

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

**UPCOMING  
MEETINGS**

**December 13  
11 AM to 1 PM  
Holiday  
Luncheon  
at Earls**  
(Mexican &  
American food)  
on Peoria.  
Order individual  
choice. Bring  
\$5-\$10 doggie  
gift for ex-  
change.

**January 17  
9 AM.** General  
Meeting.

**TRAINING  
SCHEDULE**

**Dec. 10  
9 AM to 12 PM**  
Fun match,  
obedience &  
agility

**Jan. 17**  
Class Registra-  
tion after  
monthly meeting

*There is no psy-  
chiatrist in the  
world like a  
puppy licking  
your face.*

*Ben Williams*



# PAW PRINTS

## Best Friends Dog Club of Sun City

**December 2005**

### The Presidents' Corner

by Skelli Dedmon and Bruce Grounds

*The growth in membership and training classes of our club demonstrates the need this community has for dog owners. We have the club to provide for the future requirements of active adult retirees who love to have fun with their "dogs." This is your club. Please get involved and help us be successful by*

*volunteering your expertise, whatever your talents. We want to thank the previous board under the direction of Jean Buck for presenting us with a solid foundation to build on. We look forward to working with all of you while enjoying meeting the needs of dog owners in Sun City.*



### Meet Your SBDC Board Co-Presidents

**Skelli Dedmon  
and Bruce  
Grounds**

This is not the first time Bruce Grounds and Skelli Dedmon have shared duties and leadership. Pre-retirement they were a management team for a sales and service company owned by Hershey Foods. After the corporate world both were involved in the construction industry, Bruce as jobsite supervisor for the Game & Fish building on Greenway, Skelli as accounting and payroll manager.

Both have been members of the BFDC since 2002 and are currently co-chairmen of the Spaces and Places Committee which includes the Fairway Renovation Project. They are also on the RCSC Communication Committee and active with the Sun City Traffic Impact Committee.

They received their formal pet training from a very keen border collie named "Tootsi" and obedience and agility training with their lab-terrier rescue dog named "Mitzi." The best Friends Dog Club has provided the programs and training that have helped them acclimate to the Sun City Environment.

### Welcome

New Board

Take some time to give a personal thank you to Jean Buck and the outgoing board of directors which, in some ways, looks a lot like the incoming board. Stepping forward to take responsibility in any club takes dedication, work, the willingness to put oneself in front of peers for praise or criticism on decisions that have to be made. Below is the roster of new officers. Over the next few Paw Prints we will present to you information about them. Get to know them. They represent your needs and those of your dog.

Skelli Dedmon,  
Bruce Grounds,  
Co-Presidents

Laura Palmer,  
Vice President

Juanita Braemer,  
Secretary

Judith Wallick,  
Treasurer

John Stevenson,  
Diana Barnum,  
Members at Large

**Fun Fare**  
**Dec. 10 from 9-12**  
**agility + obedience**

**Humane Society's  
Holiday Safety  
Tips**

**Decorations &  
Electric Cords:**

Keep tinsel, hooks, wrapping paper, garland and other decorations out of sight. They can cause internal injuries.

Anchor the tree. Don't hang ornaments on low branches. Get unbreakable ornaments. Unplug the tree etc. when you're leaving home.

**Plants:** Mistletoe, Holly, Christmas Rose, Poinsettias and Ornamental Pepper are poisonous! So are the chemicals in the water to preserve fresh trees and flowers.

**Alcohol, Chocolate and People Food**

Animals can die from all of these. Remind guests not to leave them unguarded.

**Stress:** Spend time with your best friends and keep their routine as normal as possible.







*Thanks, Ada Jane, for passing on this valuable information.*

**In My Opinion, By Dr. Dan Rice**

**Q:** How can I help my dog stop barking at other dogs?

**A:** According to canine behavioral experts, excessive vocalization is among the greatest behavior problems. Barking complaints often come from owners (or neighbors) of Beagles, Cockers, Dachshunds, and Miniature Schnauzers although many other breeds are incriminated. Toy breeds are commonly thought of as barkers but most toy owners are quite aware of the problem and face it bravely when they acquire their Chihuahua or Pom. Often these tiny breeds are "alarm" barkers. When they see the postman heading up the walk they sound off to alarm the household of the impending trespass by a uniformed interloper and stop barking when the intruder is frightened away. Their barking usually can be controlled by picking up the dog and speaking to it in a quiet, firm voice. A simple quiet NO will suffice; don't scold, shake or strike the dog. A few barkers are seeking owner's attention, and a few simply won't stop barking, even after the preacher is firmly ensconced on the sofa in your parlor. If I had the answer to all barking problems I would have retired many years before I did.

Remember these facts:

-  Dogs often bark to get your attention. Don't give the dog's habit more attention than it demands.
-  Never give praise for barking under any circumstances.
-  Don't yell NO at the dog then resort to secondary punishment. Your initial personal interaction and voice may be interpreted as enforcement of the habit.
-  Remote punishment MAY be quite effective. If your barker is outside, a shot of water from the garden hose may stop the habit. Indoors a sprayer bottle to quietly give a squirt of cool water full in the face might work.
-  Bark collars that make a noise or exude a foul odor (citronella) may be effective. DON'T use those collars that create an electrical shock!
-  Conditioning will often work if the dog barks when a friend arrives. Hand the friend a saucer with a few low-cal treats that he or she dispenses to Fido over the course of the friend's stay. If you're into training, counter-conditioning is a thought but it is rather complex for this article.

**Class Registration**

Class registration will be held January 17, 2006 AFTER the monthly meeting. We ask that you pick up all necessary forms that morning before the beginning of the business meeting and have them completed with a check made payable to the Best Friends Dog Club for \$25.00 per dog per class. You will need to show proof of shots, rabies etc. and we need the dog license number and date of expiration. You must be a member of the dog club in order to register. Before enrolling in the beginning agility class you must first complete the basic obedience class. Be aware, many people will be registering so please allow yourself time. Thank You!

**Name Tags**

Those of you that have not picked up your name tags will find them attached to this month's Paw Prints and the membership renewal form. The name tags are to be worn at all Dog Club functions whether training classes or the monthly meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We will no longer be keeping the name tags at the meeting room. Each individual is responsible for their own tag and if you should happen to lose it there is a \$1.00 charge to replace it.

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There will be no  
"Flowers Playtime"  
until further notice.  
Thanks, Judy

**No Bake Chocolate  
Oatmeal Cookies  
by Kelly Neville**

1/2 cup butter,  
melted; 1/3/4 cup  
sugar; 3 tsp. Cocoa;  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 cup peanut butter;  
1/2 tsp. Vanilla  
3/1/2 cup oatmeal; 1/2  
cup nuts  
**NO BAKE!**

**Visit our beautiful  
and paw friendly website  
<http://www.bestfriendsdogclub.org>**