

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Why Does My Herding Dog Seem to Hate Labs?”

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

Enjoy our long summer days while we have them,
Claudia

Our September Newsletter:

PART I: News

- 1) A thanks to our clients!
- 2) Construction on KGB-Rd could affect driving times

PART II: Events - Aug/Sep

- 3) Aug 25: Doggy Day at the Alaska State Fair
- 4) Sep 7: Our Annual Doggy Day: Responsible Dog Ownership Day!
- 5) Sep 8: Canine Good Citizen® - test
- 6) Sep 8: Dog First Aid class - become your dog's first responder!

PART III: Classes + Workshops

- 7) Sep 11: Nose Work Beginner class
- 8) Sep 12: Rally College

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- 9) **Next scheduled closure (Labor Day weekend)**
No OPT: Friday, Aug 30

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- 10) Why does my herding dog seem to hate Labs?

PART I: News

A thanks to our clients

Find the Error-program is a success! Thank you all for sending us the **errors** you found either in the emails we sent out or on the web page. We corrected them quickly, and we're happy to say it wasn't too overwhelming of a response. So we decided to

extend the program until Sep 7th, our annual celebration of our dogs and you, our clients!

Our thanks to you - Responsible Dog Ownership Day on Saturday, Sep 7th! You're invited to come with your friendly dog and get a welcome gift, win a door prize, visit our vendor booths, eat free hot dogs, watch dog demos and even show off your dog's talent! Our local **vendors are bending over backwards to make this trip worthwhile for you!** You'll find Pet Zoo, several local veterinary services, rescue organizations like AK Dog and Puppy Rescue and Advocates for Dog and Puppy Wellness, other dog related businesses and breed representatives on site.

 Construction on KGB-Rd could affect driving times

Although it's a bit of an inconvenience at times right now; I'm still glad to announce news about the construction at Knik Goose Bay Road between Edlund Rd and Palmer-Wasilla Hwy! This will result, when completed, in an easier drive for many of our clients! They'll be adding a stop light at the crossing of KGB and Fern Street, and then plan to construct Fern Street through to connect with Fairview Loop Rd. This will **replace and shorten** the very curvy Edlund Road route or the longer Fairview Loop west-end **route between Knik Goose Bay Rd and our facility**. Construction is planned to be finished by June 2014 - so expect delays on KGB Rd on and off during that time!

PART II: Other Events

 Aug 25: Doggy Day at the Alaska State Fair!

The Alaska State Fair organizes a full day of dog demonstrations by different groups at the Corral, including everything from lure coursing and weight pulling, obedience and Schutzhund to sheep herding, agility and our newest sports, Nose Work and Treibball. The Better Companion will be at the State Fair again this year with demonstrations of clicker training, Nose Work and Treibball. We'll hand out free clickers to the spectators again, too! **BetCo will be in the Corral from 2:30-3:30pm**. Don't miss Lucy lure coursing at 11am, she has a blast there every year!

Please leave your own dog at home, unless you're participating in one of the demonstrations.

 Sep 7: Our Annual Doggy Day: Responsible Dog Ownership Day (RDO)!

Come for a day of fun, and **bring your well-behaved dog(s) with you!** Enjoy demonstrations of Agility, Search and Rescue, Nose Work, Treibball, and more - maybe even try some of them out! Visit our vendors, win a door prize (numbers pulled throughout the day) or maybe even our big main prize, eat free hot dogs for lunch together with a free soda or water and show everybody your dog at our "Meet the

Breed". We can also let the visitors guess which breeds are combined in your dog - maybe the clue you were looking for? Children and adults welcome!

Saturday, Sep 7th at our Regine Dog Training Facility from 10am-4pm. Indoors and outdoors activities!

4) Sunday, Sep 8: Canine Good Citizen® - Test

As part of our annual Responsible Dog Ownership Weekend in September, we also offer a test through the AKC (American Kennel Club), in which you can prove that your dog is a Canine Good Citizen in 10 everyday situations. You'll need to pass all 10 items in order to pass the test. You can pre-register for the test (latest Aug 24) and pay only \$20, or pay after Aug 24 (as late as the day of the test) and pay \$25. **Sign-in and briefing for all participants will be on Sunday, Sep 8th at 10am.** Testing starts at about 10:30-11am, estimated finish at 12:30-1pm.

We're also looking for **volunteers for this test**, so if you want to learn more about the CGC test before you take it, that would be the best way to do it! Volunteers should arrive at 9:30am, please let us know if you plan to volunteer!

Sep 8: Dog First Aid Workshop

- Would you like to know more about **helping your dog in the first minutes of a medical emergency** like an injury, seizure or stroke?
- Maybe you're on a hike and it'll take over 30 minutes or even hours before you can get to a veterinarian?
- Are you **taking care of other people's dogs professionally** and would like to add this Red Cross certification for you and your staff to feel more comfortable if anything happens while the dog is in your care?

Red Cross Dog First Aid Workshop, Sunday, September 8th, 3-6pm

Pre-registration (until Aug 25): \$50; after that \$55.

PART III: Classes + Workshops

Sep 11: Nose Work Beginner class

In accordance to your inquiries, we decided to offer another Nose Work Beginner class in September, followed by an Intro to Odor class starting Oct 30. This is a pet dog detection sport, a fun way to keep our dogs occupied and exercised! We find more and more **applications for this sport**: can be done by dogs from 8 weeks to old age and being handicapped; gives an older dog a purpose - they become more lively again; helps a shy dog overcome their fears of people or just new environments; channels the energy of the adolescent dog and increases their ability to focus on one specific task; people use what they learned to let their dogs find truffles, lost car keys and even the

other dog; dog-reactive dogs can do it - the classes and even trials are set up to accommodate dogs that are reactive or need more space for any reason.

 **Sep 12: Rally College**

For our Elementary class graduates! This is a fun way to work on your dog’s obedience. We only take 6 dogs for this class to allow maximum working time with your dog. We’ll have courses set up using ‘obedience obstacles’ and refine the dog’s heeling and attention at the same time.

PART IV: Open Play Time and Daycare

- **OPT** every Friday evening
Next scheduled closure: **August 30th (Labor Day weekend!)**
- **DDC** every Tuesday and Thursday
next scheduled closure: **Thanksgiving**

PART V: Class Schedule

Listed are start dates. The classes will run once a week for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. A **“maybe” for a class means YOU can tell us** if you want this class to happen. Enough student interest could put it on the schedule! ☺

Click [here](#) to view the online calendar by month. To see who’s instructing the class you’re interested in, go to our online [calendar](#) and click on any week of that class to see the details.

Click [here](#) to register for a class.

Already registered? Click [here](#) to pay for a class.

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>Sep 2013</u>	<u>Oct 2013</u>	<u>Nov 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>				
Puppy 1	Sun 9/15	Mon 10/14	Sun 11/3	Dec 2013
Foundation Class	Sun 9/15	Mon 10/14	Sun 11/3	Dec 2013
Puppy 2	Thu 9/12		Sun 11/3	Dec 2013
Elementary School	Thu 9/12	Thu 10/31		Jan 2014
High School				Jan 2014

CGC-test (one day)	Sun 9/8 (one day)			Sep 2014
C.L.A.S.S. - BA		Mon 10/14		Apr 2014
CLASS Evaluation			Mon 11/25 (one day)	May 2014
Rally College	Thu 9/12			Mar 2014
Rally Practice	Started Tue 8/13			Dec 2013
Tricks 'N Clicks		Thu 10/31		May 2014
Freestyle		Tue 10/15		Feb 2013
Sports Classes	<u>Sep 2013</u>	<u>Oct 2013</u>	<u>Nov 2013</u>	<u>later</u>
Nose Work Beginner	Wed 9/11			Jan 2014
Nose Work Odor		Wed 10/30		Mar 2014
Nose Work Practice	Wed 9/11	Wed 10/30		Jan 2014
Treibball Beginner		Tue 10/15		
Treibball Intermediate		Tue 10/15		maybe Dec 2014
Treibball Practice		maybe		Dec 2013
Flyball Beginner				Summer 2014
Flyball Practice	Tue 9/17 one day			
Agility Puppy/Beg	Sat 9/14		Sat 11/2	Jan 2014
Agility Skills	Sat 9/14		Sat 11/2	Jan 2014
Agility Sequencing	Sat 9/14		Sat 11/2	Jan 2014
Agility Trialing	Sat 9/14		Sat 11/2	Jan 2014

You can check our web page www.bettercompanion.com for info on classes, daycare, Open Play Times, 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.

PART VI: Monthly Story

Why Does My Herding Dog Seem to Hate Labs?

A client (thanks Merijeane!) brought this to my attention and I just took it off the internet. My Google search engine says it has already been distributed in over 8000 Google+ circles, not to count all the Facebook distributions, where Merijeane found it. And I can see it being included in blogs all over the place. I so agree with this observation! Hopefully the two pictures are coming through. If not, please feel free to find the article on Google - just type in the title and it'll come up.

Quote start:

July 16, 2013 by Sarah | [150 Comments](#)



If your herding dog reacts badly to sporting breeds, often Labs in particular, you're not alone.

"Herding" can mean anything from gathering a few sheep in the Scottish highlands to managing thousands of sheep in Australia to taking on an uncooperative bull in Texas to acting as a living fence in Germany. The differences each of these histories makes in the behavior of herding breeds is for another day. For now, just think of

herding dogs as canine ninja warriors: highly intelligent problem solvers who are alert to everything around them, mission focused and not afraid to use force if they feel it is warranted.

Often, herding breeds do not suffer fools gladly and many may consider the "[hail fellow well met](#)" attitude of many [Labradors](#) to be foolish.

Retrievers, for their part, were bred to sit in a boat or duck blinds for hours – often in the company of new-to-them dogs and people. Labs were not bred or selected for any sort of aggression. They are, in general, social dogs who wag harder when seeing a strange dog than most herding dogs wag at their best canine friends. They are frequently "close talkers" who bumble jovially into personal space with a grin on their face that a herding dog can be just itching to wipe off.

This picture, that I snapped in Kensington Gardens, London, England, is a typical example. You can tell from where the lab's feet are that she is deep into the German Shepherd's personal space. To the Shepherd, the lab's proximity is like someone walking up to you and sticking their hand in your front pocket: so far beyond "rude" that you don't have a word for it.

Here the German Shepherd roars at the Lab, mouth wide, ears sideways,

hackles up, tail stiff behind while the Lab does a Matrix-like move to get out of the way.



The Shepherd was simply warning – dramatically – and had no intention of actually harming the Lab. If she'd wanted to, she would have. She did not, electing to trot off seconds later.

From the Lab's perspective, she was “just being friendly” and has no idea why the Shepherd took such offense. This “dance” happens in parks and dog runs around the world over and over again.

Who is the “bad” dog here? Neither. Both are being exactly who they are. Dogs of different backgrounds and temperaments will never understand that another has an entirely different world view. They are dogs. But, being a long-time German Shepherd person, I can tell you – that Shepherd is not a “dog park dog.” Have fun with your herding dog in other ways if yours takes such offense; skip dog parks that are often filled to the brim with energetic, adolescent sporting breeds.

Now you know.

Quote end.

Understand dog breeds and be a good advocate for your dog when meeting other breeds! Be actively involved and help other people understand your dog - whatever breed(s) you have. ☺

Claudia

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