

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Exclusive to Pet Club Members

Archived on the Pet Club website

Editor: Pam Hull, pam-ed-hull@msn.com

President: Alan Kamen, alankamen5253@icloud.com

July 15, 2022

Volume 1, Issue 6

2022 Club Information YTD

Membership: 748

Purchased Donations to Shelters: over \$12,500

**Collected items donated to shelters and members:
Value, over \$5,000**



Lost and Found Pet Alert Program

The Pet Club and the NRO have teamed up to provide a Sun City-Wide Lost Pet Alert System.

Report a Lost Pet: Click on the Lost Pet Icon on the SC Resident Home page, or on the Pet Club or NRO Website. Follow the instructions to fill out the lost pet form, it will go to everyone who Opted In.

To make it successful, we would appreciate all Pet Members **Opt In** to receive the email alerts. During this transition period, you may receive this notice twice. **Please do not Opt Out!** The sooner we get at least 1,000 residents to **Opt In**, the sooner we will use **only** the Sun City Wide System.

PLEASE OPT IN!!

To **Opt In**, follow these simple steps.

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

Dog Training Class Ticket Sales:

Email alert reminders will go out from Ruth Olsen when tickets go on sale for all training classes. For any information pertaining to dog training classes, dog issues or Pet Partners Team Evaluations, contact Ruth Olsen at 6pawstraining@gmail.com

Upcoming Training Classes and Events

AUGUST:

8/11: Dog Q&A

8/11: Puppy Seminar

Ticket Sales for the 8/11 Dog Q&A and Puppy Seminars go on sale July 21. Times and location will be announced about 1-2 weeks before tickets are available.

8/13: Pet Partners Therapy Team Evaluations

Volunteers Needed, Contact Ruth Olsen at 6pawstraining@gmail.com

8/18: New Resident Orientation and Club Fair:

Sun City Ball Room: 8am

SEPTEMBER: Training Classes

There will be 7 dog training semesters (3 classes = 1 semester) offered in September. An email blast will be sent out soon describing the type of classes being offered and when.

9/10: Snake Aversion

Tickets go on sale in August. Look for the email announcement. This will be the last session for 2022.

9/14: Pet Club General Meeting

Guest Speaker: R.O.C.K.

Florence/Georgetown Room in CC Amenity Center. 9:30am

Snake Aversion

The Pet Club offers three Snake Aversion sessions a year, Spring, Summer and Fall for members only. We hire Winter Kennels out of Burnet to come to Sun City with their live snakes. The dogs are taught through a shock collar system to be afraid of Rattlesnakes. There is a \$70 fee for first timers and re-testing is \$10. Re-testing is to see if your dog retained what was taught. The next Snake Aversion is on September 10. An email blast will go out in August to sign up for the September session. This will be the last one for 2022.



Photos by: Ann Marshall



A Great Story

The dog in the photo above was found wandering loose without a collar in N49. A good neighbor was able to catch her and bring her in her home, but couldn't keep her for very long because of travel plans. She asked a friend on River Rock Drive in N31 if they can watch her while they were away until the owner can be located. As you can see in the photo the dog made herself right at home in her foster parents home. During this time, many notices went out from the Pet Club, The NRO "Found Dog Site", Sun City 1, Nextdoor, etc. to try and find the owners. Since not hearing anything, we started to think the lost dog may have come from an area outside of Sun City. I asked the foster

parents to take the dog to the Sun City Fire Station to see if she was chipped, and she was. So, while doing all this, the foster parents and dog were beginning to bond and the foster parents loved her because she was well trained, made herself at home and seemed to have been well taken care of.

Where did she come from and why was she loose without a collar and with no one answering the announcements? The Sun City Fire Station found that she was chipped using their new chip reader and contacted the chip company, who contacted the owner. The owner lived in the neighborhood across the street from the new HEB on Highway 29 and Ronald Reagan, WOW! We found out that the owner had given the dog to his niece, who returned it to him. Then the owner gave the dog to a resident in his area who we found out within a day or so of getting her, had dumped her. They must have driven her to Sun City and let her loose, just a guess. There was no way this dog made it from Hwy 29 and Ronald Reagan in such good shape, never mind making that trek and surviving.

Now for the great part of this story. The owner was so glad to hear about where she was, he decided to bless Kathryn and Walter Bywaters with Lexie. He brought them all her papers, vet information, etc. The Bywater's are very happy new parents to Lexie and Lexie loves it as well. It was a story meant to be....A big thank you to the Georgetown Fire Department for now having chip readers in all their fire stations to help find owners of lost dogs....it worked well for this story!

Cat Corner

Cat Corner information provided by Karyn Beavers

July 10 is National Kitten Day. This is a day devoted to acknowledging and enjoying these playful and irresistible little creatures.

If you are considering a new cat or kitten, the Williamson County Shelter is overloaded. The shelter is over capacity right now with cats and kittens. They have about 216 cats and kittens in the shelter.

They are in great need of fosters for cats and kittens. There are about 50 cats and kittens that need a foster home now. If you are able to foster a cat or kitten, please contact the Williamson County Regional Shelter to find out how you can help. Shelter phone #: 512-943-3322

Pet Sitter and Pet Club Member Terri Fidelholtz's new kitten

I came down to Sun City in 2016 with my cat Chance. He lived with us until two years ago, when he unexpectedly passed away.

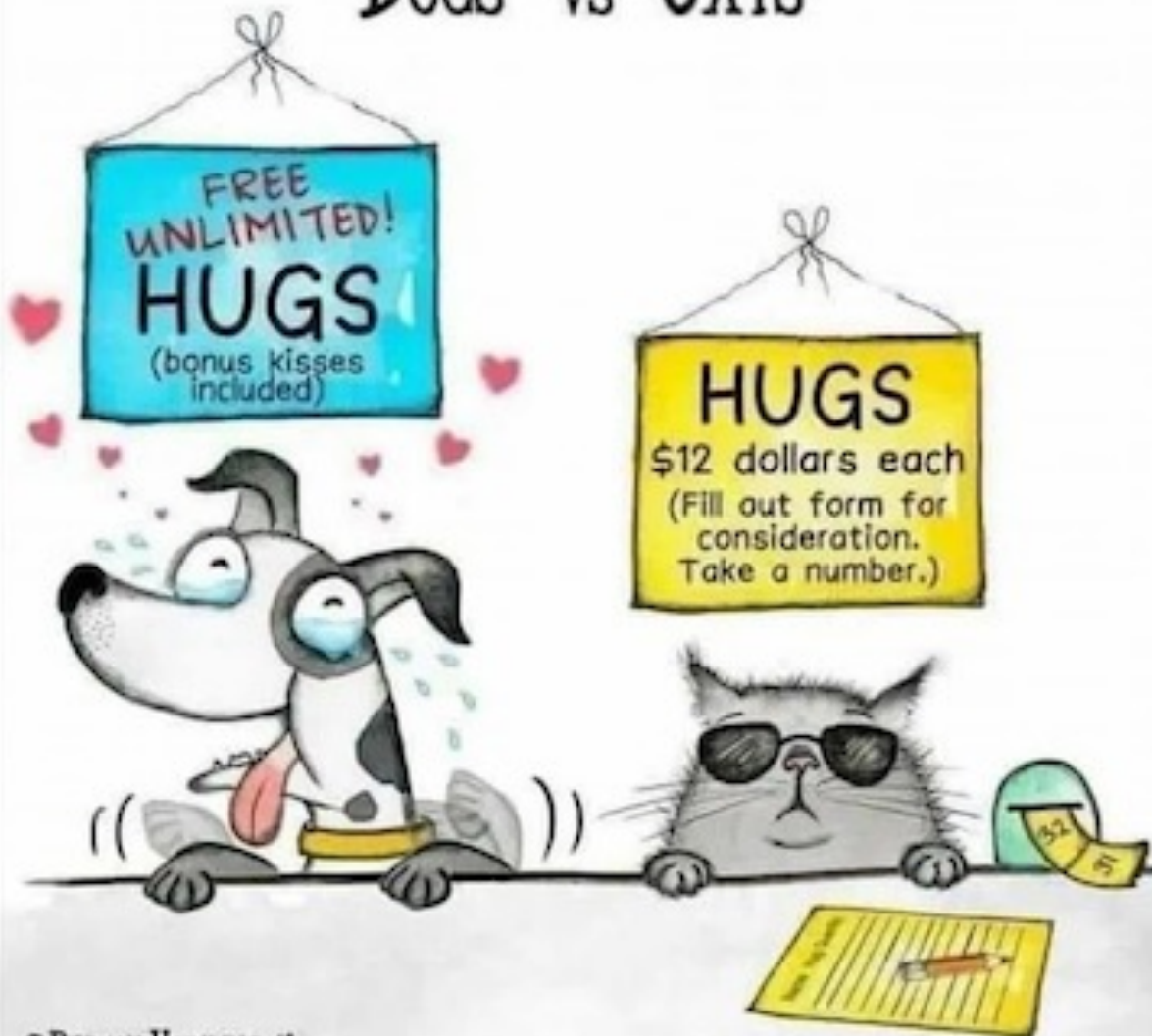
After waiting a few months, I went to the Williamson County Shelter website and saw Rascal. I went to meet him because he was just brand new and had been at the shelter only a few days. This kitten was 5 months old when I went to meet him. I could not believe it but it was love at first sight. I fell in love with him and I was told he was a biter. He did not bite me, all he did was purr and purr. I said I will take him.

Then my heart dropped because I was told he had to stay with them until he got fixed. It was my luck they fixed him the next day and I was able to bring him home. Ever since then we have been soul mates. I am a pet sitter, so sometimes my work takes me away from my boy, and from hearing about it from my boyfriend; Rascal pines for me. He looks to the front door for me and everywhere. He also enjoys going out onto the patio to catch some rays or just enjoy our company. The

screened in patio is nice, Rascal doesn't need supervision. The reason I named my cat Rascal is he was getting into all kinds of trouble. Rascal also plays catch with his string toys. Rascal does not like the expensive toys either he likes the ones from the Dollar Tree. He has brought so much joy into our lives.



DOGS vs CATS



Classifieds

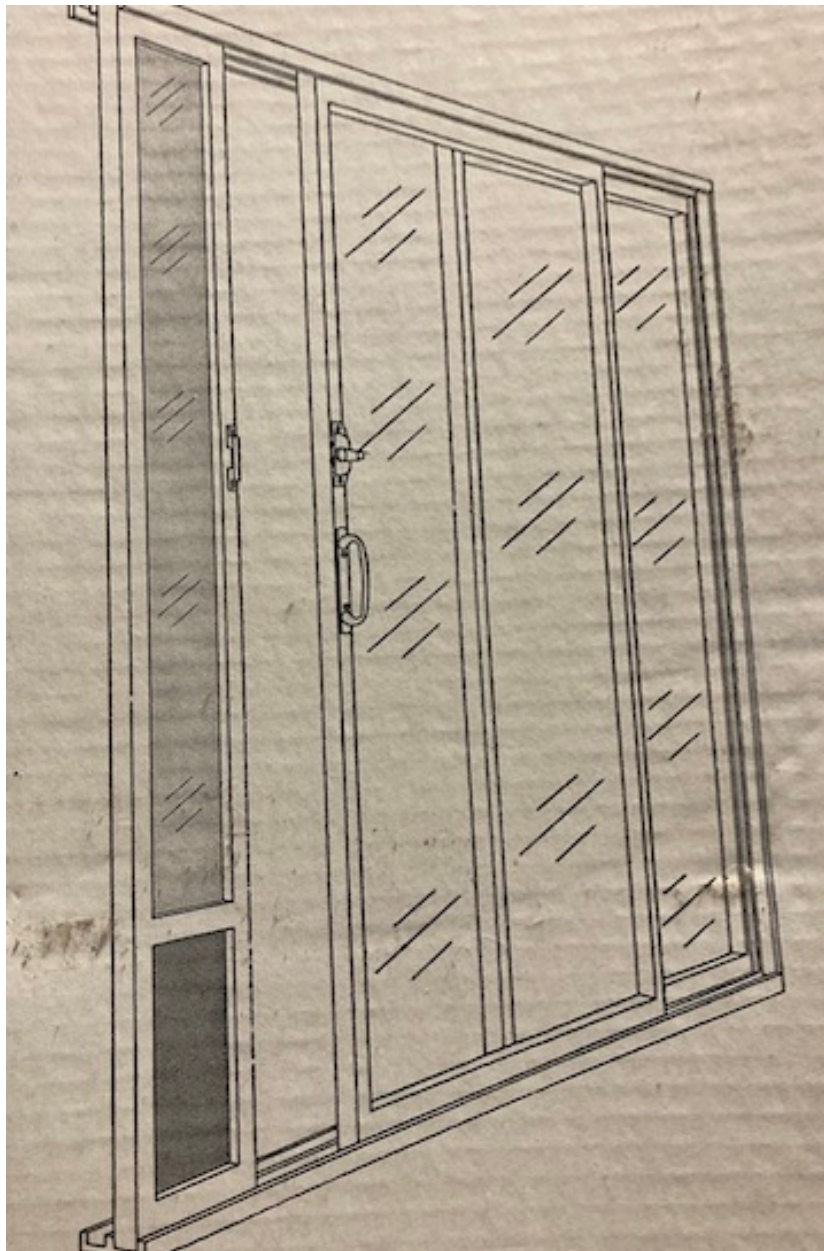
Items Available for a Donation to the Pet Club

Contact Diane Daniel at 512-868-7393 to arrange payment (check or cash) and arrange pick-up. If paying by check, please make check payable to **SCTXCA**.

Large pet stroller: Make a donation....



Two brand new, still in their original packaging "PetSafe" Patio Panel Pet Doors for large dogs. Fits sliding glass doors 76 13/16" to 81". They are valued at \$155 on Amazon. If anyone is interested, we will appreciate a donation of \$75 each to the Pet Club.



How to Purchase Tickets for Dog Training Classes and Club Events

A notification Email blast will go out with the date when tickets will be available.

- Sign into the Sun City website's Resident Page with your ID & PW
 - Click on the "Buy Tickets" bar, right side of page.
 - All tickets are listed by date, locate the Pet Club ticket you are interested in.
 - Click on that ticket and follow the procedures from there.
- **Note:** On the first day of ticket sales, they are available starting at 9am. They can also be purchased at the Member Services Desk in the Social Center starting at 9am.

BUY/RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

TEE TIME REQUESTS (CHELSEA)

 BUY TICKETS

MY RESERVATIONS

FINANCE FORMS

NATURE TRAIL MAPS

BOARD / COMMITTEES

NEIGHBORHOOD REP ORGANIZATION
(NRO)

Dog Adoption Saturdays

Looking for a new dog?

The Georgetown Animal Shelter has a Dog Adoption Saturday at two locations on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month.

The FURst Saturday of every month is at **Pupology** at 4236 Williams Drive from 11am to 1pm. For more information, call 512-688-5730 or check the Pupology Facebook page for additional information.

- Meet and Greet with Adoption Pups
- Sips and Samples

The 3rd Saturday of every month is at **Wag Heaven Pet Supplies** at their downtown location, 205 W. 6th St., Suite 115 (behind Monument Cafe) from 11am to 1pm.

With a pet adoption, Wag Heaven will provide:

- Free Small Bag of Dog or Cat Food (selected brands)
- Free Engraved ID Tag
- Free Self-Serve Dog Wash
- 10% off First Initial Purchase

For more information, call 512-887-5037.

Harley's Sanctuary: Two Dogs Available to Adopt

Foster to adopt. Two week trial period to ensure a good fit. If not, Harley's will take either dog back.



Kiara: Lab Mix, About 3 years old

Up to date on all her shots, approx. 40 lbs., and is spayed. She has energy so would desire someone who will take her for a walk, golf cart ride, dog park, etc. Loves all dogs, cats and people. Kiara was raised at Harley's and still resides here. Kiara is precious. She is learning, but needs training. Needs slow introductions to people, as she is shy and quite anxious around new people.

Adoption Fee: \$175

The Sun City Pet Club will donate a \$25 Gift Card from Wag Heaven Pet Supplies to whoever adopts Kiara.

~~~~~

**Sierra: About 10 Years old.**

Sierra has been at Harley's for about 3 years. Not active, she just wants a calm home with affection to live out her life. Good with other dogs and cats. She has a difficult time with the heat so prefers indoors where it is cool. She is up to date on all her shots and is spayed. Harley's may assist with any serious health issues that could arise.

**Adoption Fee: Waived, donations appreciated.**

The Sun City Pet Club will donate a \$25 Gift Card from Wag Heaven Pet Supplies to whoever adopts Sierra.



For further information on either Kiara or Sierra, or to arrange a visit to meet them, contact Lisa Dixon at 713-444-6499 or at [lisadixon47@yahoo.com](mailto:lisadixon47@yahoo.com)

**JUST A REMINDER WHEN YOU ARE  
ADOPTING A PET:**

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO MEET  
THE SCARED ONES, THE SHY ONES,  
THE ONES THAT DON'T STICK OUT TO YOU,  
THE ONES WITH THE BORING COLORS  
OR MISSING LIMBS,  
THE OLDER ONES, THE FRAIL ONES.  
THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN UP.  
THEY JUST NEED YOU.  
AND MAYBE YOU JUST NEED THEM TOO.**





# Pet Club Website: Training

[Click on Training](#), [Click on Virtual Training](#)

There are over 30 written lessons to help train your dog.

## Training Lesson #6: Come

**Pet Club members - This one takes time and effort, and lots of repetition. Even dogs who spend most of the time in the house should know and respond to COME. The hardest part of COME to me, is making sure you don't punish your dog when they finally come to you, even if you had been calling them away from something icky they were eating in the yard. The 2nd hardest part is your voice, most owners, call COME, and when the dog ignores you, our voice gets louder, stronger, and angrier. Why would your dog come if you sound angry at them?**

COME is the one command that the humans mess up the most (jumping issue is right behind it).

COME can be destroyed for a dog in one quick second. We got our Rascal from the Georgetown Animal Shelter, he was 5 1/2 and had numerous owners. He kept running away so the last owner gave him up. He came to us and we figured (hoped?) he had some commands. One of the first days we said COME and he cowered, turned away and would not come! For Rascal COME was a bad bad word!

Why? Probably because he ran away, they called COME, Rascal came back and they yelled at him! In Rascal's mind, he got yelled at for coming on command. So, therefore, that word scared him, he thought he was in trouble and scared. We changed the command to HERE and

magic, he came. Eventually we used COME HERE, good results, he now loves the word COME, especially if it means he gets a treat.

Regardless of what your dog was doing, when you call COME, reward the dog for listening to you. Forget that he just dug a hole in the garden, was eating a lizard, was running in the backyard with your bra, he came and that is all that counts. Also, do not use COME to get a dog into the bath if the dog does not

like the bath. COME must always be rewarded - immediately, positive and happy.

Next issue with COME. I hear this all the time. My dog is in the yard and will not come to me but CHOOSES to come to me in the house. Why is he being stubborn, disobedient. Think of it this way. The dog is in the yard (or dog park, or with a doggie friend, or passing a squirrel, or looking at deer) and you call COME. In the dog's mind, what is more important - what he wants to do or you? UMM, answer - what he wants to do! A dog without a good strong recall (COME) will not respond with a better distraction at hand (eye, mouth, smell). You have to be better than what is interesting the dog.

**So, how to train to get your dog to COME on command.**

Get the happiest voice you can get out of yourself. Use it. Make it a party voice. Have your body language also having a party. (I had a student who's "hand signal" was doing the Irish Jig - it worked but sure looked strange!)

Hand signal can be bringing your hand to your chest or slapping both legs with your hands (yours not dogs!)

Start off in house, both on and off leash. When your dog is NOT paying attention to you - call COME happy voice, and see if the dog will come to you. Even if the response is slow, reward. Remember, only say COME once and wait. This is a new word and the dog has to figure it



out. IMMEDIATELY give treat, say YES, pet, reward. Try this in the house with minimum distractions. Start off 2-3 ft from dog and increase it to 10-20 ft.

If the dog is showing good response in a few days, let's ramp it up.

Now, when the dog is distracted (i.e. playing with a toy), call COME, see what happens. Don't forget to make it happy and lots of great rewards.

Let's start playing hide 'n seek in the house. You hide when the dog is not looking, call COME and see what happens! Dogs love this one, they find you AND get treats - what a great day for them!

If things start going good, let's move outside. ON LEASH, never off leash. Try it in your driveway - back to 2-3 ft away, call COME, then try to add distance. (you might want to purchase a 10 or 15 or 20 ft leash to have to work on this for longer distances. Not very expensive on amazon.) Increase distance as able when dog is ready.

Try it (from your 6 ft walking leash) while walking. Dog distracted by wonderful smelly grass that they are engaged in and yell COME, see what happens - this is much harder.

If you have a fenced yard (and only if you have a fenced yard), try this off leash. Remember, this is a much higher level with more distractions. Try it on leash using the long leash also.

Have fun with this. Try having your dog SIT once he COMES to you!

As always, let me know if you have any questions by emailing me at

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

--

Ruth Olsen  
6 Paws Training

