

Hello,

Thanks for your interest in our services. You're now signed up for the monthly newsletter about classes and other events at Regine Dog Training Facility and The Better Companion, which the first one is attached below. Please check out the class schedule as well as the Open Play Times, twice a week! I also attached detailed directions to the training facility.

You'll receive 1-2 emails per month, which will inform you strictly and only about BetCo's upcoming class schedule or any special events held at the Regine Dog Training Facility. I hope there'll be something that fits your needs or wishes. We also offer the BetCo Dog Blog, which you can join on our web page.

Again, welcome to the dog lovers of the Valley,
Claudia

Dear Dog Lover,

Weather changes fast up here, and with Spring, our outdoor fenced area is closed again, until the water has drained and the field dries up enough. Usually, this happens somewhere around Memorial Day. Until then, we enjoy observing our daycare and play time dogs indoors in our arena! Our class students can walk their dogs along the trees, around the building and on our little house trail. Just bring the right footwear, in this case rubber boots are the best!

Our Open Play Times have become a safe playground for dogs of any size due to the size restrictions for each group. We want to remind everyone again, and from now on we will be a little stricter in keeping the groups within those limits. From 5-6pm we have dogs under 30lbs, from 6-7pm we allow dogs 35-55lbs, for 7-8pm and 8-9pm we want to invite any other dogs 60lbs and up. Only timid and absolutely non-reactive dogs can be slightly heavier than the group limit. The groups from 7-8 and 8-9pm are indoors limited to 8 dogs, and reservations can be made in advance. Just call us and we explain the details. We recommend the later hour for new-comers and new move-ups of 60lbs and more.

The Daycare also has proven to be a wonderful outlet for energetic dogs of any age and size. As we're filling up more, please make sure to call ahead if you can, to ensure that we have an opening for your dog that day. The earlier we have you scheduled, the more likely we can get your dog in.

Our Classes fill fast and we did end up opening overflow classes for P2 (Puppy 2) and ES (Elementary School). Check below for any classes that haven't filled yet, including the agility classes starting May 30th. We have openings for agility puppies and beginners now! Agility classes between Memorial Day and Labor Day will be held outside in the fenced area as much as possible. Also brand-new in the schedule: a High School Class on Tuesday evenings, starting May 26, indoors while Open Play Times are outside.

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Fresh from the ClickerExpo – Lucy was in New England with us!”

Enjoy Spring, Summer is coming,
Claudia

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: Fresh from the ClickerExpo – Lucy was in New England with us!**

1) DATES AND TIMES OF UPCOMING CLASSES:

Behavior classes starting May 6th/7th:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks, with no break and end June 17th/18th.

Wednesday 5-6pm : [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 5-7:30pm without the dogs) **FULL**

Wednesday 6:15-7:15: [Foundation Class](#) (first week: 5-7:30pm without the dogs) **FULL**

Wednesday 7:30-8:30: overflow [Puppy 2 - Kindergarten](#)

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

Thursday 6:15-7:15: [Elementary School](#) **FULL** (we take waiting list positions)

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

NEW: Behavior classes starting May 26th:

Instructor: Claudia

The class will run for **four** weeks and end June 16th.

Tuesday 7-8pm: [High School – CGC](#)

Agility classes starting May 30th:

Instructors: Claudia/Kat

These classes will run for six weeks, with a break on July 4th (Independence Day), and end July 11th.

Saturday 10-11:15am (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 11:15-12:45pm (including set-up): [Agility Puppy/Beginners](#)

Saturday 12:15-1:45pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)

Lunch break: 1:45-2:30pm

Saturday 2:30-4pm (including set-up): [Agility Intermediate](#)

Saturday 3:30-5pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced](#)

Saturday 5-7pm (including set-up): [Agility Advanced Trial](#)

Behavior classes starting June 1st:

Instructor: Rose

All classes will run for seven weeks, with a possible break on July 6th, and end July 13th or 20th.

Monday 6:15-7:15pm: [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) (first week: 5-7:30pm without the dogs)

Monday 7:30-8:30pm: [Elementary School](#) (first week with the dogs) **FULL (we take waiting list positions)**

Behavior classes starting July 1st/2nd:

Instructors: Rose/Claudia

All classes will run for seven weeks and end Aug 12/13.

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

Wednesday 6:15-7:15: [Elementary School](#)

Wednesday 7:30-8:30: [High School-CGC](#) (4-week course)

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

Thursday 6:15-7:15: Overflow [Puppy 1 – Preschool](#) or [Foundation Class](#)

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

Also coming up 2009:

July: more agility classes

August: last High School before the CGC-test; Thursdays 5-6pm

September: 9/12/2009 Responsible Dog Ownership Day, with CGC-test!

2) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:

It's easy now!!! 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.

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 me 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 fully reimbursed 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.**

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, we want to see them!

Fee: \$7 at the door, punch card \$35 for 6 visits. Vaccinated dogs only (5-way/DHPPi, dogs over 6 mo: Rabies, Bordetella). We also recommend having the dog dewormed or a fecal sample checked.

Every Tuesday AND Friday:

5-6pm: toy and small dogs under 30#

6-7pm: puppies and medium adult dogs 35-55#

7-8pm: Large adults over 60# (8 dogs maximum)

8-9pm: Large adults over 60# (8 dogs maximum)

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) FRESH FROM THE CLICKEREXPO – LUCY WAS IN NEW ENGLAND WITH US!

It was maybe Lucy's second flight of her life. She might have come as a puppy from the Lower 48 to Alaska, I'm not sure. As I signed up for the "ClickerExpo", a three-day

conference about clicker training, I decided to come not only as an auditor, but also as a working student. For this full experience, I had to bring a dog! My choice fell on Lucy, my Jack Russell Terrier for several reasons: The last time I took a dog with me, it was Sally, my Aussie/Husky. Lucy is the less experienced dog, so needs more outside exposure and training. Lucy is more nervous/excited around other dogs, and I wanted to learn the “click to calm” technique. And last but not least reason: we wanted to see how it works to travel with a dog – regarding hotels, rental cars, potty areas, etc... Eventually, we'd like to bring our dogs with us to Germany (one or both). And we thought I'd be easier to start that experience with a smaller dog and crate.

Lucy was down in the belly in her crate, she's too big to fit comfortably under the seat for 12 hours. We flew through Portland, OR to Boston, MA. We had 5 extra days to spend before we would drive to the ClickerExpo in Providence, RI (50 miles south), where we had a reservation at the hotel, where the Expo was held. The rental car company didn't even flinch when they saw the crate. No extra fee, no warning about finding dog hair afterwards, no “but” at all. Beautiful! We also rented a navigation system, which not only helped us finding the address of the ClickerExpo later, but also all attractions, food places, hotels, ... you name it. The first hotel, about 8 miles north of Boston (between Salem and Danvers, in ‘witch country’), was a winner. A Days Inn motel, again no raised eyebrows about the dog at all. Affordable and dog friendly, we wouldn't be so lucky anywhere else! After having been rejected at several other hotels, we kept going back there for all other nights. With more persistence, we maybe could have found something between Boston and Providence, but this was in the end less stressful and probably less time consuming.

It was the end of March, still chilly and no green, but few snow piles left. The beaches were empty, and until May 1st, dogs would be allowed and parking was free. So, when you travel to the east coast with your dog, come before May 1st, at least for the Boston area! Lucy enjoyed the beaches, was fascinated with the waves, and a little frustrated about the salty taste of the water. We met other dog owners, and they all were very friendly, responsible dog owners. They tried to help Lucy to come out of her shell by calling their dogs back, they had pretty good control, and were aware of their environment. Just like everywhere else, they didn't always catch (or care?) about their dogs leaving droppings, and therefore we saw a lot of clean-up to do before May 1st, when hordes of sun lovers would start crowding the beach.

In the towns, we found plenty of green belts and little green places to walk Lucy, often equipped with pick-up bags for dog owners. Sight-seeing was easy as long as we visited outdoors locations. Even little Lucy was not allowed to visit any museum, ship, or greyhound track. I would've been stupid to expect that, I know. But it doesn't hurt asking, if she can come with us as long as she's under my coat or in my arm... I wasn't offended by a “no”. Because of the early tourist season, we got VERY lucky with a trolley tour through Boston. A quite new trolley business allowed us to bring Lucy along with us, and was the best deal anyway! So Lucy sat in my lap for a two-hour tour through Boston, and got lots of attention and patting from people sitting around us. Besides that ‘quick history tour of Boston’, we learned and saw history everywhere. From the witches of the 1600's over the Boston Tea Party 1773 and the first U.S. Navy frigates 1797 to the first German restaurant and the oldest Seven Eleven.

The ClickerExpo started, and now Lucy was meeting VERY controlled dogs, brought by other dog enthusiasts and dog trainers. Everybody was very positive, no shouting, no jerking, and it was a pleasure, to chat with 250 other dog fanciers. Lucy excelled in training, made everybody laugh with her belly-rub rollover, and gained the hearts of any guests at the hotel in no time.

I learned new things, got confirmation in a lot of points on how my training and classes are set up, and could help some newcomers with some hints and tips. The features included "Click to Calm", a way to teach reactive dogs to turn to the handler quickly; "Teaching Training Classes" and "TAGteach", ways to improve the classroom experience for the handlers; "Solving Problem Behaviors in 4 Steps", different ways on how to address problem behaviors or just being stuck in training; and lots of other topics, from retrieving a hot dog to free style dancing.

We all came home refreshed and inspired, Lucy with much more confidence, Frank filled with American history, and Claudia with some new class ideas and training goals. We're ready for Spring now, some green leaves, lots of sun, and lots of dogs!!!

Claudia

Your BetCo Team at

The Better Companion - Regine Dog Training Facility

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