

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

**Exclusive to Pet Club Members**

Archived on the Pet Club website

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## 2022 Club Information YTD

**Membership: 768**

**Purchased Donations to Shelters YTD: over \$14,000**

**Collected items donated to shelters and members:  
Value over \$5,500**



**Ahhhh, that's much better!**

**Newsletters starting in September will be on the 1st of the month.**

# Georgetown Animal Shelter

## Dry Cat Food Donation

The GTAS put out a request for dry cat food to help support needy families with pets. They provide this program to help people keep their pets during hard times to help prevent them from dropping their pets at the shelter. When a call goes out for help, the Pet Club responds!! Many members stepped up and donated over 165 lbs. of dry cat food on the first run!

In addition to that, more cat food showed up at my front door, and members made cash donations to be able to purchase an additional 150 lbs. bringing the total to over 300 lbs. Thank you to

all who donated to this cause; it was well appreciated by GTAS. We do not need any more at this time.



Left: April Haughey  
GTAS Animal Services Manager

Right: Alan Kamen  
President, Pet Club

Center:  
Car Load of Cat Food x 2

# Upcoming Training Classes and Events

**8/18:** New Resident Club Fair. In the Social Center Ball Room. If you are a new resident or not, come see us! Doors open at 8:15 a.m.

**9/10:** Snake Aversion: Tickets will be available starting Tuesday, Aug. 23, online or at the Members Services Desk, both at 9:00 a.m.

**9/14:** Pet Club General Meeting. Guest Speaker: R.O.C.K. (Ride on Center for Kids). Florence/Georgetown Room in the Cowan Creek Amenity Center. 9:30 a.m.

**September Training Classes:** The September classes go on sale Aug. 11- Aug. 18. To see the September class schedule, sign into the Pet Club website, click on TRAINING, click on Monthly Training Information.

## Dog Training Class Ticket Sales:

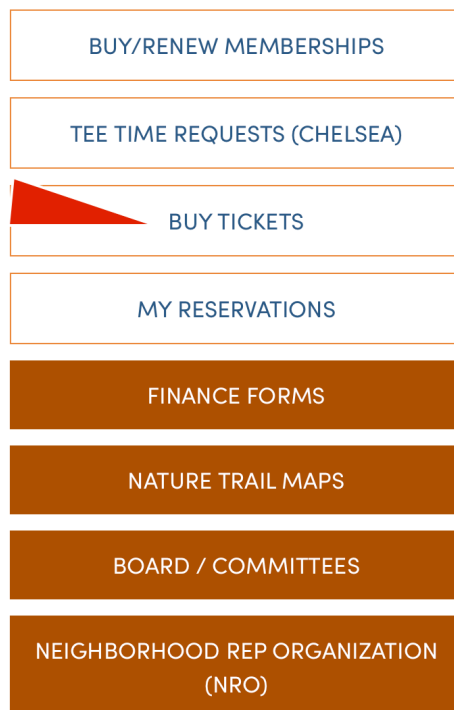
Email alert reminders will go out from Ruth Olsen when tickets go on sale for all training classes. For any information pertaining to dog training classes, dog issues or Pet Partners Team Evaluations, contact Ruth Olsen at [6pawstraining@gmail.com](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com)



# 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.





# Online Dog Training Lessons

Go to the Pet Club Website, Click on Training, Click on Virtual Training. There are over 30 written lessons to help train your dog.

## Training Tip

### Leash Walking Equipment

Leash walking is often one of the most difficult skills to teach a dog. Be warned – it can take up to a year for your dog to understand what you want them to do.

Also, dogs are dumb sometimes, and leash walking is one area. They do not understand “if I (human) pull you back and the leash tightens against your neck and you (dog) start choking, that means, slow down” NOPE to a dog, it means PULL MORE. It is an ingrained reaction in dogs. They will continue to pull to get away – dumb, but hey, it is a dog!

**Equipment: Leash**

**If you have a flexi lead leash, get rid of it**

and switch to a 6 ft standard leash for training and all walking. Honestly, flexi leads are only good for trail walking (not Sun City trails). Handlers have no control over the dog on a flexi lead and injury is common. I hear people saying “my dogs like to walk ahead of me, it gives my dog more space to walk”. Folks, all dogs like to walk 2 feet beyond the length of the

leash – regardless if the leash is 3 ft, 5 ft or 26 ft, they always want to walk beyond it.

Get a good leather or fabric leash, avoid ‘bungee’ leashes; do not get a leash that ties around your waist, do not get a leash that is all chain/metal. Leashes come in different lengths 3,4,5,6 ft and widths 3/8 in and up. See what feels comfortable for you. A great leash has 2 handles so you can hold the top handle in one hand and the bottom handle (closer to the dog) in your other hand to give you better control.

### **Collar/Harness, Etc:**

Now, the important part is what attaches the dog to the leash. Many people automatically think a standard flat (or rolled) buckle collar is the only option. It is not. What you choose to attach to the leash can make all the difference in learning how to walk.

### **Harness:**

Harnesses are often used by small dogs and thin headed dogs, i.e. greyhounds, whippets, etc. and dogs that pull. But they have become more common for other reasons. There is 1 basic difference in harnesses – the location of where the leash attaches.

### **Back Clip Harness:**

Most harnesses have a clip at the shoulders of the dog that the leash attaches to. That is fine UNLESS your dog pulls. It will encourage the dog to become a sled dog (yes, we all have seen that) more – remember – they pull to get away.

### **Chest Clip Harness:**

The other type of harness has a clip at the CHEST that the leash attaches to. AH, now when the dog pulls the leash pulls across the chest preventing the dog from going forward, but now instead it goes to the side. HMM, dog not going forward – that is what you want! Let me say at this point, a chest connecting harness can be difficult to use with a small dog as the leash tends to get caught under the dogs legs, but it can be used. I had someone in class use it with a doxi (talk about being short!) and it worked.

### **Martingale Harness:**

Is great for those small dogs who need a Chest Clip harness but can't use it because of their small legs. It gives the support of a harness and the correction of a martingale collar.

All harnesses MUST be adjusted properly. 90% of the people using a harness do not put it on correct, it is often too loose. No more than 2 sideways fingers between the fabric and the dog's body! I have trained my last 2 dogs to walk with a chest clip harness and found it easier.

The pet club has one brand I really like that we can loan out for testing. Let us know if you are interested. I hate to have people spend \$\$\$\$ and then find out they don't like it.

There are many different harnesses. Find one that works for you, but I do tend to steer away from the ones that have thin fabric or 'rope like' fabric that goes under the arms because it can cause injury. Wherever you buy one, make sure it works before you toss out the bag it came in and always KEEP THE DIRECTIONS on how to put it on.

### **Now, let's talk about how to use a leash.**

Sounds silly, but probably a large percentage of you hold it wrong. There are 3 parts to a leash – 1) handle for human to hold, 2) clip to attach to dog and 3) fabric in between.

1 – handle should not be wrapped around your hand, wrist, fingers. Hold your hand like you were to shake someone's hand (remember that?). Make a fist. That simple. It gives you control yet let allows you a quick release should it be necessary. The hand holding the leash handle is the one opposite the side the dog will be placed on. Such as, I keep my right hand in the handle and the dog is on my left! Now place your 2nd hand 3/4 of the way toward your dog (or the 2nd handle).

2 – clip leash to dog – think you all got that

3 – fabric in between. That will make a "U" with the leash. That will be front of your body.



When your dog is ‘under command”, you will have the “w”, when your dog is free to sniff, potty, just release the hand closer to the dog to give the dog full length of the leash.

When training, do it for short spurts – about 2 driveways worth, in the middle of the street away from distractions (i.e. grass) and with a very positive attitude. And lots of treats. Dog should not be expected to walk out of the house calmly, especially first thing in the morning. They usually calm down after doing business, and then you can get down to “business” of training. We are not expecting the dog to “heel” – meaning walk perfectly next to us. Close by without crossing in front/between/behind us is our goal.

Pick a command word such as “WALK” (you can use heel if you want). Know what side the dog will walk on. **ALL people walking the dog must use the same word and side.** Your commands should be “Dog Name/ Walk”. Simple and sweet.

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Ruth Olsen  
6 Paws Training

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# **Pet Club Upcoming Events**

## **Mark your Calendars!!**

**August 18:**

**New Resident Orientation and Club Fair**

Sun City Ball Room

The Pet Club will be present from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

**September 10:**

**Snake Aversion: Last one for the year!**

Tickets go on sale August 23 thru September 1.

**September 14:**

**Pet Club General Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: R.O.C.K (Rock Ride on Center for Kids)**

Florence/Georgetown Room at Cowan Creek Amenity Center.

9:30 a.m.

**October 4:**

**Blessing of the Animals**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Steven Pope,  
Cowan Creek Amphi-Theater, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. Open to all Sun  
City residents, tickets not necessary. Bring your dog, cat,  
fish, any pet. Dogs must be properly leashed at all times.

## **October 8:**

### **Pet Club Luncheon Social**

Sun City Ball Room, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ticket Sales: 9/15 -9/28

**Details coming soon!!!!**

**Sale Table:** Over 100 new dog items, many different pet costumes, harnesses, collars, leashes, doggie doors, pet raincoats, and more.....

## **October 11, 22 and 23**

### **Pet Photo Portraits**

The Pet Club is offering three days of taking photo portraits of you and your pet. Sign up days will be announced in September. Dress your pet and yourself for fun portraits. Tickets go on sale end of September. A finished portrait will be emailed to you. Fee: \$12

Professional photos taken by Ann Marshall.

## **November 17**

### **New Resident Orientation and Club Fair**

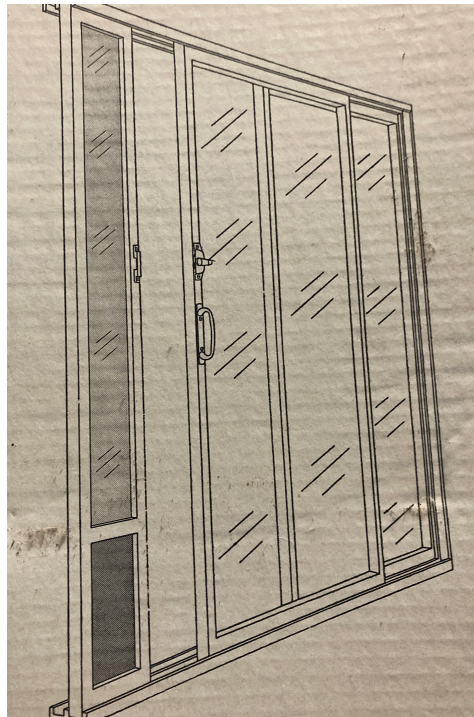
Sun City Ball Room

The Pet Club will be present from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

# Classifieds

## For Sale

The Pet Club has a brand new, still in their original packaging "PetSafe" Patio Panel Pet Doors for large dogs. Fits sliding glass doors **76 13/16" to 81"**. It is valued at \$155 on Amazon. If anyone is interested, we will appreciate a donation of \$75 to the Pet Club. Contact Diane Daniel at 512-868-7393 to arrange payment and pick-up.



# Cat Corner

## 7 FUN FACTS ABOUT YOUR CAT'S PURR

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT CATS ARE  
AWESOME, BUT WHAT EXACTLY  
DOES IT MEAN WHEN THEY PURR?

I love petting a happy cat who arches under my hands. Playing flirt pole with an athletic cat who leaps, twists, and pounces on the toy is better than watching anything on TV. There are so many things I like about my cats but one on my lap purring until her bones shake certainly tops the list.

### How Does a Cat Purr?

There is considerable debate as to how a cat creates her purr. At one time it was thought that the sound was blood rushing through large blood vessels. There were also theories that cats had a unique organ that makes the purring sound. Unfortunately, these and other theories were hard to prove (or disprove) because sedated cats don't purr; this made research difficult. Today, however, researchers believe that the

purr is created by laryngeal muscles that vibrate the vocal cords as the cat breathes. The definition of a purr is that of a continuous sound produced as the cat breathes in and out and which goes on for several minutes. Cats of many species purr at a frequency of between 25 and 150 Hz.

## Most but Not all Cats Purr

Domesticated house cats aren't the only cats who purr; many species of felines including bobcats, servals, cheetahs and even mountain lions purr. These cats have a rigid hyoid bone while African lions and tigers (which do not purr) have a flexible hyoid bone. Researchers are still trying to find out why there is a difference in the hyoid bone, but they do know it is located in the throat and provides support for the larynx. African lions and tigers can make a sound like a purr, but do so only when exhaling so their sound is not a true purr.

## The Purr is Unique to Felines

Several other animals make a noise that is similar to a purr but isn't quite the same. Mongooses, hyenas, guinea pigs, and raccoons each have a noise in their vocabulary that is similar to a cat's purr but it differs in frequency, sound, and use. In addition, most make this sound only when exhaling. The purr made by felines is unique.

## Is Purring Healing?

Some experts on felines believe that the frequency at which cats purr is healing for them. Since research is ongoing as to whether low intensity ultrasonic sounds can aid humans in healing broken bones (and other injuries) perhaps this has some validity. Nothing is proven yet and research is ongoing but it might be fun to be told to take an aspirin, grab your cat, go to bed and call the doctor in the morning.



## Happiness and More

Although most purrs occur when the cat is happy, purrs are not limited only to happiness. Many cats will also purr when stressed. For example, many cats will purr at the veterinarian's clinic. All of the cat's body language will show stress, including a lashing tail, ears plastered to the skull, and wide open pupils; yet the cat will still be purring. If you need to judge your cat's mood, don't listen to just her purr; look at all of her body language.

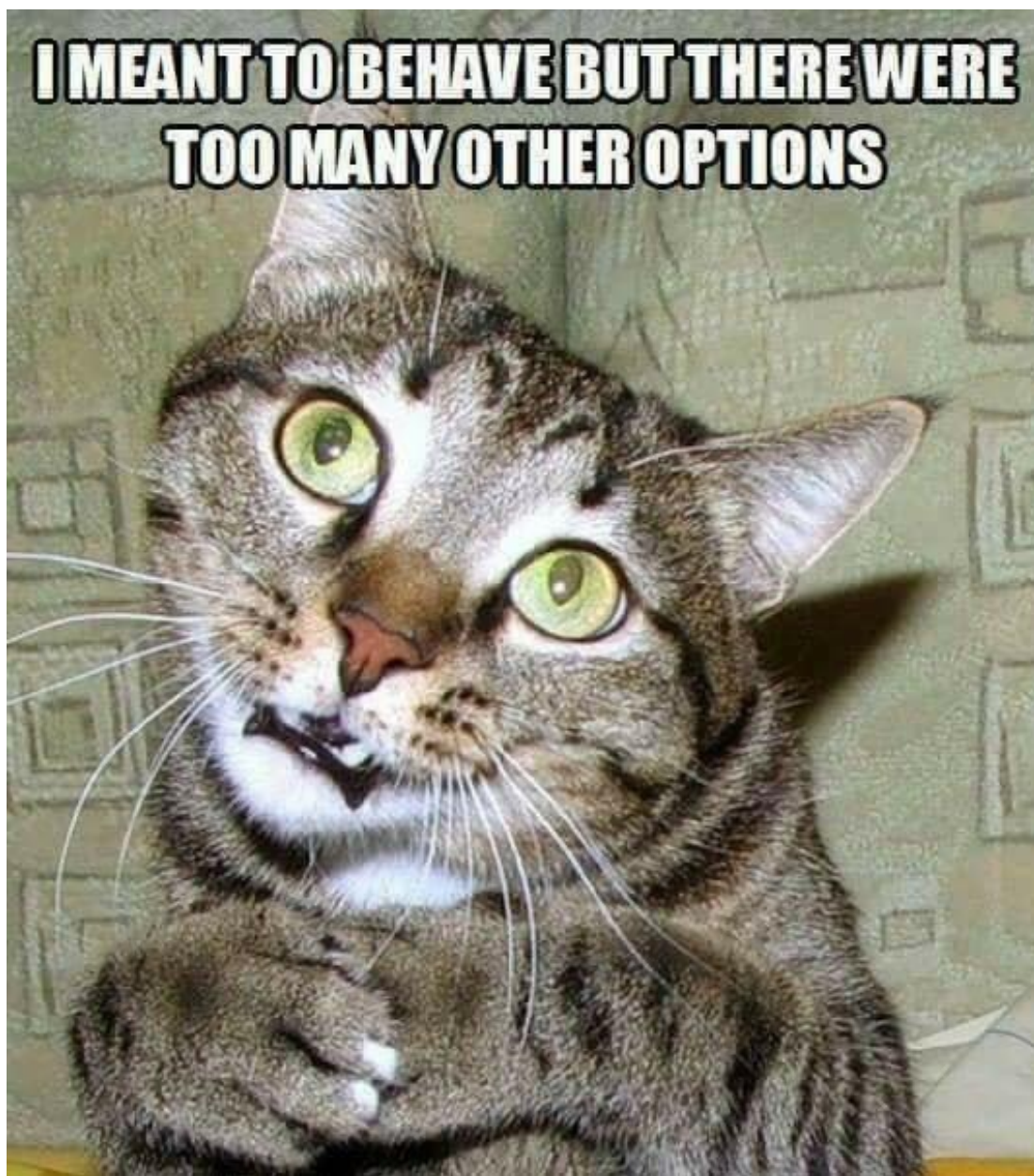
## Mother Cats Purr

No one knows why mother cats purr while giving birth. It might be a response to the discomfort or perhaps a means of bonding with her kittens. Purring while nursing the kittens is common and this is thought to be a means of bonding with the kittens as well as a means to calm them. Purring begins early in life; kittens begin purring when only a few days old.

## Cats Use their Purr

Cat owners, like myself, enjoy it when our cats purr and cats figure this out. How many times has your cat rubbed up against you, meowed, purred and then lead you to the cat food? Cats are excellent at training their owners and their purr is a big part of the process. Now that you're thinking about your cat's purr, see if you can find different tones and sounds associated with it. Many cat owners feel their cat can mix meows and other sounds with the purr in order to gain their owner's attention. Other cat owners say their cat has different purring sounds associated with the cat's needs: one sound for going outside, one sound to request petting, and so on. Since some people find meows as too demanding, perhaps cats today are evolving to communicate with us using more purrs and less meows.

**I MEANT TO BEHAVE BUT THERE WERE  
TOO MANY OTHER OPTIONS**



# 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

