

Dear dog lover,

It's always amazing, how fast the year goes by. We have some more spots available for **classes starting Nov 29/ Dec 3**, including behavior and agility, and a **Dog First Aid seminar** by the Red Cross on the 22nd of Nov, then our focus is already on the new year, 2009! Thanks to everybody who took the time to answer our poll question! Read below to get ideas on how to exercise your dog this winter.

Do you need to get some **Christmas shopping** done??? Stop by at our facility to **find gifts for your relatives/ friends for their dogs!** We have unique equipment, and you can also purchase services in form of a gift card! Buy them a free day at the doggy day care, or a punch card for the Open Play Times, or even a full class! And best of all, you can **drop off YOUR dog at the day care WHILE** you go Christmas shopping somewhere else!
Our **Playn Fun - Doggy Day Care is now open Monday through Friday** – just call one business day ahead to reserve a day with us for your dog! Try us out same day, we might still have room for your dog.

This winter, we're finally ready to offer a **skijor seminar and a mushing class in February!** We'll give you more details as it develops, and want to hear from you, if you're interested and what you'd like to learn about mushing with your (pet) dogs. For the skijor seminar, you should already be familiar with skiing without a dog (cross country/ skating), so start practicing now! ☺

The **Open Play Times** have improved since we changed them around slightly. We have some nice groups, taking advantage of our fencings, and have been able to keep all dogs (and owners) inside, in the warmth. The first hour from 5-6pm is grouped for very timid or very small dogs within the fence, and more rambunctious dogs up to 30 lbs in the arena. The hour from 6-7pm has young puppies over 30 lbs in the fenced area playing, and the more rambunctious adolescents from 40-60 lbs in the arena. For the biggest dogs from 7-8pm, the fencing is down and they all play in the arena. Up to 10 dogs can stay inside, if we get more dogs, we decide if they can join the indoors or if we then split the dogs up and have half of them play outdoors. So... make sure you have warm clothes ready, just in case!

Enjoy this month's edition,
Claudia

This month's story: "Poll-results: How do you exercise your dog through the winter?"

Dog First Aid – Red Cross seminar: Learn how to help your dog on the trail or in the house in emergency situations. Your knowledge can save the dog's life, when the time until he sees a veterinarian could already be too long.

- Date: Saturday, November 22nd
- Time: 3-5pm
- Fee: \$35, includes book with DVD. We deduct \$15 for the book if you already have it.
- Just fill out the class registration online (leave the dog-info blank) and you can pay online, over the phone, or at the facility in person.

There're still openings in the puppy class starting Sat, Nov 29th. This class is for dogs 8 weeks to 4 months, smaller breeds can be older (up to a 3 yr old Chihuahua ☺). Please check for details below.

For Agility, we have only spots available in the Agility Intermediate class in December in the evening. For the first time, we offer twice-a-week-classes, running Wed+Thu evening, from Dec 3-18. Since there's no "homework" in agility, that's the only class this can be done with ☺. For Intermediate Agility, the dog should already be familiar and safe on all obstacles. This is a **good class to strengthen the basics of running courses, even for a more advanced dog**. We work on handling skills like crosses (front cross, rear cross), sharp turns, and for whoever feels ready, distance control.

Below you'll find:

- 1) Dates and times of upcoming classes
- 2) How to sign up for the classes
- 3) Information on the Open Play Times
- 4) This month's story: Poll: How do you exercise your dog through the winter?

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Behavior classes starting Nov 29th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a break on Dec 27/Jan 3, and end Jan 24.

Pre-registration fee: \$130

Saturday 10-11am: Puppy 1 – Preschool (first week: 10-12:30pm without the dogs)

Saturday 11:15-12:15: Foundation Class (first week: 10-12:30pm without the dogs) **FULL**

Agility classes starting Dec 3rd:

Instructor: Claudia

These classes will run TWICE-A-WEEK on Wed+Thu and end Dec 18th.

Pre-registration fee: \$120

Wed + Thu 6-7:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#) **FULL**
Wed + Thu 7:15-8:45pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)

Agility classes starting Dec 6th: ALL FULL

Instructors: Claudia/Kat

These classes will run for six weeks, with a break on Dec 27/Jan 3, and end Jan 24th.

Saturday 1:30-3pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 2:45-4:15pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)

Saturday 4-5:30pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced](#)

Saturday 5:15-6:45pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced Trial](#)

Behavior classes starting Jan 14th/15th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Feb 25th/26th.

Wednesday 5-6pm: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 6-8:30pm without the dogs)

Wednesday 6:15-7:15: [Overflow class for P1 or FC](#)

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

Thursday 5-6pm: [Overflow Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

Thursday 6:15-7:15: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

Thursday 7:30-8:30: [Elementary School](#)

Behavior classes starting Feb 2nd:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Mar 16th.

Monday 6:15-7:15pm: [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

Monday 7:30-8:30pm: [Rally College](#)

Also coming up 2009:

Behavior classes on Saturdays in February (starting tentatively Feb 7)

Agility classes on Saturdays in Feb (starting tentatively Feb 7)

Skijor seminar in February

Mushing class in February

2) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy now!!! Just 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 on "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 **our registration policy: Only the payment will hold your spot**. Spots are reserved in the order I 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. If I can't get you into that class, your payment will either be used for the next available class, for another class you wish to join instead, or fully reimbursed!

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 filled out the registration form, you can email me the number of the voucher, mail the voucher to us or drop it off at the facility.

Reserve your spot! Your payment is never lost, even if the class is already full. Your payment will 1) save you a spot at the class, 2) or save you a spot on the waiting list, or 3) can be carried over to a later class, 4) can be fully reimbursed if I couldn't get you in the class you chose, or 5) can cause me to open an overflow class J. Just as a note: I sometimes get up to three dogs per class moved in from a waiting list before the class even started. **We now can take credit card payments over the phone and at the facility.**

3) 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. First-timers: bring your vaccination papers, in case we ask for them!

Fee: \$7 at the door, punch card \$35 for 6 visits. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella).

Every Tuesday AND Friday:

5-6pm: toy and small dogs up to 30#

6-7pm: puppies and adult dogs 40-60#

7-8pm: Adults over 60#

If the discrepancy between sizes/temperaments of dogs is too big within one group, we will either have a special section fenced off for the smaller/ more timid dogs of the group, or divide the dogs into indoors and outside play (if weather permits). This is to assure that everybody has fun and nobody gets overpowered.

We also give Canine Good Citizens a discount:

Is your dog a Canine Good Citizen? If your dog passed the CGC-test within the last 3 years, we'll give you a \$5 discount on your punch card for Open Play Times!

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).

4) POLL RESULTS: HOW DO YOU EXERCISE YOUR DOG THROUGH THE WINTER?

Thank you sooo much for your participation!
Here's what dog owners recommend to other dog owners:

1. Play Times:
 - Let your dog play with other dogs (indoors or outdoors)
 - Play with your dog using toys like a Frisbee, tether ball, or tennis ball (indoors or outdoors)
 - Play games with your dog: Find-it (or a person), herd-the-ball (with plastic bin and well-inflated balls)

2. Outdoor activities: Take turns with family members
 - Hiking
 - Snowshoeing
 - Cross Country Skiing/ Skijoring
 - Snowmachining
 - Mushing

3. Take your dog to:
 - Pet Zoo/ Animal Food Warehouse – walk every aisle
 - Kepler-Bradley Lakes
 - Crevasse Moraine Trails
 - Alcantra Fields
 - Local sports fields or camp grounds that are unused in winter (e.g. Lake Lucille)

4. Sports to do with your dog:
 - Tracking as long as possible before the snow gets too deep
 - Weight Pulling (tire, logs, sled with kids or firewood, competition...)
 - Obedience (indoors and outdoors)
 - Rally (indoors and outdoors)
 - Agility (try a “one obstacle” course indoors)
 - Clicker games – teach a new trick like “high-five” (indoors)

5. Tips for all winter activities:

- Dress warm!
- Use the daylight as much as possible (take your lunch nap later ☺)
- Clean up after your dogs (especially on ball fields and multi-use trails)
- Make it a family outing

Any questions about any of the above activities? Ask us!!! We can help with contacts, equipment, ideas...

Enjoy the winter instead of enduring it!!!

Claudia

You received this email because you were interested in or already enrolled in any of the services of The Better Companion. Your email address is kept confidential and not given to third parties. If you know somebody who might be interested in any services of The Better Companion, don't hesitate to forward this email to them. If a client signs up for a class and mentions your name (the registration form asks 'whom may I thank for your referral?'), **you'll receive a \$5 coupon** for your next class. These **referral coupons** can be accumulated - up to getting a whole class for free! We hope that you enjoy receiving monthly class information from The Better Companion. If you prefer not to receive future emails, please send a little note to unsubscribe.

Your BetCo Team at

The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

Claudia Sihler, CPDT

Rose Cotter-Lyford

Kat Gambill

Frank Sihler

(907) 357-2521

betco@mtaonline.net

www.bettercompanion.com

1400 Regine Ave, Wasilla, AK 99654