

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

April, 2023
Volume 2, Issue 4
Membership to date:
789

Message from the President,

It's getting that time of year in Central Texas. The potential for severe weather is upon us, and we should be ready at any moment to take precautions and make provisions in case you need to evacuate your home or shelter in place. This includes taking care of your pets. I've included in this newsletter information from the Emergency Evacuation Committee about the centers in Sun City that will take pets and how to prepare a GRAB n' GO Bag for your pet. You never know when an emergency will occur, and you should be ready to evacuate or take shelter with everything you need for yourself and your pet when you have only minutes to prepare.

If anyone has any questions, you can contact our Pet Emergency Leader, Sharon Dunning at sldunning110@gmail.com Sharon is also looking for volunteers to join her team to assist when an emergency occurs.

Emergency Pet Evacuation information is also on the Pet Club website.

Be ready for anything to happen anytime!

Alan Kamen

President, Pet Club



Canine Companions Organization

Preparing Puppies and Dogs for Service Dog Training

This past General Meeting we had very informative guest speakers and club members, Kathy and Wayne Sirois. They prepare puppies and dogs to be able to take the next step into Service Dog Training. Kathy and Wayne Sirois work with Canine Companions.

Below is information about what Canine Companions does and an explanation about puppy raisers and puppy sitters.

"Canine Companions provides service dogs free-of-charge to adults, children and veterans with a disability and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings. Volunteer puppy raisers and sitters are critical to the success of the program.

Website www.canine.org

A puppy raiser receives a puppy at 8 weeks of age and raises them until they are 14 months old, at which time they go to the Canine Companion training center in Irving, Texas for advanced training and placement with a disabled person.

Puppy sitters are familiar with the protocols for raising a Canine Companion and provide a very important service for raisers by taking the dogs for short periods of time when raisers need to travel, etc. It is a wonderful way to help the program without fully committing to raising a puppy.



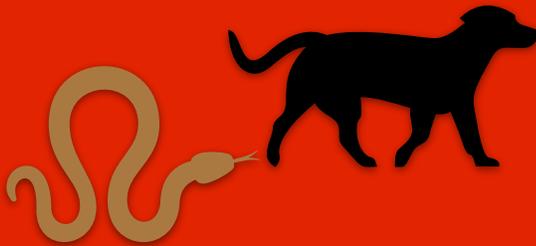
If anyone has questions about the program, is interested in becoming a Puppy Raiser or a Puppy Sitter or want more information about Canine Companions, please contact Kathy Sirois at wcsiroids@aol.com

The Pet Club donated a \$250 Gift Card from Wag Heaven to Wayne and Kathy to assist them with raising pups and we made a \$250 donation directly to Canine Companions. The Pet Club has decided to support this cause as we do with Pet Partners Therapy Dog Training.



Snake Avoidance

Our next Snake Avoidance day is Saturday, April 29. Tickets for Rattlesnake Avoidance Training go on sale starting April 10 at 9 a.m. either online or at the Resident Services office in the Texas Drive Social Center. Copperhead and Water Moccasin snakes will also be available for testing. Cost is \$70 per dog per snake. This important training to help protect your pet is only available to Pet Club Members. For more information, contact Amy Cavaness at 815-216-0428 or Alan Kamen at 409-354-1292.



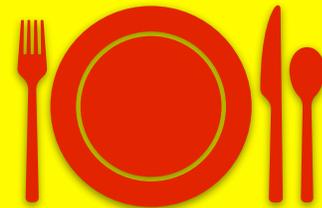
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Program

Starting this year, we are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch for any Pet Club member who is an **active volunteer for two or more events.**

We are keeping records of all who volunteer so we don't miss you. For this year, we started keeping track since October of 2022 of anyone who has volunteered.

Be an active volunteer and get invited to the Appreciation Lunch!

The 2023 Luncheon will be in November.



New Resource List!



Custom Pet Portraits and Pet Art

Click on Pet Club Website, Click on Resources, Click on Custom Pet Portraits

If you would like to add your name to the list of artists or know anyone who does, please email Alan at alankamen5253@icloud.com

**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

Leaders:

Dog Training:
Ruth Olsen

Snake Avoidance:
Amy Cavaness

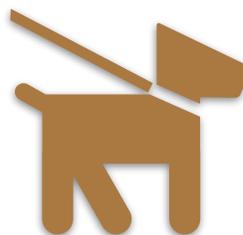
All About Cats:
Karyn Beavers

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.



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



Training Class 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 |
|----------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 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

Looking for a **Pet Sitter?**

**CLICK On
Resources**

Click on **PET SITTING LIST**

Also under Resources, you will find.....

Kennels, Vets, Groomers, Rescues, 24 hour
Vets, Dog Trainers, archived Newsletters
and much more.....

Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

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

These alerts go only to those who opt in, currently about 900 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
Pet Club 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.



APPENDIX J
PET EVACUATION CENTER INFORMATION

In the event of an emergency/disaster, Sun City Residents with pets need to have a plan that includes provisions to care for their animal(s). Based on the size and nature of the event, a short-term Pet Evacuation Center will be opened and staffed with volunteers to provide information and assist in identifying resources for continued care if needed.

Due to health and safety regulations, residents with pets and those without pets will be in distinct Evacuation Centers. The primary Pet Evacuation Center will be located in the Texas Dr Activity Center. In the event an alternate site is needed, the Incident Management Team will designate where this will be located. In accordance with the Texas and ADA laws, **ONLY Service Dogs** will be permitted in Sun City Evacuation Centers. All others, including emotional support and therapy animals, will be directed to the Pet Evacuation Center. Although not required by the ADA, a blue vest, ID tag, etc. may help identify a service dog.

Upon arrive at a Pet Evacuation Center you will be asked to provide your name, address, the name of your pet(s) and any other helpful information about your pet. After registering, you and your pet(s) will stay together.

Pet Grab ‘n Go Bag

Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit (Pet Grab ‘n Go Bag) which is easily accessible in the event you must leave home quickly. Bring your pet's Grab ‘n Go bag containing the following items with you: ID tags, leash, harness or collar, veterinary records, pet medications, food and/or treats, water, bowls and can opener if needed. You will also need to include trash bags, flashlight, kitty litter and container for cats. If possible, bring a crate or travel carrier for your pet.

Pet Center Rules

ALL animals must be leashed or in a carrier or crate.

All dogs and cats must wear a collar with a current rabies tag. Animals appearing ill will not be permitted in the center.

Owners or designate must remain with and control their pets at all times.

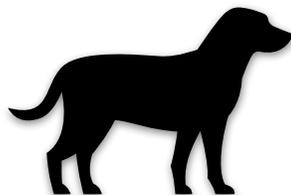
Animals displaying aggressive behavior will not be permitted to remain in the Center.

Owners shall be responsible for clean up in the event of an accident

Pet Preparedness

Pet owners should view pet-friendly long-term evacuation centers as a last resort and are encouraged to locate and arrange a safe location, such as a pet-friendly motel or a relative's home, where they will evacuate with their pet(s). Alternatively, they can make arrangements to board their pet(s) at a kennel or veterinary clinic outside the emergency/disaster area.

Appendix K



Emergency Pet Grab 'n Go Bag



Pet Grab 'n Go Bag – (Emergency Supply Kit)

Create a personal emergency plan that includes provisions to care for your animals. Use an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack, duffle bag or plastic storage bin and include the following basic survival items to keep your pet happy and comfortable.

- Rabies tag and ID tag that includes a contact person's name, address and phone number.
- Leash and harness or collar.
- Pet medications and first aid kit (cotton bandage rolls, tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution).
- Veterinary records with proof of vaccinations, registration and adoption documents.
- At least a 3- day supply of pet food (in an airtight, waterproof container), water, bowls and can opener.
- Kitty litter and container for cats, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach.
- Crate or pet carrier (a sturdy, safe crate or carrier large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down) labeled with your pet's name, your name and information about how to reach you.
- A picture of you and your pet together to prove ownership (add species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics)
- Familiar items (treats, toys and bedding can help reduce stress for your pet)

Revised: 6/2020

Dog Training Tip

How to let your dog know they are doing the right thing

YES! Dogs need to know when they do something right - and when they do something wrong. NO is not an action word and does not tell our dogs what we actually want them to do. So, when they do something wrong, first tell them what you want them to do. Example, they decide to eat your TV remote control. Instead of yelling NO, you tell them SIT and then reward them for doing it. (Meanwhile you have learned - put the remote control out of reach!).

Most of us usually say "good dog" once the dog releases the remote control. Honestly, we say that just because we love them and it does not mark the skill they are doing.

When you are trying to train skills (commands such as sit, down, stay, come, leave it, walk, drop it), the dog needs to know immediately when they have done the correct action - within 3 seconds! Treats are generally the 'thing' to use to reward your dog, but let's be honest, we usually treat them too late. If you told your dog SIT and the dog did it correctly, they may stand up while waiting for you to dig their treat out of your pocket. OOPS, now SIT means STAND because that is the position the dog is in when it got the treat.

How to prevent that? Easy! Say "YES". Use both the word and hand signal immediately when the dog performs the skill on command. We like to teach our dogs with hand signals. The hand signal for "Yes" is to make a fist and nod your hand down and up 1 time (just like nodding your head). Make sure the dog sees it. You don't need to nod it a lot - once is sufficient. The next thing you know you will begin nodding your hand to your spouse and friends too!

If the dog is just relaxing and behaving, tell them YES and nod that hand. When walking if they are polite and not pulling, nod the hand closest to the dog once, the feeling goes through the leash to the neck ware.

So YES, using the right word and action will MARK the action the dog has done and makes training easier and faster. Training Tip: by Ruth Olsen

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

Club Dates to Save:

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*



“After watching the news, I’m curious as to why humans are higher up on the food chain than us.”

Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers

Cat Behaviors

Thanks for the dead mouse...I guess?

Nothing like finding a dead mouse near your feet to put you off for the day. It's a good thing that the cat is a pest reducer. But seeing that as the first thing in the morning can make you question your cat's conduct. You are most likely adopted as an honorary cat if this is done to you. They learn this from their mothers. It's also possible that your cat is thanking you for taking care of it or seeking attention for itself.

Head against the wall

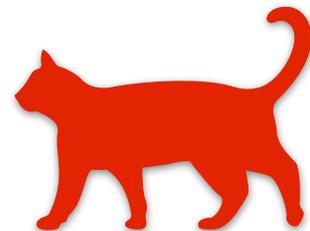
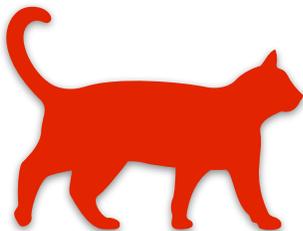
You know how you press your head against the wall when you feel extremely frustrated? Turns out that cats also have a version of the same behavior where they just randomly press their heads against the walls. Maybe they saw you doing it and picked up from that. If this habit is accompanied by unusual sounds the cat doesn't usually make, take the cat to a vet as soon as possible as it's not normal. It could be a symptom of nerve damage caused by trauma, poisoning, growth, or another reason.

Dispose their waste by burying it

Another reason cats seem to be more hygienic than their dog friends is, whenever they go toilet, they make sure to bury their waste in the litter box. Or if it's a wild cat, it makes sure to hide it with dirt. Wild cats do this to mask their scent from predators and to blend in with their group. If they don't hide their poo, that's a problem. If they don't it could be because they have a sickness, anxiety, not liking the litter box given to them, etc.

What's with cats and our feet?

If you're a tall person, there's nothing like having good leg space when you're resting. Added bonus would be to keep your legs up. There you are minding your own business when out of nowhere your cat starts to pounce on your feet. They're just practicing their jumps and attacks and this isn't aggression. Cats look for a game when they get bored because most of them are very playful. Just interest them in a squeaky toy if you want to save your feet.



.....more about Cat Behavior

Chilling

Cats have really perfected that royal relaxing pose. They chill like they literally own the place and you are the pet. When done correctly they look beautiful with all their fluff on display and that's because they feel comfortable with you around. Trust is in the air if your cat rests like this. When that trust is high, they become vulnerable and expose their bellies to you. If your cat does this frequently, it means that it's having the time of its life with you.

Getting buzzed on catnip

Catnip is a leafy plant related to mint that doesn't appear to be anything special. Some cats go absolutely bonkers when they are near the plant. Catnip doesn't only affect small cats; it is shown to buzz lions and tigers as well. Nepetalactone, the chemical in catnip, stimulates the sensors in cat noses. This sensation gives nearly 70% of cats a trip and extreme joy. During the ten minutes that the high lasts, they will be very active, drool, and make funky sounds.

“Happy kitty, sleepy kitty, purr, purr, purr”

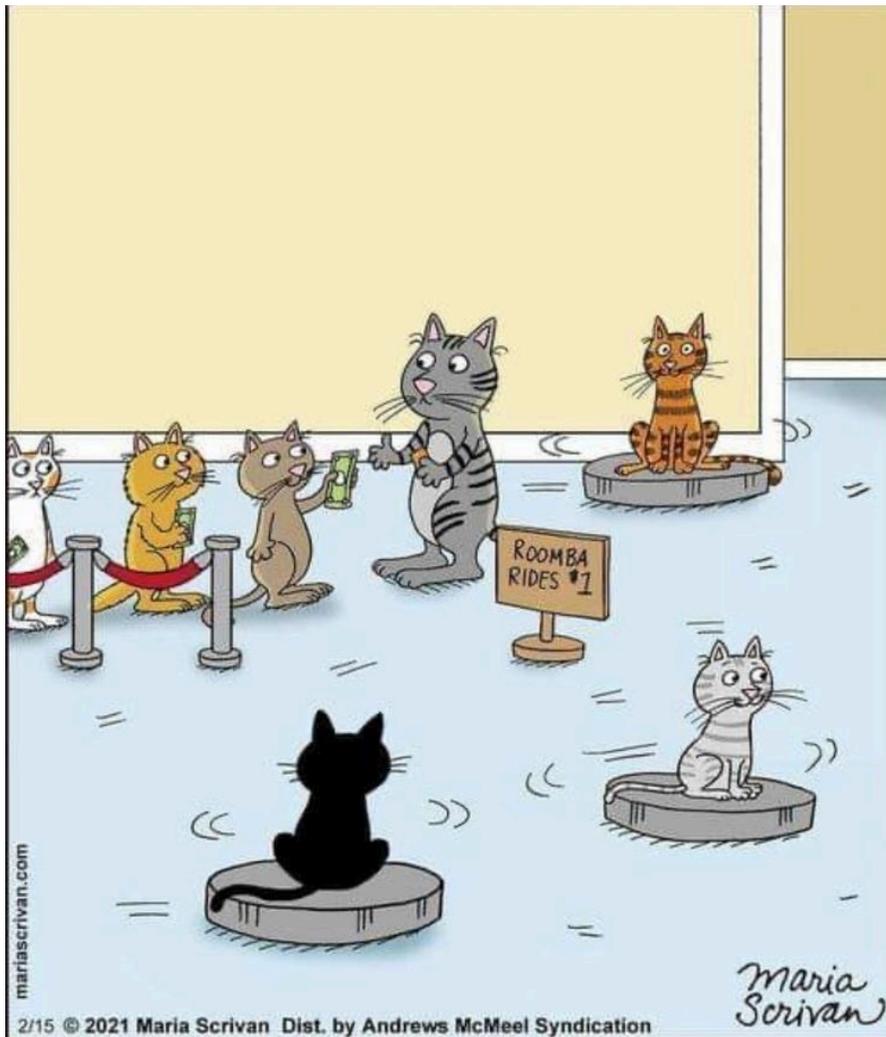
Hearing your pet cat purr like an industrial-grade machine working in perfect order is really something else. It's quite satisfying, to be honest. It doubles when they just arch their tiny bodies and purr nonstop. Small mercies are the best. Apart from being happy and satisfied, purring has a lot of meaning. Cats also purr to communicate and to calm themselves down when stressed or anxious. That steady purring and that vibration can really calm them and their owners down.

Four feet always touching the floor

Cats are well-known for landing on all fours when they jump or fall. They possess additional vertebrae in their spine, resulting in a suppleness that allows them to contort their bodies when landing. This is why they always land on their feet. Cats are born with this ability and they perfect it by when they are about six to seven weeks old. They have light bodies and bones, matted fur, and a sense of balance that can go toe to toe with any gymnast.

Ear flutter

Cats use their ears to communicate. Sometimes their ears have markings to aid this. When cats start twitching their ears to and fro, it usually indicates that they are nervous or disturbed, and you should be cautious around them. If their ears point straight forward, that cat is a happy and content cat. A sign that it's irritated or scared is when the ears are backward or flat against the head. This means it's time to take action. They could be warning you about danger afoot, and not just annoyed with you.



Bulletin Board

A club member has a dog that was diagnosed with Diabetes and she would like to communicate with others who's pet has the same issue. If you can share anything, please contact Sheilah Kernan at s.kernan@sbcglobal.net

(Pet Club Policy Reminders)

Re-Homing Pets

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 put that request on our Newsletter Bulletin Board for Pet Club Members.

While we would like to help everyone, our primary responsibility is to serve our members and their personal pets. We cannot put the burden of re-homing pets from everyone in Sun City on only Pet Club members, who almost all have a pet already.

Ticket Refunds

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. Please be careful when purchasing tickets to any event or dog training class to avoid the refund fee.

