

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

## "The Scoop"

**Exclusive to Pet Club Members**

Archived on the Pet Club website

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## 2022 Club Information YTD

**Membership: 795**

**Purchased Donations to Shelters YTD: over \$15,000**

**Collected items donated to shelters and members:  
Value \$8,000**

# Training Classes

**November Training:** The November dog training schedule is now posted on the Pet Club website.

Sign into the Pet Club website, click on TRAINING, click on Monthly Training Information, click on Training Schedule to view dates/times of each class.

Tickets will be available from  
October 6 through October 12.

## Classes offered in November:

Assessment/Walk: Two 3-week Classes Offered

Beginners: Two 3-week Classes Offered

# Education Series

**Dog Q&A: Thursday, Oct. 13**

Mesquite Room, in The Oaks (Legacy Hills Golf Club)

301 Del Webb Blvd

10-11:15 a.m.

**Puppy Q&A: Thursday, Oct 13**

Meeting Room 1, Texas Drive Activity Center

1 Texas Drive

12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

\$5 per household paid at the door, guests welcomed at the same price. PETS NOT allowed.

Open to all residents.

## Online Dog Training

Go to the Pet Club Website,  
Click on Training, Click on Virtual Training.

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

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# Monthly Training Tip

## Emergency COME Command

The COME command is the command most handlers "poison" by using it incorrectly. COME is the happy command; it is when we want our dog to come to us for any reason. It should not be used to call them for something they don't like - such as bath time or medicine! That will make the dog not want to come to you when you call him - it is poison!

When calling the dog using COME, make it happy; be glad to see him regardless of what he was doing before he came to you, or how slowly he walked. He came and that is enough to celebrate. Never yell at the dog for what he was doing before he came to you. Reward him for coming and forget about what happened first.

One complaint I hear lots is, **"My dog will not come to me in the dog park."** Well, let's put it this way. You are doing your favorite activity and you must leave, but don't want to. Do you leave happy? Probably not. If a dog is playing with their friends in the dog park, he doesn't want to leave when you call him either.

This is where an Emergency COME command is handy.

**My emergency come command is CHEESE.** Now, the cheese (Kraft American single slice cheese) is only given to them when I use this command - and they know that. When my dogs are in the back yard, fence running with the neighbor dog for fun, barking at the sleeping deer over the fence or keeping a squirrel up a tree for two hours - I use my emergency come to get their attention. I just yell CHEESE and I have two very happy dogs running into the house and standing by the refrigerator.

**WHY?** It is a special treat, something they only get for doing something special for me. They only get a small piece of the slice, not the whole slice. Training was not hard. I started with a tiny piece of the cheese and called it "CHEESE" in a super happy voice when I gave it to them.....standing in front of the fridge. Over

time I moved further from the fridge and said CHEESE, and they went to the fridge to get the reward. Gradually, I went to the back door, then outside the doggie door. Every time they came for CHEESE, they had to run to the fridge. Why the fridge? I want to make sure they are completely in the house so I can close the door, knowing they are safe.

Obviously, you don't have your fridge at the dog park, so "you" are the fridge, but make them sit so you can get them on the leash, then they get the cheese. (Yes, the cheese must come to the dog park.)

In advance, I apologize if you yell CHEESE at the dog park and five dogs come running!

I hope to see you at the next Education Series Dog Q&A on October 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mesquite Room in the Oaks and the same day at the Puppy Seminar at 12:30 in Meeting Room 1 at the Texas Drive Activity Center. Each meeting is a \$5 donation.

COME and I might have some CHEESE.

# Pet Club Upcoming Events

## Mark your Calendars!!

### October 4

#### Blessing of the Animals

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Steven Pope, Stories by Colin Murphy, Music by Lionel Menchaca  
Cowan Creek Amphi-Theater, 2 p.m.-3 p.m. **Open to all Sun City residents, tickets not necessary.**  
Bring your dog, cat, fish or 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.

**Must have a pre-purchased ticket to attend.**

October 11, 22, and 23  
**Pet Photo Portraits**

The Pet Club is offering three different days to choose from to take photo portraits of you and your pet. **Ticket sales started on 9/24 and ends on 10/6** for all three dates. Dress your pet and yourself for fun portraits. A finished portrait will be emailed to you.

**Fee: \$12 pet.** One portrait sitting per pet. If the date you select is full, email Alan Kamen at [alankamen5253@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen5253@icloud.com) to be put on the wait list. If we have an opening, we will call you.

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.

# Pet Partner's Therapy Dog Sparky from Sun City Retires

[www.kxan.com/news/local/georgetown/therapy-dog-at-st-davids-georgetown-hospital-retires-after-8-years/](http://www.kxan.com/news/local/georgetown/therapy-dog-at-st-davids-georgetown-hospital-retires-after-8-years/)

## Donations Collections Loan Program

**Loan Program:** We have items to loan out to club members. Items include; crates in all sizes, and much more. If you need an item, contact Diane Daniel at 512-868-7393, to see what she has in stock.

**We are always taking donations for local shelters:** Pet-related items, such as beds, leashes, crates, pet carriers, pet medications (unsealed and sealed), dry and wet pet food, etc. Call Diane at 512-868-7393 or you can drop items off at 240 Bonham Loop by her front door anytime.

**We do not accept anything dirty, soiled or torn.**

# Bulletin Board

## **A DOG GROOMER Wanted:**

I need a recommendation for Good Dog Groomer - For a 12 lb. Papillon - short coat. Please call Carole Cribbs at 512-869-4903 or email me at [c521@verizon.net](mailto:c521@verizon.net)

## **Looking for a CAVALIER BREEDER:**

Looking for Cavalier breeders. I'm looking to adopt a Blenheim and I'm having trouble finding a reputable source.

Thanks.

Susan Buck [sbuck50@hotmail.com](mailto:sbuck50@hotmail.com)

## **AUDIO MONITORING:**

I am looking for guidance on audio monitoring (barking) of my mini Aussie, 2 years old.

We are staying with him in a hotel for the first time and will have to leave for brief periods during the day. Would like to listen in live.

Would appreciate any information, please contact me anytime.

Tom Codrington

105 Lampasas Pass

[codfish1204@gmail.com](mailto:codfish1204@gmail.com)

# Harley's Angels Sanctuary Fund Raiser October 15

Harley's Angels Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is having a fundraiser at:

Barking Armadillo Brewing, 507 Riverbend Dr.,  
Georgetown on Saturday, October 15 starting at  
2:00 p.m.

From 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., there will be raffles, a silent auction, food truck and discounts on beer and wine.

Live music by Steve the Brit will follow at 7:00 p.m. Bring your pooches and come out and have a fun day at Barking Armadillo Brewing, and support Harley's Angels Sanctuary at the same time!

You may email Lisa Dixon at [lisadixon47@yahoo.com](mailto:lisadixon47@yahoo.com) for further information.

# Cat Corner

## 7 Ways to Tell If Your Cat is in Pain - Some May Surprise You!

Recognizing the early [signs of pain in your cat](#) is an essential step in ensuring their long-term health and happiness. Unfortunately, felines are experts when it comes to hiding their discomfort. While they typically show outward signs when experiencing acute, intense pain, it's not nearly as easy to detect when a cat suffers from long-term pain or discomfort. As veterinarians, we have become adept at recognizing some of the more subtle signs of pain in cats, but we also make sure to remind cat owners that they know their pets best. Thankfully, we have access to advanced diagnostic equipment that provides us with a clear picture of precisely what is going on with your pet.

The good news is that you, too, can learn to recognize signs of pain in cats. And in doing so, you can better understand your cat's needs. We've rounded up some of the most common symptoms of pain in cats and shared them below but, remember, any sudden changes in your cat's habits and routines warrant a trip to see your veterinarian.

### 1. Changes in Behavior

Though often overlooked, a change in your [cat's behavior](#) is often an early indicator of pain or illness. If your usually cuddly companion suddenly starts spending all their time hiding under the bed, it's a clear sign that something is wrong. Cats form strong bonds with their owners, and many enjoy being present and engaged in their day-to-day

lives. If your cat stops sleeping with you at night, following you to the kitchen, or coming out to greet you when you get home from work, they could be in pain.

Cats who are in pain often exhibit uncharacteristic aggression, too. They may hiss or growl when you or other members of your household come near. Pain can make even the friendliest cats scratch or bite, especially when touched in a painful area or moved in a way that hurts. Unexplained aggression is a serious behavioral change that indicates a need for a vet appointment.

## 2. Grooming Changes

If your fastidious feline stops grooming or you notice that they are grooming less of their body than usual, this could also be a sign of discomfort or pain. Cats have meticulous cleaning habits, and they generally only change if something is wrong. If you don't see your cat grooming regularly, keep an eye on their coat. If it appears unusually unkempt or greasy, trouble could be brewing.

Increased grooming could be a sign of pain, too. If your cat is spending more time grooming a specific part of their body - especially if they are doing so to the point of causing baldness or wounds - they may be trying to soothe a painful area.

## 3. Decreased Energy and Activity

It is natural for your pet's energy level to gradually decrease as they get into the senior cat stages. If these changes happen drastically, though, or are seriously impacting your cat's life, it could be more than advanced age slowing your feline friend down. When your cat is reluctant to run, jump, traverse stairs, participate in playtime, or stand up from a lying position, they are likely in pain. Just like people, cats can suffer from degenerative conditions like arthritis as they get

older. They can also experience a wide range of other health problems that cause pain or discomfort during any stage of their life.

#### 4. Changes in Sleep Habits

Pain may also cause changes in your cat's sleep patterns. They might struggle to find a comfortable position in which to rest, or you may find them sleeping in strange places. Cats who are in pain may sleep more or less than usual, too. Cats in pain may also seek out warmer places to rest, such as a sunny spot or heating pad. Cats will hardly ever sleep on the floor; they prefer elevated resting spots. If you notice your cat laying in lower places, this can be a warning sign too.

#### 5. Eliminating Outside of the Litter Box

Cats do not stop using their litter boxes for no apparent reason. While there are several [reasons a cat may start eliminating outside of the litter box](#), pain is one of the most common. If your cat is experiencing pain in their knees, hips, elbows, or spine, entering and exiting the box can be painful. Likewise, this type of pain can make getting into and maintaining a squatting position nearly impossible. These cats often become constipated since having a bowel movement is uncomfortable for them. They may hold it for several days and then really have trouble going. Watching for changes in stool consistency is essential too.

Other painful medical issues can affect litter box usage, too. If your cat is experiencing pain during urination, for example, they may associate the discomfort with the litter box and stop using it. Whatever the case may be, a cat who starts eliminating outside of the litter box is trying to tell you that something is wrong.

## 6. Decreased Appetite and Thirst

Pain can be a powerful appetite and thirst suppressant - both in humans and in animals! If your cat seems to have lost interest in eating or drinking, it could be a sign that they are experiencing pain. Changes in eating and drinking habits could be symptoms of many other serious medical problems, too, so it is always best to alert your veterinarian.

## 7. Changes in Posture and Facial Expressions

All cats are different but there are certain things you can watch for in your cat's posture and facial expressions.

A cat in pain may express themselves in the following ways:

- The cat may sit hunched over with their head lowered and back curved higher than normal
- The cat may appear as if they are trying to curl up in a tight ball
- The cat may remain compressed with their legs tucked underneath themselves while lying down instead of stretching out
- The cat may make facial expressions that are out of the ordinary, such as closing their eyes, squinting, or flattening their ears, and their cheeks, nose, and mouth may appear more tense than usual

Cats are the consummate pros when it comes to hiding their pain and discomfort but, as a loving pet parent, you can become a master of detecting even the most subtle signs. Part of being a responsible cat owner is paying close attention to your pet's behavior, habits, and physical condition and recognizing when something is amiss. Your feline family member cannot tell you that they are in pain or feeling unwell. Instead, it is up to you to recognize the signs listed above - or anything else unusual - and seek a prompt evaluation from their veterinarian. The [AAHA](#) also offers a comprehensive list of ways your cat may exhibit pain.

(unknown online source)



