

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

## "The Scoop"

December, 2023  
Volume 2, Issue 12  
Membership to date:  
982

I would like to thank our Board, Program Leaders, Volunteers and Members for making 2023 our best year to date. We've added many new dog training programs, events and great guest speakers in 2023. We donated \$16,000 in supplies and food to local shelters and continue to run the Lost Pet Alert System. The Pet Club has grown to 982 members, and I am hoping that we have proven ourselves by providing worthwhile dog training classes, shelter support and fun events to help us continue to grow.

**Don't forget to rejoin in 2024** and please promote us to your friends and neighbors. **Let's get over the 1,000 member mark!** Thank you again everyone for an exciting year and I am looking forward to 2024 with more new programs to help you enrich your lives with your pets.

Thank You,

Alan Kamen, President, Pet Club

**Happy Holidays from your Pet Club Board and Leaders.**

**Enjoy this video of Dogs and Cats all dressed up and enjoying their Holiday Meal. Great video to share with friends!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhg7Xm4FXAY>



# Pet Club Open House



The Pet Club is having its 3rd Annual Open House. Members and Sun City Residents are invited to come and browse our information tables and meet over 10 animal shelters and organizations the Pet Club supports.

**When: Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

**Where: Texas Drive Ball Room**

**Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Learn about our current and future **Dog Training Classes, Pet Emergency Evacuation, Snake Avoidance, our FREE Pet Equipment Loan Program, Therapy Dog Training, Lost Pet Alert System, Cats, and more.....**

## **Local shelters and organizations attending:**

WILCO, GTAS, Canine Companions, Service Dogs Inc., Georgetown Fire Dept. with therapy dog Koda, All Things Wild with ambassador animals, R.O.C.K., Living Grace Canine Ranch, Harley's Angels, All About Animals, Austin Siamese Rescue, Pet Partners

## **Pet retail stores attending:**

Wag Heaven, Pupology, and Woof Gang Bakery

**Coffee, snacks and door prizes.**

Sorry, NO Pets.

**New pet toys and small pet equipment for sale.**

We would like to see as many members attend as possible to show support for our Volunteer Program Leaders.

Bring a neighbor, a friend—all residents are invited, it's a **FREE** event!



# Top Dog Toxins of 2023



## Human over-the-counter medications —

Pain medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen) are the most common.

## Toxic Food —

Chocolate and chocolate-based products. The darker the chocolate, the more toxic.

Plants containing allium, including onions, leeks, and chives.

Macadamia nuts.

Vitis vinifera fruits, including grapes, raisins, sultanas, and currants.

Ethanol in alcoholic beverages.

Foods and products containing the sweetener xylitol. **XYLITOL is found in some Peanut Butter** brands. **Check your labels!**

Xylitol is used as a replacement for sugar.  
Commonly found in these “sugar-free” products:



Breath mints



Chewable or gummy vitamins



Ice cream



Candy



Chewing gum



Liquid compounded medications



Mouthwash and Toothpaste



Sugar-free desserts



Peanut butter

Peanut butter is **NOT** toxic to your dog, **XYLITOL** is!



Don't be fooled... xylitol can also be identified as birch sugar, birch sap, birch bark extract, or wood sugar.

Learn more at [www.RescueDogs101.com](http://www.RescueDogs101.com)



## **Toxic Human prescription medications —**

Antidepressants

ADD and ADHD drugs

Benzodiazepines and sleep aids

Birth control medications

ACE inhibitors

Beta-blockers

Thyroid hormones

Cholesterol lowering agents

## **Toxic Outdoor Plants —**

Sago palm

Lilies

Plants containing **cardiac glycosides** (e.g., dogbane, foxglove, milkweed, kalanchoe, lily of the valley, and oleander),

Blue-green algae found in stagnant, warm water.

## **Toxic indoor plants —**

Spring flowers (e.g., daffodils, hyacinth, and tulips)

Kalanchoe

Plants from the Araceae family (e.g., philodendron, pothos, peace lily, calla lily, dumb cane, arrowhead vine, mother-in-law's tongue, sweetheart vine, devil's ivy, umbrella plant, and elephant ear)

English shamrock, rhubarb (leaves), and tropical star fruit

Corn plant/dragon tree

### **Household toxins —**

Traditional cleaning agents can contain toxins such as bleach, ammonia, chlorine, phenol, isopropyl alcohol, and formaldehyde, all of which are potentially harmful to your dog.

Other types of household toxins include rodenticides, chemical pesticides and insecticides, glue, ethylene glycol (antifreeze), and automotive products (e.g., windshield cleaner fluid or brake fluid).

### **Insecticides —**

Most insecticides used around homes and yards are basic irritants to dogs and cats and can result in clinical signs of drooling, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Rat bait is poisonous to dogs, but bromethalin is especially deadly.

### **Recreational drugs —**

It's important to realize that THC levels in cannabis are higher than ever before. CBD products for dogs do not contain any notable levels of THC so don't fear using CBD products that are specifically designed for dogs.

**If you know or suspect your pet has ingested a toxin of any kind, call your veterinarian, the nearest emergency animal hospital, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline at 888-426-4435, or the Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661 immediately.**

Article by: Ruth Olsen

Information is from various websites.

**This is NOT a complete list. Refer to your vet or the Internet to get more information.**

Monthly Newsletter:  
Shelter of the Month Spotlight **New!**

# 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.



## Pet Club - Supplies - Donation & Recycle Program

The Pet Club accepts new and used pet supplies. The donations are inventoried and are used for:

- **Free Equipment Loan to Members**
- **Community Support Program: Donated to shelters as needed.**
- **We will NOT ACCEPT dirty, soiled or broken items.**

### EXAMPLES OF ITEMS WE COLLECT:

SURGERY RECOVERY CONE COLLARS	K9 / FELINE TRAVEL CARRIERS
"STRAP" HARNESS - ALL SIZES	WET & DRY K9 & FELINE FOOD
SHEETS, BLANKETS & TOWELS (CLEAN)	SOFT K9 BEDS - ALL SIZES
K9 "THUNDER" SHIRT	WIRE CRATES - ALL SIZES
YOGA MATS (USED FOR AGING K9'S)	<b>PET MEDICATIONS OPEN &amp; UNOPENED</b>
FEEDING BOWLS - ALL SIZES	STEP STAIRS, RAMPS FOR K9 & FELINE
PLASTIC CONTAINERS W/LID FOR STORAGE	FELINE SCRATCHING POLES
K9 & FELINE TOYS	LEASHES - ALL SIZES AND STYLES
COLLARS - ALL SIZES AND STYLES	K9 "CLOTHES" COATS - ALL SIZES AND STYLES
K9 "PLAY" PENS & SAFETY GATES	CAR SEAT FOR K9 & FELINE
FRONTAL "BABY" K9 CARRIERS	CAT / KITTY LITTER
K9 TREATS, CHEWS & CHEW TOYS	K9 / FELINE GROOMING TOOLS

**Items can be dropped off at 240 Bonham Loop, Sun City Texas.  
Leave on the front porch.**

If you have questions about our donation/recycle program, contact:

Diane Daniel

512-868-7393

[dadaniel261@msn.com](mailto:dadaniel261@msn.com)



# 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 years of service to the Pet Club!!

We are looking for volunteers to take over those positions, full training provided. If if you are interested and would like more information about these positions, please contact

Alan Kamen at [alankamen5253@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen5253@icloud.com)

## 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 our now 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 from Karyn Beavers

Link to Article:

<https://www.thedodo.com/dodowell/are-christmas-trees-toxic-to-cats>

## Are Christmas Trees Safe For Cats?

As pretty as your Christmas tree is, it can be dangerous to your cat if he eats some of it. "Live Christmas trees are not toxic to any animal brushing past them," Dr. Cunningham told The Dodo. "Rather, the ingestion of branches, needles or water in the tree stand can cause illness."

Here's why Christmas trees can be bad for cats:

### Tree chemicals and sap

Christmas trees contain chemicals called terpenes, such as pinene, which are toxic to cats. These chemicals are what give pine trees their classic Christmas-y smell.

"Most varieties of trees (whether pines or firs) contain these toxic terpenes," Dr. Cunningham said.

When cats eat part of a Christmas tree or sap, they can show symptoms such as:

- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lack of appetite
- Muscle weakness
- Drooling
- Unusual breathing

## **Needles**

Pine needles have been known to puncture the intestinal lining because they're so pointy, leading to internal injury when ingested.

## **Water**

Christmas trees need water to stay fresh throughout the season, and you probably add some preservatives to the water so your tree lasts longer, too. But if your cat drinks some of the chemical-filled water, he could get sick.

Pine needles and sap can also get into the water, which can cause problems if your cat takes a drink.

And if you don't change the tree water frequently, it can develop bacteria that can be harmful to your cat, too.

"Standing water can also grow harmful bacteria or mold that can cause digestive distress if ingested," Dr. Cunningham said.

## **Fertilizers**

Some trees may be treated with fertilizers, pesticides and preservatives before you buy them, which can be poisonous to cats.



## 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)

**Texas Humane Heroes**

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

**All Things Wild**

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

**Austin Siamese Rescue**

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

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

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

**Georgetown Animal Outreach**

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

**Pet Partners**

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

**Canine Companions**

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

**Service Dogs, Inc. Sheri Soltes**

[sheri@servicedogs.org](mailto: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.



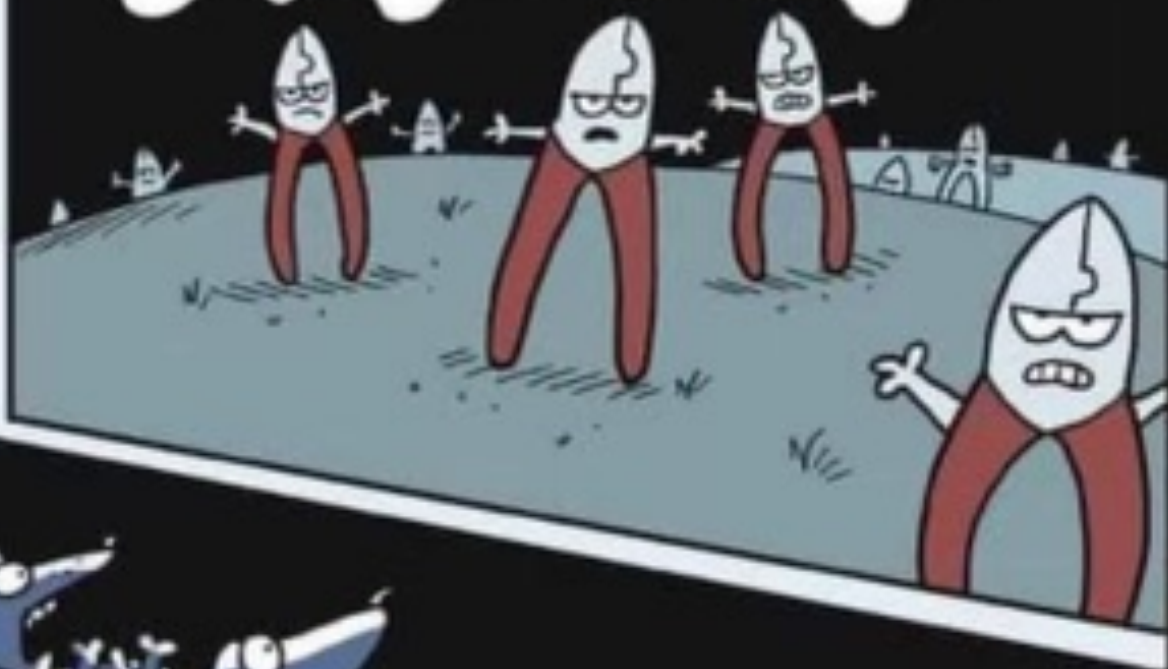
# Rally-O Competition

by Ruth Olsen, Lead Dog Trainer

After completing their Rally-O competition, proud owners and dogs are showing off their awards. After 3 weeks of class, the teams had a friendly competition to see who scored the highest and completed the course the fastest. The Rally-O course consisted of right and left turns, weaving through cones, sit, down and walking around the dog. Seated left to right: Elaine with dog Becky, Claire with dog Sage, and Earlene with dog Milo.



# NIGHT of the LIVING NAIL CLIPPERS



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## Bulletin Board

Members Only are welcome to post pet-related ads on the monthly newsletter bulletin board.

Email Alan Kamen at [alankamen@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen@icloud.com) to place an ad.

## 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

### Leaders:

**Dog Training:** Ruth Olsen, **Snake Avoidance:** Chickie Holt,

**All About Cats:** Karyn Beavers, **Donations:** Diane Daniel

**Photography:** Anne Marshall, **Webmaster:** Ginny Patterson,

**Membership:** Verne Palmer, **Pet Emergency Evacuation:** Sharon Dunning