

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

September, 2023
Volume 2, Issue 9
Membership to date:
937

Mark your calendars!

General Meeting

NEW DATE

Wednesday, September 20

Time: 9:30 a.m.

**Where: Florence/Georgetown Room
Cowan Creek Amenity Center**

Guest Speaker:

Service Dogs, Inc., Sheri Soltes

Service Dogs Inc. trains shelter dogs to
become Service Dogs

Snake Avoidance

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Cost is \$70 per dog.

Tickets will be available starting
Tuesday, Sept. 5, 9:00 a.m. online or at
the Members Services Desk.

The last day to purchase a ticket
is September 14.

Re-Testing: If your dog has gone through the program with us before
and you would like to have your dog re-tested, tickets can also be
purchased the same way for \$10 per dog per snake.

If the re-testing session is full, contact Ruth Olsen at
6pawstraining@gmail.com to be put on the waitlist.

You will be responsible for walking your dog through the program or
pre-arranging for someone to do so. Dog minimum age: 5 months

For more information, please call Alan Kamen at 409-354-1292 or Ruth
Olsen at 512-639-1771.

This is the last Snake Avoidance for the year.
Next one is April 2024

Blessing of the Animals

**Tuesday, October 3, at the Amphi Theater,
Cowan Creek, 9:30 a.m.**

Blessing given by The Reverend Dr. Steven Pope, music by Lionel Menchaca,
pet stories by Carol Belmont and Steve Huth.

**All Sun City residents and guests, along with their pets,
are invited to join us.**

Bring a blanket, lawn chair and water for you and your pet. In the event of inclement weather, we will use the CC Pavilion.

This program will feature a selection of readings that celebrate our pets. This is our opportunity to thank them for the joy they bring into our lives. We will also honor and reflect on the memories of pets who have passed.

**Sign up not required,
just come and find a good spot on the lawn.**



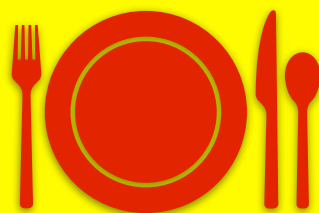
from the book "Wise Dogs," H. Jackson Brown Jr. and Dale C. Spartas

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

We are hosting our FIRST Annual Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on November 10 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 for the club so we don't miss you. For this year, we started keeping track in October of 2022. If you volunteered for one event, there are only a few more events for which you can volunteer to be included in our Volunteer Lunch.

Hope to hear from you!



Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

Sign up to receive the Lost Pet Alert to help get a lost pet home safe!!

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.



The Importance of Eye Contact with Your Dog

written by Ruth Olsen

Seeing eye-to-eye is viewed by many dogs as a threat more than a measure of good will. Depending on the socialization your dog received as a puppy, his genetic predisposition, and experience before you adopted him, eye contact may be perceived as a significant-enough threat to spark aggression.

If the above is true - and it is! - then why do the Pet Club trainers spend so much time training your dog to look at you?

One of the first things we teach in training classes is getting your dog to focus on you before you ask him to do anything. And we review it in all classes. Why?

Teaching your dog to "check in" with you is the best way to teach calm responses and keep your dog's attention even when there are exciting things happening around him.

Cues can be "look," "me," "watch me," "focus." Any word can be used as long as you are consistent and use the same word every time.

So, why have your dog look at you?

1. **To have your dog pay attention to you** - This cue allows you to control your dog's focus, which is essential during training sessions. Influencing where your dog is looking will increase your success. A dog that isn't looking simply won't see what you're doing. But one who watches you is waiting to see what you'll ask for next.

2. **Everyday life** - It's common to give your dog instructions, like to lie down on a mat when visitors come in the door or to sit before he gets dinner. Getting your dog's focus first, especially when there are exciting things competing for his attention, can greatly increase obedience. A "Watch Me" cue is also useful to redirect your dog away from distractions. If you want to pass another dog on a walk, asking your dog to look at you instead of the other dog will make it easier to walk on by.

3. **Bonding** - Teaching your dog to look at your eyes can help relieve any stress associated with mutual gazing. Make sure your eyes are "soft" not "hard" when you look into their eyes. Some dogs, on the other hand, love to stare into their owner's eyes. It's how they show affection or communicate that they want something. Looking into their owners' eyes releases oxytocin, the love hormone. The same thing happens to you when you stare into your dog's eyes. So encouraging mutual eye contact is a great way to build your bond with your dog.

In a recent Rally Obedience class, we had three dogs staring at their handlers the entire time they ran through the course. It was beautiful to watch. Except when Marty was so focused on his handler, that he tripped over the cones he was supposed to weave through! OH well, he never lost eye contact!

Never take eye contact for granted. Any time your dog is choosing to look at you instead of something else exciting, reward him with praise, a treat, or even a cuddle. Let your dog know that you're somebody worth attending to, and he will be all eyes on you.



Important Notice!!

Central Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital

301 Chisholm Trail, Round Rock

Contact: 512-961-5200

IS NO LONGER A 24 HOUR VET

New Hours of Operation

Effective July 10, 2023

Specialty Care:

Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Saturday 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Emergency Care:

OPEN: Monday at 7:00 A.M. to Thursday at
7:00 A.M.

CLOSED: Thursday 7:00 A.M. through Sunday

Go to www.ctvsh.com to find out more information.

24-HOUR Emergency Care Centers in our area:

Heart of Texas Veterinary Specialty Center

115 E. Old Settlers Blvd., Round Rock Hours: Open 24 hours a day

Contact: 512-744-4644 <https://www.thrivepetcare.com/locations/texas/round-rock/heart-of-texas-veterinary-specialty-center>

Emergency Animal Hospital of Crystal Falls

10804 E Crystal Falls Parkway, Leander Hours: Open 24 hours a day

Contact: 512-817-3474 eahofcrystalfalls.com

**Keep all three emergency contacts where you can
access them quickly when you need it.**

**Before speeding to a care center, call
first to ensure they are available!**

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
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	Main Room, The Oaks	1:00-2:00	2:15-3:15

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



What's on It?

Resources:

Pet Partners Therapy Dog Information

Dog Training:

Newsletters

Emergency Pet Information

....and more!

Pet Club Activities

[illegible]

Jan.: C.A. Club Fair

Oct.: Members' Lunch Social

Rally O Classes **New!**

Canine Companions Service Dog Puppy Sitters and Puppy Raisers Assistance **New!**

New Resident Orientation/Club Fairs

Pet Club Policy Reminder

as of January 2023

It has been decided by the Pet Club Board to **NOT** forward any events, donation requests, fundraisers, etc. posted by shelters, sanctuaries, non-profits or businesses to the Pet Club Membership.

If a member wishes to find out about fund raisers, events or any information from a shelter they support, we are providing a contact list below so you can ask to be put on their mailing list.

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 lisadixon47@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

Canine Companions: wayne.sirois@caninevolunteer.org

All Businesses

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:

Sept 20: **General Meeting** Guest Speaker:

Sheri Soltes, Service Dogs Inc.,
(Training shelter dogs to be Service Dogs)

Sept 23: **Snake Avoidance**

Oct. 3: **Blessing of the Animals**

Oct. 9: **Club Lunch Social**

Nov. 10: **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch**

Nov. 16: **New Resident Club Fair**



Where's our driver?

Wanted:

Dog Trainers

The Pet Club is adding new dog training classes, and we could use more trainers to be able to expand our training program for over 900 members.

The Pet Club is offering a new "Become a Dog Trainer" Class in the Fall.

To find out more about becoming a Pet Club Dog Trainer and joining this great team, contact Ruth Olsen at 512-639-1771.

Bulletin Board

Wanted:

Play dates for our male 16 month-old mini Rat Terrier Gnarly Dude. He loves people and other dogs. Willing to take turns at each other's home. If interested, please contact Kelly and

David Brent (N77) at 512-496-6730 or

kellyanddavidbrent@gmail.com

Canine Companions, a Service Dog Training Program, Growing in Sun City

At our March Pet Club meeting , Pet Club members Kathy and Wayne Sirois joined us to share their experiences as puppy raisers for Canine Companions - a non-profit organization that provides expertly trained service dogs at no cost to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings.

Kathy and Wayne live in Sun City (N85) and; have raised 17 service dogs over 24 years. They explained how puppy raisers get a dog at 8 weeks old and raise them until they are about 16 months. At that time, they go on to 4 - 6 months of advanced training at the Canine Companions training facility in Irving, Texas before being matched with a recipient. While taking on the challenge of raising a puppy is not for everyone, Kathy and Wayne explained there are many ways to become involved. For example, being a puppy sitter who can take a puppy for a few days when the raisers are traveling or even just a few hours if they need to do something where it's not feasible to take the puppy. Other opportunities include helping transport puppies, coordinating events to increase public awareness, or donating funds. Remember, the dogs are no-cost to the recipient and have an amazing impact on their lives.

Kathy and Wayne were joined at the meeting by Puppy-In-Training Wisp, a beautiful yellow retriever, who really captured the attention of the attendees as she demonstrated some of the basic behaviors she was learning. Following the meeting, we sent out a short survey and found that several members were interested in learning more. As a result, Canine Companions held an informational session at Legacy Hills Park in April which was attended by Pet Club members.

Wayne is the leader of a new volunteer chapter for Canine Companions for the Texas Hill Country.

The Pet Club donated \$250 to the Canine Companions Organization and an additional \$250 to Wayne and Kathy to help raise the next Canine Companion Service dog.

The Pet Club thanks Wayne and Kathy for their dedicated service to this great cause!!!

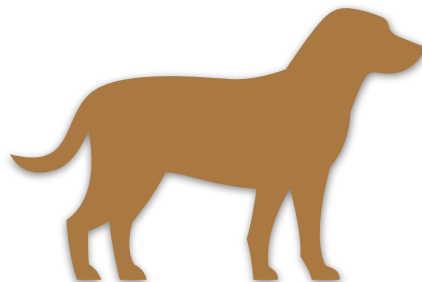
If anyone would like to learn more about Canine Companions, go to www.canine.org, or send an email to wayne.sirois@caninevolunteer.org

Pet Friendly Stores & Eateries in Georgetown

Click on the link to see a list of retail stores and eateries that allow dogs.

<https://www.hellogeorgetown.com/dog-friendly-establishments-in-georgetown-tx/#1651633989460-f6a17336-913b>

Always call ahead to any business to which you wish to take your dog to ensure their pet policy still allows dogs and if any restrictions.



Cat Corner

information provided by Karyn Beavers



Too hot to do anything, like we need a reason.....