

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

## "The Scoop"

November, 2023  
Volume 2, Issue 11  
Membership to date:  
972

## Pet Re-Homing Policy Reminder

The Pet Club gladly provides re-homing assistance to

**PET CLUB MEMBERS ONLY**  
**AND THEIR OWN PERSONAL PETS.**

We do not re-home pets from shelters, sanctuaries or for members who are fostering a pet.

This also applies to anyone seeking a new pet. We will gladly put that request on our Newsletter Bulletin Board for  
**Pet Club Members only.**

As a club, our primary responsibility is to our members.

Thank you,

Alan Kamen  
President SC Pet Club

# Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals was held October 3 at the Amphitheater. Over 60 residents attended the event. We had very obedient and quiet dogs and one rabbit attending to be blessed by Reverend Dr. Steve Pope. Soothing music was provided by Lionel Menchaca, and pet thoughts were read by Carol Belton and Steve Huth.

Reverend Pope gave individual blessings at the end of the event.





## **Pet Club Board and Program Leaders**

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### **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

### **Program 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!

## 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
Nov 9	Main Room, The Oaks	1:00-2:00	2:15-3:15

**This is the last seminar for the year!**

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

# Force-Free Dog Training

Written by Ruth Olsen

Oh, the good old days - we all remember those. We were free to do what we wanted, how we wanted and why we wanted. So were our dogs. But when the dog did not do what WE wanted them to do, we yelled, hit, punished them. That took care of the problem - until the next time the dog did the same thing.

This has changed since "the good old days" for us and for our dogs. The dog training industry has learned that dog aggression increases with hitting, yelling, punishing the dog. It is a dog's natural response. Dogs will growl, bite, learn to dislike humans and continue to have no idea of what is right and what is wrong.

## What is the force-free method of dog training?

Force-free training is simply the method of training dogs without using force, coercion, threats, intimidation, or inflicting pain on the animal. This involves avoiding punishments or anything that invokes fear and panic, causes pain, or harms the dog in any other way either emotionally or physically.

The most **common force-free dog training methods** include:

- **Positive Reinforcement** - Using rewards or positive (desired) stimuli to encourage certain behaviors.
- **Negative Punishment** - Denying or taking away a reward when your dog displays bad behavior or does not follow your commands.

**Force-Free Dog Training Does Not Use:**

- Fear to overwhelm and bully a dog.
- Pain to cause a dog to shut down emotionally.
- Anger to break your dog's trust.
- Allowing a dog to run wild and do what it wants because 'it is having fun.'
- Quick-fix methods that do not correct the behavior.

## Force-Free Training Continued

### Force-Free Dog Training Is:

- You and the dog learn together.
- You are both accountable for your actions and reactions.
- Training is a lifestyle.
- The dog is allowed to say 'no please.'
- It is based on respect, humane expectations, and relationship.
- It is based on repetition until the dog 'gets it.'

The Pet Club dog training classes are Force-Free. We do not approve of any harsh treatment - either physical or verbal - from the handlers. Force-Free training prevents and alleviates fear, anxiety, aggression, and destructive activities. It increases security, relaxation and makes the dog a better companion for the handler.

If you have any questions about the Pet Club training techniques or classes, please contact Ruth Olsen, Lead Dog Trainer, at [6pawstraining@gmail.com](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com) or 512 639-1771.

### Shelters and Organizations the Pet Club Supports

**Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter** [wcras@wilco.org](mailto:wcras@wilco.org) [pets.wilco.org](http://pets.wilco.org)

**Georgetown Animal Shelter** [animalsvc@georgetown.org](mailto:animalsvc@georgetown.org) [pets.georgetown.org](http://pets.georgetown.org)

**Living Grace Canine Ranch** [karen@livinggracecanineranch.org](mailto:karen@livinggracecanineranch.org)

#### **Harley's Angels**

[harleysangelssanctuary@yahoo.com](mailto:harleysangelssanctuary@yahoo.com)

#### **Austin Siamese Rescue**

[loveasiamese@gmail.com](mailto:loveasiamese@gmail.com)

#### **Texas Humane Heroes**

[info@txhh.org](mailto:info@txhh.org)

#### **R.O.C.K.**

[karah@rockride.org](mailto:karah@rockride.org)

#### **All Things Wild**

[allthingswildrehab@gmail.com](mailto:allthingswildrehab@gmail.com)

#### **Georgetown Animal Outreach**

[txcodigirl@gmail.com](mailto:txcodigirl@gmail.com)

#### **Canine Companions: Service Dog Provider**

[canine.org](http://canine.org)

**Pet Partners** [petpartners.org](http://petpartners.org)

**Service Dogs, Inc. Sheri Soltes** [sheri@servicedogs.org](mailto:sheri@servicedogs.org)

# Important Notice!!

## Central Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital

301 Chisholm Trail, Round Rock  
Contact: 512-961-5200

**IS NO LONGER A 24-HOUR VET**

**New Hours of Operation**

**Effective July 10, 2023**

### **Specialty Care:**

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

### **Emergency Care:**

OPEN: Monday at 7:00 AM to Thursday at 7:00 AM

CLOSED: Thursday 7:00 AM through Sunday

Go to [www.ctvsh.com](http://www.ctvsh.com) to find out more information.

**TWO 24-HOUR Emergency Care  
Centers in our area:**

**Heart of Texas Veterinary  
Specialty Center**

115 E. Old Settlers Blvd., Round Rock Hours: Open 24 hours a day

Contact: 512-744-4644 <https://www.thrivepetcare.com/locations/texas/round-rock/heart-of-texas-veterinary-specialty-center>

**Emergency Animal Hospital  
of Crystal Falls**

10804 E. Crystal Falls Parkway, Leander Hours: Open 24 hours a day

Contact: 512-817-3474 [eahofcrystalfalls.com](http://eahofcrystalfalls.com)

**Before speeding to a care center, call first to  
ensure they are available!**



## Pet Club Website

for members only  
managed by Ginny Patterson

## What's on It?

### Resources:

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

Pet Partners Therapy  
Dog Information

### Dog Training:

Virtual Dog  
Training, Monthly Training  
Information, Dog Class  
Descriptions.

### Newsletters

Custom Pet Portraits  
and Art

Emergency Pet  
Information

....and more!

## Club Updates:

### Club By-Laws:

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

### New Membership Leader: 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 soon.

### New Resident Orientation:

The Pet Club will be represented at the New Resident Orientation and Club Fair in the Texas Dr. Ballroom on Thursday, November 16. Doors open at

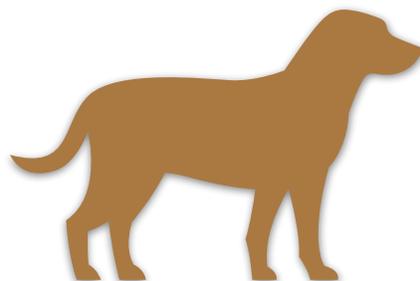
If you are a new resident, come and check us out. Pet Club volunteers will be present with club information.

# 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.



# Donations Leader and Club Webmaster Wanted:

Our Donations Leader Diane Daniel and our Webmaster Ginny Patterson are both retiring from their positions. Thank you Diane and Ginny for your many years of service to the Pet Club!!

We are looking for volunteers to take over these positions, full training provided. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Alan Kamen at 409-354-1292

## **Wanted: Dog Trainers**

The Pet Club is adding new dog training classes, and we could use more trainers to be able to expand our training program for over 900 members.

The Pet Club is offering a new "Train the Trainer" Class in early 2024.

To find out more about becoming a Pet Club Dog Trainer and joining this great team, contact Ruth Olsen at 512-639-1771.

# Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers

## The Cat Owner's Guide: Common Mistakes to Avoid

### Smaller Pets

While some cats may coexist peacefully with smaller pets, remember that a cat's natural instinct is to hunt. Those heartwarming videos of cats peacefully interacting with hamsters or birds are generally exceptions, not the rule. If you plan to introduce a smaller pet into the home, ensure you have a secure environment that keeps both animals safe, such as a strong, lockable cage for the smaller pet.

### Hands-On Play

Ah, the charm of those adorable kitten mittens! But don't be fooled; these aren't mittens; they're miniature weaponry. Sure, hands-on play feels like a cute and intimate bonding experience. However, when excitement peaks, those tiny claws become more akin to Wolverine's blades than you'd care to admit. So, unless you fancy sporting battle scars as your latest fashion statement, it's high time to switch to toys like feather wands and plush mice. It keeps your skin intact and your cat engaged, leading to a playtime experience that is joyous rather than Jurassic.

### Styling Fur

Do you have visions of turning your cat into the next fur fashionista? Hold that thought! Styling your cat's fur with dyes and scissors isn't just an ethical faux pas; it's a downright dangerous endeavor. Cats have sensitive skin, and using the wrong dye can result in an unfortunate trip to the vet. Besides, let's face it: your cat wakes up every morning already looking like a runway model. They don't need a makeover, and they certainly don't want one. Embrace your cat's natural beauty, and save the styling for your social media selfies.

## **Low Blow**

Some folks swear by blowing a gentle puff of air into a cat's face to calm them down. Seems harmless enough, right? Well, not so fast! While some cats might find it soothing, others could interpret it as a declaration of war. The outcome is a toss-up between a chilled-out kitty and a furious, swiping ninja cat. It's like playing Russian roulette but with paws and claws instead of bullets. So, before you decide to become a human fan for your cat, remember that this could backfire spectacularly. Proceed with caution and maybe consider more universally accepted calming techniques.

## **Scary Balloons**

We all love a good party, and balloons seem like an essential part of the celebration. But let's get one thing straight: cats hate balloons. To your feline friend, balloons aren't festive; they're frightening. They're floating, wobbling anomalies that make sudden, startling noises when popped. To a cat, a popping balloon might as well be an alien laser gun. Not to mention, the remnants of popped balloons can pose a choking hazard. So, if you're planning a soiree, maybe opt for less terrifying decorations like streamers or fairy lights. Your cat will thank you for not turning your living room into a horror movie set.

## **Feeding Routine**

Cats may be known for their independence, but when it comes to feeding time, they're creatures of habit. Disrupting their meal schedule can cause unnecessary stress and anxiety. Yes, your carefree explorer transforms into a precise timekeeper at the food bowl. An erratic feeding schedule doesn't just make a hangry cat; it can lead to digestive problems and weight issues. To keep your cat's life—and yours—as smooth as possible, establish a consistent feeding routine. Set alarms if you have to because when it comes to mealtime, your feline friend's internal clock is ticking, and you don't want to be late.

## **Overfeeding**

The issue of feline obesity is increasingly concerning, with about half of domestic cats being overweight. Overfeeding contributes significantly to this problem, leading to health issues like diabetes, heart disease, and reduced lifespan. Consult your veterinarian for a diet plan that keeps your cat at a healthy weight. Scheduled meals, rather than free-feeding, can also help manage your cat's weight effectively.

## Perfect Strangers

We all love having friends over, but your cat may not share your enthusiasm. To your kitty, each new guest in your home is a potential invader in their territory. Attempting to force your cat to interact with your friends is a recipe for feline frustration. The best way to handle this is to let your cat make the first move. Provide a safe space to which they can retreat if they feel overwhelmed, and let them approach your guests at their own pace. Pressuring your cat into social interactions not only stresses them out but could also damage the trust between you and your furry companion.

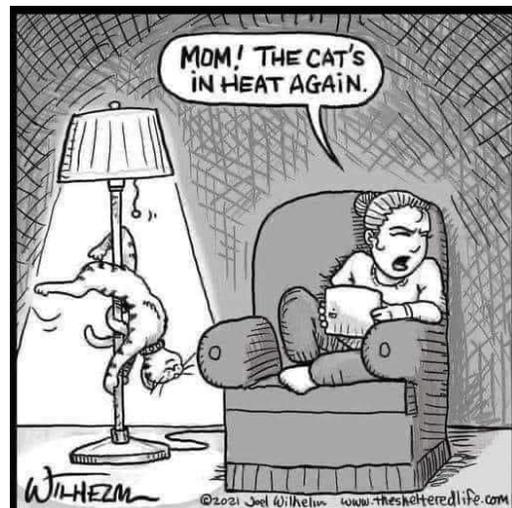
## Low Temperatures

Your cat's luxurious fur coat might give the impression of a built-in winter wardrobe, but don't be fooled. Cats are surprisingly sensitive to cold temperatures. Just like us, they prefer a warm and cozy environment, especially during the chilly winter months. Recommendations from pet experts like Rescue Vets suggest keeping your home at around 70 degrees to ensure your cat stays comfortable. When the temperature dips, you might find your cat snuggling up to radiators or wrapping themselves in blankets. So, keep that thermostat up, and maybe invest in a cozy cat bed to help your feline friend brave the winter chill.

## Bad Teeth

Oral hygiene isn't just a human concern; it's a feline one too. Many cat owners overlook dental care, leading to issues like gingivitis, tooth decay, and even systemic infections in their pets. To avoid this, start brushing your cat's teeth when they are about six months old. Use a vet-recommended, pet-friendly toothbrush and toothpaste. Get your cat accustomed to having its mouth touched to minimize resistance during the actual process. Brushing is more than a chore; it's a critical aspect of your pet's health that can help avoid painful issues and costly vet visits in the long run.

Information from [avocadoposts.com](http://avocadoposts.com)



# Pet Club Ice Cream Social

Our first club ice cream social was attended by 148 members. Ruth Olsen organized this successful and fun event. We had a trivia game with prizes, free large fluffy dog toys for everyone, and large slices of apple pie, vanilla ice cream and coffee.

A big thank you goes to our volunteers who assisted setting up and cleaning up.

Job well done!!

Our Volunteers: Jul Kamen, Liz Wommack, Ray Wommack, Carol Belmont, Steve Huth, George and Micky Hartz, Ruth Olsen, Elaine Carter, Verne Palmer, Chickie Holt, Dona McMillian, Virginia Patskowski, BC Cox.



