

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

Donations, Collection & Loan Program:

Collected items donated to
shelters and members.

Value: \$9,000

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 find out
what she has in stock.

We are always taking donations for local shelters:

Pet-related items such as
beds, leashes, crates, pet
carriers, pet meds (unsealed
and sealed), dry and wet pet
food, etc.

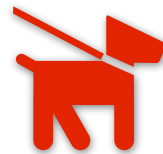
Contact Diane
Daniel at 512-868-7373 or
just drop your donation at
240 Bonham Loop by her
front door anytime.

We do not accept anything
dirty, soiled or torn.

Archived on the Pet Club website
President: Alan Kamen, alankamen5253@icloud.com

Membership: 814

November 1, 2022
Volume 1, Issue 10



Dog Training Program

Pet Club Online Dog Training

There are over 30 written lessons on
our Pet Club Website to
help with training your dog.

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

Dog Training Classes

NO training classes in December.

VOTE FOR 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Voting begins on November 1 and ends on November 7.

HOW TO VOTE

Go to the Pet Club Website.

On the left side,
Click on 2023 Board
Member Voting.

Vote for
one candidate for each
Board Member
Position.

Pet Club Upcoming Events

November 17, 2022

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.

January 16, 2023

Meet the Pet Club Day

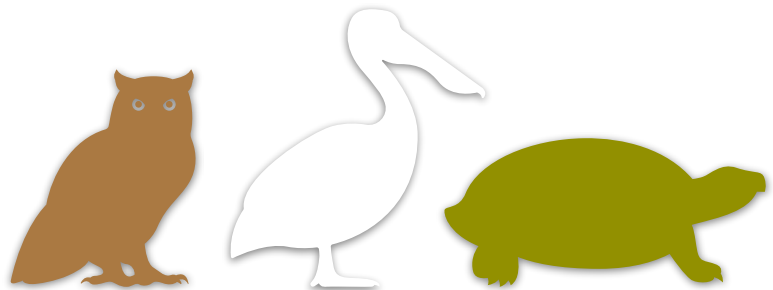
Open to all S.C. Residents

Sun City Ball Room
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Presentation by:

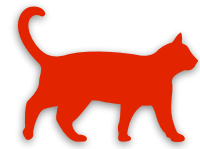
ALL THINGS WILD

with some of
their ambassador animals: Opossum, Owls,
Tortoise, White Pelican.





Cat Corner



information provided by Karyn Beavers

How Long Can You Leave A Cat Alone?

When choosing a pet to welcome into their family, many people are attracted to cats as they are perceived to be independent creatures and low maintenance compared to dogs. But how long can you leave your cat home alone without risking their health or well-being?

The length of time varies between individuals, but generally, most cats can be left alone for 12 hours, and with careful planning, this can be extended to 24 hours. In this article we will discuss why you should limit the time your cat is left alone and what options there are to keep your cat safe and well when you need to be away from home for longer periods.

Unlike dogs, who usually love going out with their owners, cats are territorial animals and most prefer to stay close to home. Cats often find traveling stressful and have a tendency to escape through open windows and doors, so on the whole they don't accompany us on days out or trips away – but do they mind being alone?

There is a common stereotype that cats are aloof, and don't rely on their owners for anything more than a comfy bed and a ready supply of food. In which case, as long as their basic needs are met, does it matter if they are alone for long periods?

A study has proven what many cat owners already knew – that cats form strong attachments to their owners, and rely on us for security and affection. It has also been shown that when cats are alone for longer periods, they purr more on their owner's return and initiate more social contact, indicating they do miss us after all.

Some cats even suffer from separation anxiety syndrome and display behaviors associated with distress when their owners are out of the house, such as:

- House soiling (toileting in undesirable places)
- Destructiveness
- Overgrooming Excessive vocalization
- You should contact your veterinarian for help if you think your cat is affected.

Pet Club Website

available to members only

Webmaster: Ginny Patterson

What's on It?

Resources:

Pet Sitters, Groomers, Vets,
24/7 Vets, Shelters, Euthanasia
Services, Agility Groups,
Kennels, Rescue Organizations,
Got Skunked?.....

Pet Partners Therapy Dog Information

Snake Aversion Information

Dog Training:

30 Virtual Dog Training Lessons,
Monthly Training Information,
Dog Class Descriptions.

Newsletters

Emergency Pet Information

.....and more!

Sun City Animal Beds Group

Handmade Gifts for Pets at the S.C. Hill Country Craft Fair, Nov. 5-6

Animal Beds & More will be selling pet-related gifts at the Craft Fair in Sun City on Nov. 5-6. All items are handcrafted from recycled or donated materials, and all proceeds go to support local animal shelters. Located in the Fabric Studio, first tables on your left.

Come and shop, and support the shelters
at the same time!



Pet Club Lunch Social

We had 186 members sign up for our October 8, 2022, social in the Sun City Ballroom.

Anne Marshall and Chrys Bouvier put together a fun slide show on the big screen of dogs going through the Snake Aversion Program.

Box Lunches were ordered from the HEB Deli, very delicious!!

Ruth Olsen and Claire Peele provided two Therapy Dog Team demonstrations and explained what therapy dogs can do.

Our merchandise table of donated new dog items were spread out 56 feet. Items were sold for a donation to the club; we collected \$647.

Ruth Olsen gets Roasted!

Ruth was thoroughly surprised with a hilarious Roast by Carol Belmont and Chickie Holt. After their skit, they presented Ruth with a thank you card signed by all the dog trainers for all Ruth's hard work and dedication to dog training. Along with the card, Ruth was given flowers and a gift card.

A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers who assisted putting the social together for all to enjoy!

Thank You!!!!!!!



56 ft of merchandise for sale



Susan Cook with her therapy dog Zane

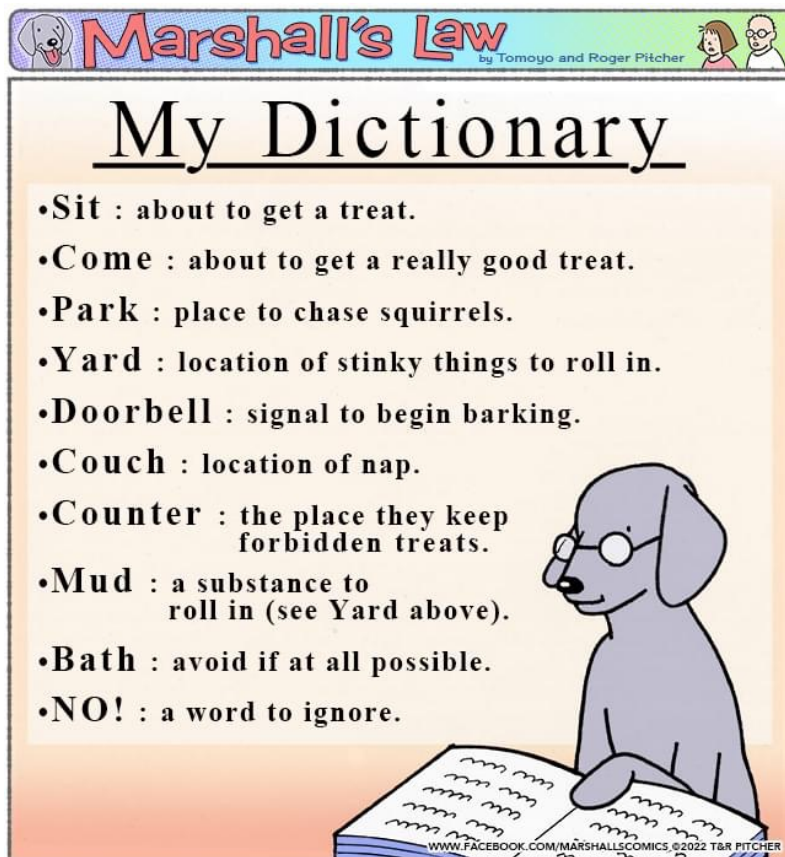


Ladye Freitage and her therapy dog Magnolia

Pet Portraits

This was our first Pet Portrait Event. Below is Ranger showing his best side for his photo op! We had over 45 members sign up to have their pet professionally photographed by Anne Marshall.

Many thanks to Anne and all the volunteers who assisted to make this happen.



Rally-O

Rally O is a competitive sport that improves teamwork while navigating a numbered course. Teams perform skills such as sit, down, right, left, weave and more. Teams are scored for both accuracy and speed.



Rally classes will be offered in February, June and October in 2023. Each semester consists of 4 classes. This is a fun class where you laugh at yourself (who really knows right from left ?) and your dog (you want ME to sit?). Only one team is on the course at a time. Dogs are always on leash and kept separate for safety.

In the first class you will learn what Rally is, what the rules are and accuracy. You will begin practicing with a toy dog (provided) on the simple signs such as right, left, sit, down. We might throw in a few difficult ones such as spiral, 360 degree or 270 degree turns. Class 2 will be with your dog. We will set up our first simple course to follow which will consist of approximately 10 signs. Class 3 will have advanced signs and have a different course. Class 4 is the class competition which will be open to limited observers.

A large Rally-O competition will be in late fall of all dogs who have taken Rally-O classes.

If you are looking for something different, fun and challenging for your dog and you - Rally is here! Dogs must have the basics of proper leash walking, and sit, down.

For more information about Rally-O,
contact Ruth Olsen at 6pawstraining@gmail.com



Dog Training Tip of the Month

The Importance of Hand Signals

Whether you are at the beginning of your dog training journey or in the middle, using hand signals can help when it comes to training your dog!

HOW TO TEACH YOUR DOG HAND SIGNALS

Start introducing hand signals in a distraction-free environment, since you'll need them to be focusing on you and looking at you for the whole session.

1. Pick one behavior at a time to introduce the hand signal for, to keep training sessions focused.
2. Once you have eye contact with your dog, give the verbal cue for the behavior alongside the hand signal, repeating this a few times.
3. Drop the voice cue and solely use the hand signal. This may be a challenge and may require you to revisit the previous step.
4. Once your dog gets a hang of the hand signal, cue the behavior a few times while mixing up repetitions of hand signal and verbal cue, but not both at the same time.
5. When your dog has this down, gradually introduce more and more distractions until this can be done in a noisy, busy environment.
6. Make sure each hand signal is consistent with the whole family and each signal is visually different from the others.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRAIN YOUR DOG TO RESPOND TO HAND SIGNALS?

Let's start with a super basic anatomy lesson. Dogs are like humans in that they have multiple senses. They use their ears to hear us, their noses to smell us, their eyes to see us... you get the picture.

So, it only makes sense that our training methods appeal to as many senses as possible, in this case, both hearing and seeing. There are also specific scenarios where hand signals may even be more beneficial than verbal cues:

- Many dogs can develop a hearing impairment as they get older (or while they are young), so knowing hand signals ensures you'll have a way to communicate with them.
- If there are a lot of cars, people, or other noisy distractions around you, your dog might not be able to hear you. In that case, it may be even more important to communicate cues with your dog as they may be in an environment with more hazards or risks.
- Dogs are better at distinguishing body language than specific words you use. It's easier for them to associate a gesture with a behavior than decipher a word from other sounds.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON HAND SIGNALS FOR DOGS

Using hand signals is a powerful way to improve your communication with your puppy or dog! Using signals makes it easy to get the cue across even around distractions, noises, or from a large distance away from your dog.

Information provided by Ruth Olsen



Pet Club Board and Program Leaders 2022

Board

President: Alan Kamen

Vice President: Liz Wommack

Treasurer: Lorenzo Gordon

Secretary: Pam Hull

Special Projects: Louise Epstein

Leaders

Dog Training: Ruth Olsen

Snake Aversion: Amy Cavaness

Donations: Diane Daniel

Photography: Anne Marshall

Webmaster: Ginny Patterson

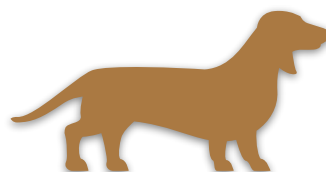
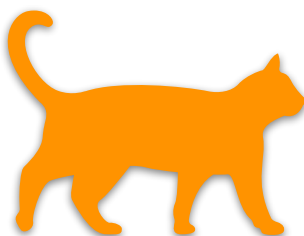
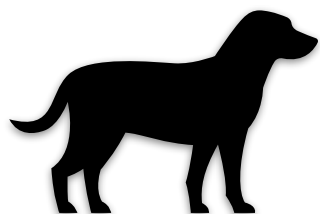
Purchased Donations as of 10/31/22

The Pet Club supports our local shelters year round by maintaining open communication and purchasing items for them based on their specific needs. Our donations include pet food, medications, equipment, and supplies.

These totals do not include items purchased by individual members.

Williamson County Regional Shelter:	\$ 2,062
All Things Wild:	\$ 2,896
Georgetown Animal Shelter:	\$ 658
Pet Partners:	\$ 910
Harley's Angels:	\$ 3,741
Living Grace Canine Ranch:	\$ 2,089
Texas Humane Heroes:	\$ 886
Austin Siamese Rescue:	\$ 1,317
Georgetown Animal Outreach:	\$ 250
R.O.C.K.:	\$ 500
Misc. Shelter Donations:	\$ 725
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$ 16,034</u>

The Pet Club does make a difference!





Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals took place on Tuesday, October 4 at the Amphitheater with about 75 people in attendance, most in the shade.

The Pet Club would like to thank Lionel Menchaca who played the guitar, Colin Murphy who read us sayings honoring our past pets and reminding us how important our current pets are, and retired Dr. Reverend Steve Pope who read the Blessing of the Animals and gave us a history lesson how this day came about.

Dr. Reverend Pope gave individual pet blessings to anyone who wanted one.

Photos provided by Faith Burns and Anne Marshall



Re-Homing Pets Policy Update

The Pet Club has assisted many SC residents in the past to re-home a pet, regardless of whether they were a Pet Club member or not.

However, we have been receiving way too many calls from people who are fostering, helping a family member, friend or neighbor, and even people outside of Sun City. It has now become an issue.

The Pet Club Board has decided to limit re-homing assistance to ONLY Pet Club Members and their personal pet. This is a service we will gladly provide to our members. We will no longer advertise pets from shelters, sanctuaries or from anyone, including members who are fostering a pet to be adopted.

This also applies to anyone seeking a new pet. We will only put that request on our Newsletter Bulletin Board for Pet Club Members.

While we would like to help everyone, we are all volunteers, and our primary responsibility is to serve our members.

Thank you,

Alan Kamen, President SC Pet Club

Club Bulletin Board

**Looking to adopt one of the
following breeds.**

A Maltipoo, Havanese, Lhasa Apso or Shih Ztu. Preferably
2 to 5 year old, female, who weighs about 15 pounds.

If anyone knows if any of these breeds are available to
adopt from a shelter, rescue or person, please contact me.

**Pat Nowkowski: patn_2009@yahoo.com
512-868-3218**