

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: **“Does Your Dog Have C.L.A.S.S.?”**

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

If you receive this email in full html, you can just [click on the events underlined and in blue](#) to get to the correct page on our web site!

➤ **Last Classes for 2011:**

- **Weight Pull Short-Session:** We're working on getting a weight pull practice together for Nov 19. Let us know if you'd be interested! 1.5-2 hrs, starting at 12 noon, fee \$35 (payment option will be added to the web soon)
- **Agility classes** start Dec 3 (class on 12/3, 12/10, 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28)
- **Puppy 1 classes** Dec 4 (class on 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22)
- **Treibball Beginner** starts Nov 29 (class on 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 1/3, 1/10, 1/17)

There's still room for you in any of the classes! We won't offer another Treibball Beginner class until spring 2012.

We'll also offer our popular Skijor and Mushing workshops again this winter, keep an eye open for those!

➤ **Open Play Time in 2011/2012:**

Monday OPT will run until Dec 12, before we **close down for the holidays Dec 19-30**. To add C.L.A.S.S to our 2012 schedule, we decided to discontinue our Monday Open Play Times and offer OPT only on Fridays starting January 2012. We added “Stop and Go” to our OPT, practicing more recalls throughout the hour. This helps keeping the dogs from getting too aroused during play.

➤ **Classes January 2012:**

- **High School Class**, the 4-wk preparation course for AKC's Canine Good Citizen® test. Alyeska Canine Trainers in Anchorage will offer two tests, one Feb 12 (Sun), the other Mar 10 (Sat). High School will help you getting ready for that test.
- **Foundation Class:** This starter class for dogs 6 months to any age will be offered back to back on Wednesdays, starting Jan 11. The first hour (6:15pm) will be taught by me (Claudia), with a maximum of 8 dogs. The second hour (7:30pm) will be taught by January, my co-instructor. January is a graduate from Animal Behavior College, and has taught other classes for me for the past 2 years. This will be her first FC to teach. She'll have maximum 6 dogs in her class AND me observing, so if you want more attention due to less participants and two instructors, that's the class to choose! Please email us WHICH FC you'd like to enroll for after you registered, since the registration form doesn't allow to differ between classes on the same day.

- For the other regular classes offered, please check the schedule below or on the [web](#).

➤ **Classes Feb/Mar 2012:**

- [Treibball](#) and [Nose Work](#) will move from Tuesdays to Mondays in February. Starting in February, we'll offer TB Intermediate and NW Beginners and Practice.
- C.L.A.S.S. - BA level (no link yet - please read description in our monthly story) will start in March. This is a 6-wk class practicing live skills with the dogs using a lot of games and setting up real-life situations. Students can choose to sign up for an evaluation offered the week after the class is finished. We'll offer two classes, one at 6:15pm for P2 and FC graduates, one at 7:30pm for all dogs with higher level training (e.g. ES or HS graduates). Taking the HS class in January can help preparing for this class.

The online calendar can look very confusing. Please don't hesitate to call or email us with any questions about upcoming classes or practices.

Enjoy the first snow, making our days brighter,
Claudia

Below you'll find:

- 1) Information on upcoming events/ workshops
- 2) **New classes** and workshops: Dates and times of upcoming classes
- 3) **How to sign up for the classes**
- 4) Information on the Doggy Daycare and Open Play Times
- 5) This month's story: **Does Your Dog Have C.L.A.S.S.?**

1) Information on upcoming events:

November 19/20, 2011: TTouch Workshop - new times for Sunday!

All working spots are full at this point, but you can sign up for an auditing spot, and if enough people drop out before then, you might still get a working spot for this wonderful workshop!

Please read the full descriptions on our web page.

TTouch is a system of gentle touches and body work, non-habitual movement and groundwork exercises, to calm, relax and focus your dog. It enhances balance and well-being and can help your dog with:

- Nervousness, tension and stress
- Excessive barking and chewing
- Leash pulling and jumping up
- Fear and shyness, hyperactivity
- Car sickness
- Aging

- Digging and scratching

Bonus Class: DeStressing through Energy Balancing

3-5 techniques will be demonstrated and explained, for DeStressing your dog (and you), through energy balancing:

Chakra Connecting, Chakra Balancing, EFT, Acupressure, and EEM Daily Energy Routine.

This is a 1-day workshop with one bonus hour Sunday evening for all attendees.

Dates and Times: Nov 20 and 21, 2011 (same workshop repeats next day)

Sunday, Nov 20: **11am - 6pm** (one hour later than originally planned)

Monday, Nov 21: 9am - 4pm

Bonus Class DeStressing: Sunday, Nov 20, **7-8pm** (one hour later than original)

Location: Regine Dog Training Facility

Fees: One day with dog: \$150

Auditing (without dog): \$95

Come a second day and save \$30 off your registration fee!

Bonus Class: free for all Sun and Mon attendees, all others \$25

Payment is required to hold your spot. **All payments are non-refundable.** Payments can be transferred to another attendee.


Maximum 10 working dogs per day.

Please bring your own lunch, we'll provide hot/ cold beverages and some snacks.


2) Dates and Times of Upcoming Classes:

Drop-in practices running right now:

Indoors or outside – please bring clothes accordingly. Training punch card available online. One card for all practices!

 Nose Work Advanced For 'Intro to Odor' Graduates:
(maximum 6 dogs – please call or email to reserve a spot)
Supervisor: January

Tuesdays 7:45-8:45pm. Sundays 6:15-7:15pm. **No practice on Nov 20, 22, 27, Dec 20 - Jan 1.** Reservation required.

 Flyball Practice:
Supervisor: Karla

No further practices planned so far.

If the demand is there for some **indoors box work** at our facility, Karla can set something up for a Tuesday on or after Nov 29 around 7:45-8:45pm. **Contact us or Karla if you're interested!**

Weight Pull Short Session Nov 19:

Instructor: Kat

Starts at 12 noon, pre-registration required.

We'll inform all interested people by Nov 16 if the workshop is a Go!

TTouch Workshop Nov 20/21:

Instructor: Martha Fishbach

See details under Events above.

Treibball Classes starting Nov 29th:

Instructor: Karla

The class will run for 6 weeks, with a break on Dec 20 and 27, and end Jan 17th.

Treibball Intermediate: Tuesdays 5:15-6:15pm

Treibball Beginners: Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Agility classes starting Dec 3rd:

Instructors: Claudia, Kat

The classes will run for 6 weeks, with a break from Dec 17-Dec 31, and end Jan 28th, 2012.

Agility Puppy/Beginners: Saturday 10am-12pm (class 10:30am-11:30am)

Agility Skills Training: Saturday 11:30am-1pm (class 12-1pm)

Lunch break: 1-2pm

Agility Sequencing: Saturday 2-4pm (class 2:30-3:30pm)

Agility Trialing 1: Saturday 3:30-5pm (class: 4-5pm)

Agility Trialing 2: Saturday 5-6:30pm (class:5-6pm)

Puppy class starting Dec 4th:

Instructor: January

The class will run for six weeks, with a break from Dec 25 to Jan 1, and end Jan 15th, 2012.

Puppy 1 – Preschool Sundays 5-6pm (All classes WITH the dogs)

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012 !!!

Behavior classes starting Jan 11/12th:

Instructors: Claudia, January

High School will run 4 weeks and end Feb 2nd. All other classes will run for six weeks, and end Feb 15/16.

Puppy 1 – Preschool: Wednesday 5-6pm

Foundation Class: Wednesday 6:15-7:15 (Instructor: Claudia)

Foundation Class: Wednesday 7:30-8:30pm (Instructor: January - see details under news above)

Puppy 2 - Kindergarten: Thursdays 5-6pm

Elementary School: Thursday 6:15-7:15pm

High School: Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm

Upcoming classes:

We'll work on offering Mushing and Skijoring again this winter, coming up Jan/Feb 2012.

Feb: more agility classes, Nose Work beginner, Treibball Intermediate

Mar: C.L.A.S.S. - BA courses on Tuesdays! Rally College on Wednesdays

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 and workshops**. 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. Please note that **some workshops have their own cancellation policy**, even though they use the same registration form as the classes. Take advantage of our **pre-registration fee** by signing up a minimum of **14 days before the start of your class**. Different deadlines might apply to some of the workshops and seminars.

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 six 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 voucher number, 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 can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility.**

4) Doggy Daycare and Open Play Times:

Doggy Daycare: Offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6am-7pm, with their playtime ending at 5pm, at which time they'll be kenneled if not picked up before.

Open Play Time: Canceled for **Nov 21** (TTouch workshop), **Nov 25**, Thanksgiving week, **Dec 19 - 30** (Holidays)

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 require having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, we want to see them! Dogs over 6 months, please for the first time make an appointment with us to 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 + outdoors) have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to our 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 (large dogs) 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: puppies, 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 adult dogs over 60# (indoors: 8 dogs max; outdoors: 10 dogs max)

8-9pm: By appointment only –for evaluations. \$35

You can check our web page www.bettercompanion.com for info on classes, 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.

5) DOES YOUR DOG HAVE C.L.A.S.S.?

At the conference I attended in San Diego this October, the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers) introduced us to their newest program, C.L.A.S.S., standing for **Canine Life and Social Skills**.

Excerpt from their promotional materials (I can't word it any better ☺): C.L.A.S.S. is an educational program designed to promote training focused on the use of positive reinforcement and to strengthen relationships between humans and their canine companions. The mission of C.L.A.S.S. is to promote positive relationships through positive training methods. This approach both develops and safeguards harmonious relationships by maintaining trust with our pet dogs.

You and your dog can earn your Bachelor's (B.A.), Master's (M.A.), or Doctorate (Ph.D.) by registering and participating in a C.L.A.S.S. evaluation. Successfully completing each level is like **earning an academic degree in real-life skills with your dog**.

Why should you participate in a C.L.A.S.S course or evaluation?

- 🐾 The skills learned can be applied in a wide range of real-life situations.
- 🐾 During the course and evaluation, the instructor and evaluator strive to create an open, supportive environment for you and your dog.
- 🐾 The games and positive training methods make training your dog fun.
- 🐾 C.L.A.S.S provides an opportunity to show off your dog's talents.
- 🐾 Training in a positive environment helps you build a better bond with your dog.

To find out more, you can visit the C.L.A.S.S. website at www.MyDogHasClass.com or visit www.apdt.com. You'll find a free download of the Student Handbook and can register at the C.L.A.S.S. website.

And now, have fun learning for and applying training to real-life situations!

Claudia

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