

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

May, 2024
Volume 3, Issue 5
Membership to date:
947

Pet Club General Meeting

May 8, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Georgetown/Florence Room, at Cowan Creek

Guest Speaker: Blue Moon Rescue

Rescue for donkeys and horses next to All Things Wild

<https://www.facebook.com/bluemoonequinerescue>



New Policy on Pet Re-Homing and Adoption Requests

As of May 1, 2024, the Pet Club will no longer assist with the re-homing of any pet from anyone, or send out requests from people looking for a pet. There are many resources in our area who can handle these requests.

Once a member finds their forever pet, the Pet Club is here to help with training and provide many other resources to enhance their life with their pet.

Alan Kamen
President, Pet Club

NOTE: The Lost and Found Pets Alert System is operated by the Pet Club and will continue. This is a vital program to help ALL Sun City residents when a pet goes missing or is found.

Allowing Dogs to Greet on Leash

"My dog is friendly; he wants to say 'Hi' to your dog." We hear this all the time. But is it safe for your dog? Does your dog want another dog walking up to him?

"I want to socialize my dog." Most people believe socialization only means greeting on leash. Dogs can be and should be trained to be social from a distance.

Dogs greeting each other off leash is completely different than greeting on leash. Here's why and what to do:

Most on-leash greetings are not consensual. 2 dogs + 2 humans = 4. It is rare when all 4 parties agree, are interested in greeting or know how to properly greet. That can cause a negative interaction to happen. Be respectful of your dog and the other dog/human. Suggest you walk together and keep the dogs apart so they are comfortable. Most people cannot read a dog's body language fast enough to react properly if an interaction were to happen. Not all dogs like to greet other dogs or know the proper way to greet the other dog.

Humans do not move; dogs do. Watch what is going on. Two humans are standing still holding leashes while dogs are wiggling around each other, smelling, walking away, etc. Now the humans are trying to untangle leashes, maybe pulling on a leash, creating pressure, therefore, preventing one dog from participating in the greeting. This can cause one dog to be at a disadvantage and not able to protect himself.

Allowing on-leash greeting becomes a habit. Should your dog be allowed to walk up to every dog he passes? NO. That causes your dog to be disengaged from you and to pull toward other dogs. It makes it more difficult to teach your dog to walk politely with you. A dog who is "trained" to greet all dogs will become excited when he sees another dog - whine, jump, bark, pull - and if you do not let him greet, he can become aroused and aggressive around other dogs.

Ending the interaction incorrectly. Many people let the greeting go on too long, then realize they need to move on. They tug the leash and drag their dogs away. This can cause your dog to feel he has no control and can cause him to snap at the other dog or develop fear towards other dogs.

If you want to greet - do it properly. Limit the interaction to less than 5 seconds before moving on. That prevents the tension/excitement from building and triggering an issue. Walk the dogs side-by-side so they can see each other and socialize from a short distance

Never greet a dog on a retractable leash. A dog will see another dog running toward him, not realizing that a person is with that dog but over 20 feet away. The handler has no control over where his dog is going. If you see a dog with a retractable leash coming toward you, do your best to get away and out of that dog's path. Getting caught up in a retractable leash is dangerous for you and the dogs.

Animal Shelter/Organization of the Month

Canine Companions

Canine Companions Continues to Grow in Sun City

Canine Companions, one of the charities generously supported by the Sun City Pet Club and its members, is a national organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained service dogs at no charge to the recipient.

Canine Companions puppies are specially bred for health and temperament and then raised by volunteers until they are about 16 months old at which time, they go to the Canine Companions facility in Irving, Texas, for advanced training and placement. The primary role of a puppy raiser is to introduce the puppies to a broad range of experiences where they develop confidence and learn to interact with people in an appropriate way.

There is a small but growing group of Canine Companions volunteers in Sun City. Wayne & Kathy Sirois have been involved with service dogs for more than 24 years raising, 19 dogs. Wayne is the leader of the Hill Country Volunteer Chapter which supports Canine Companions volunteers and graduates, hosts public awareness and fundraising events, and provides training for puppy raisers and sitters. The Sirois are currently raising Solomon who is 11 months old.

Jeanne Nehls and Bob Marcott started out as puppy sitters and just received their first Canine Companions puppy, Gina. Jeanne tells us, "There are many ways to volunteer in Sun City, but I wanted to specifically work with dogs. I learned about the opportunities with Canine Companions from Wayne & Kathy and it immediately felt like the right fit! After some training and dog sitting experiences, I was ready to open my home and heart to be a puppy raiser. There is so much support to help me out with any questions that come up."



Jeanne Nehls and Gina



Wayne and Kathy Sirois with Solomon

To donate or learn more, please visit www.canine.org, visit the Hill Country Volunteer Chapter of Canine Companions on Facebook, or email wayne.sirois@caninevolunteer.org

All About Cats

Social Butterflies

Some breeds are quicker than others to welcome new cats into their households. If you plan to get a second cat in the future, you might consider one of these breeds for your first feline friend.

Birman

British Shorthair

Maine Coon

Persian

Your local shelter can also help you find a second cat as they know which cats are very friendly.



Why Do Cats Smell Other Cat's Urine?

When a female cat smells a male cat's urine, she learns a lot about him. For instance, she can tell how much fresh meat he has eaten recently. This information tells her whether he is a good hunter, and consequently helps her to determine if he is a suitable mate.

When a male cat sniffs a female cat's urine, he can tell if she is in heat. A female cat will actually lift her tail and spray urine on objects to let her potential suitors know that she is available.

The scent of urine can also tell a male cat whether the surroundings have been claimed by another male.

From *Amazing Cat Facts* by Tammy Gagne

Information Submitted by Karyn Beavers

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
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
dogtrainingsctx@gmail.com or 512 639 1771

It's Raining Cats and Dogs at Cowan!

Presented by the Creative Clay and China Club

May 2 - July 2

Cowan Creek Lobby



Calling all animal lovers

Sun City's Creative Clay and China Club is hosting a special event for all of us cat and dog lovers!

May 2-July 2 the lobby at Cowan creek will be filled with

one-of-a-kind ceramic cat and dog items...

sculptures, water/food bowls, treat jars, kitchen items,

Christmas ornaments and much more.

Shop early for the best selection!

For more information: Contact Cindy Murphy, 801-554-7221

Lost Pet Alert System

The Pet Club manages and operates the **Lost Pet Alert System**. All Lost and Found Reports come to the Pet Club to be sent out to everyone in Sun City who has opted in to receive the report.

Currently over 1,100 residents receive the report.

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 Website

PET CARE SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Available Lists for our Members

24-Hour Pet Emergency Care

Agility Groups

Animal Shelters

Bird Veterinarians and Services

Dog-Friendly Businesses

Dog Walkers

Euthanasia at Home Services

Groomers

Kennels

Pet Insurance

Pet Portraits & Art

Pet Sitters

Rescue Organizations

Dog Trainers

Veterinarians

Announcing a New Pet Services List!

[Animal hospitals that cater to Birds.](#)

Check it out on the Pet Club website under Pet Care Services and Tips.



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
Board Member at Large: Chickie Holt

Leaders:

Dog Training: Ruth Olsen
Snake Avoidance: Chickie Holt
All About Cats: Karyn Beavers
Pass It On/Recycle: Becky Patterson
Photography: Anne Marshall
Webmaster: Jaye Turney
Membership: Verne Palmer
Pet Emergency Evacuation:
Sharon Dunning

RIDE SHARE

Let's say you want to go to the Dog Park or anywhere with your dog and have no way to get there within Sun City. A club member informed me that ride share providers will provide ride service within Sun City. Always find out what the fee would be before making arrangements.

Bulletin Board

To post a pet-related ad on the Bulletin Board, Contact Alan Kamen at petclubstx@gmail.com

As of May 1, 2024, we will no longer advertise for anyone looking for a pet, or help re-home a pet.

NEW!!

We are identifying local Veterinarians and 24-hour Vets who carry the Rattlesnake anti-venom in case your pet is bitten. Always call first to ensure they have it in stock so not to waste time to help your pet. The Veterinarian List is on the Pet Club Website under **Pet Care Services.**

Shelters and Organizations the Pet Club Supports

**Williamson County Regional
Animal Shelter**
wcras@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

Furrbaby Food Pantry (New)
furrbabyfoodpantry@gmail.com

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

Pet Partners
petpartners.org

Canine Companions
canine.org

Service Dogs, Inc. Sheri Soltas
sheri@servicedogs.org

TO MY RESCUE PET

There's no need to flinch when I lift my hand
No need to cower each time I stand
No need to run when I come near
No need to tremble - I see your fear.

You can sleep with both eyes shut,
Don't need to jump when you wake up.
Your food is yours to eat in peace
No need to fight to keep your feast

You don't need to lie upon a hard floor
The beds and sofas are yours to explore
Don't need to sit out in the rain
The house is your shelter, your new domain.

I cannot erase the memories and fears
can't compensate for the wasted years
All I have is what you see
But I give you it all and i give you me.

I give you these arms to comfort and hold
I give you this voice for the joys you'll be told
I give you my heart and abundance of love
I give you my soul and I hope its enough.

Poem submitted by: Ginny Patterson



Rags, a Bahamian Potcake Rescue

FURRBABY DONATION

The Pet Club donated 100's of canned and about 575 lbs of dry dog and cat food to Furrbaby. Furrbaby is a non-profit in Georgetown that donates pet food and supplies to pet owners that have a financial hardship. Wag Heaven Pet Supplies gave the Pet Club a great deal on items they were removing from their inventory. As you can see in the photos, we filled up a pick-up truck and the Furrbaby volunteers were thrilled and thanked the Pet Club for our donation. Thank you Wag Heaven!!

furrbabyfoodpantry@gmail.com

