obedience moves like Front, Heel and Finish.

If you will be a P2 or FC graduate by the end of June (or earlier) and thought about taking ES, you can most likely take the HS instead and take **ES at a later time (offered in September)**. Those two classes aren't too different in their levels, just diverging towards different goals and covering some different skills – all valuable!

If you aren't sure if this is the right class for your dog, please talk to Claudia about it at class or send us an email specifying which class(es) your dog has taken so far.

PART II: Events

🐾 Treibball and Nose Work field trips in June

How about taking our dogs and practicing Treibball and Nose Work **away from home AND the facility?** Your **dogs can stay on leash** the entire time, or enjoy off-leash Treibball practice if you can trust them. We'll choose an area **away from the main traffic** stream for each week. It'll be a fun break for students and dogs alike!

We'll use the **sports punch card** for these field trips or you can pay as you go if you don't have a punch card.

Treibball: I'll bring two balls and some other training equipment to work with, you could bring anything extra you'd like to add. Maximum 5 dogs.

Nose Work: We'll have different people set the hides each week for variety. 6-8 hides per evening. We can take up to 10 dogs and run either one hour for 5 dogs or up to two hours if we fill all 10 spots.

Location: Meeting point for at least the first practice is at the unoccupied log cabin at Glenn/Parks intersection on Fireweed Rd. You'll get directions emailed through the Treibball or Nose Work emailing group.

Day/Time: three times in June on Tuesday nights, Treibball at 5pm and Nose Work at 6pm.

Pet Expo in June

Join us again for a great event in Anchorage, this time **at the Dena'ina Center!!!** The Better Companion will have a booth there and looks forward to seeing you!

The **3rd Annual Anchorage Pet Expo**

Saturday, **June 14, 2014**

from 10AM to 6PM;

Call **1-800-977-3609 ext. 103 for booth space.**

Free Admission - Bring Your Pet!

What can you expect at an Amazing Pet Expo?

- Fabulous Prizes, Giveaways & Fun for both the 2-Legged AND 4-Legged
- Adopt! Dozens of Rescue Groups and a Mega-Adoption Event
- Free Nail Trims
- Agility, Treibball and Nose Work Demonstrations
- The Latest & Greatest Pet Products - and MORE!

PART III: Classes + Workshops

Summer Workshops - participate as an auditor!

We still have a few spots available even to come with your dog and can definitely take waitlist sign-ups for all our upcoming workshops: Shy Dog; Feisty Fido; Recall; Agility Weaves; Agility Contacts and Agility Jumps. But even if we fill up and can't get you in with your dog, **auditing for half price can be very beneficial**: You can observe the others and write notes without having to attend to your own dog; you'll follow the

instructor and see all the techniques and methods used on different dogs; you'll receive the same paperwork the working spot students will have (not all workshops); you are actively involved in all questions and answers segments; in some workshops you'll be more than an observer - you'll actively participate.

Flyball back on the schedule!

We finally found dates for a **Flyball Beginner** class and **Flyball Practice!** Flyball will be held outside on our fenced, groomed field and postponed to the next week if weather isn't cooperating.

We plan for 4 weeks but could end up finishing later if we have to postpone a week.

Start date: Wednesday, August 13

Times: Flyball Beginner: 5-6pm

Flyball Practice: 6:15-7:15pm

Last year several of the beginners stayed (and paid) for the practice afterwards each week and the dogs LOVED it! We take only 6 dogs maximum for the class to allow enough individual time for everybody.

Nose Work Beginners - class in July?

If there's enough continued interest (and this dog sport is growing by leaps and bounds in popularity!), it's possible we might change the Nose Work-Intro To Odor class in July into a Nose Work Beginner class. Then we'll combine the students from two Beginners classes (May and July) into one 'Odor' class in September. **Contact us** if you're eager to sign up for a Nose Work Beginner class in July. It would be offered on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm, starting July 9.**

PART IV: Open Play Time and Doggy Daycare

Next Scheduled Closures

OPT every Friday evening
Next scheduled closure: **May 23 (Memorial Day weekend); July 4 (Independence Day)**

The field is now open! We'll be outside after Memorial Day weekend - unless it rains or blows us away (then we can still go inside).

DDC every Tuesday and Thursday
next scheduled closure: **Thanksgiving?** 😊

PART V: Class Schedule

Listed are start dates. The classes will run one hour, 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>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>	Workshops Feisty Fido, Recall			
Puppy 1		Wed 7/9	Mon 8/11	Sept 2014
Foundation Class		Wed 7/9	Tue 8/12	Sept 2014
Puppy 2		Thu 7/10		Sept 2014
Elementary School				Sept 2014
High School		Thu 7/10		Fall 2014
CGC-test (one day)				Sep 2014
C.L.A.S.S. - BA			Mon 8/11	Fall 2014
C.L.A.S.S. Evaluation				Fall 2014?
Tricks 'N Clicks				TBA - fall?
<u>Sports Classes</u>	<u>June 2014</u>	<u>July 2014</u>	<u>Aug 2014</u>	<u>later</u>
Rally College				Nov 2014?
Rally Practice				TBA
Freestyle				TBA - fall?
Nose Work Beginner		Maybe Wed 7/9		or Sept
Nose Work Odor		Maybe Wed 7/9		or Sept
Nose Work	Tue 6/3	TBA	TBA	Cont'd

Practice	(3 times)			
Treibball Beginner			Tue 8/12	TBA - fall?
Treibball Intermediate				TBA - fall?
Treibball Practice	Tue 6/3 (3 times)	maybe	Tue 8/12	Cont'd
Flyball Beginner			Wed 8/13	Summer 2015
Flyball Practice			Wed 8/13	Summer 2015
Agility Puppy/Beg		Sat 7/12		Sep 2014
Agility Skills	<u>Workshops:</u> Contacts 6/7 Jumps 6/28	Sat 7/12		Sep 2014
Agility Sequencing	<u>Workshops:</u> Contacts 6/7 Jumps 6/28	Sat 7/12		Sep 2014
Agility Trialing	<u>Workshops:</u> Contacts 6/7 Jumps 6/28	Sat 7/12		Sep 2014
Weight Pulling				Fall 2014

You can check our web page www.bettercompanion.com for more info on classes, Doggy Day Care, Open Play Times, our facility and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form (or fill one out online) and more.

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

PART VI: Monthly Story: “The Tale of Baxter’s Nose”

Story contributed by Deb Frost

The dog sport of Nose Work is a fun, challenging and sometimes competitive sport, taking it's idea from serious Search & Rescue work and turning it into a game that any dog can enjoy. The goal of Nose Work is FUN, learning new scenting and targeting skills and spending great bonding time with your dog. Although The Better Companion has been offering NW classes (Beg-NW and its sequel, NW-Intro to Odor) for quite a while, I remained blissfully unaware of what I was missing until a little less than two years ago.

Then along came Baxter ... an unwanted, small standard Dachshund that had been rehomed (more than once) due to house-training and some fear/anxiety and fear/aggression issues. Dachshunds are sensitive – and stubborn when they want to be (which seems to be often). When I found him, he was 10 months old and on home #3. Life wasn't looking too rosy. But one look at those big brown eyes in a sincere, intelligent little black and tan face and I was hooked. I brought home my very first Dachshund in the fall of 2011.

Neutering him thankfully solved the issue of lifting his leg in the house. Time, patience and help from Claudia eventually worked it's magic on Baxter's other issues and it wasn't too long before he was a welcome addition to BetCo's Friday evening Open Play Time, where he now has several good buddies and often instigates bouts of the zoomies that would do a whippet proud. Bax may have short legs, but he is a ROCKET in a big, grassy field! ☺

But I digress ... After we'd had Baxter in our family for a year or so, I began wondering what I could DO with him for fun?

Serendipitously; one of my other dog classes (I have two other dogs) happened to end at the same time that the Advanced Nose Work Practice group was gathering at BetCo – what FUN they seemed to be having! I saw Bernese Mountain Dogs, Jack Russell Terriers, Labs, Huskies, Boxers & Yorkies - purebred and mix breed dogs – this was obviously not a sport just for special scent hounds. I asked Claudia about Nose Work, thinking maybe it was something I could do with Baxter.

Claudia signed us up for Beginner Nose Work and I soon found myself dressing Baxter in a cute little harness, setting him down facing two rows of white boxes and turning him loose. Once he figured out the game – find the box that smelled like hot dogs and you will get a JACKPOT of them – there was no stopping him!

It seemed like no time at all before we'd graduated from Beg NW and NW Intro-To-Odor class and Baxter was enthusiastically finding tiny hidden tins or straws with birch-oil dipped Q-tips to earn the prize of hot dog treats. We searched vehicles, found 'hides' under chairs and on top of tables, learned to look/smell high and low and gained confidence along with skill. Baxter not only learned a new game, but to be comfortable and at ease in different environments and more relaxed around strange people and new dogs. NW classes had been the highlight of his week – what now?

'NOW' turned out to be membership in NACSW and taking an ORT (Odor Recognition Test) to see if Baxter was ready for his first Nose Work TRIAL! Yikes! I may have been nervous and unsure, but the new, more confident Baxter took on the challenge with his [now] usual professional demeanor. He passed his Birch, Anise & Clove ORTs on the 1st try each and I soon found the two of us headed for Ninilchik, AK (Sept. 2013) for a NW1 Trial. NO expectations at all – my plan was to think of it as a great opportunity for practice and, of course, having fun with our NW practice friends. Baxter's plans were obviously loftier. We came home with our NW1 Title – passing all 4 elements

(Container, Interior, Exterior and Vehicles searches) and actually took 4th place overall in the NW1 portion of the trial! Baxter really LIKES Nose Work. ☺

We continued to have fun practicing with BetCo's NW group over the winter and signed up (gulp!) for the NW2 Trial in May 2014 in Wasilla. NO EXPECTATIONS! Heck, we'd only been to one trial so far. NW2 is a lot harder than NW1 ... Baxter, again, felt I was not giving him enough credit. Did I mention he LOVES this game? Yep; Baxter and I earned our NW2 Title on May 17th, 2014. I'm still amazed. Baxter is not amazed ... this little rescue Dachshund just did what he enjoys most – find those hides and get his treats! Get a-loooooong little doggie!!

Thanks for this great story, Deb!!!
Claudia

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KSA
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Member of Animal Behavior Networks
Member of The Dog Gurus

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