

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “K9 Nose Work – a new fun activity for ALL dogs!”

NEW: Drop-in Classes: Starting Wednesday, May 5th, we'll offer two “drop-in”-style classes outdoors in the fenced field: **Rally Advanced practice** and the new **Nose Work**. You can pay per class hour, or get a training punch card. With the punch card, you pay for 5 class hours and receive a 6th hour for free. We can keep the card here for you, so that you can't lose, wash, or misplace it. Because these will be strictly outdoors classes, we might have to cancel due to weather or field condition. We'll announce any short-notice cancellation through Facebook. We also plan on moving these classes between Wednesdays and Thursdays every two months (2mo Wed, 2mo Thu, ...). This switch will also be announced on Facebook. We'll allow 6 dogs per class. You can call in advance to reserve your spot for a specific day, and we'll also let you know if we're already full.

NEW: Facebook: We'll be on Facebook latest by April 1st, where we'll be able to announce if the outdoors classes have to be cancelled due to weather or field conditions. Facebook will replace our BetCo Dog Blog, and everybody who's on the dog blog now, will be invited to join Facebook instead. You can then communicate with other dog owners about any dog-related issue, e.g. connect with people to go hiking, bicycling, skijoring, mushing or to other dog events together; post a health threat, about a lost dog or to re-home a dog; post a picture or fun story about your dog; and find/sell used dog-related gear. The most important rule will be to keep everything positive and related to reward-based training.

AGAIN: At this time of the year, **we highly recommend Bordetella-vaccines for all dogs visiting us**. The kennel cough is usually raging through the Valley at this time of the year, and our facility won't be left out. Without vaccination, your dog will more likely need medical attention (including antibiotics) and could be sick for three weeks, with the vaccine, usually no medical attention is needed and it's over within 1 week, if not faster.

Like last time you'll find all changes from the March newsletter in **RED** below. Please, even if you're already signed up, check the schedule below to see if your class is affected.

Enjoy the spring, and the increasing daylight with every day,
Claudia

Below you'll find:

- 1) Information on upcoming events
- 2) **REVISED:** Dates and times of upcoming classes
- 3) How to sign up for the classes
- 4) Information on the Open Play Times
- 5) This month's story: **K9 Nose Work – a new fun activity for ALL dogs!**

1) INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 18th: Skydance Paragliding is using the building for their Paragliding 101 – Introduction to this sport
Call 841-7468 (Frank) or go to www.skydanceparagliding.com for more information.

2) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Agility classes starting Mar 27th:

Instructors: Claudia (all), Kat (afternoon), Heather (morning)

These classes will run for six weeks, with a break on Apr 24 (Agility Trial) and end May 8. (Agility trial May 15 ☺)

The times have changed.

Saturday 9-10:15am (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#) FULL

Saturday 10:30-12pm (including change): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#) FULL

Saturday 11:30-1pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#) FULL

Lunch break: 1-2pm

Saturday 2-3:30pm (including change): [Agility Intermediate](#) FULL

Saturday 3-5pm (including set-up + change): [Agility Advanced](#) FULL

Saturday 4:30-6pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced Trial 1](#) FULL

Saturday 6-7:30pm (including take-down): [Agility Advanced Trial 2](#)

Behavior classes starting Apr 6th:

Instructors: Claudia (P2, P1, FC), Heather (FC)

All classes will run for seven weeks, and end May 18th.

Tuesday 5-6pm: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#) FULL

Tuesday 6:15-7:15: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Tuesday 7:30-8:30: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

NEW: Drop-in classes starting May 5th:

Instructors: Claudia (NW, RAP), January (NW)

Weekly every Wednesday until June 30. July/August will be on Thursday evenings.
Outdoors classes in fenced field.

Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm: Nose Work (maximum 6 dogs)

Wednesday 8-9pm: [Rally Advanced Practice](#) (maximum 6 dogs)

Behavior classes starting May 12th/13th:

Instructors: Claudia (P1, P2, ES, RC), Rose (P1, FC), Heather (FC)

All classes will run for seven weeks, and end June 23/24.

Wednesday 5-6pm: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)
Wednesdays 6:15-7:15: **FC or P1** (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)
Wednesday 7:30-8:30: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Thursday 5-6pm: [Rally College](#)
Thursday 6:15-7:15: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)
Thursdays 7:30-8:30: [Elementary School](#)

Agility classes starting June 5th:

Instructors: Claudia (afternoon, some mornings), Kat (afternoon), Heather (morning)
These classes will run for six weeks, with a **break on July 3rd (Fourth-of-July-weekend)** and end July 17.

NEW TIMES and class order:

Saturday 9-10:15am (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)
Saturday 10:30am-12pm (including change): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)
Saturday 11:30am-1pm (including change): [Agility Skills Training](#)
Lunch break: 1-2pm
Saturday 2-3:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Sequencing](#)
Saturday 3:30-5pm (including change): [Agility Sequencing](#)
Saturday 4:30-6pm (including set-up + change): [Agility Trialing 1](#)
Saturday 6-7:30pm (including take-down): [Agility Trialing 2](#)

NEW: Behavior classes starting June 15th:

Instructors: Claudia (HS), Rose (P1, FC)
High School runs for 4 weeks (ends July 6th), the other classes will run for seven weeks, and end July 27th.

Tuesday 5-6pm: [High School](#)
Tuesday 6:15-7:15: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)
Tuesday 7:30-8:30: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Upcoming classes:

Behavior classes starting July 21/22:

Instructors: Claudia, Rose, Heather

Agility classes starting July 24:

Instructors: Claudia, Kat, Heather

3) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy!!! On our webpage www.bettercompanion.com, use the menu bar on the left. You'll find a button "Classes", with the subtitle "Registration", which brings you directly to the **one registration form for ALL classes**. After clicking "enroll" at the end, you'll get to the pricing and payment page, which explains all payment options, policies, and allows you to pay online, too. You can also check out the pricing page first, to learn about prices, payment and cancellation policies. Take advantage of our **pre-registration fee** by signing up a minimum of **14 days before the start of your class**. Please read our cancellation policy on the pricing page – you almost can't lose!

Puppy 1 Preschool clients, please remember you can also purchase the **Puppy School Packet**, including P1 and P2 class. You only have to commit to the seven weeks of P1 class, and will receive a voucher for P2, valid for 1 full year! For P2 voucher holders, the voucher will be your payment. After you fill out the registration form for P2, you can email us the number of the voucher, mail the voucher to us or drop it off at the facility.

Reserve your spot! Please note **our registration policy: Only the payment will hold your spot**. Spots are reserved in the order we receive payment for them. **Always sign up for the class you want to join**, even if it could be full. Only the payment will keep you on the waiting list, in case somebody else drops out before the class starts. **Your payment is never lost**, even if the class is already full. Your payment will 1) save you a spot at the class, or 2) save you a spot on the waiting list, or 3) can be carried over to a later class, or 4) can be refunded if I couldn't get you in the class you chose, or 5) can cause me to open an overflow class ☺. Just as a note: I sometimes get up to three dogs per class moved in from a waiting list before the class even starts. **We now can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility.**

4) SOCIAL HOUR - OPEN PLAY TIMES:

Come with your dog for one hour of dog play and dog owner social time. Each dog must be supervised by an adult handler, one dog per handler only. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella). We also recommend having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

At this time of the year, **we highly recommend Bordetella-vaccines for all dogs visiting us**. The kennel cough is usually raging through the Valley at this time of the year, and our facility won't be left out. Without vaccination, your dog will more likely need medical attention (including antibiotics) and could be sick for three weeks, with the vaccine, usually no medical attention is needed and it's over within 1 week, if not faster.

First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, we want to see them! Dogs over 6 months, please for the first time come on a Friday, when Claudia and Frank are managing the play times. After that, we'll discuss with you which hour will be best and if you can come Mondays as well.

Fee: \$7 at the door or punch card \$35 for 6 visits.

Our Open Play Times (indoors) have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to the newer size restrictions for each group. Only timid and absolutely non-reactive dogs can be slightly heavier than the group limit. The group from 7-8pm is limited to 8 dogs, and reservations can be made in advance. Just call us and we explain the details.

Every Monday AND Friday:

5-6pm: toy and small dogs up to 25#

6-7pm: puppies and medium adult dogs 30-50# (giant breed puppies can be heavier)

7-8pm: Large adults over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors: 10 dogs max)

8-9pm: Large Dogs over 60# (if needed)

You can check the web page www.bettercompanion.com for info on classes, facility, and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form...

Or contact us by email or phone (see below).

5) K9 NOSE WORK – A NEW FUN ACTIVITY FOR ALL DOGS!

Nose Work is a new detection-style dog sport, and is designed to develop dogs' natural scenting abilities by using their curiosity, desire to hunt, and their love of toys, food and exercise. Your dog will have fun, build confidence, and burn lots of energy. There're no restrictions, every dog born with a nose can do it!

Nose Work doesn't require any obedience (it's sometimes easier without), and because the dogs work one-at-a-time, even reactive dogs can be admitted. While other dogs are working, your dog can be safely kenneled. A puppy at 12-14wks of age could start this fun activity.

What will the dogs do exactly? During the first stage, the dogs will learn to find a piece of food, hidden in the environment. We start with boxes, to engage the dogs into scent-mode. They already know how to smell, they just need to learn what to look for, when to start, and how to be successful as fast as possible. We help them with that.

This sport is different from tracking, and will use a different command. A good police dog knows to search two ways: He'll first 'hunt' the subject, scenting the odor in the air and taking the shortest route to it, to stop the subject as fast as possible. Then he might have to go back and 'track' the route the subject was actually taking, to find anything the subject 'lost' on the way, like a gun or knife. So dogs can do both, tracking and scenting.

We won't teach the dogs how to follow a track on the ground. We want them to 'hunt' for the scent, and/or to 'target'. When a dog enters an area, they can interchange 'hunting': nose in the air, following the odor; and 'targeting': going to specific items like boxes, cars, suitcases, ... and deciding if that item contains the odor or not. In the beginning of training, the dogs will 'target' more. As they become more efficient, they'll be able to

'hunt' the odor down. A detection dog at the airport will run down a line of suitcases, without stopping at each item to decide 'yes' or 'no'. He'll stop dead in his tracks if he passes an odor he's trained for, then pinpoint down the item.

When your dog becomes a very efficient and confident 'scent hunter', then we'll be able to change from finding food to finding just a specific odor. K9 Nose Work uses specific oils for that, usually starting with birch oil. The scent will be given to a Q-tip, and the dog has to find that Q-tip and let you know where exactly it is. Once your dog is confident in finding (and telling you) the odor, you might be ready for trialing!

The class will not teach the dog to find it (they probably already know where it is), but to find it important, where the odor is, and to tell us about it. We'll learn how to read the body language of our dogs better, and the dogs learn to find the birch odor more important than any other good smells out there. Let them 'hunt', but our way!

Happy scenting,
Claudia

Your BetCo Team at
The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

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