

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: "The Leash-Reactive Dog"

Like last time you'll find all changes from the Sep 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](#) to get to the correct page on our web site!

Our [Responsible Dog Ownership - Day \(RDO-Day\)](#) on Sep 10<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Thanks again to all our volunteers who helped us making this a fun and smooth day, and congratulations to our CGC participants. All participating dogs showed their great potential to become very well behaved citizens, some of them just need a little more fine-tuning. We're already looking forward to next year, when we'll also celebrate 10 years of year-round professional training with The Better Companion! Mark your calendar for Saturday, Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012!

**NEW: [Introduction to Treibball - Class!](#)** Starts Tuesday, Oct 11; reduced sign-up rate until Sep 27<sup>th</sup>. We now offer Treibball as a class, not practice. After you have taken the Intro class, you can continue with Treibball Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels. This will be 6-week classes, with a maximum of 6 dogs per class. The first TB-Intro class will run on Tuesdays from 5:15pm to 6:15pm. All students who had so far 4 or less practices with their dogs will need to take this class before continuing to the next level. There won't be any Treibball practice available for our already practicing students during that time, so if you'd like to continue and strengthen your basics, your best choice is to take the class!

[Agility classes](#) are [starting up again Saturday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>](#). We'll be indoors on our matted flooring. We'll need your commitment to taking a class by Sunday, 9/25, to decide the class splits. We might offer a second beginner class, if we get enough sign-ups! Participants will receive an email with the final class times and if they made it into a class on Monday or Tuesday after that.

Our [TTouch Workshop in November is filling up!](#) We have invited a TTouch instructor to teach us about this method to calm, increase confidence and lower stress in our dogs – at home, out and about or at the veterinary hospital. We have **auditing spots left**, all working spots are filled as of now. You could pay for an auditing spot and let us know if you'd be interested in moving up to a working spot, if enough people before you cancel. It's a long time, and we expect to have some drop-outs - where life just comes in between. **Please read the specifics about the workshop below, we had a slight time change for Sunday!**

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

**Our in-house store has some new items** you might be interested in: **January Journey** is a novel using our Iditarod as the back drop for a romantic adventure; \$14. The author used her experience with Frank as an Iditarod musher and consulted us with authenticity questions. Check our store for other dog training-related books! **Couplers 24" long** - now long enough to give both dogs more room; \$10. The **Holee-Roller**, a rubber ball that floats on the snow, now in 3 sizes! \$6; \$9; \$12. **Lickety Stik**, the clean way to deliver the reward through a roller; \$8, in 3 flavors. **Linkables**, food dispensing puzzle toys, \$11 or \$14.

The **City of Wasilla** is thinking about creating a **dog park!** Please contact public works of Wasilla to **express your interest**, before this project falls off the to-do-list! They're looking into an area either at Lake Lucille Park or Bumpus Ball Fields. Call them and let them know we do want a dog park!

Enjoy the summer,  
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: **The Leash-Reactive Dog**

### **1) Information on upcoming events:**

#### **Saturday, Sep 24: K9 Athlete's Symposium in Willow**

Our Nose Work demonstration will be part of the symposium agenda. Check out the web page at [WDMA](#) for more information on this event.

#### **November 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! **Deadline for the pre-registration fee is Sep 30, so don't delay!**

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.

Alaska Airlines changed their flight schedule and dropped Saturday evening totally. So our instructor will have to fly in Sunday morning, being here at 10:30am, if everything goes ok. It's a non-stop flight, so not too much to go wrong.

**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: **\$130 pre-registration (until Sep 30)**, \$150 regular fee (Oct 1 – Nov 20)

Auditing (without dog): \$80 pre-registration (until Sep 30), \$95 regular fee (Oct 1 – Nov 20)

Come a second day (with a different dog) and save \$30 of your registration fee!

**Bonus Class:** free for all 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 (maximum 6 dogs – please call or email to reserve a spot):

Supervisors: Claudia, January

For 'Intro to Odor' Graduates: Tuesdays 7:45-8:45pm. Sundays 6:15-7:15pm. **No practice on Oct 2 and 4.** Reservation required.

Rally Practice:

Supervisors: Claudia, Ella-Kate

Rally Practice for Rally College graduates: Integrated into the Rally class: Starting Sep 8, Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm. **No class/practice on Oct 13, finishing on Oct 20.** Reservation required.

Flyball Practice:

Supervisor: Karla

Flyball Practice for Flyball Beginner Class graduates: Wednesdays, Aug 10 – Sep 28, 7:30-8:30pm. Reservation preferred. **Ends Sep 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Agility classes starting Oct 1st:**

Instructors: Claudia, Kat

The classes will run for 6 weeks, with a break on Oct 29 for an agility trial, and end Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.

**We MIGHT have an overflow Beginner class, then the times will be as follows:**

Agility Puppy/Beginners: Saturday 9:30-10:45am (class 9:45-10:45am)

Agility Puppy/Beginners: Saturday 11am-12:15pm (class 11am-12pm)

Agility Skills Training: Saturday 12pm-1:15pm (class 12:15-1:15pm)

Lunch break: 1:15-2pm

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 Oct 9th:**

Instructor: January

The class will run for six weeks, with a break on Sep 4<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day weekend), and end Nov 13<sup>th</sup>.

Puppy 1 – Preschool (first week: 6:30-8:30pm without the dogs): Sunday 5-6pm

**Intro to Treibball Class starting Oct 11<sup>th</sup>:**

Instructor: Karla

The class will run for 6 weeks and end Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

Intro to Treibball: Tuesdays 5:15-6:15pm (starts WITH the dogs)

**Nose Work Class starting Oct 11<sup>th</sup>**:

Instructors: January, Claudia

The class will run for 6 weeks and end Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

Nose Work Intro to Odor: Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm (starts WITH the dogs)

The next Nose Work Beginners Class will be offered tentatively Feb 2012.

**Behavior classes starting Oct 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>**:

Instructor: Claudia

All classes will run for six weeks, have a break on Nov 23/24 (Thanksgiving) and end Dec 7/8.

Tricks 'N Clicks Class: Wednesdays 5-6pm

Puppy 2 - Kindergarten: Wednesday 6:15-7:15pm

Elementary School: Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm

Puppy 1 – Preschool: Thursday 5-6pm

Overflow P1 or FC: Thursday 6:15-7:15

Foundation Class: Thursday 7:30-8:30pm

Upcoming classes:

We'll continue some of our now outdoor sports (treibball, flyball) inside during the winter, if the demand is there. Possibly on Tuesday evenings, sharing with Nose Work. We'll work on offering Mushing and Skijoring again this winter, coming up Jan/Feb 2012.

Check out our TTouch workshop in November in the events section above.

**3) HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE CLASSES:**

It's easy!!! On our webpage [www.bettercompanion.com](http://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 25, Thanksgiving week

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](http://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](mailto:info@bettercompanion.com), (907) 357-2521.

## **5) THE LEASH-REACTIVE DOG**

You see them around, you might own one: That dog who lunges towards other dogs when being walked on leash in public. It looks like a ‘killer dog’, an aggressive dog, that if the leash breaks will tear the other dog in pieces. It’s annoying, scary, embarrassing, and frustrating - for the by passer and the owner of such a dog.

Some of these dogs are known to be ok with other dogs off-leash, even go to daycare or dog parks. Some of them might be ready to attack if given the chance, but they all started out to attack out of self-defense at some point. Trying to get the other dog to move further away, to keep them at a comfort zone.

And often these dogs get worse, because of a wrong interpretation of their behavior. People think they have to correct them, telling them that this behavior is wrong, showing them who’s boss, and that they can’t do that! So the dogs get scolded, pulled back by the choke chain, jerked, tugged and what-not. No matter how the dog’s behavior might have started, latest now any dog would HATE to see another dog appearing:

“Don’t come closer, I’m about to get in trouble because of you!” they want to say. As the other dog approaches, they become more intense: “No stay away, I’m getting in trouble!” And sure they do. They knew it would come. Another leash jerk, another scolding, another unhappy owner.

It starts with frustration. Maybe he just wants to get to know other dogs. Imagine you live on Mars only around Martians. Finally you see another human from the distance, but ‘your’ Martian won’t let you go and meet. Wouldn’t you shout and pull towards that other human? That Martian scolds you and pulls you back, and since you don’t speak his language, you can just keep shouting and pulling, to show what you want.

Your frustration will grow each time you see and can't meet another human. And if the repetitive correction of the Martian starts getting to you, you finally won't want to meet other humans anymore. They become scary. You also will have lost the practice of how to interact with other humans, and thinking they might be as unpredictable as your Martian, they become enemies you really don't want to meet anymore.

Can you imagine how those dogs feel now? Living with us humans - that unpredictable species?

That insecurity, frustration, and fear can't be treated with power, scolding and correction. Such a dog needs help, to re-learn social interaction with other dogs, to learn to trust other dogs again, and to trust his owner.

Positive reinforcement training is the only correct approach for leash-aggressive dogs!  
Let us help you help your dog.

Often owners feel they tried everything and asked everybody how to treat leash-aggression. If you haven't asked us, you haven't tried everything yet! Contact us about our private consultations. WE CAN HELP!

Claudia  
Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KA  
(Certified Professional Dog Trainer)

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