



PAW PRINTS

BEST FRIENDS DOG CLUB OF SUN CITY

DECEMBER 2004

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jean Buck

What a great year of programs Clare Kinchler, our vice President has set up for us. Be sure to check the newsletter often so as not to miss the upcoming informative and fun meetings.

We have a new dog "sport" coming. Freestyle obedience will be introduced to us. In freestyle, the handler begins planning the presentation with a list of the obedience skills that he or she has mastered with their dog. In beginning obedience you are learning sit, stay, heel etc. The handler picks 2 or 3 minutes of a favorite song, and designs a routine that combines these skills. It's great fun.

The club is going to take a look at the coyote issue. As with all issues that are presented by the club, we will try to look objectively at all sides of the question. You may hear many different philosophies from speakers this next year on any issue from what do about coyotes to what diet you should be feeding your dog. These are the opinions of the speakers. They are presented to give you information for you to evaluate for yourself. Often, there's no one right or wrong answer.

The club does not take a "political" stand on any issue. We have as many different philosophies as we do people in the club - now over 150 members. What we all share is the love of our dogs. The biggest hearts in Sun City belong to the dog club. And that's right in line with holiday wishes to all from the dog club



DECEMBER MEETING:

CHRISTMAS ON THE PATIO AT DILLON'S SUN CITY GRAND, DECEMBER 21st AT 11 AM.

You may order and purchase your choice of lunch and then have fun playing "gift steal" Bring a

A Silent Auction of Pet Items held at the November brought over \$70 to our club treasurer. Thank you for your participation.

THESE OFFICERS FOR 2005 WERE ELECTED AT THE NOVEMBER 16th MEETING

President Jean Buck
V/P Clare Kinchler
Secretary Juanita Breamer
Treasurer Judy Wallick
Members At Large:
Doris Schoeben
Fred Selinsky

SATURDAY AFTERNOON OF GAMES IN THE DOG YARD! Saturday, December 18th from 1 – 4PM

This will be a fun time for members and their dogs. Matches in Obedience played out through games of "Musical Chairs" and "Tic-Tac-Toe" will be judged by Troy Ballard from Maricopa, Arizona. She is apprenticing to become a licensed American Kennel Club Rally judge.

You will have to register for the games with Clare Kinchler. 815-8542. The cost of entry is \$1 for each dog and each game. Members of the Camera Guild will be taking photos during the games for a story in the Independent Newspaper.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
IN MY OPINION

By DR. DAN RICE

Question How do the physical needs of an older dog change? (Jan Summers)

Answer: About like our own. Not to be glib, but it's all about the same. The geriatric dog needs the consideration of her housemates. For instance, buy bathroom rugs at yard sales. Those rubber-backed, soft rugs exactly meet the need of old dogs living on tile floors. They are easily washed, absorb a bit of urine leakage, and they're soft and comfy. Some other ideas follow:

- Gently lift her rear end if you see her having trouble getting to her feet.
- If she's losing vision from nuclear sclerosis (senile cataracts), don't move your furniture around and touch her when you want her attention.
- If deafness is creeping up, stomp your feet when you approach so she can feel the vibration.
- Warn your grandkids to take it easy with her because she's getting old and grouchy.
- Take her out for short walks at least twice a day.
- Expect her to forget things. (Sound familiar?) Sometimes she will forget her houstraining, will lie down in strange places and display other signs of cognitive dysfunction.

· Be sure she always has plenty of fresh, cool water available.

- If she drinks excessively and loses urinary control, take her in for laboratory examinations.
- Feed her small meals at least twice daily.
- Change her diet to one of a commercial, premium, geriatric diet.
- If she loses appetite, put a skim of warm bullion on top of her food as you prepare it.
- Check with your veterinarian about use and dosage of arthritis medicines to use such as ibuprofen, glucosamine, and others.

Dr. Dan Rice, Sun City author and former veterinarian will answer YOUR question. If you are looking for an answer regarding training, feeding, activity, breeding, etc. call AJ. 933-1197 ajcowper@juno.com

THE SPACES AND PLACES COMMITTEE announced at the November meeting that RCSC has approved, and will erect, a storage house adjacent to the security fence around the DOG YARD. Benches to surround the recreation area are also being secured.

FROM YOUR TREASURER:
2005 dues will be collected in January. They will be \$5.00 for an individual and \$8.00 for a family. This came about because of the rule change for our fiscal year, which now runs from Jan. through Dec. **Approximately 33 members**

are in arrears of paying 2004 dues!

TAKE THE TIME TO VISIT OUR GREAT NEW WEBSITE:

You will be amazed at the wealth of information you can find to enhance life with your dog! If you have any question about how to get to the web or to our webpage contact Jan or Lou Sniderman. 933-7907 www.bestfriendsdogclub.org

THE TRAINING SCHEDULE

Rick Manley has come on board to teach in the BFDC Obedience Training Program. Rick, a teacher for Phoenix Field and Obedience, is presently instructing the 10 o'clock class

Sign-up for winter classes will be at the January 18th meeting.

Agility classes will begin on Wed, Jan. 19th for Advanced and on Friday, Jan. 21st for Beginning as well as for Continuing Agility Levels.

Beginning Obedience will start Thurs. Jan. 20th at 10 AM. Intermediate starts Tues. Jan. 25th at 1:30PM.



There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.

-Ben Williams*