

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

## "The Scoop"

May, 2023  
Volume 2, Issue 5  
Membership to date:  
822

Message from the President,

### The Lost Pet and Found Pet System

The Lost and Found Pet System was started just over a year ago by Gary Kramer/NRO, myself and Allen Lovins with the Sun City I.T. Department. This has been a huge success to assist locating lost pets. Currently, we have 900 residents (not all Pet Club Members) who have opted in to receive the Lost Pet Report. We need many more residents to opt in, so please inform your neighbors and friends! Instructions on how to Opt In is listed below in this Newsletter. You don't need to be a Pet Club member to Opt In. Every Sun City resident can do it!!

Since July 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, we have received 19 Lost Pet Reports and 12 Found Pet Reports. Found pets are pets found wandering loose and captured or located by a resident. Most of the lost pets are cats. We have residents who let their cats out on purpose to roam free, then when their cat does not return, they report it "lost." PLEASE do not let your cats out, then expect everyone to look for it, besides, it is against CA policies. We live in an area where wild animals also live and thrive, so, when cats roam free, especially at night, they can become part of the food chain.

We have reunited many lost pets with their owners thanks to all who have opted in to help.

**Total Lost and Found Reports since July 1, 2022:** 31 Lost and Found reports received over 9 months = 3+ reports a month, 1 a week!

Alan Kamen

President, Pet Club

P.S. Anyone seen my pet Dino?



## Miscellaneous Information

### May 5: **Pet Club General Meeting**

Florence/Georgetown Room, Cowan Creek Amenity Center. 1:30 p.m.

**Guest Speakers:** Georgetown Fire Dept. with their Fire House dog, Koda, and the Georgetown Police Canine Unit, the first Canine Unit in Georgetown's history.

## How To Ensure Both Members of a Household receive The Pet Club Emails

After one member of a household joins the Pet Club, the 2nd member must also go online and check the second box. The membership fee is \$12 per household and is only charged once. **Both boxes must be checked for both people to receive emails.**

Pet Club

\$ 12.00 / \$ 12.00

  
ADD

  
ADD



### 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 pet portraits or pet art,

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

# Why Tag, License and Chip Your Pet

It's not if, but when, your pet could become missing. When this happens, panic sets in, what do you do? You make frantic calls to local shelters, put up posters in local businesses, contact your Neighborhood Rep, you fill out the Lost Pet form on the Sun City Website, call the Pet Club, and go to other lost pet websites. The Fire Department also gets involved if a pet is found wandering a neighborhood. At this point, there can be about a 1,000 people trying to help you find your pet!

One thing you can do to reunite with your lost pet quickly is make sure they are chipped, tagged and also licensed through the City of Georgetown. The license is **FREE** if you are 65 or older and your pet is neutered/fixed. If not, it is only \$5 per pet. Keep a collar with your license or ID tags on your pet **AT ALL TIMES**, even when in the house. If your pet gets loose, and has its tags on, it helps find the owner much faster.

If your pet gets loose and has NO ID, and is not chipped, it then takes an army of caring people trying to find the owner. If an owner cannot be located and your pet ends up in a local shelter without identification, it can end up being adopted out.

Licensing your pet is easy; go to [georgetown.org](http://georgetown.org) and fill out the form online. You will receive your pet's license in the mail. Check with your vet about getting your pet chipped. The Georgetown Animal Shelter also provides this chip service for \$20.

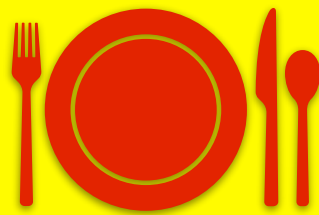
Click on Link to access License Form and fill out on line:

[https://cityofgeorgetowntx.formstack.com/forms/pet\\_licenses](https://cityofgeorgetowntx.formstack.com/forms/pet_licenses)

# Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

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 per year. 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.

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





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
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

# 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

## Emergency Pet Information

...and more!

[dogfoodadvisor.com](http://dogfoodadvisor.com)

This site reviews dog food brands, has pet information and sends out recall alerts that you may not see anywhere else.

If you would like to receive information and notifications, go to

[dogfoodadvisor.com](http://dogfoodadvisor.com)

and subscribe.

## Pet Club Activities

**Look for days and times in our  
upcoming newsletters and email blasts**

## Jan.: Pet Club Open House

**Jan.: C.A. Club Fair**

**March, May, Sept.: General Meetings with a Guest Speaker**

**April, June, Sept.: Snake Avoidance**

## Oct.: Blessing of the Animals

## Oct.: Members' Lunch Social

**Nov.: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch New!**

**Nov.: Pet Partners Therapy  
Dog Demonstration **New!****

## Dec.: Salvation Army Bell Ringing

## Dog Training Classes

## Rally O Classes **New!**

## AKC Canine Good Citizen Program **New!**

## Fear-Based Leash Reactivity Training **New!**

## Dog Q&A and Puppy Seminars

## Pet Partners Therapy Dog Workshops and Evaluations

## Canine Companions Service Dog Puppy Sitters and Puppy Raisers Assistance **Now!**

## New Resident Orientation/Club Fairs

# 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.



# Dog Park Update

As everyone knows by now, the Pet Club is working with the Community Association to manage the Sun City Blvd. Dog Park and make it a **Pet Club Amenity for members only and their guests**. We are putting together a cost analysis of what we are asking the CA to pay for and what the Pet Club will contribute. We are working hard putting our proposal together to make the May 17, 2023, deadline for requesting Capital Improvement Funds for 2024. There are no guarantees, but we are putting our best plans and ideas together for a mutually beneficial situation. I will be presenting the details we have so far at our Pet Club General Meeting on May 5 in the **Florence/Georgetown Room, Cowan Creek Amenity Center, 1:30 p.m.**

## Wanted! Additional Pet Club Vice President to Manage the Dog Park

As we pursue the possibility of the Dog Park becoming a Pet Club amenity, we are seeking a second Vice President to help plan and eventually manage the Dog Park. We want this person to be involved from the ground up. Desired traits include communication and organizational skills, work well with volunteers, and basic computer skills such as using word processing and spreadsheets.

We have researched dog parks in other Sun Cities, and how they are managed, so there is much information to share with interested candidates. This is an opportunity to put your stamp on the first Pet Club amenity and a potentially very rewarding experience.

If anyone is interested and would like to apply for this Pet Club position, have questions or want more information, please email me at [alankamen5253@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen5253@icloud.com)

Alan Kamen

President, Pet Club



## AKC Canine Good Citizen

Congratulations to our newest Canine Good Citizens! Recently 7 teams took the CGC Intermediate class which ends with taking the CGC evaluation with evaluators, Betty Studzinski and Ruth Olsen, and their helpers, David Hubbell and Pam Sarantos. Although the handlers were stressed, the dogs were cool, relaxed and performed like true pros! The Canine Good Citizen evaluation is often one of the first steps in the ladder of achievements for the American Kennel Club.

Your dog does not need to be a pure bred, or even registered with AKC to take this class and evaluation. During the 3-week class, the teams go over each test item and learn what skills the dog (or handler) still needs to work on in order to pass their evaluation. Skills include friendly greeting, sitting still for pets, sit, down, stay, come, leave it, walk politely on a leash, walk through a crowd and a separation from the handler. The last week of classes is the individual evaluation. The dogs must be solid in all the commands to be ready to take the class/evaluation.

If you are interested in the CGC Intermediate class, contact Ruth.  
[6pawstraining@gmail.com](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com)



## 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)

## Club Dates to Save:

**May 5:** **General Meeting** Florence/Georgetown Room, Cowan Creek Amenity Center. 1:30 p.m.

### **Guest Speakers:**

**GT Fire Dept.** with their Fire House dog, Koda, and the **GT Police Canine Unit**, first Canine Unit in Georgetown's history.

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

**Sept. 23:** **Snake Avoidance**

**Sept. 27:** **General Meeting** Guest Speaker: TBD

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

**Oct. 9:** **Club Lunch Social / Fund Raiser**

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

## Donations YTD:

WILCO:	\$738
All Things Wild:	\$1,500
GTAS:	\$200
Harley's Angels:	\$500
LGCR:	\$500
THH:	\$643
Austin Siamese Rescue:	\$500
R.O.C.K.	\$500
Canine Companions:	\$500
Community Assoc:	\$1,050
<b>YTD Total:</b>	<b>\$6,631</b>

# Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers

## Cat Behaviors

### **Grazing cats**

Our moms used to say that cats have knowledge about what medicines they need when they are sick. But what medicinal property is in the grass? They eat grass with such a look of sourness on their face, we feel sorry for them. Cats use grass as a way of self-purging if they have digestive problems. Plus, most of the grass species have folic acid which the cats need in their diet. So, if your cat is chewing on grass, just make sure it's fresh.

### **If the tail swishes, keep away**

Dogs wag their tails to show that they are happy. That makes us happy too when we see it. Cats don't wag their tails to express their joy. So if you see their tails going backward and forward, be alert - kitty's not in a good mood. So, the best thing to do here is to let it be. It will calm down in its own time. But, if you happen to see the tail twitching and jumping, that means it's pretty excited about something and is very attentive.

### **Clamping down on you**

Cats are born predators. Nature has gifted them with a sharp set of retractable claws and sharp teeth which look like needles. No wonder it smarts when they bite you. Actually, there are a number of reasons for this behavior. Cats bite because they might be trying to tell you that they're angry or stressed, they're afraid and therefore defensive, or it's feeling playful. Wild cats use biting as a method of expression so, in a way, it's quite natural.

### **Pushing stuff onto the ground**

There you are, calm as a cucumber, sitting on the table. You're halfway through your work when you hear a loud clattering sound. The culprit is your tabby, who just thought to push your water bottle off the table. Mission accomplished! Scientists actually say that they do this because of their hunting instinct. It is in their nature to play with their prey to work on their hunting skills. Plus they get bored really easily. What better way to get someone's attention than to make some noise.



## .....more about Cat Behavior

### **Nail biting**

People bite their nails out of habit. For those of us with this habit, we do it because we're stressed or anxious about something. Expecting results of a test is always a real nail-biter. But why would cats do it? Even among cats, nail-biting is a sign that they're nervous or just plain bored. Could also be a grooming tactic. If your cat excessively nibbles at its nails, maybe show it to a vet because it could be from an infection or a parasite.

### **Am I hearing a tire puncture or a snake?**

Usually, people seem to understand that if a cat hisses at them, they should back away. Yes, cats hiss whenever they're angered, but they will also hiss whenever they're fearful or anxious. Let's dig a little bit deeper into this behavior. If a cat perceives you or some other human or animal as a threat, it will hiss. If your cat begins to hiss, what should you do? Keep your distance and let it cool down. It'll be okay in a while.

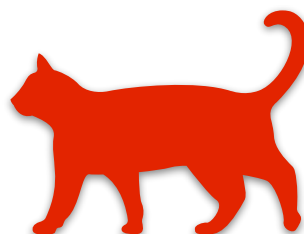
### **Scratch - Scratch**

We have all read scary examples of people returning home to discover their plush furniture ripped to shreds by a clawing cat. However, if your cat is trashing your belongings, purchase a scratching toy or a scratching post for your feline baby instead. So why do your beloved pets have these destructive habits? There are three reasons as to why. Firstly, to remove dead cells from their claws. Secondly, to mark their area with their scent. Thirdly, to stretch their bodies because as we discussed, it does feel good.

### **When they move from the litter box to the living room**

Like that one behavior where we discussed cats leaving around dead animals as gifts, nothing gets a cat owner's mood down than seeing cats doing their business outside the litter box. You do not want to start your day by stepping on cat droppings. This unhealthy behavior can be a sign of a problem. The cat might not like its litterbox or the litter you have used there. Maybe it wants the box in another location. If they continue this even after changing the litter box, seek a vet.

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



# Edible Hazards for Dogs

from [dogfoodadvisor.com](http://dogfoodadvisor.com)

Cooked bones, which are a **common cause of choking** — whether the remains of a delicious roast chicken dinner have been carelessly left lying around, or someone has directly fed them to a dog unaware of the risks.

Rawhide products, too, can splinter. What makes this worse is that they become slimy and hard to grab with your fingers if they get lodged in your dog's throat. (This is why **you'll never find rawhide products** on our [Best Dog Treats](#) or [Best Dental Chews](#) lists.)

**Senior dogs**, some of whom are minus a few teeth, are particularly susceptible to choking because they find it harder to chew — something we take into account when picking our [Best Senior Dog Foods](#) list.

There's poisoning, too. From casually discarded human foods like **chocolate and raisins**, to household cleaning products.

At this time of year, there's an additional danger lurking: **Spring bulbs and flowers**. Almost all bulbs — and the flowers that grow from them — are potentially poisonous to dogs.

I mean, all kinds of accidents can occur due to dogs' curiosity and, let's face it, gluttony. If your dog is anything like mine, they'd literally walk over broken glass to get to a discarded pizza slice.

But would I know what to do in an emergency? Yesterday, the answer was probably no. Luckily, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has this [very handy guide to pet first aid basics](#).



It's worth a read.

The Dog Food Advisor: [dogfoodadvisor.com](http://dogfoodadvisor.com)

# Dog Training Tip

by Ruth Olsen

## The Power of a Special Word

Leave it! Come! - We all know what that means to our dogs, and our dogs know (or are learning) what the action is that goes with that word. BUT, do you and your dog understand the word/action means the same thing regardless of the environment or situation or distraction? Possibly not.

A reward is anything the dog likes - a pet, a hug, a dog treat, a piece of their kibble. Quite often we give the same treat no matter what the command is.

Leave It and Come are two of the most frequently used commands for a large variety of situations. Leave it can mean a squirrel, a deer, pills on the floor, anything you don't want the dog to touch. Come means get here to me now.

In some cases, especially with come, the dog does not need to run to you, just come in your direction while stopping to sniff the weeds, but still basically moving towards you. With Leave it, it only means that object currently in front of them, one acorn at a time, not ALL acorns.

But what if the LEAVE IT or COME is for an emergency? It is serious and you need an immediate response from your dog.

An emergency COME should be a different word and treat - something only used for that instance. I talked about the CHEESE command I use for come, along with giving the dogs American cheese slices ONLY when I reward them for following this command. It works.

For an emergency LEAVE IT - you don't need to change the word, but maybe your tone of voice - sharper, louder, more commanding ... immediately followed by a command you want them to do - such as Sit.

My dog caught a squirrel and was playing catch with it (only the squirrel was not playing back!). I called my dog's name and said LEAVE IT CHEESE loud, clear and sharp. The dog dropped the squirrel, ran into the house and sat at the refrigerator (the spot designated) immediately. It worked like a charm. I will admit to two things - first, the training was not overnight, it took a while, and two, well, let's not discuss the fate of the squirrel.