

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

February, 2023
Volume 2, Issue 2
New and Renewed
Membership to date: 660

Message From the President,

Welcome new and returning members! We have an exciting year planned with several new dog training classes, social events, general meetings with guest speakers, and much more. Our lead dog trainer, Ruth Olsen, was certified this year to be able to provide AKC Canine Good Citizen Intermediate dog classes. For more information about this class, contact Ruth at 6pawstraining@gmail.com

During the past several years, we lost many Pet Partners Therapy Dog Teams for various reasons. We are looking for qualified candidates to help increase our therapy dog teams to support the demand to visit local hospitals and schools. To find out if you and your dog qualify, or want to find out how to become qualified, contact Ruth Olsen at the email address above.

For new members, I would like to let you know about our first Snake Avoidance session coming up this Spring on Saturday, April 29. This program is provided to teach your dog to be afraid of Rattlesnakes so they don't get bit. Detail information, ticket sale dates and reminders will be sent out soon. If you would like to find out more about this program, contact Amy Cavaness at awcdancer@gmail.com

We appreciate you joining the Pet Club as we aim to provide useful pet information, good pet ownership support programs and fun activities.

Pet Club General Meeting: March 8, 2023

Guest Speaker: Pet Club Member, Kathy Sirois

Subject: Preparing and evaluating young dogs to enter Service Dog training. Kathy will have a dog to demonstrate how she prepares them for the next step.

Alan Kamen
President, Pet Club

**Welcome New Pet Club Board
and Program Leaders
for 2023**

Board:

President:
Alan Kamen

Vice President:
Liz Wommack

Treasurer:
Karen Davenport

Secretary:
Pam Sarantos

Special Projects/Events:
Ruth Olsen

Leaders:

Dog Training:
Ruth Olsen

Snake Avoidance:
Amy Cavaness

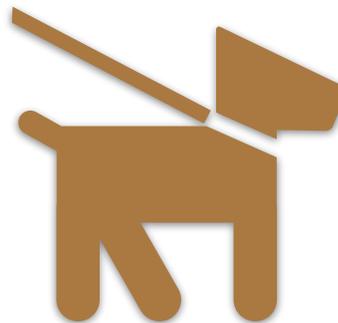
All About Cats:
Karyn Beavers

Donations:
Diane Daniel

Photography:
Anne Marshall

Webmaster:
Ginny Patterson

Pet Emergency Evacuation:
Sharon Dunning



**Online Dog
Training:
Sign onto the
Sun City Website**

- > Click on Chartered Clubs
- > Click on Pet Club
- > Click on Dog Training.

Over 30 written dog training lessons to help you train your dog.



**In Person Dog
Training Fees:**

3-class semester: \$30
6-class semester: \$60
Rally-O: \$40
Dog Q & A: \$5

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
Feb 9	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
March 9	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
April 13	Walburg/Jarrell, Cowan	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
May 11	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
June 8	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
July 13	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Aug 7	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Sept 14	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Oct 12	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Nov 9	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45

If you need more information, contact Ruth Olsen, Pet Club Lead Dog Trainer

6pawstraining@gmail.com or 512 639 1771

Pet Club Website Information "Resources"

What's included in Resources?

24-Hour Emergency Vets
Agility Groups
Animal Shelters
Dog Walkers
Euthanasia at Home Services
Groomers
Kennels
Pet Friendly Restaurants
Pet Insurance
Pet Sitters
Rescue Organizations in Texas
Trainers, Dog
Veterinarians

The Sun City Pet Club does not officially endorse any of the vendors on our lists. Inclusion or exclusion should not be construed as a good or bad recommendation.

This information is provided solely as a resource to Club members.

You should talk to each business or individual as needed and make your own informed decisions, ask for references.

If you have a resource you would like to add to the list, please let the Club know at alankamen5253@icloud.com

Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

The Pet Club and the NRO have teamed up to provide
a **Lost Pet Alert System**.

These alerts only go to those who opt in, currently about 800 residents.

To make it successful, we would appreciate that **ALL MEMBERS**
please **Opt In** to receive the email alerts to help locate a lost pet. Ask
your Sun City friends and neighbors to **Opt In** as well, you don't have to be a
member to **OPT IN**.

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. If you found a lost pet,
fill out the Found Pet Form.

(New)

Re-Homing Pets Policy

The Pet Club has assisted many SC residents in the past to re-home a pet, regardless of whether they were a Pet Club member or not.

However, we have been receiving way too many calls from people who are fostering, helping a family member, friend or neighbor, and even people outside of Sun City and **out of state!** It has now become an issue.

The Pet Club Board has decided to limit re-homing assistance to **ONLY** Pet Club Members and their **personal pets**. This is a service we will gladly provide to our members. We will no longer advertise pets from shelters, sanctuaries or from anyone, including members who are fostering a pet to be adopted.

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

While we would like to help everyone, we are all volunteers, and our primary responsibility is to serve our members.

Re-Home Poem

They always seemed to pass me by,
I never knew the reason why.
All my friends had found a home,
And only I remained alone.
But finally, somebody came,
And spoke to me with a gentle tone.
I hardly dared believe it true,
Into my human's arms, I flew.
Our first embrace - my heart beat fast,
A family of my own at last!
And when tonight I rest my head,
In my new warm and cozy bed.
A prayer I'll send, high up above,
"May all the shelter pups find love."

submitted by [Ginny Patterson](#)

(New) Ticket Refund Policy

A ticket refund request (any reason) for any Pet Club tickets purchased through the online Ticket System or from the Members Service Desk will be subject to a \$2 Refund Fee. This covers the CA fees charged to the Pet Club.

Meet The Pet Club Day

We had over 30 volunteers help set up and run this event on January 16. In addition, 23 volunteers baked over 60 lb of homemade dog treats and packaged over 160 bags to sell. WOW!!! The dog treat table made \$288. Our merchandise table sold about \$350 worth of new items. The remainder of the items were donated to the shelters in attendance and to Goodwill.

13 new members joined the Pet Club that day, 9 people signed up to be potential Dog Trainers and 8 people were interested in becoming Pet Partners Therapy Dog Teams.

We donated \$1,500 to our presenter All Things Wild, plus \$500 each to R.O.C.K., Living Grace Canine Ranch, Austin Siamese Cat Rescue, Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter and Harley's Angels for their participation. I spoke to all of them, and they were all very pleased with the event and will do it again.

We had 250 residents attend, which made this a very successful day.

A special thanks goes to the Wag Heaven team for making pet name tags and donating 100% of the proceeds to the Pet Club, \$112. Thank you Jusak and Jeff!!

Pupology and Wag Heaven each had to pay a CA fee of \$200 to be at the event, and we thank them for taking part to promote and educate members about their stores. Their fees went towards the donations to the shelters.

Thank you, Chrissy, who is the CA room reservation person, for making us coffee and setting that up!! The Pet Club made a \$50 donation to the CA for providing that service.

Volunteering for the Pet Club is helping us become bigger and better and that is very much appreciated!!



Introducing a new dog class starting in March

AKC Canine Good Citizen Intermediate Class With CGC Evaluation

What is the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Evaluation?

Canine Good Citizen is a 10-skill test that demonstrates a dog's good manners and responsible dog ownership. The dog must pass all test items to obtain the CGC certificate.

By passing, you and your dog will deepen your bond and be a more connected team. Not only will you and your dog demonstrate the basics of dog training and skills like sit, down, and stay, but your dog will become a welcomed community member when out in public.

Prerequisites for the class: The dog should have the skill sets listed below to be ready to pass his CGC evaluation. AKC (American Kennel Club) registration is not required.

How is the 3-week class set up?

The first 2 weeks of the 3-week semester, we will review all test items to prepare you for the evaluation. The 3rd week will be the evaluations.

Test Items:

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer, or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern, and sense of responsibility.

Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead) This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog.

Test 5: Walking through a crowd This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

Test 6: Sit and down on command and staying in place This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down and will remain in the place when commanded by the handler.

Test 7: Coming when called This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler.

Test 8: Reaction to another dog This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.

Test 9: Reaction to distraction This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations.

Test 10: Supervised separation This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners.

Upon passing this evaluation, if your dog is AKC registered, you may pay the AKC a fee for the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title and a certificate.

If your dog is not AKC registered, you have two options: 1. Receive a free certificate from the Pet Club. Or 2. Pay a fee to register with the AKC and then a fee to the AKC for the title and a certificate.

**For more information or to determine if your dog is
appropriate for this class,
Contact Ruth Olsen, CGC Evaluator, Lead Dog Trainer
512-639-1771 or 6pawstraining@gmail.com**

Valentine's Day is for our dogs, too!



Take them on a long or short walk in a new location. Dogs love to sniff to learn about new areas and the animals that live there.



Cuddle up on the sofa and watch a happy dog-based movie, such as "Dog." Active animal shows catch their attention.



Give them a massage, behind the ears, the belly, their butt. Most dogs enjoy a relaxing massage.



Make them a snuffle mat and fill it with their (dry) dinner. A crunched-up towel works well, too. Scrunch up the towel and place dry kibble in the creases. Let your dog hunt for the treats.



Become Julie Andrews. Sing them a made-up version of her song "My Favorite Things" that is all about them.



Buy them doggie ice cream or a special dog cookie and let them eat the whole thing.



Go to the bank or your pharmacy drive-through and get them a free dog treat.



Play a game with them: toss a ball, hide 'n seek, chase bubbles. Anything that you do that engages the dog and you is guaranteed to be fun.



Buy them a new dog toy and watch them destroy it in 5 minutes. You get to clean up the house while they nap.



Write them a love letter and frame it with your favorite photo of them.



Give them a hug and thank them for being your valentine.

And our cats!



Give them a hug and thank them for being your valentine.



Enjoy a Themed Treat. Buy your kitty a heart-shaped new toy.



Share a Glass of Wine. Valentine's Day usually involves a glass of wine or two, and why shouldn't your cat have the opportunity to indulge right along with you? Gift them a little bottle of cat wine made with water and salmon oil and infused with catnip. Cheers!



Give Her the Best Seat in the House. Cats notoriously love a good view. This Valentine's Day, go ahead and show your cat how much you love her by giving her the best seat in the house—a fluffy window sill perch.



Enjoy the Outdoors. Taking your indoor cat on a safe outdoor stroll can be a great way to spend time together and show them a little extra love. An escape-proof harness and leash or a soft-sided carrier is a must for the walk.



Gift Her a New Toy. A little extra playtime together is the perfect way to celebrate (and it's great for her brain and body).



Give Her a Massage. Extra pets and rubs are always welcome, which is why a head-to-tail massage might be your best bet.



Play a New Game. Maybe you get her a kitty tunnel. This will give you and your kitty the opportunity to play a new game of hide-and-seek or chase together while giving your kitty some exercise.



Take a Long Nap. Just spending time together is a fantastic way to show your feline friend how much you care. Some extra cuddles on the couch, hunkering down for a movie night together, or taking a few extra moments of time with your kitty when you'd normally be busy is a gift your kitty will certainly appreciate.



Bake Homemade Goodies. Cooking for your cat is one way to prove your devotion.