



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

August 2021

Newsletter for Dog Lovers

G.G.D.F.A.
P.O. Box 358332
Gainesville, Florida
32635-8332

www.ggdfa.org

General Meeting Dates:

2nd Tuesday each month
PINE GROVE Baptist Church
4200 NW 39th Ave
7:30 pm Gainesville, FL

Board Meeting Dates:

2nd Tuesday each month

Club Officers

President — Denise Gaboury
1st VP — Pam Rice
2nd VP — Kathy Davis
Secretary — Liz Mignin
Treasurer — Doris Horton

Club Directors

Claire Hedrick
Marge Saucier
Sue Sutton
Jeremy White

Newsletter Editor

Claire Hedrick

Membership Chair

Kathy Davis

Hot August Days and Nights



TO DO LIST

- **Pay Dues**
 - \$ 12.00 individual
 - \$ 15.00 family

"A person who has never owned a dog has missed a wonderful part of life."

— Bob Barker



News From AKC

Published www.akc.org



Pet Etiquette Post COVID-19

By [Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO](#)

Etiquette describes the requirements of behaviors according to the conventions of society. This includes proper conduct that is established by a community for various occasions in everyday life.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic forced all of us to alter some form of basic conduct. We stopped hugging and shaking hands when greeting each other and had to socially distance ourselves from one another. These changes also affected our dogs and cats' lives as well. They have gotten used to being walked or fed at different times of the day and had less visits to their groomers or daycare. Visits to veterinarians have been altered and owners have been unable to accompany their dogs or cats into an exam room.

A lot of people got new dogs during the pandemic for comfort and company. There are always challenges when getting a new dog, especially for the first time, but getting one during a pandemic brought up a new set of issues: How do you get a dog well behaved with proper training and socialization if you're told you can't go anywhere or be around anybody?

During this time, it has also reinforced what we should have known before: Both you and your dog should practice proper hygiene and good manners.

While it hasn't been proven that dogs can readily spread COVID-19 to other humans, some people may still be apprehensive about strangers or dogs approaching them or their dogs during this time. The good news is that more and more people are getting vaccinated, therefore relaxing these tensions.

Regardless, some of the etiquette we should continue post-COVID, includes continuing to wash our hands after touching people, places, pets, and

respecting other people's space. COVID taught us that taking the proper precautions to keeping ourselves healthy is just as important to curb the spread of disease to others in our family and community.

As we are seeing the numbers of COVID infections drop in humans who are vaccinated, we should be reminded to keep our pets up to date on their vaccination schedules as well. This is in order to reduce or eliminate the possibility of them getting other contagious canine illnesses, such as Distemper, Parvovirus, and Rabies, and to prevent the spread in our communities as well. We should also be reminded that keeping our pets on Heartworm medication prevents them from getting heartworm and becoming a vector that allows mosquitos to bite them and spread the disease to other dogs

We have learned that socially distancing in a pandemic is one of the best things to do for our health, but it may not necessarily be the best thing when you have a new puppy or dog that needs to be "socialized". Because of this, we've seen a lot of happy yet rowdy dogs and frustrated but well-meaning owners, which has increased the need for trainers and training classes throughout the country.

One helpful resource to help with training is the AKC [Canine Good Citizen](#) (CGC) program. The CGC is a two-part training course that has been the model for training classes around the country and in many parts of the world. The program is based on mastering ten basic skills (or manners) that will help instill confidence and good manners in your dog, both in and out of your home.

Not only does CGC training create long-lasting trust between you and your pup, but also ensures you'll be good neighbors and friends to everyone around you.

If you're interested in going beyond the basics, CGC also lays the foundation gateway course for other AKC sports and activities like obedience, agility, tracking, and performance events and therapy dog. To learn more about the CGC program and how to get started, visit AKC.org.



News From AKC (Cont)

Published www.akc.org



Choosing the Right Breed for Your Lifestyle

By Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO

Getting a dog should be a well-planned decision to ensure a lifelong commitment. Dogs are not objects that are returned if you change your mind because they have become too big, too energetic or too time-consuming to care for properly. For the greatest chance for success, put forth the effort to find the best match for you and your family.

PUREBRED DOGS

Dogs were domesticated from ancestors of wolves to work alongside humans and help with our daily lives: hunting, guarding, protecting, herding, being exterminators or just being wonderful companions. Over hundreds or even thousands of years, the selective breeding of dogs with certain traits developed types of dogs that are predictable in their physical characteristics, behavior and personality. Predictability is the major advantage of getting a purebred dog over a mixed-breed puppy or older dog. Predictability and dependability are important because there are usually fewer chances of surprises related to their size, physical characteristics, behaviors and personality traits.

A GOOD MATCH

The best chance for a successful match is finding a dog or puppy that will fit in with your lifestyle, activity level and living conditions. If the match is not good, expectations can become disappointments and lead to unfortunate circumstances for both dog and owner. In those scenarios, it's best if the dog can

be returned to its responsible breeder. In the worst case, the dog will be relinquished to a shelter, where it may not survive.

For example, if you are looking for a dog to accompany you on hikes, runs or long walks, a short-legged dog may not be the wisest choice. If you lead a sedentary lifestyle, you may not want a high-energy dog that requires a lot of exercise. And if you live in an apartment, size may be an issue.

RESPONSIBLE OWNERS ARE INFORMED

Being a responsible dog owner is being an informed, realistic dog owner. Do research and educate yourself about dogs and proper dog ownership, nutrition, health and training. Understand the time, energy and money that may be needed to give you and your dog the optimal chance for your relationship to thrive.

EXPLORE PUREBRED DOGS

There are 198 recognized AKC dog breeds, each with their own look, behavior and personality. Research the common and not-so-common breeds by visiting AKC's website.

Let your research take you to a particular breed's parent club website (a parent club means that breed's national club) and learn about that breed's history, purpose and disposition. There are also lists of recognized breeders and possible rescue members of that breed that may be up for adoption.

RESPONSIBLE PUREBRED DOG BREEDERS

Responsible purebred dog breeders are committed to that breed and its welfare. Responsible breeders should ideally be members of that breed's national club and should be educated and accountable on their breed's health status and adhere to their parent club's (or national breed club's) recommended health tests.

A responsible breeder will ask you important questions about your lifestyle, living conditions and expectations. They may not have a puppy or dog for you at that moment, which can signify that they breed very selectively for quality and not quantity. They may be willing to put you on a waiting list or refer you to another responsible breeder.

Breeders who have shown commitment to their breed and adhere to all the recommended breed-specific health checks by their breed's parent club

Choosing the Right Breed (cont)

are designated as “Breeders of Merit” by the American Kennel Club.

THE BEST RESCUE DOG

If you prefer to rescue a dog from a shelter, you still need to be honest with the shelter staff about you and your family’s lifestyle, living conditions, energy levels and expectations. Responsible shelters should be asking you those questions. A good shelter also wants to get the best possible match for their puppies and dogs. If they are not asking you questions about your lifestyle, living conditions and personality expectations or giving you accurate information, be wary. This is especially important when getting a young mixed-breed puppy or an older dog with their own history. It’s important to understand why they ended up in the shelter so that you can make an informed decision as to whether that is a dog for you, and if necessary, take steps to resolve any challenges the dog may have had.

BREED RESCUE

If you have a connection with and love for a particular breed of dog but would still like to rescue a dog, most parent clubs have breed rescue groups that are notified if a dog coming into the shelter is of their breed. With funds donated by that breed’s club, local member volunteers go get that dog from the shelter and place it in a foster home until it can find its forever home.

An example of a getting a good match from a responsible breeder AND a rescue is our first family. President Joe Biden and his family have two German Shepherds. Champ, the majestic 12-year-old, was obtained from a responsible breeder and illustrates what a truly magnificent breed the German Shepherd is. The Bidens loved the breed so much that they added a second German Shepherd, Major, from a rescue organization.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Before getting a dog, do your homework, and be honest and realistic with yourself and whomever you’re getting the dog from. That way you’ll have the greatest chance of getting the best match and a true loving companion for you and your family for life.



August Pet Holidays and Veterinary Awareness Days

Published www.amcny.org/2021-pet-holidays-and-veterinary-awareness-days

Month-Long Celebrations

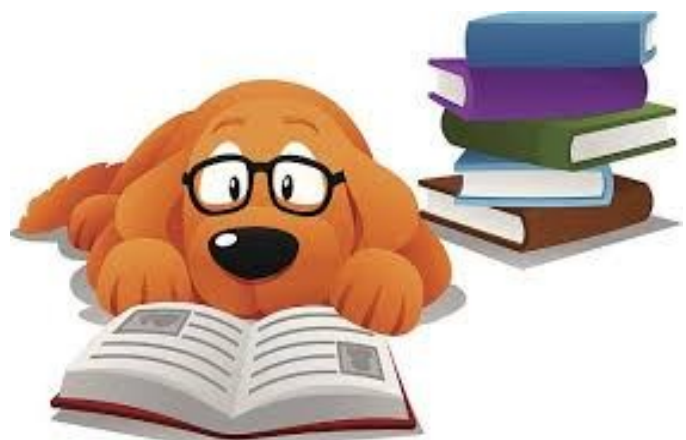
- National Immunization Awareness Month
- Itchy Pet Awareness Month
- National Back-To-School Month

Week-Long Celebrations

- July 27–August 3 | National Feed a Rescue Pet Week
- August 1–7 | International Assistance Dog Week (first full week of August)
- August 10–16 | Give a Dog a Bone Week

Day Celebrations

- ✦ August 1 | Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs
- ✦ August 5 | Work Like a Dog Day
- ✦ August 10 | Spoil Your Dog Day
- ✦ August 16 | St Roch’s Day (patron saint of dogs)
- ✦ August 21 | International Homeless Animals’ Day
- ✦ August 23 | Blind Dog Day
- ✦ August 26 | National Dog Day
- ✦ August 30 | National Holistic Pet Day



Florida Association of Kennel Clubs—Letter from President

Contributed by Denise Gaboury

July 12, 2020

Dear FAKC Member Clubs, Presidents,
Secretaries, Treasurers and Delegates:

Many of you have asked what the FAKC has done for our Florida Clubs this year. COVID closure has created setbacks, but through it all we have moved forward with accomplishments.

Legislatively, we have been the voice of reason and respect in Tallahassee. Every bill presented adverse to responsible dog owners and exhibitors was stopped. The FAKC presented our position respectfully with numerous phone calls to the President of the Senate, Senators and Congressmen. When I spoke to the aides, they conveyed that your voices were heard.

Last year, Mrs. Pat Mixon, agreed to once again represent the FAKC as our Lobbyist. We all owe our gratitude to Pat for her expertise, constant phone calls, updates and immediate call to action with our Legislators in Tallahassee. Without Pat and assistance from Marion Hammer, representing Sporting Dogs we would not have the voice as the halls of the Capitol were closed to us. According to Pat, we need to be vigilant for the forthcoming year. Animal Extremists are already gearing up and we must be ready to protect our rights with reasonable legislation.

Additionally, thanks are due to the AKC Government Relations Department for recognizing the FAKC in Florida for our endeavors. In a December meeting, Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations and Patty Van Sicklen, our Regional Representative emphatically stated they are committed to working closely with the FAKC and Pat Mixon to protect your rights.

On the local level, we are seeing the ever increasing bans for Pet Stores. The pats on the back do not get rid of the real issues of pet overpopulation at local shelters: Indiscriminate breeding Irresponsible pet owners, or Importation of potentially diseased dogs from unknown origin by rescues.

On the Federal Level, the NAIA and AKC have once again received bipartisan support for the Healthy Dog Importation Act. The CDC has listened; creating temporary bans of dog imports from certain countries. This ban has garnered the attention of rescues who are presently requesting exceptions for importing dogs for the retail rescue market.

Please look for our annual meeting announcement. We hope to see you next month!

Regards Judy Seltrecht



Newsletter

The views and opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Editor or those of the GGDFa Officers and Board of Directors.

The editor reserves the right to edit or withhold copy that which may be detrimental to the standards of this publication. The deadline for submission of articles, announcements, and brags to the newsletter is the 15th of each month. Materials received after that date will appear in the following month's publication, depending upon space availability.

You can email the editor at claire@ggdfa.org.

Cataracts in Dogs: Causes, Diagnosis and Treatment

Contributed by Denise Gaboury
Published: /resources.bestfriends.org

A dog develops a cataract when the lens of the eye clouds, which is caused by changes in the water balance in the lens or changes to the proteins within the lens. When the lens becomes cloudy, light can't reach the retina, causing blindness. A mature cataract looks like a white disk behind your dog's iris. The part of the eye that usually looks black will now look white.

Cataracts shouldn't be confused with nuclear sclerosis, which is haziness caused by hardening of the lens as a dog gets older. All animals experience this change with age. The good news is that light is still able to pass through and contact the retina, so your dog can still see if she has nuclear sclerosis. (She may not be able to read the newspaper anymore, but she won't be bumping into things.) Often, people think their pets have cataracts when they really have nuclear sclerosis.

Diagnosing canine cataracts

If you're worried that your dog might have cataracts, make an appointment with your veterinarian. Your vet will examine your dog's eyes thoroughly. By using a bright light and a magnifying lens, a vet can detect cataracts that are just forming or are immature and haven't yet started affecting your dog's sight. Your vet will also be able to screen for other eye problems, such as anterior uveitis (inflammation) and glaucoma (increased pressure), that can occur with cataracts. Through blood work and blood pressure checks, she will look for systemic diseases that can affect sight, like diabetes and hypertension. Taken all together, the exam findings, clinical signs and test results will give an overall view of your dog's health and vision.

Cataracts can develop very slowly or almost overnight. You probably won't notice any change in your dog during the early stages, but once the cataracts are mature (completely blocking light transmission to the retina), she will be blind. She may bump into walls or furniture, be unsure about stairs, and have trouble finding her food and water bowls. Dogs are very adaptable, however, and soon learn to function without sight. In fact, if the cataracts come on slowly, you may not even notice that your dog has gone blind.

Causes of cataracts in dogs

Cataracts are frequently hereditary. Scientists have identified gene mutations in several dog breeds that increase the risk of cataracts. In fact, more than 100 dog breeds are known to have some incidence of hereditary cataracts. If your dog happens to carry the gene mutation, she has an increased risk of developing cataracts. Genetic testing is available, but please note that not every dog with the mutation will develop cataracts, just as some without the mutation will. The other common cause of cataracts is diabetes. Almost all diabetic dogs develop cataracts within a year of diagnosis. High blood sugar levels change the balance of water in the lens and cataracts form. Often, diabetic cataracts appear very rapidly, with a dog losing her sight within a day or two of having any trouble at all. Delaying or preventing diabetic cataracts has been a topic of great veterinary research. Oral antioxidants may delay formation, so talk with your veterinarian about what she recommends. In addition, there is a promising new eye drop awaiting FDA approval that may delay or prevent diabetic cataracts from forming.

Treating dog cataracts with surgery or medication

Unfortunately, no eye drop or pill can reverse changes in the lens. Luckily, there is highly effective surgical treatment. As with people, animals — including dogs, cats, horses and even goldfish — can have cataract surgery to remove the cloudy lens and restore sight. A veterinary ophthalmologist can determine if your dog is a good candidate. Surgery is not a good option for all dogs, however. Occasionally, a dog will have inflammation in the eyes, glaucoma or damaged retinas, making it unlikely that surgery will be successful.

In addition, sometimes a dog will have another illness (e.g., kidney or heart disease) that is bad enough to make anesthesia too risky. If this is the case, anti-inflammatory eye drops may be prescribed long-term to help control inflammation. Although these drops won't treat the cataracts directly or restore sight, they can delay or prevent lens-induced glaucoma.

To sum up: Make an appointment with your veterinarian if you're concerned about cataracts in your dog. If she does have them, you can discuss the options with your vet. If surgery is an option, having it sooner minimizes the difficulty and risks. Even if surgery isn't an option, getting your dog on the right medications will help minimize associated complications. And don't despair if your pooch can't be helped with surgery. She may need a little more guidance, but she can still live a rich, wonderful life.

GGDFA Meetings—06/08/2021

Board Meeting called to order at 6:54 pm.

Board Attendees: Jeremy White, Denise Gaboury, Kathy Davis, Claire Hedrick, Marge Saucier, Doris Horton, Pam Rice

Treasurer's Report

Expenses from this month include:

Paws and Parole Donation \$1500.00.

Doris plans to get the club's taxes in on time this year, and she will keep the club posted throughout the process.

Denise wants us to look into finding a way to get new membership.

We will look into ideas like Dog Club pamphlets at vet offices eetc.

Events to get club out there for membership drives.

Committee Reports

Show Committee

No Update: Still waiting for update
– Claire will reach out again with Arvind and Susan
Request to add Pee-Wee again this year.

Technology

Small Web Site tweaks have been done:

- Training classes page should have contact information at the very top of the page, and it should include the words 'by arrangement only.'
- The address for monthly club meetings should be placed in a more central location.
- Updates still needed to add second training class and January show information.

General Meeting called to order at 7:29 pm.

Reviewed Treasurers information for generalmeeting.

Paws on Parole

Hiliary Hynes came to the meeting and reviewed the last year.

Jail sessions still going. Hillary id working on work camp reassignment.

Hilary is definitely back in charge.

Step-in secretary

Liz will not be in Gainesville for the summer months, so Claire offered to step in as secretary

Club grant

Jeremy mentioned a \$2000 club grant from gooddog.com. (The website serves as a Facebook for reputable dog breeders to sell their puppies.)

Jeremy offered to look more into the grant and to research how the club can apply.

Facebook updates

Claire and Liz will discuss

Facebook page updates when Liz returns for fall semester (tabled until September).

Marge moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sharon.

Application readings:

Tracy Shubin TJSHUBIN@gmail.com

Andrew Ragsdale

andrewragsdale@bellsouth.net

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hedrick.

GGDFA Meetings—07/13/2021

Board Meeting called to order at 6:47 pm.

Board Attendees: Jeremy White, Denise Gaboury, Kathy Davis, Claire Hedrick, Marge Saucier

Committee Reports

Show Committee

Claire will get with John McKamey to complete AKC apps.

Claire has requested we use Rosettes as BOB prizes rather than individual prizes handed out in lieu of COVID continuing. She wil contact Arvind to coordinate

Connie Sager has agreed to do parking and vendors again,

- Entry prices discussed and Claire will send out for approval.

General Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm.

General discussion of things we can do to increase membership.

Discussion for next meeting in August go back to the pot-luck format for one summer meeting. Claire will send out notice to members and request RSVP.

Tracy Shubin TJSHUBIN@gmail.com - Read and accepted

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kathy.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Hedrick.



GGDFA Newsletter
c/o Claire Hedrick
514 NW 127th Street
Newberry, FL 32669

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

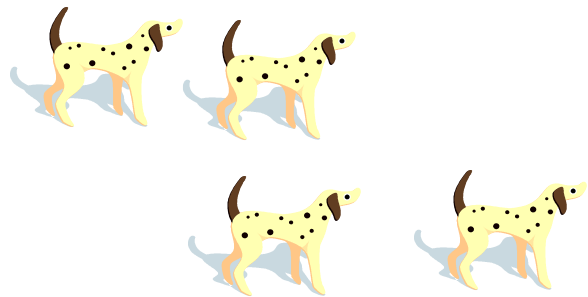


Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA will be **Tuesday, 8-10—7:30** and the next Board Meeting is cancelled for Pot Luck Dinner

Pending Pandemic rules we are trying to have **ZOOM Meetings**. Info will be provided by Kathy Davis

August **WILL NOT** HAVE A ZOOM MEETING set up.



Training Classes Contact:

Denise Gaboury 316-4543

LOCATION:

OAK HALL SCHOOL - Covered and lighted
Tower Road , Gainesville

Obedience/Rally classes— THURSDAYS 6:00 pm
Conformation classes—Call to make arrangements

Training Classes Contact:

Jeremy White 445-8873

LOCATION:

PINE GROVE Baptist Church
4200 NW 39th Ave
Gainesville, FL

Conformation Classes — SATURDAYS 9:30am
Goal is twice a month—call to make arrangements