

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

January 1, 2023
Volume 2, Issue 1
Membership: 821

Message From the President,

I wish all of our members a Happy New Year! 2023 is starting off with our Meet the Pet Club Day on Monday, January 16, and I hope we see you at this informative event. Come and learn about all of our programs, such as Snake Avoidance, Dog Obedience Training, Become a Dog Trainer, All About Cats, how to become a Therapy Dog Team and more. Many of the local animal shelters we help support will also be in attendance; WILCO, Harley's Angels, Living Grace Canine Ranch, and Austin Siamese Rescue. ALL THINGS WILD is our guest speaker and will have some of their ambassador animals with them. Free Coffee and Donuts!! Come see us and bring a neighbor or a friend, all Sun City Residents are welcomed.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered in the past at any of our events. Because of your support and enthusiasm, we have grown to over 800 members. This has encouraged us to provide for the very first time, a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch for anyone who volunteered starting this past October. We are excited about adding this event for you! We cannot have a functioning, fun club without you.

Let's have a great year!

Alan Kamen
President, Pet Club

**Welcome New Pet Club Board
and Program Leaders
for 2023**

Board:

President:
Alan Kamen

Vice President:
Liz Wommack

Treasurer:
Karen Davenport

Secretary:
Pam Sarantos

Special Projects/Events:
Ruth Olsen

Leaders:

Dog Training:
Ruth Olsen

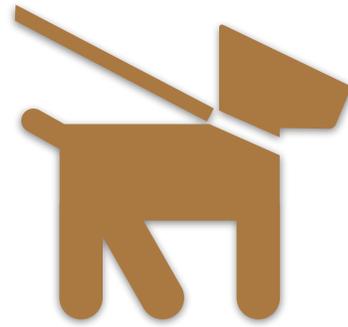
Snake Aversion:
Amy Cavaness

All About Cats:
Karyn Beavers

Donations:
Diane Daniel

Photography:
Anne Marshall

Webmaster:
Ginny Patterson



**Online Dog
Training:**

**Sign onto the
Pet Club Website**

**>Click on Dog
Training.**

**>Over 30 written dog
training lessons to
help you train your
dog.**

**Dog Training
Class Fees
for 2023:**

3-class semester: \$30

6-class semester: \$60

Rally-O: \$40

Dog Q & A: \$5

INTRODUCING A NEW DOG CLASS

Fear-Based Leash Reactivity Program

A dog might lunge, snarl and appear as if he wants to reach another dog to attack him, but the root of the behavior is a feeling of fear or discomfort with the presence of another dog. The display of body language and vocalizations is meant to convey, **Hey, you scary thing. Don't make me come over there! Move along!** The dog's goal is to distance themselves from the other dog. It tends to become more reactive because the behavior is reinforced since the other dog left.

These dogs are not aggressive and do not want to harm the other dog but want the other dog to leave. A fear-reactive dog does not deserve our anger or frustration but needs our empathy and calm understanding. Dogs do not grow out of fear aggression reactivity and if left addressed, it can become more challenging to resolve.

This is NOT a dog barking/pulling towards squirrels or deer. This is NOT a dog pulling to greet another dog or person. This is NOT a dog barking at the Amazon driver at your front door.

This is often a dog with poor early socialization, uncomfortable around other dogs, history of a traumatic incident with another dog, or medical or physical issues. This dog often tends to show fear reactivity only while on leash and will often play with dogs when off leash.

The goal of this class is to be able to walk your dog without your dog exploding into a flurry of reactivity when seeing another dog and to teach you how to properly guide and support your dog.

This class will take place on Thursday, Feb 16

One-on-one with a trainer

Class lasts 45 minutes

3 time slots...10, 11 and 12 - 2 dogs at each time slot

Handler must do assigned homework for up to 2 weeks prior and after class.... Required for success

Fee is \$25

Must contact lead dog trainer, Ruth Olsen, by January 15, 2023 to set up a phone interview to determine if your dog is appropriate for this class.

Ruth Olsen, Pet Club Lead Dog Trainer

6pawstraining@gmail.com

512-639-1771

Meet the Pet Club Day

Open to All Sun City Residents

Date: Monday, January 16, 2023 **Time:** 9:00 am to 12 noon
Where: Sun City Ball Room, Social Center, Texas Drive

presenting..... **“All Things Wild Rehabilitation”**

Come and see their live Ambassador Animals!



Meet our program leaders and information tables:

- > Dog Obedience Training
- > Community Involvement
- > Snake Avoidance
- > All About Cats
- > Pet Club Website
- > Donation and Equipment Loan Program
- > Pet Emergency Evacuation
- > Lost, Found and Re-Homing Pets



Local Shelters & Non-Profits Attending: WILCO, Living Grace Canine Ranch, G.A.O., Harley's Angels, Austin Siamese Rescue, R.O.C.K., Pet Partners of Williamson County (Therapy Dog Training)

Local Pet Retail Attending: Wag Heaven, Pupology

Homemade Pet Treat Bake Sale, New Pet Merchandise for Sale, Door Prizes, Donuts and Coffee

For more information: Contact Alan Kamen at alankamen5253@icloud.com

Humans Welcome



Sorry, No Pets

Volunteers Needed

to Assist with our second annual

"Meet the Pet Club Day"

When: Monday, January 16, 2023

Where: Sun City Ballroom, Social Center,
2 Texas Dr.

Time: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We can use volunteers from 8 a.m. to 1ish to help with set-up, program tables, greet table, sale table, breakdown, and promote the club. Volunteers will be assigned to different areas upon arriving at the event.

If you can help with a shift and want to have some fun,

Please email me at alankamen5253@icloud.com

Thank You,

Alan Kamen

Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers

Cat Behaviors That Are Paw-sitively Perplexing & Curiously Odd (part 1)

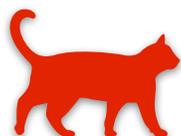
Cats, like us, have distinctive qualities and traits. "Normal" cat behavior isn't really a thing. You can assume that some behaviors will be found in many or even most cats, but each cat is still unique. Like us, their moods and environment affect their habits and behaviors. Our cats are attempting to teach us an important lesson by acting on their nature. This isn't to say that they can't learn to behave in ways that benefit the entire household. There is hope if your cat has excessive grooming habits, destructive kneading or scratching habits, or is a nightly disruptor. Early intervention with veterinary guidance or behavior training with a cat behavioral specialist can help turn cat behavior difficulties and challenges around.

If they bound around the house

You're finally home after a long day's work and you can't wait to shower and hit the sack. Suddenly, mid-sleep, you start to hear strange noises and your cat will charge into the room like a pack of dogs is after it. Cats are furry balls of energy and they need to let it out since hunting isn't an option. House cats zoom about the house because they don't have enough space for them to be free. If your cat does this, play more with them to release all that energy.

Face sniffing

Cat owners can relate to the feeling when their cat suddenly buries its face in theirs. It can catch you unawares but if you are used to it, there is comfort in that squishy face rubbing against yours. What bliss is this? Your face is an excellent spot for your cat to smell your unique natural scent, which is them searching for your essence, so to speak. It helps them relax by reassuring them that you are, in fact, you, and not some stranger



Chirping

It's a lovely summer evening, with bird calls in the air. But, as soon as your darling tabby sees the birds outside the window, it starts chattering its teeth in a way that sounds like a small toy motor is malfunctioning. Certain experts have a theory that this is a sound of irritation since they can't catch the bird through the window, no matter the effort. Some say it's a natural reflex where cats warm up their muscles before chasing their prey.

Lounging on your stuff like it's theirs

Nearly every cat owner currently in this world and those who were in this world can vouch for the fact that cats have interrupted them during work. Whatever you may be doing, may it be reading, working on something important, cats don't seem to care. Cats do this because they notice you reading or working on your computer and seek attention, so they get in the way of you and the object receiving what they want. They may even spread their scent on your belongings to identify their territory. A simple cuddle is a solution for this.

Boxes

It doesn't matter if you buy them the best cat bed money can buy. They won't stay in it. There might be nice areas in the house, you're sure to discover your cat snuggled up in a box, basin, or any other cramped spot.

Information from: funcatz.com



Miscellaneous Information

Traveling and want to bring your dog? bringfido.com

Donations, Collection & Loan Program:

Pet Items Available for Loan:

We have items to loan out to club members. Items include: crates, leashes, medical, cones, travel crates, dog bowls, K9 stairs and 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.

Last year for 2022, the Pet Club has donated over 500 collected items, valued at \$13,000, to local shelters. A huge thank you goes to Diane Daniel for organizing and managing our donations.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers 2022:

Over 30 Pet Club volunteers participated in the bell ringing on Dec. 7th and 8th. We helped collect \$1,206 on those two days! Great job and thank you to everyone and their canine helpers.



Zoomies

Does your dog run in circles? Chase their tail? Have a need to run figure 8's in your yard? Have a race course path in the house? Welcome to Zoomies!

Zoomies, or Frenetic Random Activity Periods (FRAPs), refer to those unmistakable explosions of energy that dogs have on occasion. Zoomies often feature frantic, repetitive behavior such as running in circles or spinning around.

Dogs frequently get zoomies at certain times. Zoomies are most common in puppies and young dogs. And although we can't know for sure why they do it, here are some likely reasons:

1. Release tension and anxiety

Dogs frequently zoom around after bath time, which is probably a way for them to get rid of anxious energy.

2. Warm up

Dogs who jet around the house after a walk or coming in from the outside may be trying to warm up.

3. Celebrate a feel-good moment

Many pet parents note that their dogs get zoomies after pooping. It's like they just unloaded something major and it's time for a whacked-out celebration.

4. Act on primal instinct

It's common for zoomies to happen at specific periods during the day. It may have to do with their built-in biological rhythms. Dogs tend to have a burst of energy in the morning and in the evening, which probably has to do with hunting cycles.

5. Relieve pain

Almost always, dog zoomies are a positive event. But occasionally, it could be triggered by a sharp but passing pain in the hind area

6. Show excitement

Sometimes dogs whiz around when something happens to rev them up, like seeing a special person or another dog. They just can't contain their excitement.

Dog zoomies are hilarious and entertaining. My Brooklyn had zoomies when she was young and had a definite race track almost every evening. She started outside making 3 large extremely fast figure 8's. Then she came into the house and started part 2, a track from on the top of my bed, down the hall, jumped on one sofa to the next and back to the bedroom again 3x. Then part 3, stood on the bed and became a tornado until she got all the blankets off the bed and onto the floor. Part 4, she calmly walked to her bed and fell asleep while I had to remake the bed. Her full zoomie routine lasted 5 minutes of full blast entertainment for me.

Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

The Pet Club and the NRO have teamed up to provide a Sun City-wide Lost Pet Alert System. This is the only system we will be using starting in 2023.

To make it successful, we would appreciate that **ALL MEMBERS** please **Opt In** to receive the email alerts to help locate a lost pet. Ask your Sun City friends and neighbors to **Opt In** as well.

Instructions To Receive Lost Pet Alerts

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](#)

To Report a Lost or Found Pet

Click on the Lost Pet Icon on the SC Resident Home page, or go to the Pet Club or NRO Website. After clicking on the Lost Pet Icon, follow the instructions to fill out the Lost Pet Form or if you found a lost pet, the Found Pet Form.

Monetary Donations to Shelters in 2022

WILLIAMSON COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER	\$2,063
ALL THINGS WILD	\$2,896
GEORGETOWN ANIMAL SHELTER	\$ 658
PET PARTNERS	\$1,160
HARLEY'S ANGELS	\$3,741
LIVING GRACE CANINE RANCH	\$2,089
TEXAS HUMANE HEROES	\$1,673
AUSTIN SIAMESE RESCUE	\$1,318
GEORGETOWN ANIMAL OUTREACH	\$ 250
R.O.C.K.	\$ 500
MISC. SHELTERS: TORNADO RELIEF, ETC.	\$ 877

TOTAL 2022 CASH DONATIONS: **\$17,225**

NOTE: Totals do not include items donated to the shelters from our Recycle Program. All recycled donations had an approximate value of \$13,000. Also, totals do not include separate food and item donations made by members.

TOTAL CASH DONATIONS SINCE 2019: **\$44,437**



SHE'S SUCH AN OVERACHIEVER.

