



# PAW PRINTS

BEST FRIENDS DOG CLUB OF SUN CITY

JANUARY 2005

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jean Buck

### JEAN ANSWERS QUESTIONS

*Q. BEST FRIENDS DOG CLUB doubled it's membership last year. To what do you attribute that growth?*

A. The club has doubled in membership due to the vigorous participation of our working committees.

The new website is a prime example. It's state of the art and increases our visibility to interested dog people.

Our director of training patiently spends hours of her time on-line or on the phone with owners who are having behavioral issues with their dogs. She has the answers for difficult behaviors - and gives them freely and without charge.

Our spaces and places committee has also spent hours of their time obtaining the expanded facilities that allow us to offer more activities.

Our publicity person gets articles in each issue of Sun Views. The regularity of these postings gives our Sun City dog owners the message that events are regularly happening.

Our vice president plans picnics and presentations that interest non-members, who later join once they visit meetings..

*Q. "Spaces and Places" and "Ways and Means" have done great work in 2004. What new committees would you like to form in 2005?*

A The Spaces and Places Committee has been attending the Fairways Renovation meetings, as well as meeting individually with Board Member Norm Dickson RCSC has been very generous with our club. They have provided our storage shed and have had it assembled it for us.

The S & P committee would like to have other members join them.

The club extends sympathy to Bruce Grounds at the death of his mother.

## **SIGN UP FOR CLASSES AT THE JANUARY MEETING**

There is a charge of \$25 for each session of 8 classes .

**ADVANCED AGILITY CLASSES** will begin at 9AM on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

**BEGINNING AGILITY** starts Friday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at 9AM.

**CONTINUING AGILITY 10:15AM** sessions start on Friday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**BEGINNING OBEDIENCE**

classes start Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.

**INTERMEDIATE OBEDIENCE** class will begin Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM.

## **SPACES AND PLACES**

Benches have been positioned around the Dog Training Yard one week before the predicted date. Skelli and Bruce have been busy getting this coordinated - with color choices to be "exactly flag blue" to match the patriotic colors of our agility equipment. The committee were readying the premises in time for the Saturday Games on the 18th.

Lakeview's maintenance staff diligently re-worked the benches and Judy Wallick spent her time one Saturday baking cookies for the men, The crew was surprised by our gratitude and were delighted with Judy's cookies.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**  
**Joe Yarchin from Game and Fish will advise us of their plans for the coyote overpopulation.**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**  
**Look forward to a demonstration of "Dancing With Dogs"**

## **FUN FAIR PLANS IN THE MAKING**

Jan and Lou Sniderman are heading up the Fun Fair committee. It is scheduled at Fairway Recreation Center on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Our display will be fabulous. Please be prepared to help in any way you can. There will be a planning meeting in the music room at Fairway on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM. Call Jan and commit your time to help 933-7907

## IN MY OPINION

By DR. DAN RICE

*Q." My Doberman gained weight t his summer because the heat cut her activity level. How can I help her loose it? Also are dogs cholesterol levels measured like those of humans?"*

A, Yes, cholesterol levels are used diagnostically in the canine but those levels are studied for different reasons than in the human.

There are so many reasons for gaining weight and so little information. Obviously you assume she's simply storing unused calories but if that assumption is incorrect she might be in real trouble.

I'll guess that she is 5-years old, fed a standard amount of good quality dry dog food, has a normal appetite, water consumption, energy level, doesn't receive table scraps or tidbits, has no physical impediments, and has been examined by a veterinarian within the past year. Remember, big dogs that suddenly begin gaining weight may need medical attention. An environmental change may affect an otherwise normal dog's weight. Hot weather usually restricts exercise but it usually doesn't affect the appetite. When your dog eats the same quantity & quality food as when she's exercising regularly she will store the consumed calories that aren't used and she'll get fat! If that is her trouble and you're sure you haven't overlooked any concurrent signs of any medical problem the answer should be easy.

Simply don't feed her as much and give her fewer, low calorie treats. If she is fed once a day, begin her diet by splitting her meals in half and cut both meals

down. Insist on moderate exercise during this cool weather and as she gains energy, increase the exercise. Keep track of her weight and she will gradually reach the proper weight.

If you can't do that, try feeding her a special low calorie diet that's available in stores. If you don't want to spend the money for a pricy reducing diet, mix her normal food with canned green beans in a ratio of about 2/3 dry food and 1/3 string beans. This trick lets the big dog think she is getting the same quantity of food, but the beans have a lower caloric load.

Exercise is critical. Next summer during the hot weather toss a ball in the house. Take her outside for a long walk at 5:30 AM and 9:30 PM when the pavement isn't too hot. When you first notice weight gain, begin food reduction. Prevention is much easier to initiate than therapy and obesity is deadly to large breeds. It is a vicious cycle. Fat inhibits movement, increases stress on tendons, ligaments and joints and compromises internal organ function. The less active she is, the heavier she becomes. Don't allow your Dobie to get fat! Have her general health evaluated first and if obesity is her only problem, attack it proactively!

Dr. Dan Rice, Sun City author and former veterinarian will answer your question. If you have a question you would like answered regarding training, feeding, activity, breeding, etc. please contact the Editor.

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## membership and \$8 for a family.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Sue Church, a member of the Best Friends Dog Club, has been grooming dogs professionally in Wisconsin for over 30 years. She moved to Sun City 3 years ago and works in her home by appointment. Sue's promise is for your pet to be in and out in two hours. She uses hand drying only and boasts reasonable rates. Rates depend upon size and needs of the dog. Give Sue a call at 875-4927. It is also possible for Sue to board your dog in an emergency.

**ANIMAL RESCUE** is having trouble getting enough people to click on their website daily to meet their quota of getting free food donated daily for the abused and neglected animals. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "feed an animal in need" for free. This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors and advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate food to abandoned neglected animals in exchange for advertising. Here's the web site! Pass it along to computer savvy friends

<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com>

Dear God:

Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog?

How often do you see a cougar riding around? We dogs love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR RESPONSE AND ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS. The Board

1. How did you find out about the Best Friends Dog Club? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

2, What were your reasons for joining the dog club? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have dog-owner friends who know about the dog club but are not members? \_\_\_\_\_ For what reason? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think that gift memberships to the club would be a good idea? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ How could they be designed, sold, and used? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What changes need to be made in the club? Is there anything you would like to suggest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you participate in night activities, either meetings or activities? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. How could our club best serve Sun City and Sun City dog owners? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Should the club be doing philanthropic work in the community? If so, what?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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9. Would you like to have you dog certified to make hospital visits? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What new activities would you like our club to initiate and undertake in 2005?

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11. Would you like to participate in a "Pet Manners" seminar? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Would you like to participate in a "Dance With Your Dog" seminar \_\_\_\_\_

13. If seminars are held on a regular basis, ie: same time, same day would you attend them? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Would you like monthly activities with your dog like Saturday afternoon games in the training yard? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you be willing to help register people for them? \_\_\_\_\_ Or help to run them? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Would you like to consider being on the board of this club? \_\_\_\_\_

16. If so, what qualification do you have to contribute, like secretarial, banking, organizational skills, animal or dog training, computer skills, hospitality, running a social gathering, ways and means, spaces and places, or what?

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17. What other activities would you like the dog club to add?

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PLEASE WRITE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS YOU HAVE BELOW:

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This paper can be mailed to Jean Buck:  
9339 Manzanita Drive, Sun City 85373  
Or you may bring it to the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.