

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Archived on the Pet Club website  
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April 15, 2022  
Volume 1, Issue 3

## FAQ's

### **Why do dogs turn in circles before lying down?**

Here are a couple of explanations:

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/why-dogs-turn-around-before-lying-down>

<https://www.pawtracks.com/dogs/why-dogs-turn-in-circles/>

## 2022 Club Information YTD

**Donations purchased for Shelters: \$6,666**  
**Misc. Items Donated to Shelters, Est. Value: \$1,000**  
**Membership: 689**

## Dog and Cat Equipment to Loan

**Got a new dog, cat? Need a leash, collar, bed, crate, toy, bowl, etc?** Call us, we have items you are looking for. Items are free for our members to borrow or keep if we have them in stock. These are donated items from members and S.C. residents who no longer need them. We are happy to share them with our members. Call Diane Daniel at 512-868-7393 for more information.

## Williamson County Animal Shelter Donation

Recently, the Pet Club donated about 900 pounds of dry dog food to the shelter to help care for the influx of dogs from a bad situation. Terry Ross of N22 collected two carloads of towels, blankets, sheets and miscellaneous items from her neighborhood. Wag Heaven Pet Supplies volunteered to receive all the donations until we were ready to deliver them. Together we delivered all the donations on March 21st.



Jeff Manley (co-owner Wag Heaven), Misty Valenta, Director of WCRAS, Alan Kamen, President of Sun City Pet Club, Damian Thompson (employee at Wag Heaven), and April Peiffer, Marketing Director of WCRAS, Missing in photo: Terry Ross (N22)

# Article From the Williamson County Sun

March 30, 2022

## **Wilco community comes together to support pups in need...**

The Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter was the recipient of 41 displaced dogs on March 10 after they were rescued from an alleged abusive situation.

The dogs were all collected in and around one residence, Animal Services Director Misty Valenta said.

"We're still in the period of holding a little more than half of the animals [at the shelter]," she said.

The dogs will stay with them until the courts decide if the animals will be awarded to the shelter permanently. The sudden influx of dogs caused a problem for the shelter, which budgets weekly for the Science Diet kibble all the dogs are fed.

"When we get a large number in like that, we don't have that in our ordering plans the week before," she said. "The dog numbers this year have already been high compared to previous years, so the budget was already in a troubled spot. You just can't expect the unexpected."

Enter Alan Kamen, President of the Sun City Pet Club, who rallied together with the 650 plus members to donate two SUVs full of supplies such as dog beds, towels, sheets and animal crates.

Mr. Kamen then contacted Wag Heaven, a locally-owned pet food and supply store that frequently works with the shelter. They were able to order almost 900 pounds of kibble at below wholesale pricing, which allowed the Pet Club to purchase and donate more to the shelter.

Funds for the purchases came from the club's membership dues and combined resources.

The dogs will remain in their care for the foreseeable future, awaiting the decision of the court. Ms. Valenta said she hopes there will be news on the case by early April. In the meantime, the Pet Club is continuing to make efforts to fundraise and collect food and supplies for the dogs.

"The Pet Club members are a wonderful example of what it means to take care of each other," said Jeff Manley, who co-owns Wag Heaven with his husband, Jusak Yang Bernhard. "We are so very grateful to have the opportunity to assist the club with supporting our local pet welfare community."

## WILCO Animal Shelter Thanks Pet Club

"I just wanted to thank you again for everything. When y'all step up like this it not only helps the animals, but it is such a great morale boost for us too. 😊 "

Thank you!!!!

Misty Valenta

Animal Services Director



## More articles about the Pet Club donations

- Article in Hello Georgetown: [www.hellogeorgetown.com](http://www.hellogeorgetown.com)
- Article in Pet Edge Magazine: <https://www.petage.com/wilco-sun-city-pet-club-donates-to-animal-shelter-to-aid-rescued-pets/>

## Upcoming Training Classes and Events

**Dog Walking Class:** Full until further notice.

**Dog Training Beginners and Intermediate Classes:** May Classes to be announced by email soon.

**Puppy Training Seminar:** June 9th 1pm-2pm. Look for email about sign up date.

**Dog Q&A Seminar:** May 12 Seminar is cancelled. June 9th, 10-11:15. Look for email about sign up date.

**Pet Partners "Treats and Sweets" Fundraiser:** April 30th, 10am-2pm, Legacy Hills Park Pavilion. See below for more information.

**Pet Club General Meeting:** Wednesday, May 4, 9:30 a.m. in the CC Florence/Georgetown Room. Guest Speaker: Jami Nelson, "Poisonous Plants and Pets".

**New Resident Club Fair and Town Hall:** May 19, 8:00 a.m., in the SC Ball Room

## Pet Partners Therapy Dog Program "Sweets and Treats" Fund Raiser Needs Volunteers to Bake

The Pet Club is sponsoring the local Pet Partners annual fundraiser - "Sweets and Treats Day". Pet Partners is a national Therapy Animal organization in which the Pet Club has over 30 members. Ruth Olsen is looking for volunteers to make sweets to sell at the fund raiser. The event is tentatively set for the end of April. If you are interested in volunteering to bake, please contact Ruth at [6pawstraining@gmail.com](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com).

## Georgetown Animal Shelter Thanks The Sun City Pet Club

Pet club,

Thank you so much for your generous donation for our animals. All our money goes to the direct benefit of our animals. Last year we paid \$38,641 for vet care, medical equipment & other dog & cat benefits. This year we will have spent \$62,182 on 2 big projects: the flooring and dog kennel grates. We also out-fitted 2 new dog play yards. We couldn't do this without the great support of our community.

Thank you Sun City  
Pet Club!

**You're so doggone nice!**

Happy Paws,  
Friends of the Georgetown  
Animal Shelter

# Prepare for an Emergency

## Fire! Tornado! Power Outage! Flood!

- Are you prepared to “shelter in place”?
- Are you prepared to evacuate?
- Where can you go with your pet?

## FEMA: Information for Pet Owners

[www.ready.gov/pets](http://www.ready.gov/pets)

Emergency and Evacuation Information is on the Pet Club SC Website.



Sun City Texas  
Community Association

### 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)



## SUN CITY PET OWNERS EMERGENCY/DISASTER GUIDELINES

Prepared by the Sun City Emergency Management Committee and the Sun City Pet Club

These guidelines are prepared to assist residents develop a workable plan for the care of their pets if an emergency/disaster in Sun City should require them to evacuate their homes. Based on the size and nature of the emergency/disaster, the Emergency Management Committee and Sun City Pet Club volunteers will staff a short-term pet center and provide information and assistance for identifying resources for continued care.

Due to health and safety regulations, residents with pets will be sheltered in a separate area from residents without pets. The locations of the temporary center for pets and their humans are located in the Social Center Ballroom and the Cowan Creek Amenity Center. No pets are permitted in the First Aid Center. Responsibility for pets must be assumed by the person accompanying an injured resident to the First Aid Station. Service animals may stay with their owner, if possible, and must have their ID on their vest or harness.

When you arrive at a pet 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 and Go Bag

Prepare a Pet Grab and Go Bag which is easily accessible if you have to leave home quickly. Please bring your pet's Grab and Go bag containing the following items with you: ID tags and harness or collar, veterinary records, pet medications, food and/or treats and can opener, if necessary, small water and food dishes, trash bags, flashlight, and 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 themselves and their pet(s) in the event of an emergency/disaster. Alternatively, they can make arrangements to board their pet(s) at a kennel or veterinary clinic outside the emergency/disaster area.

Revised: sd3/2017

## Pet Tip of the Month

### Pets and Doors

As the nice weather approaches, more pets are running out of doors when the opportunity arises. Landscapers are coming, leaving gates open. To help keep your pet from escaping and becoming a LOST DOG OR CAT, here are some tips:

1. Keep a leash on the inside of your front/back door. Put your dog on a leash before opening any door for any reason.
2. Do not let your dog in the garage with an open garage door unless the dog is on a leash
3. Do not let the dog out of the car unless they are leashed.
4. Check your gates after the landscapers leave.
5. **Keep a collar on your dog with identification at all times.**
6. If your pet is micro-chipped, ensure that it is up to date.
7. Cats: If you have visitors coming and going, or kids in the house, make sure your cat is secure in a crate or in a room with the door closed.

Ask all company, family and friends to do the same in your house when visiting. We've encountered many requests to help find a lost pet and finding out they did not have a collar or any identification tags. This makes it very difficult to find the owner without those tags. Please keep a collar with ID tags on your pet at all times.



## Cats 101: Basic Health & Care

How often do you take your cat to the veterinarian? In observance of National Cat Health Month, we want to remind you that even if your cat does not appear to be sick, preventative care is important.

**Between visits to your cat's veterinarian, here are 10 ways to keep your cat healthy.**

- 1. Groom your cat regularly.** Whether your cat has short or long fur, he will benefit greatly from regular brushing or combing. This helps remove the dead hair from his coat so he doesn't ingest it while [self-grooming](#). It also gives you the chance to notice any changes to his body. Irregularities such as lumps, bumps or sore spots can then be investigated right away by your veterinarian.
- 2. Provide fresh water daily.** Clean, fresh water is essential for your cat's good health. If your cat doesn't seem to drink from a bowl, consider providing her with a tall glass (some cats don't like to bend down to drink) or a [cat fountain](#). Be sure to replenish the water with a fresh supply every day.
- 3. Make sure you have enough litter boxes.** A general rule of thumb for [litter boxes](#) is one for each cat plus one more. So if you have 2 cats, you should have 3 litter boxes. To encourage [good litter box habits](#), keep the litter boxes clean. This may mean scooping more than once per day. Regular cleaning will also help you notice any changes in your cat's urine or stool, which could indicate a health issue.
- 4. Notice if your cat starts urinating outside its litter box.** Sometimes a cat will urinate outside his litter box if the box is dirty. But before you blame the accident on the state of the litter box or



your cat's naughty behavior, schedule a visit to the veterinarian. A change in litter box habits sometimes means that a cat has a [urinary tract infection](#) or other medical issue.

**5. Train your cat to use a scratching post.** Not only will this help prevent damage to your furniture, it will help your cat stretch her muscles and keep her claws in top condition. [Regular scratching on an appropriate surface](#) such as carpet, sisal, or cardboard helps remove the old layers from your cat's claws.

**6. Use a cat carrier in the car.** Does your cat need to visit the vet? Or are you moving to a new home? [Transport your cat](#) in an appropriate carrier designed for pets. Allowing your cat to roam freely in the car can distract you from driving safely, which can lead to accidents that may harm both you and your cat.

**7. Keep your cat's teeth clean.** Like humans, cats can develop tartar on their teeth, which can lead to gum disease and tooth decay. The bacteria that collect on your cat's teeth also can enter her bloodstream, contributing to other feline diseases. Unlike humans, however, cats can't brush their teeth. And many cats won't let their owners [brush their teeth for them](#). To keep your cat's teeth in top condition, schedule a cleaning with your veterinarian at least once every year.

**8. Choose a cat-friendly vet.** It seems to go without saying that cats are not smaller versions of dogs. That said, it follows that cats have different veterinary requirements than dogs do. A veterinarian specializing in feline health and anatomy can be a valuable ally in keeping your cat in her best possible health. You can find a feline vet in your area by visiting the [American Association of Feline Practitioners](#).

**9. Schedule regular veterinary visits.** Annual visits give the vet a chance to catch any potential feline diseases in their early stages, [administer vaccines](#), and clean the cat's teeth. Your vet can also tell you if your cat is at a healthy weight.

**10. Spay or neuter your cat.** Reproductive diseases can affect cats of both genders, both male and female. Spaying prevents uterine infections, ovarian cancers and breast tumors in female cats, while neutering prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems in males. The surgeries also reduce a male cat's urge to roam and if done soon enough in his life, may eliminate his urge to spray to mark territory. The best benefit? Your cat won't contribute to the [pet overpopulation situation](#).

## Dog Interactive/Enrichment Toys/Games Exchange

The Pet Club is starting a toy exchange for Dog Interactive/Enrichment/Food Dispensing Toys. Many people purchase these toys, but some dogs quickly learn how to achieve the mystery of getting to the food. Then the toy is no longer of interest to your dog. Having a variety of enrichment/food dispensing toys keeps the dogs mind engaged and keeps the dog calm.

If you have an Interactive Toy you would like to exchange, bring it to 102 Nighthawk Way and place it on the park bench on the front porch.

**We will do the exchange at our General Meeting on May 4.**

NOTE: We will not accept stuffed toys, broken toys, chewed toys, or any non-enrichment, food dispensing toy. Any toy dropped off that does not meet the criteria will be thrown away. Toys must be clean and in excellent condition.

Examples of toys to participate in the exchange:



## Pet Club Classifieds

No items this month.

## Mobile Pet Groomers Needed for our Resource List

We need more mobile pet groomers to add to our Groomer List on our Pet Club Website. If anyone knows of any, please email their company name, and contact information to Alan Kamen at [alankamen5253@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen5253@icloud.com)