

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

June, 2023
Volume 2, Issue 6
Membership to date:
872

Message from the President,

Wanted! Pet Club Volunteer Leader for The Dog Park

As we pursue the possibility of the Dog Park becoming a Pet Club amenity, we are seeking a volunteer in a leadership role to help plan and eventually manage the Dog Park. We would like this person to be involved from the ground up. Desired traits include communication and organizational skills, work well with volunteers, and basic computer skills such as using word processing and spreadsheets.

We have researched dog parks in other Sun Cities, and how they are managed so there is much information to share with interested candidates. This is an opportunity to put your stamp on the first Pet Club amenity and for a potentially very rewarding experience.

If anyone is interested and would like to apply for this Pet Club position, has questions or wants more information, please email me at

alankamen5253@icloud.com

Alan Kamen
President, Pet Club

**Club General Meeting: Wednesday, June 28.
Florence/Georgetown Room at Cowan Creek.
9:30 a.m.**

Dog Park Update

Snake Avoidance

Saturday, June 24

The first day to sign up is on June 6, at 9 a.m. either on your Sun City Resident Home Page, under "Buy Tickets" or at the Members Service Desk in the Social Center on Texas Drive.

An email blast will go out to all members about two weeks before June 6 with details.



Sun City Pet Club Snake Avoidance Training

Rattlesnakes are quite common in our community and if bitten, there is a small window of time to get the dog to the veterinarian for treatment. Rattlesnake shots, offered by vets, do NOT make the dog immune to the venom- it just gives the dog a greater chance of survival until it gets to the vet's office.

The Sun City Pet Club engages Winter Kennels to do our Snake Avoidance Training several times per year here in Sun City. They have been doing this for many years and have successfully trained hundreds of Sun City dogs to avoid poisonous snakes (mostly rattlesnakes).

The training is done by putting a special collar on the dog and leading them to an area where the snake has been placed. **(These snakes have their venom sacks surgically removed so there is no danger to handler OR dog.)** When the dog catches the distinctive smell of the snake, a brief electric shock is administered. The unpleasant sensation associated with that particular smell is imprinted in the dog's mind so they will avoid those snakes. The dog's avoidance is also a great help to handlers as the dogs can warn of a snake's proximity even if it's hidden in the grass.

This snake avoidance can be done with **rattlesnakes, copperheads, or water moccasins**. Each snake has a unique, distinct smell and the dogs are trained to avoid them separately, at additional cost for each type of snake. Rattlesnakes are the primary concern here in Sun City, but if the dog will be in environments where the other types of snakes can be found, additional training is recommended.

The dog's minimum age for snake avoidance training is 5 months old.

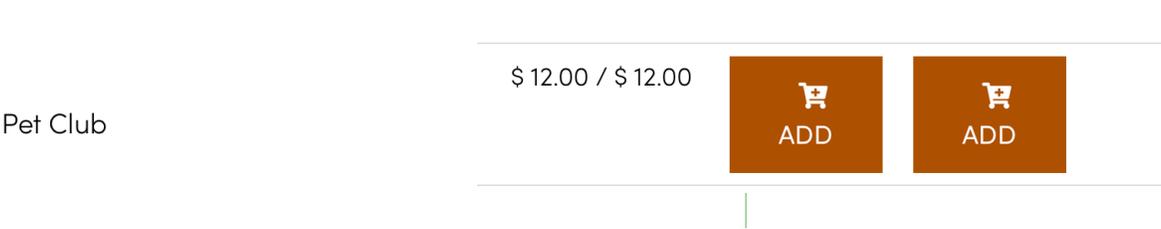
Your dog can be **re-tested** for a nominal fee at future snake avoidance trainings.

Questions can be directed to:

Amy Cavaness, Snake Avoidance Coordinator: awcdancer@gmail.com

How to Ensure Both Members of a Household Receive the Pet Club Emails

Once one member of a household joins the Pet Club, the 2nd member must also join by checking the second box. The membership fee is \$12 per household and is only charged once. **Both boxes must be checked for both people to receive emails.**



Lost Pets System

We have just over **900 SC residents Opted In** to receive the Lost Pet Report when a pet goes missing. Sadly, Pet Club members account for only 271 receiving the report. That's about 30%. I know we can do better as a club to help when a pet gets lost. I hope to see more of us Opt In to receive the lost pet report.

[How to Opt In, next page.](#)

Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

The Pet Club and the NRO have teamed up to provide
a **Lost Pet Alert System**.

These alerts go only to those who opt in, currently over 900 residents.

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. You don't have to be a
Pet Club member to **OPT IN**.

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.

Follow the instructions to fill
out the Form for either a
Lost Pet or a Found Pet.



Pet Club Bake Sale

Thanks to Ruth Olsen and the Bake Sale Committee, and all the volunteers, we had another amazing bake sale for the Pet Club. Your help and energy made this bake sale a huge success! And a **Special thank you goes to Liz and Ray Wommack for baking many pies and cakes pictured below!!** Everyone's effort helped raise \$1,400. Thank you!!!!!!

Wag Heaven Pet Supplies sold personal dog tags and donated all the tag sales to the Pet Club. **Thank you Jusak and Jeff!**



Pet Tip of the Month

Warning! Asphalt Too Hot!

TOO HOT FOR SPOT!

AIR TEMPERATURE	—	ASPHALT TEMPERATURE
77°	—	125°
86°	—	135°
87°	—	143°

CRAZYREBELS.COM

BE AWARE OF HOT ASPHALT BEFORE WALKING YOUR DOG

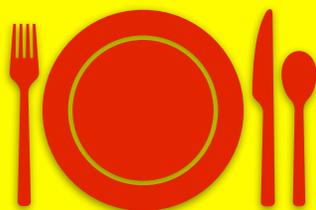
Data Source: Berens J. Thermal contact burns from streets and highways. Journal of the American Medical Association; 214 (11): 2025-2027.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Starting this year, we are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch for any Pet Club member who is an ACTIVE volunteer for two or more events per year.

We are keeping records of all who volunteer so we don't miss you. For this year, we started keeping track in October of 2022.

Volunteer Appreciation
Lunch is on
November 10, 2023



Bulletin Board

Dog Ramp Wanted

Our 12 yr. old lab can't jump in and out of our pickup very well. The steps we were using are too heavy for us and we are looking for one that is lighter and easier to use.

Thanks,
Dan Jowers
907-382-1250
dbjowers@msn.com

Pet Insurance Information Wanted

We would appreciate if anyone would share their experiences and information regarding pet insurance.

We are considering it .

Thank you,
Ann and Dennis Moser
amoser4@aol.com

**Pet Club Board
and Program Leaders**

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 Avoidance:
Amy Cavaness

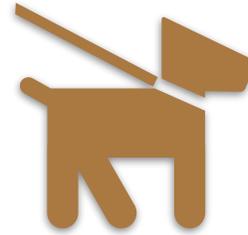
All About Cats:
Karyn Beavers

Donations:
Diane Daniel

Photography:
Anne Marshall

Webmaster:
Ginny Patterson

Pet Emergency Evacuation:
Sharon Dunning



**Online Dog
Training:**

**Sign onto the
Sun City Website**

- > Click on Chartered Clubs
 - > Click on Pet Club
 - > Click on Dog Training.

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



**ONLY DOGS LIVING
WITH AND OWNED
BY A PET CLUB
MEMBER MAY TAKE
CLASSES.**



Training Class Fees:

3-class semester: \$30

6-class semester: \$60

Rally-O: \$40

Dog Q & A: \$5

Dog Education Series

Open to All Sun City Residents

Presented by Ruth Olsen of the Pet Club

The purpose of this monthly series is to discuss topics that are not covered in dog training classes. **Come without your dog**, but bring questions, issues, or problems you are dealing with. Topics vary monthly depending on the attendees.

A \$5 donation for each class is suggested for up to 2 people per household to attend.
Pay at the seminar.

Q&A - For issues with dogs 1 year and older. Got a problem? Get a solution! Topics often include proper leash walking, jumping, barking, licking, crates, digging, and many more.

Puppy - Same as Q&A but focused on issues with dogs under 1 year old or someone thinking about getting a new dog of any age.

Date	Location	Q&A	Puppy
June 8	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
July 13	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Aug 7	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Sept 14	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Oct 12	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Nov 9	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45

If you need more information, contact Ruth Olsen, Pet Club Lead Dog Trainer
6pawstraining@gmail.com or 512 639 1771

Barking Dogs in Pet Club Classes

The CA has requested that if a dog barks in class, we remove the dog (and their handler!) from the building so that we do not disturb other residents in that location. This situation happens more frequently than anyone realizes.

Why do dogs bark in class and how can we help?

Stress is generally the main reason. Bringing a dog into a new location with other strange dogs and asking him to be quiet can be challenging to many dogs. Some dogs need a larger "space" around them; others want to greet everyone. Other dogs are afraid of the room or feel their handler's stress and respond by barking. Big or small dogs can be scary to your dog so he barks. Some dogs might require more socialization before feeling comfortable in a class.

A dog that exhibits stress or fear will not learn in that environment so we remove him from the classroom and work outside. Once outside, your dog often calms down so he is better able to focus and learn what we are working on through one-on-one training. The trainer has the dog walk around and sniff and relax. If your dog calms down after a few minutes, we re-enter the classroom. Having the handler focus 100 percent on your dog once back in the room helps a lot. Sometimes that is all it takes for a successful training session.

Other times, we stay outside during the entire class. One dog might need a larger space than other dogs. We focus on helping the dog and handler learn how to adjust to the dog's needs. We will work on the same training as the dogs inside the room are receiving, but we add the focus of letting other dogs/people get closer without your dog barking. Some dogs in this category stay outside the entire three weeks, gradually showing progress. It is a slow process, but we are generally successful in helping your dog calm down and learn.

It is not a bad thing when your dog has been removed from class. It is a good thing because we are just identifying the dog's needs. We respect what he needs so he can be successful around other dogs and in strange places. This process is an important aspect of dog training.

Barking Dogs in Pet Club Classes, cont.

I have a dog that feared going into an indoor group dog class. The trainer insisted she be positioned close to another dog to learn how to be near other dogs. By the end of the class, both my dog and I were stressed to the max and the next week, my dog refused to enter the building. I don't want that to happen to you.

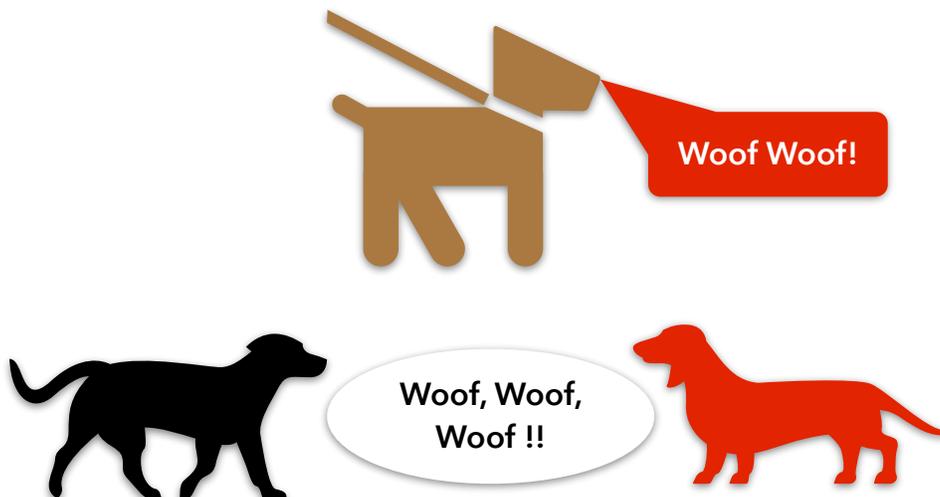
I want your dog to be comfortable around other dogs, strange environments, strange noises, etc. - **WHEN** he is ready. We can help your dog be more comfortable around others, some dogs just take more time to adjust than others. The worse thing you can do is cancel your classes and "wait it out" for the dog to be older or do better. Let us help you and your dog.

Not all dogs are the same and that is why we customize the Pet Club classes. We are here to help all dogs and their owners become successful and happy.

How can you help your dog?

When in class, give your dog your undivided attention. Keep your hands on him; talk to your dog, look at him; bring a quiet toy and a blanket/towel for him to relax on. Ignore other dogs and people. If you are looking around the room, so is your dog; if you talk to the other handlers, your dog will talk to the other dogs.

If you have any questions about your dog's behavior, either in class or in other situations, just contact Ruth at 6pawstraining@gmail.com.



Shelters and Organizations the Pet Club Supports

Williamson County Regional
Animal Shelter
wcras@wilco.org pets.wilco.org

Georgetown Animal Shelter
animalsvc@georgetown.org
pets.georgetown.org

Living Grace Canine Ranch
karen@livinggracecanineranch.org

Harley's Angels
harleysangelssanctuary@yahoo.com

Texas Humane Heroes
info@txhh.org

All Things Wild
allthingswildrehab@gmail.com

Austin Siamese Rescue
loveasiamese@gmail.com

R.O.C.K.
karah@rockride.org

Georgetown Animal Outreach
txcodigirl@gmail.com

Pet Partners
petpartners.org

Canine Companions
canine.org

Club Dates to Save:

June 24: Snake Avoidance

Aug 17: New Resident Club Fair

Sept. 23: Snake Avoidance

Sept. 27: General Meeting Guest Speaker: TBD

Oct. 3: Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 9: Club Lunch Social

November 10: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

November 16: New Resident Club Fair

November 30: Possible Pet Club Fund Raiser

HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A Dogs Guide

Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.

1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have short attention spans.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up. Good aerobics.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once you return home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.



Cat Corner

Information provided by Karyn Beavers

Which Flowers and Plants Are Safe for Cats?

Did you know that certain plants and flowers can actually be dangerous for your cat?

"While any plant material can cause mild stomach upset, some plants are much more dangerous," says Tina Wismer, medical director at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center.

It's also important for cat parents to know that some [plants and flowers that are relatively safe for dogs](#) can be deadly for cats. "Members of the Liliaceae (true lilies) or Hemerocallidaceae (day lilies) can cause kidney failure in cats, but only mild stomach upset in dogs," says Wismer.

If you're considering an eco-conscious revamp of your home décor, check this list to find out which flowers and houseplants are safe for cats.

Flowers That Are Safe for Cats

Avoid bringing dangerous flowers into your home with this list of safe flowers for cats:

Alstroemeria, Asters, Freesia, Gerber Daisies, Liatris, Lisianthus, Orchid, Roses, Snapdragon, Statice, Sunflowers, Wax Flower (Madagascar Jasmine)

Air-Purifying Plants That Are Safe for Cats

Houseplants cleanse the air we breathe from toxins found in many household products—formaldehyde, benzene, and carbon monoxide, just to name a few.

Here are some air-purifying plants that are also safe for cats

Areca Palm, Bamboo, Basil, Boston Fern, Cilantro, Dill, Dwarf Date Palm, Friendship Plant, Hens and Chicks, Lady Palm, Lemon Balm, Old Man Cactus, Painted Lady, Reed Palm, Rosemary, Sage, Shrimp Cactus, Spider Plant (Spider Ivy), Venus Flytrap, Zebra Haworthia

Even Safe Plants Can Pose Dangers to Cats

Wisner suggests that you keep these plants and flowers out of reach of curious cats even though they are considered safe, because there are other dangers to watch out for.

Most cut flowers come with a powdered flower food to keep them fresh, and this can be toxic to cats. Even the vases could pose a problem. "Cats especially like to drink from vases, so make sure the cat cannot overturn heavy vases and hurt themselves," Wisner adds. "Breakable vases can also be a hazard for your pets...and you, when you have to pick up the pieces."

Karen Lawrence, director of The CFA Foundation and manager of the Feline Historical Museum, suggests using hanging planters as a way to keep plants out of the reach of your pets.

What to Do If Your Cat Eats a Plant That Might Be Poisonous

If your cat nibbled on a flower or plant, and you are unsure whether it may be toxic, call your emergency vet, or the [Pet Poison Helpline](#) at 855-764-7661, or the [ASPCA](#)

Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

You should call even if you just suspect that your cat might have eaten part of a plant or flower.

