

SUN CITY PET CLUB NEWSLETTER

"The Scoop"

June, 2024
Volume 3, Issue 6
Membership to date:
968

Pet Microchip Reading Event

The Pet Club had its first **FREE** Pet Microchip Reading Event on May 7, 2024. The Georgetown Fire Dept. along with the Georgetown Animal Shelter assisted us with reading chips and giving everyone the name of the chip company and chip number. With the assistance of 10 Pet Club Volunteers, the event put through 60 dogs in less than 2 hours.

A huge thank you goes to all our volunteers, the Georgetown Fire Department and the Georgetown Animal Shelter for making this event a smooth huge success.

We will do this again!



Reading a Chip



Your Chip # is.....



GT Animal Shelter Reading Chips



Getting Ready to Read a Chip



GTFD and a Pet Club Volunteer



Pet Club Volunteers

Animal Shelter/Organization of the Month

TEXAS HUMANE *Heroes*

While Texas Humane Heroes has been an integral part of the north Austin community since 1979, this year will be our biggest and most transformative in our history.

Later this summer, after years of planning and construction, we'll open our new Animal Care and Adoption Center. The new, state-of-the-art facility is being built at the front of our current lot, which has been slowly taking shape for the past year. It will not only triple our capacity to house homeless cats, but increase our Veterinary Clinic by about 10 times its current size.

We couldn't be more excited about this new chapter in TXHH history, though we won't be able to do it alone. All this new space, and all these new pets, will mean we'll need more volunteers, fosters, and other HEROES to help keep up with it all. If you've ever thought about becoming involved with TXHH, or have been in the past and would like to return, there has never been a better or more exciting time to do so!

So far this year, we've found homes for more than 600 dogs and cats, performed 3,000 spays and neuters, and vaccinated nearly 5,000 pets. All this helps reduce strains on local pet shelters, and creates a healthier pet population for our community.



There's also our **Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, November 2!** More than two-dozen chili chefs will compete for prizes, and the approval of the crowd. We'll also have music, vendors, and artists from the area to make for a fun-filled afternoon - and our biggest fundraiser of the year!

If you'd like to be a part of this exciting new chapter in TXHH history, learn more at HumaneHeroes.org.

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 anyone looking for a pet. There are many resources in our area who can handle these requests.

Besides inquiring at our local animal shelters (listed on the right), there are rescues for specific breeds, as well as utilizing NextDoor, SC Facebook, and other online or social media sites to advertise or search.

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

Alan Kamen
President, Pet Club

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 Soltes
sheri@servicedogs.org

Blue Moon Animal Sanctuary
bluemoonanimalsanctuary@gmail.com

Free Feeding vs. Scheduled Feeding

Free feeding means the food is down at all times so the dog can eat when they choose to.

Scheduled feeding means food is placed 2 or 3 times for the dog to eat on a schedule.

Here are some pros and cons for free vs scheduled feeding:

1. Meals help teach and maintain clean house habits.

Simply put, if you don't know when food is going into the dog, it's much harder to know when it will need to come out of the dog! This is especially important when initially house training a puppy or newly adopted dog, but it holds true throughout the dog's life.

2. Appetite is an important indicator of health.

Lack of appetite is often the first sign that a dog is not feeling well. If your dog has a habit of grazing throughout the day, it's harder to know if he hasn't eaten yet because he's preoccupied by life or his stomach is bothering him.

In contrast, if your dog has been conditioned to exhibit signs of being hungry within a certain time frame, and readily eats when his meal is presented, you'll have a reliable sign that he's not feeling well if he turns up his nose at the bowl. Plus, if you do need to visit the vet, you'll be able to accurately report how long your dog has been off his food.

3. Meal manners for multi-dog households.

In homes with multiple dogs, free feeding can make it nearly impossible to monitor each individual dog's daily intake. It can also create situations where more assertive dogs are allowed to intimidate housemates into surrendering their portions.

4. Meals are more hygienic and prevent unwanted pests.

Food left in bowls is an open invitation for ants and other insects.

5. Meals can be used as valuable training opportunities for life skills.

When a dog is motivated to eat a meal, you can use feeding time to help teach several valuable behaviors, such as:

Come. A hungry dog will come quickly to get that meal. There is no better reward than that dish full of delicious food.

Impulse Control. Some dogs really love mealtime, and, as a result, quickly become over-excited, working themselves into a barking, spinning, jumping frenzy. Take this time to work on some training skills before and during meal time:

Stay. Start small, by asking for just five seconds sit/stay or down/stay as you hold your dog's bowl of food. If the dog breaks position - including changing position- simply set the bowl on the counter and disengage from your dog for 30 seconds or so.

After 30 to 60 seconds, return to the kitchen, pick up his bowl, ask him to "sit/down" and "stay" and try again. Chances are good that his "Ah-ha!" moment will come within three tries. When he's successful, and you reach your five-second count, be sure to use a clear release word (I like, "FREE") before inviting him to eat. The release word lets him know that this time, getting up won't result in you removing the bowl.

As he gets the hang of things, be sure to change up how long you ask him to stay, sometimes asking for more, sometimes surprising him with an easy, short stay, but always ending with the release word.

Prevent Guarding. Mealtime is the perfect opportunity to condition a dog to enjoy his owner's presence while he's eating. It's easier when a dog eats at a reasonable pace, rather than inhaling his food at warp speed (which, in some dogs, is an early sign of guarding). If your dog is a fast eater, use a bowl specifically for this or a snuffle mat.

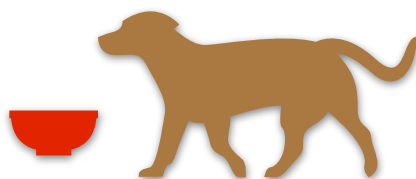
The idea is to build a positive association with a human near the dog and his food. We want our dogs to want us nearby when they're eating - our presence becomes a predictor of good things.

Say "Bye-bye!" to the buffet.

A little tough love is often all that's needed to transform a dog accustomed to grazing.

Submitted by: Ruth Olsen

If you want more information on how to switch your dog from Free Feeding to Scheduled Feeding contact Ruth Olsen, Lead Dog Trainer, dogtrainingsctx@gmail.com



All About Cats

9 Signs That Your Cat Really Loves You

Some accuse cats of not being particularly "nice", but that's hardly true. More true perhaps is that cats can be rather mysterious, especially when compared to dogs.

It's indeed often easier to interpret a dog's feelings, but, as it turns out, cats do also show what they feel — albeit in perhaps more subtle ways.

You need some knowledge and to closely observe your cat's habits to interpret the signs. Most of us know what it means when a cat purrs, but there's so much more to look out for if you really want to get to know your cat!

1 Love bites... but hopefully not too hard!

It may sound unexpected, but according to veterinarian Elizabeth Colleran, "love bites" are actually a form of communication from your cat. Cats generally have the instinct to give little nips, especially when they feel overexcited or overstimulated, but there is another good reason a cat might do so. A more loving one. Cats are also driven to bite in moments when they feel a strong sense of bonding, according to [Care](#).

2 Your cat follows you like your shadow

If your cat constantly follows you and wraps around your legs then there is a good chance that it really loves you. According to [Catster](#), this kind of behavior reveals that your cat is interested in you and wants to be wherever you are. Even cats who are not usually so loving can express affection just by being near you.

3 Purring

Purring is perhaps the best known and most obvious sign that your cat loves you. Although cats can also purr when they feel threatened or nervous, they more commonly do so when they're happy and relaxed. So if your cat often purrs next to you on the couch, then you can rest assured that it likes you and is feeling really good!

4 Kneading

Another clear sign of your cat's love and devotion is the phenomenon known as "kneading." My cat usually always does this when it lies on my stomach! This is a wonderful sign conveying that it feels completely satisfied with life and as safe as it felt with its mother when it was just a kitten.

5 Fluttering blinks, aka "Kitty Kisses"

Out in the wild, animals closing their eyes is said to be the ultimate sign of trust, satisfaction and love. If your cat shoots you a friendly look and suddenly slowly opens and closes its eyes, then you've earned yourself a kitty kiss.

Your cat wants to tell you that it loves you and trusts you more than anything. Try to answer back by shooting back a regular blink. Your own blink will tell the cat "I am kind," according to cat expert Susanne Hellman Holmström.

6 Brings you presents

Most cat owners have gotten an... interesting gift from their cat, at some point or another.

Small birds and mice may not be the nicest, but these actually says quite a bit about your cat. If your kitty captures animals and proudly brings them to you, it is a sign of gratitude and love. LiveScience explains: "By leaving a dead animal on the back porch, your cat is acting out its natural role as mother and teacher. You, her loving owner, represent her surrogate family."

7 Watch its tail

Cats' tails are very telling and can communicate a lot:

A slightly bent, hanging tail means: "I feel safe."

A high tail means "Hello, here I come!" and the higher the tail is, the more interested the cat is in you.

If your cat **wraps its tail around your legs**, it means it feels safe with you — and of course, that it may be asking for a treat.

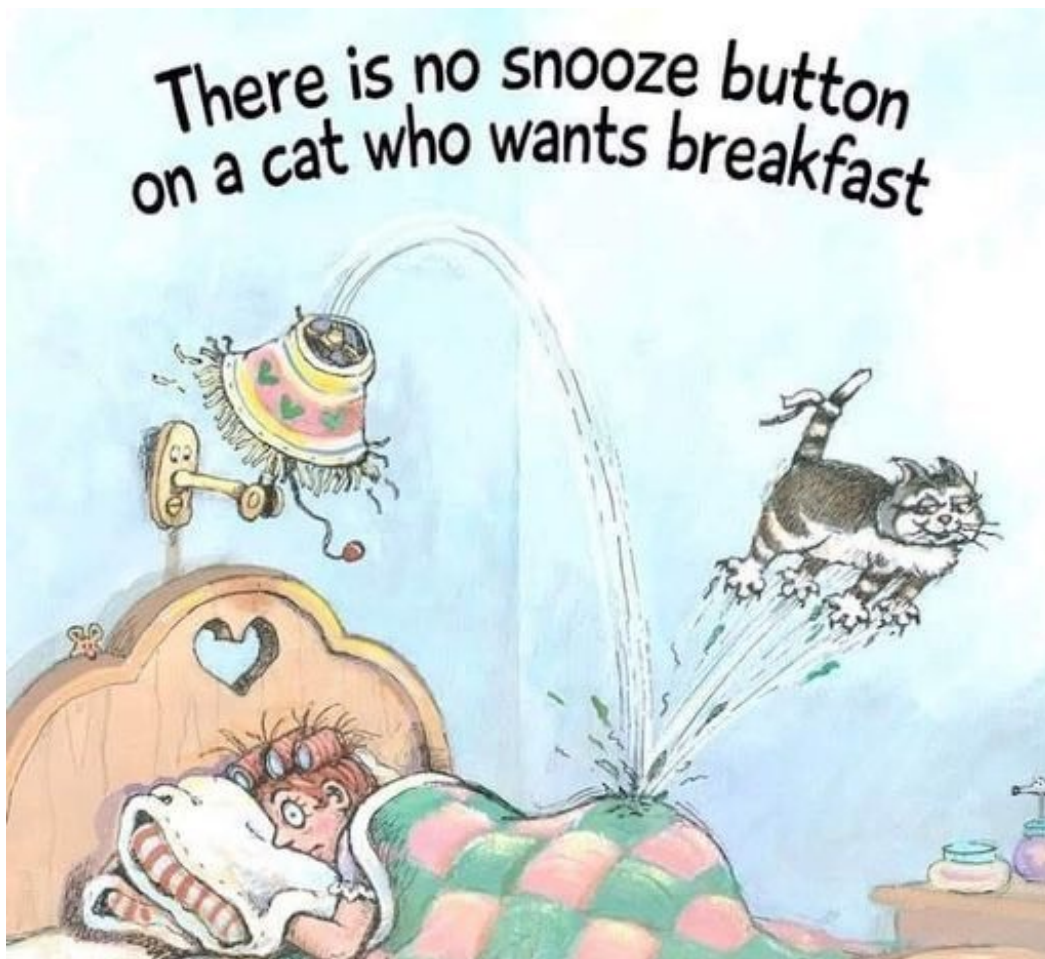
8 Shows its belly

Showing you its belly is a cat's utmost sign of trust, since the stomach is a cat's most vulnerable area. The belly contains all its vital organs, and so instinctively, this is the area of its body it most protects. Thus, when your cat lays on its back and exposes himself openly to you, it is telling you, without a doubt, that it loves you and trusts you.


9 Head bumping

When your cat bumps your head, it's just another way to rub its face against yours. Cats have several glands that secrete pheromones and each one is unique, just like our fingerprints. When your cat tries to leave its scent on you, it's trying to mark its territory and say, "You are mine!".

Information provided by Karyn Beavers. Article from catevolution.com




🔥 Protect your pet's paws! 🔥



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.

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 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 want more information, contact Ruth Olsen, Pet Club Lead Dog Trainer
dogtrainingsctx@gmail.com or 512 639 1771

Blue Moon Rescue

Our guest speaker at our May 8 General Meeting was Anna Eby, founder of Blue Moon Rescue. Anna gave us a fun informative summary of their (501c3) donkey rescue located on 30 acres in North Georgetown. They look after over 100 donkeys, several horses, some dogs and cats and eight pigs. Anna is a full time attorney by day and a full time donkey rescuer by night. The Pet Club donated a \$500 gift card to Blue Moon from Tractor Supply. A big thanks to Liz Wommack, for arranging our guest speaker.

For more information, contact Blue Moon Rescue at:

bluemoonanimalsanctuary@gmail.com



Anna Eby and V.P. Liz Wommack



Flurry

Puppy Stroller Socialization Program

The Pet Club recently announced this new program for dogs from 8 weeks until they receive all their shots. By utilizing a dog stroller, the owner can take their new pups outside to be socialized to sights, sounds, people, other dogs etc. while being safe until their shots are completed. Club members can borrow a stroller to help their pup learn their environment to decrease fear and become more confident, independent dogs!

We need Dog Strollers

Do you have a dog stroller you want to get rid of?

Sick of looking at it in your garage??

It needs to be in good condition so we can safely pass it on to a club member.

If you would like to donate one to the Pet Club, notify me and I will arrange to pick it up from you at your convenience.

Ruth Olsen

Lead Dog Trainer

512 639 1771

dogtrainingsctx@gmail.com

Lost Pet Alert System

The Pet Club manages and operates the **Lost Pet Alert System**. All Lost and Found Pet 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.
You don't have to be a Pet Club member.

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

“PASS IT ON” & RECYCLE PROGRAM

The Pet Club accepts new and used pet supplies for member use and donations to local shelters. If you have pet supplies, food, medication, etc. that you no longer need, consider donating them to the Pet Club for our Pass It On program.

ITEMS ACCEPTED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

Equipment: Crates (wire, plastic, soft), playpens, harnesses and collars, leashes, toys, pet dishes, dog and cat beds, blankets, etc. **We will not accept dirty, soiled, or broken items.**

Pet food: Canned, dry, treats. **Unsealed, or partially full pet food and treats accepted in DRY ONLY.**

Medications: Sealed, unsealed, or partially filled containers. **All medications must be Labeled.**

Medical supplies: cones/collars, syringes, first-aid items, etc.

Items can be dropped off anytime at 110 Bunker Hill Lane, Sun City, Texas. Leave on the front porch.



"PASS IT ON" LOAN

Items in the inventory are loaned to Pet Club members at no charge.

Interested persons must contact the Donation Coordinator for details about the desired item and length of the loan.

"PASS IT ON" RE-USE

Members may also purchase items in stock for a small cash donation.

Occasionally an email blast will be sent to all club members with overstock inventory or specialty items available for purchase.

All funds received will be used to help support pet community outreach and rescue programs.

"PASS IT ON" COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Donation Coordinator regularly contacts local community pet organizations to see if they can use any of the items we have.

If so, arrangements are made to get the items to them.

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR DONATIONS COORDINATOR:

Becky Patterson

110 Bunker Hill Lane

Phone: 512-913-5990 (text preferred)

Email: beckyp592@gmail.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
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

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 Website List

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
in helping your pet. The
Veterinarian List is on the
Pet Club Website under Pet
Care Services.

