

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

October, 2023
Volume 2, Issue 10
Membership to date:
966

Pet Club Special Meeting

Mayor Josh Schroeder on Proposition C:

\$15 Million Dollar Bond for the

Georgetown Animal Shelter

Tuesday, October 3, 1 p.m. in the

Georgetown/Florence Room at Cowan Creek.

Georgetown Mayor Josh Schroeder and the Georgetown Animal Shelter Director April Haughey will be explaining Prop C which is on the November Ballot. They will explain what it means for the City and County Shelters.

**Seating is limited to 120 people,
come a bit early to make sure you get a seat.**

Blessing of the Animals

**Tuesday, October 3, at the Amphitheater,
Cowan Creek, 9:30 a.m.**

Blessing given by The Reverend Dr. Steven Pope, music by Lionel Menchaca,
pet stories by Carol Belmont and Steve Huth.

**All Sun City residents and guests, along with their pets,
are invited to join us.**

Bring a blanket, lawn chair and water for you and your pet. In the event of inclement weather, we will use the CC Pavilion. **If it is raining, we will be in the Cowan Creek Pavilion.**

This program will feature a selection of readings that celebrate our pets and an opportunity to thank them for the joy they bring into our lives. We will also honor and reflect on the memories of pets who have passed.

Sign up not required

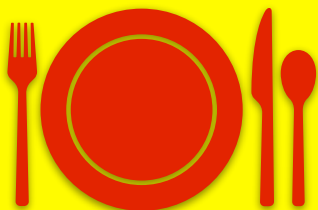


from the book "Wise Dogs," H. Jackson Brown Jr. and Dale C. Spartas

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

We are hosting our **FIRST** Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on November 10 for any Pet Club member who is an ACTIVE volunteer for two or more events per year.

We are keeping records of all who volunteer for the club so we don't miss you. For this year, we started keeping track in October of 2022.



Pet Club Board and Program Leaders

Board:

President:
Alan Kamen

Vice President:
Liz Wommack

Treasurer:
Karen Davenport

Secretary:
Pam Sarantos

Special Projects/Events:
Ruth Olsen

Board Member at Large
Chickie Holt

Leaders:

Dog Training:
Ruth Olsen

Snake Avoidance:
Chickie Holt

All About Cats:
Karyn Beavers

Donations:
Diane Daniel

Photography:
Anne Marshall

Webmaster:
Ginny Patterson

Pet Emergency Evacuation:
Sharon Dunning

Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

Sign up to receive the Lost Pet Alert to help get a lost pet home safely!!

Instructions To Receive Lost Pet Alerts

1. Sign on to your [SC Website/Resident Page](#)
2. On the left, Click on [My Preferences](#)
3. Scroll down to [EMAIL PREFERENCES](#)
4. Check box for [NRO Lost Pet Alerts](#)
5. Click on [SAVE DATA](#)

To Report a Lost or Found Pet

Click on the Lost Pet Icon on the SC Resident Home page.

Follow the instructions to fill out the Form for either a Lost Pet or a Found Pet.



Dog Education Series

Open to All Sun City Residents

Presented by Ruth Olsen of the Pet Club

The purpose of this monthly series is to discuss topics that are not covered in dog training classes. **Come without your dog**, but bring questions, issues, or problems you are dealing with. Topics vary monthly depending on the attendees.

A \$5 donation for each class is suggested for up to 2 people per household to attend.

Pay at the seminar.

Q&A - For issues with dogs 1 year and older. Got a problem? Get a solution! Topics often include proper leash walking, jumping, barking, licking, crates, digging, and many more.

Puppy - Same as Q&A but focused on issues with dogs under 1 year old or someone thinking about getting a new dog of any age.

Date	Location	Q&A		Puppy
Oct 12	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45	
Nov 9	Main Room, The Oaks	1:00-2:00	2:15-3:15	

If you need more information, contact Ruth Olsen, Pet Club Lead Dog Trainer
6pawstraining@gmail.com or 512 639 1771

Let Sleeping Dogs Sleep

written by Ruth Olsen

Everyone loves a good nap! Let's chat about rest times for your dog. Proper sleep is a part of your dog's well-being and successful training! If you have a dog who is not well-rested, you'll never reach their full potential in training (and can be the basis of other issues).

Dogs need 16-20 hours of sleep a day. They not only need more hours of sleep than the human, they need to sleep more often. They need nap times as well! A dog that's been awake for more than three to four hours will not be the happiest and most well-behaved dog. Like toddlers, they become cranky and grumpy and don't really know what to do with themselves. They're also unable to focus and learn, follow instructions, and tolerate interactions with people and other animals. The older the dog, or puppies - the more they need to sleep.

Do not over schedule your dog. Give them time between events, sports, and training to take a nap, rest and refocus themselves. If they are going to a 9:30 class, take an early walk, and let them rest. Do not take them to the dog park to run for an hour just before class.

Even if you already have a good sleep schedule for your dog, ensure there is enough time to rest on uncharacteristically busy days.

Family get-togethers are a great example. Your dog might be excited to have so many friends over and won't be able to put themselves down for a nap. There are just too many pets to be had, so much food to beg for, people to see, etc.

This can even result in dogs eventually becoming a bit snarly. I get calls about this often. Dogs need a schedule, a quiet space and nap time, especially when their schedule is interrupted by visitors. If you have visitors for a day or 5 days, think about the dog. Dogs can start out happy and then snap at another dog or growl at a family member on day two, three, or four of a family meetup. They're simply tired and don't have time to wind down and relax. Think of your dog like a toddler in that regard.

If your dog has already been awake for three to four hours, it's unwise to squeeze in a training session at the tail end of their awake period. It's much better to let your dog rest and then train after they have woken up. Chances are they will have a longer attention span, more patience, and better ability to problem-solve if they have just rested.

This is especially common in puppies! The difference between training a puppy who is well-rested and one that is tired and cranky is HUGE.

If your dog is struggling with behavioral issues, I guarantee these will get worse if they don't have enough rest. Of course, it doesn't mean that once your dog sleeps enough, all their problems will magically disappear without any training. Rather, enough sleep is a prerequisite to successful behavior modification.

Dogs with a lot of anxiety and stress or high arousal may require you to make special arrangements, such as bringing them to the quietest room in the house, maybe putting on some white noise, or giving them a chew to wind down. After a day at doggie day care for my reactive, high arousal dog, she is more relaxed and calmer for 2-3 days. She has played, engaged and put down for a long nap while at doggie day care.

What is your dog's sleep pattern? Here is what my dogs do:

7 am - get up, take care of morning business, walk, check the yard, eat.

8am - take a nap.

11 am - survey property for invaders, enjoy nature, be on the lookout.

1 pm - long nap.

4:30 pm - wake up, check yard, eat.

6:00 pm - pre walk nap.

9:00 pm - short walk, then insist on going to real bed for the night.

If your dog is sleeping, let them sleep. Do not wake a dog up when they are dreaming - barking, paws running, face twitching. If you need to wake them up, do it in a calm manner, shake a bag of treats, say their name. Older dogs need more time to wake up, just like us. Give them the time they need to focus and join you for their next adventure.



What's on It?

**Pet Sitters, Groomers,
Vets, 24-hour Vets,
Shelters, Euthanasia Services,
Agility Groups, Kennels, Rescue
Organizations, Got Skunked?,
Snake Avoidance, Trainers.....**

Dog Training:

Newsletters

Emergency Pet Information

....and more!

Look for days and times in our newsletters and email blasts

Jan.: Pet Club Open House

March, May, Sept.: General Meetings with a Guest Speaker

Oct.: Blessing of the Animals

Nov.: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch New!

Dec.: Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Dog Training Classes

Rally O Classes **New!**

AKC Canine Good Citizen Program **New!**

Fear-Based Leash Reactivity Training **New!**

Dog Q&A and Puppy Seminars

Pet Partners Therapy Dog Workshops and Evaluations

Canine Companions Service Dog Puppy Sitters and Puppy Raisers Assistance **New!**

New Resident Orientation/Club Fairs

Shelters and Organizations the Pet Club Supports

**Williamson County Regional
Animal Shelter**
wcras@wilco.org pets.wilco.org

Georgetown Animal Shelter
animalsvc@georgetown.org
pets.georgetown.org

Living Grace Canine Ranch
karen@livinggracecanineranch.org

Harley's Angels
harleysangelssanctuary@yahoo.com

Texas Humane Heroes
info@txhh.org

All Things Wild
allthingswildrehab@gmail.com

Austin Siamese Rescue
loveasiamese@gmail.com

R.O.C.K.
karah@rockride.org

Georgetown Animal Outreach
txcodigirl@gmail.com

Pet Partners
petpartners.org

Canine Companions
canine.org

Service Dogs, Inc. Sheri Soltes
sheri@servicedogs.org

Club Updates:

Club By-Laws:

They have been updated and are on the Pet Club Website.

New Membership Leader Position:

Verne Palmer will be our new Membership Leader starting in 2024.

New FREE Dog Training Clinic:

Ruth Olsen and Chickie Holt are developing a new dog training program for 2024. This new program does not replace dog training classes. Details coming out soon.

Donations Leader and Club

Webmaster Wanted:

Diane Daniel and Ginny Patterson are retiring from their positions. Thank you Diane and Ginny for your service!! We are looking for volunteers to take over those positions, full training provided. Contact Alan Kamen if you are interested. alankamen5253@icloud.com

Pie and Ice Cream Social:

October 9: This is replacing our lunch social. See email blast sent by Ruth Olsen how to sign up, only \$5 per member. Guests of members welcomed at the same price. Pay at the door, check or cash.

September 15 Board Minutes:

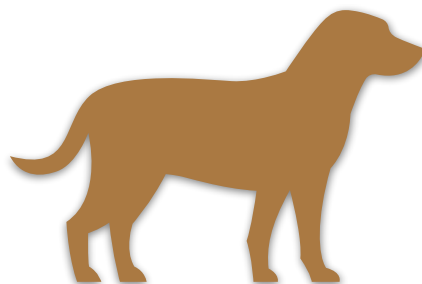
Available on the Pet Club Website.

Pet Friendly Stores & Eateries in Georgetown

Click on the link to see a list of retail stores and eateries that allow dogs.

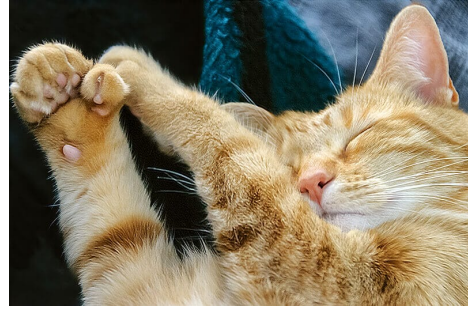
<https://www.hellogeorgetown.com/dog-friendly-establishments-in-georgetown-tx/#1651633989460-f6a17336-913b>

Always call ahead to any business to which you wish to take your dog to ensure their pet policy still allows dogs and if any restrictions.



Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers



Cats have been entrancing humans for thousands of years. From the tufts of their ears to the swish of their tails, it's hard for us humans to ignore the mystery and beauty of cats. And if you're looking for some amazing cat facts to share with your fellow cat-loving friends, we have you covered. Here are 20 Facts About Cats that you might not have known.

1. As kittens they have 26 deciduous, or "baby", teeth. As adult cats they have 30 permanent teeth. Don't forget to take care of those pearly whites with regular dental cleanings.
2. House cats share 95.6% of their genetic makeup with tigers. You read that right, TIGERS. They also share some of the same behavior habits such as scent and urine marking, prey stalking and pouncing.
3. Cats can jump 5 times their own height. Now that's impressive!
4. A housecat can run to the speed of about 30 mph over short distances. This means that a cat can outrun superstar runner Usain Bolt in a 200 meter dash!
5. Ever wondered why your feline friend would often put their rear end by your face? This is actually a sign of trust and your cat signaling that they feel safe and secure around you.
6. Cats can have a dominant front paw. Studies have shown that male cats tend to favor their left paw while female cats may have a dominant right paw.
7. Most cats have 18 toes, 5 on their front paws and 4 on their back paws. However, some cats can be born with "extra toes", a condition called polydactylism.
8. The oldest cat to ever live was Creme Puff, who lived to be 38 years and 3 days old. Creme Puff lived from August 3, 1967 to August 2005 with her owner in Austin, Texas.
9. Cats have a whopping 32 muscles in each of their ears, allowing them to swivel their ears to hone in on the exact source of a noise. Additionally, cats can rotate their ears to 180 degrees!
10. Cats are nearsighted, but their peripheral vision and night vision are far superior compared to humans.
11. The whiskers on a cat aren't just cute, they serve a very important function in assisting cats with getting around, especially at night. Whiskers are embedded deep in the cat's body and are connected to the cat's sensitive muscular and nervous systems, acting as touch receptors (or a "kitty radar"). Whiskers allow a cat to detect and respond to changes in their surroundings.

12. Additionally, not only do cats have whiskers on their face, they also have a set of whiskers on the back of their front legs.

13. The [wealthiest cat in the world](#), Blackie, had a fortune of £7 million or \$12.5 million in US dollars. When Blackie's millionaire owner passed away, the owner refused to acknowledge any human family members in his will and instead gifted his massive fortune to his last surviving cat. Now that is one lucky cat!

14. The [oldest known pet cat](#) existed around 9,500 years ago. In 2004, a French archeologist found a grave of a cat in Cyprus dating back to 9,500 years ago, meaning that humans have owned cats as pets since then!

15. A female cat can become pregnant as young as 4 - 6 months of age. [Spaying and neutering](#) your cat around this age is the best way to prevent any unexpected litters and help reduce cat overpopulation.

16. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, [absolutely loved cats](#) and would play with them for hours. He owned several cats during this time in the White House.

17. Although a group of kittens are more commonly called a litter, they can also be known as a "kindle" of kittens.

18. Cats usually [sleep](#) around an average of 15 hours PER day. This means that a cat spends roughly 70% of their lives sleeping. Must be nice to be a cat!

19. Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, CA may be known as the "Happiest Place on Earth" but it's also home to a [squad of feral cats](#) that freely roam around the theme park. Feral cats have been living at the Disneyland Resort for decades and are actually used to (ironically) help control the rodent population within the park. Mickey Mouse better watch out!

20. In Ancient Egypt, members of a family would shave their eyebrows in mourning if their cat died. Cats were also sometimes mummified and placed in tombs with their owners.

<https://www.thedrakecenter.com/services/cats/blog/20-amazing-facts-about-cats#:~:text=A housecat can run to,in a 200 meter dash!>



Guest Speaker from our Club Meeting

Service Dogs, Inc



Sheri Soltes, J.D.
Founder & President
Service Dogs, Inc.



From our Meeting Minutes: Sheri Soltes, founder and president of Service Dogs, Inc. from Dripping Springs. Also attending was a recipient of the program, Rabbi Bam Rubinstein, with his service dog Solo. He was injured in the Air Force, his dog was trained by inmates. Sheri started as a trial lawyer in Houston. Service Dogs has been in business 35 years. Her passion is helping people and animals, serving Texas. Costs \$50k to train each dog including lifetime follow-up. They rely on donations, dogs are provided to clients for free. 4 kinds of training programs, 1) dogs for hearing impaired, 2) for paralysis, 3) for courthouse dogs, and 4) for first responders. They also advocate for pet legislation. Definition of a service dog is that they perform a task which helps a person's disability. Training method is positive reinforcement. FBI invited them to aftermath of Uvalde school shooting incident. General Criteria for shelter dogs: healthy, good hips, 18 months or less, people oriented. About 50% succeed in becoming service dogs. None are ever returned to shelter, adopted out if don't complete the program. Trainers are paid, full time, with benefits. Next fundraiser: Dog Walk at Camp Mabry.

Service Dogs, Inc. 4925 Bell Springs Rd. Dripping Springs, TX 78620, 512-858-1495, info@servicedogs.org, website www.servicedogs.org.

Pet Club donated \$500 to Service Dogs, Inc.