

# SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

## "The Scoop"

January, 2024  
Volume 3, Issue 1  
Membership to date:  
as of 1/1/2024 553

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

# PET CLUB

I would like to thank our Board, Program Leaders, and everyone in the Pet Club for making 2023 our best year yet. Your volunteerism, dedication and participation in our events and programs helped us have a successful and fun club. Because of your efforts, we had our first Pet Club Volunteer Luncheon and we will continue this new tradition going forward. Our dog training program has exploded with being able to offer over 150 dog training classes, compared to previously only having 3 per year. We ended 2023 with 985 members, the most ever. I hope we can beat that in 2024. Dedication and participation from our members continue to inspire your hard working Board and Program Leaders to create new programs, making our club even more beneficial to our members.

So, thank you again to everyone and hope for a safe and healthy 2024.

Alan Kamen

President, Pet Club



# Pet Club Open House



The Pet Club is having its 3rd Annual Open House. Members and Sun City Residents are invited to come and browse our information tables and meet over 10 animal shelters and organizations the Pet Club supports.

When: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Where: 2 Texas Drive, Ball Room

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Learn about our current and future **Dog Training Classes, Free Training Clinic, Pet Emergency Evacuation, Snake Avoidance, our FREE Pet Equipment Loan Program, Therapy Dog Training, Lost Pet Alert System, Cats, and more.....**

## **Local Shelters and organizations attending:**

WILCO, GTAS, Canine Companions (Service Dogs), Georgetown Fire Dept. with therapy dog Koda, All Things Wild with ambassador animals, R.O.C.K., Living Grace Canine Ranch, Harley's Angels, All About Animals, Pet Partners, Texas Humane Heroes, Austin Siamese Rescue, Service Dogs, Inc., Pet Partners

## **Local Pet Retail Stores Attending:**

**Wag Heaven, Pupology, and Woof Gang Bakery**

**Coffee, snacks and door prizes. Sorry, No Pets.**

**New pet toys and small pet equipment  
available for a donation.**

We would like to see as many members as possible to show support for our Volunteer Program Leaders and our local shelters.

**Bring a neighbor, a friend—all residents are invited, it's a **FREE** event!**

# 2023 Pet Club Statistics:

**Donations:** Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter \$1,770, All Things Wild \$500, Georgetown Animal Shelter \$1,754, Pet Partners \$250, Harley's Angels \$2,393, Living Grace Canine Ranch \$2,070, Texas Humane Heroes \$1,692, Austin Siamese Rescue \$1,018, R.O.C.K. \$500, Canine Companions \$759, Service Dogs, Inc. \$796, GTFD and GTPD Canine Unit \$238, Sun City CA \$2,997.

**Total Monetary Donations in 2023: \$16,737**

**Donated Miscellaneous Items to Shelters, Estimated Value: \$7,575**

**Total Donations: \$24,312**

**Donations to the CA: 4 Dog Waste Stations, 72,000 Dog Waste Bags**

**Lost and Found Pet Alerts reported in 2023:**

Lost Dog Reports: 15      Loose/Found Dog Reports: 13

Lost Cat Reports: 17      Loose/Found Cat Reports: 8

**Total Lost, Loose or Found Reports for 2023: 53**

**Number of Dog Trainers: 15**

**Number of Dog Training Classes: 154**

**Number of Dogs Trained: 444**

**Number of Dogs Taking Snake Avoidance Training, including re-tests: 97**

**Membership: 985**



# Membership 2024

The 2024 Pet Club dues are only \$12 per household for new and renewing members. You can purchase your membership online or at the Community Association Member's Services desk located at 2 Texas Dr.

When purchasing your membership, remember, both residents of an address must join if they each want to be counted as members and receive our emails about dog training, events, meetings, newsletters, etc. The second resident will NOT be charged.

**January 31, 2024** is the deadline to re-join to stay a member. The CA automatically

removes anyone who has not re-joined by that date. To avoid missing our newsletters and emails, please remember to re-join, we appreciate it. To re-join, sign into your Resident Home Page, on the right, click on "Buy/Renew Memberships", find Pet Club, click on RENEW. Don't forget to click on RENEW or join your spouse at no extra fee.

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## RESIDENT HOME

HOW TO PAY YOUR HOA DUES & 2024 HOA/LMH DUES AND GOLF RATES



BUY/RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

TEE TIME REQUESTS (CHELSEA)

BUY TICKETS

**Just a reminder of some of what the Pet Club offers members:**

**SNAKE AVOIDANCE**

**DOG Q&A SEMINARS**

**DOG TRAINING CLASSES**

**FREE PET EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**

**INFORMATIVE MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS**

**NEW, STARTING EARLY 2024! FREE DOG TRAINING CLINIC**

For more information or if you have any questions about membership in the Pet Club, contact our Membership Leader Verne Palmer at verneinsctx@suddenlink.net.

We look forward to being of service to you and your pet.

# **Wanted:**

## **Pet Club Webmaster**

The Pet Club is looking for a Webmaster who can revitalize our current site and maintain it. Our Webmaster Ginny Patterson is retiring after many years of service to the club. Thank you Ginny!

For more information about this position, contact Alan Kamen at 409-354-1292 or [alankamen5253@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen5253@icloud.com)

## **Donations Leader**

Our Donations Program Leader receives donated pet items, inventories them, and loans them out to Pet Club members at no charge. Extra items and equipment are donated to local shelters. Must have storage space in your garage. Full training available. This is a rewarding position helping others.

For more information about this position, contact Diane Daniel at 512-868-7393 or [dadaniel261@msn.com](mailto:dadaniel261@msn.com)

## **Dog Trainers**

We are always in need of people who want to learn how to become a Dog Trainer. The Pet Club provides over 130 dog training classes annually to members. No previous dog training knowledge required, only patience, willing to work with all breeds, and have good people skills. Learn a valuable skill: how to communicate with dogs. We currently have 15 trainers on our team and are looking for more to help expand this great program.

For more information about this position, contact Ruth Olsen at 512-639-1771 or [6pawstraining@gmail.com](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com)

# 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	Dog Q&A	Puppy Q&A
Jan 11	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Feb 8	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
March 14	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
April 11	Oaks Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
May 9	Oaks Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
June 13	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
July 11	Oaks Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Aug 8	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Sept 12	Mesquite Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Oct 10	Oaks Room, The Oaks	9:30-10:30	10:45-11:45
Nov 14	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](mailto:6pawstraining@gmail.com) or 512 639 1771

# Pet Club Annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 6, 2023



Becky Brettnacher with buddy Max

Laura Cowen and Marvin



David Hubble and Marty

Susan Lambert with Lily

# Animal Shelter of the Month

## Living Grace Canine Ranch



Welcome to **Where Love Resides** for adoption-disadvantaged senior dogs. Located in Bertram, the sanctuary offers over 10,000 square feet of residential caregiving to over one hundred dogs with medical, mobility, and emotional challenges.

In 2020, LGCR was founded and organized as a 501(c)(3) charity by Rhonda Minardi, a Georgetown, Texas resident. Rhonda envisioned a Texas where homeless old dogs were scarce in shelters and absent from roadside abandonment. The tragic truth about Texas shelters is that sixty-four percent of older dogs are euthanized for lack of adoption or rescue organization interest. Yet, the ASPCA estimates that ninety percent of those euthanized had treatable conditions. LGCR's mission is to save, serve, and embrace old lives with dignity, love, and respect.

**"It's a precarious situation for senior pet companions when a parent passes or becomes incapacitated. At LGCR, we serve as medical caregivers, protectors, and loving parents to those who have devoted a lifetime to humans, asked for nothing, and deserve much more during the final trimester of Life." ~ Rhonda Minardi**



On Christmas morning of 2020, fifteen sanctuary sweethearts awoke to new toys, sweaters, and the smells of something delicious emanating from the bunkhouse kitchen. Today, over one hundred dogs of all breeds and sizes will experience Christmas and the New Year feeling loved and renewed.

We invite you to schedule a tour and learn about our community volunteering, fostering programs, and other ways of giving. [www.livinggracecanineranch.org](http://www.livinggracecanineranch.org)

# OH NO, THE VET!

Written by Ruth Olsen

## Who is more afraid of going to the vet? You or your dog?

Probably you are nervous, making your dog more nervous. It is your job to make the visit stress-free and comfortable for you, your dog and the vet.

It is difficult and, occasionally, unsafe for vets to examine our overstressed dogs. Keeping your dog calm before he sees the vet helps the vet perform the examination and give the vaccines.

### Plan Ahead and Be Proactive!

When you first get your dog or are switching to a new vet, ask if you can drop in with your dog for a few minutes, just as far as the lobby, when it is quiet, and you do not have an appointment. Ask if the receptionist can give your dog a treat. Make it a short visit, less than five minutes. Let your dog step on the dreaded scale, greet the receptionist and get a treat - then go out the door. Doing this a few times before a real visit will make the place familiar to your dog, easing stress a little.

Make sure your collar/harness/gentle leader or whatever you use is secure so that your dog cannot slip out of it.

When you arrive for a real visit, leave your dog in the car while you check out the waiting room. Is it empty, full of dogs and other animals, are some dogs barking, whining? Maybe it's not the best time to bring in your dog and start off on the wrong paw. Ask if they will call or text you when it is your turn to come into the facility.

Take your dog for a quick walk to relax him, let him sniff where other dogs have gone already. Caution: If you know the vet will want a urine or stool sample, ask them if this is OK to do.

Do not drag your dog into the building. Keep a happy upbeat voice and ask your dog to "WALK," treating delicious soft treats as needed. **DO NOT USE A FLEXI OR EXTENDED LEASH IN A VET OFFICE.**

Keep away from other dogs. Some dogs or other animals might be sick, scared, or uncomfortable around your dog. Never assume other dog owners know what to do. After all, isn't everyone's dog friendly? NO! While in the waiting room, focus on your dog, pet your dog, and talk to him to keep him calm. HINT: Do not use the word "COME" to get your dog into the vet's office. That is a quick way to re-train or train your dog to not respond to "COME" since it brought him someplace bad.

# OH NO, THE VET!

Bring special treats for your dog. Once in the exam room, see if your dog will take a treat (stressed dogs often do not accept treats). When the vet tech or vet comes in, ask them to give your dog treats. Ask the vet to get down to the dog's level. Keep your hands on your dog as much as possible to keep your dog comfortable.

When your visit is over, open the door to the lobby carefully and see if it is safe and comfortable for your dog to exit before walking out.

Most vet offices have back door entrances. If you feel entering the lobby either when arriving or leaving is not right for your dog, ask for an escort in or out of the back door.

To muzzle or not to muzzle? If you know your dog will not be "pleasant" to the vet tech or vet, call in advance and ask if you can muzzle your dog before you come in. Your vet will probably appreciate it!

## **When in Doubt - Medicate!**

The dog - not you! Some dogs are highly anxious, and vet visits are extremely stressful for them. Call your vet in advance and ask if they can prescribe something before coming in. It just might make the exams easier for everyone.

## **End on a Good Note!**

When possible, reward your dog for going to the vet - even if it did not go perfectly. Take your dog for a walk someplace new where he can sniff, have a special treat ready for him when you go home or take him for a special doggie ice cream or pup cup on the way home.

Here is a link to find some fast-food establishments that offer doggie ice cream:

[Living.greatpetcare.com/entertainment/pup-cup-guide](http://Living.greatpetcare.com/entertainment/pup-cup-guide)

Also, note that on that website is Dutch Bros on University in Georgetown!!





# Cat Corner

## Has your cat partied too much during the Holidays?

### Your Cat's Weight & Health

Your cat's weight is an important part of their overall health, even if you don't think about it. When your cat is overweight, just like people, its risk of developing serious and potentially life-threatening conditions rises dramatically. Even a few extra ounces can have a significant impact on your cat's overall health and vitality.

### Health Risks Faced by Overweight Cats

**If your feline friend is carrying excess weight, they face an increased risk of developing these serious conditions:**

Diabetes

Arthritis

Urinary tract infections

Joint pain

## How To Tell If Your Cat Is Overweight

### Look for Your Cat's Waistline

Look down at your cat from directly above while he or she is standing. Look for a small indent above your cat's hips, where their waist should be (this can be a bit tricky with long-haired cats). If you can't see their waist or their sides are bulging, your cat is probably overweight.

### Feel for Your Cat's Ribs

When your cat is at a healthy weight, you should be able to slightly feel their ribs by gently running your hand along their chest. If you can't feel your cat's ribs, your cat may be overweight.

### Struggling to Jump

Cats are born with the ability to run and jump quickly. If your cat takes several tries to jump up onto their favorite piece of furniture, or if they give up entirely, their weight could be the issue.

# Cat Corner

## Getting Your Cat's Weight Back On-Track

Your cat's breed, age, and lifestyle all make a significant difference to their nutritional needs. Make an appointment with your veterinarian if you suspect your cat is overweight. Your veterinarian will determine your cat's current weight, as well as what their ideal weight is and how to assist them in achieving their weight loss goals.

If your cat is just a little overweight, you may be able to continue feeding them their regular food but at reduced portion sizes.

If, on the other hand, your cat needs to lose a significant amount of weight, it may be best to switch your kitty over to a specialized food that is formulated to help cats lose weight.

## Unexplained Weight Gain

If your cat has suddenly begun to put on weight without cause, it's time to see your vet. Unexplained weight gain can be a symptom of an underlying health issue.

This comes from:

[Cumberland Animal Clinic 1860 Spring Rd SE Smyrna GA 30080](https://www.cumberlandanimalclinic.com/1860-Spring-Rd-SE-Smyrna-GA-30080)



## Shelters and Organizations the Pet Club Supports

### **Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter**

[wcras@wilco.org](mailto:wcras@wilco.org)      [pets.wilco.org](http://pets.wilco.org)

### **Georgetown Animal Shelter**

[animalsvc@georgetown.org](mailto:animalsvc@georgetown.org)  
[pets.georgetown.org](http://pets.georgetown.org)

### **Living Grace Canine Ranch**

[karen@livinggracecanineranch.org](mailto:karen@livinggracecanineranch.org)

### **Harley's Angels**

[harleysangelssanctuary@yahoo.com](mailto:harleysangelssanctuary@yahoo.com)

### **Texas Humane Heroes**

[info@txhh.org](mailto:info@txhh.org)

### **All Things Wild**

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

### **Austin Siamese Rescue**

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

### **R.O.C.K.**

[karah@rockride.org](mailto:karah@rockride.org)

### **Pet Partners**

[petpartners.org](http://petpartners.org)

### **Canine Companions**

[canine.org](http://canine.org)

### **Service Dogs, Inc. Sheri Soltis**

[sheri@servicedogs.org](mailto:sheri@servicedogs.org)

## **Club Updates:**

### **New Membership Leader Position:**

Meet Verne Palmer, our new Membership Leader. [verneinsctx@suddenlink.net](mailto:verneinsctx@suddenlink.net)

### **New FREE Dog Training Clinic:**

Ruth Olsen and Chickie Holt are developing a new dog training clinic starting in the Spring of 2024. This new program DOES NOT replace dog training classes. Details coming out soon.

### **Shelter Spotlight:**

Starting this month, we will spotlight a shelter or organization we support.

February: Harley's Angels

March: Service Dogs, Inc.

# Sun City Lost Pet Alert System

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

## 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.



# Bulletin Board

Members Only are welcome to post a free personal pet-related ad on our monthly newsletter bulletin board.

Contact: Alan Kamen at [alankamen@icloud.com](mailto:alankamen@icloud.com)

## Pet Club Board and Program Leaders

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### Board:

**President:** Alan Kamen, **Vice President:** Liz Wommack,

**Treasurer:** Karen Davenport, **Secretary:** Pam Sarantos,

**Special Projects/Events:** Ruth Olsen, **Board Member at Large:** Chickie Holt

### Leaders:

**Dog Training:** Ruth Olsen, **Snake Avoidance:** Chickie Holt,

**All About Cats:** Karyn Beavers, **Donations:** Diane Daniel

**Photography:** Anne Marshall, **Webmaster:** Ginny Patterson,

**Membership:** Verne Palmer, **Pet Emergency Evacuation:** Sharon Dunning