

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

## "The Scoop"

March, 2023  
Volume 2, Issue 3  
New and Renewed  
Membership to date: 749

Message from the President,

We are starting only our third month of 2023 and we are already planning room reservations for 2024. Believe it or not, we have to have our requests in by March 17. This is a huge task given that we currently have about 15 dog trainers, 8 new volunteers ready to start training, over 125 dog training classes to schedule and over 400 room reservations to make. Did I say HUGE TASK???!!!!

We need all those room reservations because of the success of our Dog Training Program. I would like to give a **SHOUT OUT** of appreciation to all of our Volunteer Dog Trainers! Thank you for your dedication in making this program a success and helping it grow into what is today. None of this can happen without you!

The club appreciates all the time the Dog Trainers have given to help our member's dogs become better pets. You continue to learn new training techniques thus improving the program and making it successful.

I know it can sometimes be stressful working with animals and handlers at the same time. That's why you need to know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

Keep up the good work!

Alan Kamen,

Pet Club President

## Pet Club General Meeting:

March 8, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Georgetown/Florence Room

Cowan Creek Amenity Center

### Guest Speakers:

**Kathy Sirois:**

Preparing and evaluating young dogs to enter Service Dog training.

**Sharon Dunning:**

Pet Emergency Evacuation Information

## **Volunteer Position Open**

The Pet Club is growing with a current membership of over 700 members. We are continuously adding new programs to make the Pet Club more exciting and interesting to accommodate our growing membership.

In order to do this, we need fun, organized, dedicated volunteers to assist our program leaders.

At this time, we are creating a new position.

### **Events Assistant**

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact

Ruth Olsen at

[6pawstraining@gmail.com](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com)



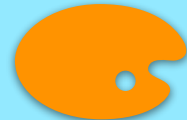
## **New Resource List!!**

### **Custom Pet Portraits and Art**

*A list of local artists*

Click on Pet Club Website, Click on Resources

If you would like to add your name to the list of artists or know anyone who would, please email Alan at [alankamen5253@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen5253@icloud.com)



**President:**  
Alan Kamen

**Treasurer:**  
Karen Davenport

**Lead Dog Trainer &  
Special Projects/Events:  
Ruth Olsen**

## Snake Avoidance: Amy Cavaness

**Donations:**  
Diane Daniel

**Webmaster:**  
Ginny Patterson

## Pet Emergency Evacuation: Sharon Dunning

## Sign onto the Sun City Website

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

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**ONLY DOGS LIVING  
WITH AND OWNED  
BY A PET CLUB  
MEMBER MAY TAKE  
CLASSES.**

[illegible]

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       |
|----------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 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](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com) or 512 639 1771



## New Resident Orientation/Club Fairs

# Pet Club Open House Photos

Photos taken by Anne Marshall

January 16, 2023



\$1,500 Gift Card donation to All Thins Wild



Boudreaux loves being fed!



# 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 for either a  
Lost Pet or a Found Pet.



# AKC's Canine Courtesy

Clean up after your dog, whether in your yard or in a public place.  
People take pride in a clean community.

Train your dog to avoid excessive barking.  
Barking dogs can become a nuisance to the neighborhood.

Keep your dog on a leash when walking anywhere outside your home.  
People appreciate well-mannered dogs who are under control.

Make sure your dog does not run loose in the neighborhood.  
It's dangerous for the dog and the community.

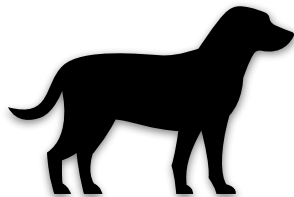
Teach your dog to accept friendly strangers, such as neighbors  
and delivery people.  
No one likes to be greeted by a noisy, snarling dog.

Keep your dog clean and well groomed. People appreciate dogs without fleas.

Take necessary precautions to assure your dog does no  
harm to your neighbor's gardens or property.  
This will make for a better friendship and save you money.

Confine your dogs to prevent unwanted litters.

Help your dog become a Canine Good Citizen!





# Dog Training Tip

## Training Treats

Thankfully, almost every dog I've met is willing to do things for a piece of kibble, and is even more excited to work for a little piece of chicken or cheese. You can take full advantage of your dog's desire for food if you go about it in the right way. Treats are just one tool in our dog training toolkit and a very powerful one.

Food is used as a reinforcer when training your dog. A reinforcer is something that causes the frequency of an action (or inaction) to increase. For example, every time you reinforce a sit position with a reward, you are increasing the likelihood that your dog will sit more often. On the negative side, if you constantly give the dog a treat to stop them from barking, you are actually training them to bark more! Pay attention to WHY you are treating him.

There are plenty of types of treats to choose from: dry, semi-moist, freeze-dried, cooked, or raw. Soft treats usually work best for training sessions because your dog doesn't need to take much time to chew, and they are less likely to crumble and fall on the floor, which distracts your dog from the task at hand.

**Jackpots.** When you are trying to reinforce a skill your dog is struggling with, throw a jackpot when he does it correctly. Give him 5, 6, 7 small treats at a time really fast. This is a great reinforcer.

**Timing.** Have the treat ready in your hand before asking your dog to perform. The treat should be given in less than 5 seconds or before the dog changes position. Asking your dog to sit and giving the treat after they stand up is confusing and teaching him that the SIT action is standing.

**YES!** Dogs love hand signals and respond to them quickly. As soon as your dog does the required skill, nod your fist (not the whole arm) up and down (like nodding your head yes). And say YES in a happy voice. That marks the action and gives you time to give him a treat....or not!

## 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)

## **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.

## **Club Dates to Save:**

**March 8:** **General Meeting**

**Guest Speakers:** Sharon Dunning, Pet Emergency Evacuation Information. and.....

**Kathy Sirois**, 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.

**April 22:** **Pet Partners Treats and Sweets Sale**

**April 29:** **Snake Avoidance**

**May 5:** **General Meeting**

Guest Speaker: TBD

**June 24:** **Snake Avoidance**

**Sept. 27:** **General Meeting**

Guest Speaker: TBD

**Oct. 3:** **Blessing of the Animals**

**Oct. 9:** **Club Lunch Social**

**November 10:** **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**

# Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers

## Cat Behaviors Cont.

### No they don't take you for bread dough

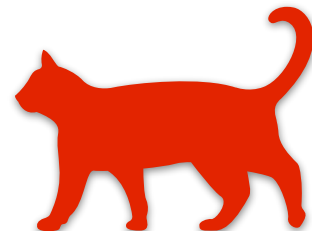
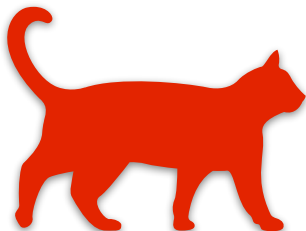
It most certainly isn't because they worked in a pizzeria in a past life. A newborn kitten's initial impulse is to press on its mother's teats while consuming her milk in order to stimulate her body to create more milk. Even as adults, they retain this kneading motion. Adult cats do this when they identify the comforts of their mother with a soft surface (or your body). There are theories which state that cats do this to express happiness and contentment or to ease tension.

### They see me rollin'

There's something about a fluffy cat that just rolls around the house. They roll around on the ground on their backs for a variety of reasons, but they only do so when they are fully relaxed, as baring their belly is exposing it to threats. They could just be scratching their backs and stretching their muscles, or they could be trying to involve you in a game. Rolling is also a technique for them to mark their territory, as their scent is left on the surface area where they roll around.

### Silent treatment

When compared to typical dogs, most cats have a sense of pride and self-importance that is characteristic of their nature. They recognize their name and the voice of their owner, but unlike dogs, they do not respond immediately when called. Cats prefer to show affection when they want, rather than when you want. If they are not seeking attention when you call them, they won't answer. Nothing to worry about as your cat will approach you when it's playtime.



## .....more about Cat Behavior

### **When they get flashbacks into the past in the night**

As cat owners, we love our charges. We love showering them with affection. But when they try their hand at opera singing in the middle of the night, just after you fell asleep, it really makes you reconsider your life choices. These sounds could be a result of the cat attempting to hunt, or they could be cries of unhappiness if no prey can be located. If you can play with your cat while you are awake, it will be tired when you go to sleep.

### **Let sleeping cats lie**

Turns out, there's a reason why your kitten wants to have forty winks, irrespective of the time of the day. It's because, during sleep, their bodies release the growth hormones needed for their development. That's why kittens sleep more than adults. Cats usually sleep a lot because they need to save their energy for the next hunt or activity. Like us, they also fall asleep when they're bored and there's nothing to do. So, if you want to engage it, play with it.

### **Teething**

Pica is a condition in which cats chew on non-food items such as plastic and other non-food items. Without resorting to restricting its freedom, you should take your cat to the veterinarian if it is gnawing on non-food objects frequently. While researchers aren't sure what causes pica, they believe it could be due to caloric issues or stress and worry. Cats chew on things that aren't food to relieve stress. In the long run, your cat's digestive system can be harmed by this.

### **Bumming you out**

There you are at home, on your sofa. You try to cuddle your cat but it keeps on escaping your loving grasp and keeps presenting you with its fluffy bum. What have you done this time to deserve this... gesture from your cat? Lifting their tails and shoving their rump in your face may appear rude, but it's actually a sign of faith and devotion. They show that they are friendly and willing to interact with you by lifting their tails. In a way, it's a compliment!

### **Loo Patrol**

You come home after a pretty eventful Friday night at the pub with your crew. We all know what beer can do to a person so you get up to go to the loo and your tabby also follows you like your bodyguard. Some researchers say that cats follow owners where they go when they feel vulnerable. Some say cats do this because they are curious by nature. Maybe they're smart enough to know that your attention will be on them if they're also in the bathroom with you.

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