



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

September 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



TO DO LIST

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

"Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot little puppies."

-Gene Hill





Responsible Pet Owner Day 9/18/2021

AKC Responsible Pet Owner PET PROMISE

I will never overlook my responsibilities for this living being and recognize that my dog's welfare is totally dependent on me.

I will always provide fresh water and quality food for my dog.

I will socialize my dog via exposure to new people, places and other dogs.

I will take pride in my dog's appearance with regular grooming.

I will recognize the necessity of basic training by teaching my dog to reliably sit, stay and come when called.

I will take my dog to the vet regularly and keep all vaccinations current.

I will pick-up and properly dispose of my dog's waste.

I will make sure my dog is regarded as an AKC Canine Good Citizen® by being aware of my responsibilities to my neighbors and to the community.

I will ensure that the proper amount of exercise and mental stimulation appropriate for my dog's age, breed and energy level is provided.

I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar tags, tattoo or microchip ID).

I will adhere to local leash laws.



Why Do Dogs Wag Their Tails

Published www.akc.org
By Erin Shea 8/28/2021

Most people associate a wagging tail with a [happy dog](#), but that's not always the case. Dogs' tails can tell us a lot about how a dog is feeling, and a wagging tail doesn't always mean that a dog is friendly and approachable.

So Why Do Dogs Wag Their Tails?

Even though we sometimes wish that our dogs could speak to us, dogs are great communicators and their tails play a huge role in letting us know how they're feeling.

[AKC Family Dog](#) columnist Dr. Stanley Coren, professor emeritus in the department of psychology at the [University of British Columbia](#), wrote in [Psychology Today](#) that since dogs' eyes are very sensitive to movement, a moving tail is a great visual cue to other dogs.

"In some ways, tail wagging serves the same communication functions as a human smile, a polite greeting, or a nod of recognition," Dr. Coren [writes](#).

Reading your dog's tail and body language is the best way to know what your dog is really trying to tell you. Just as different human facial expressions mean different things, tail movements vary on how your dog is feeling.

What Your Dog's Tail Is Telling You

A dog's tail acts like a barometer for his mood. Knowing tail positions and other [canine body language cues](#) will help you understand your dog and how to interact safely with other dogs. Although tail movement and position vary slightly between [dog breeds](#), many general movements are the same.



News From AKC (Cont)

Published www.akc.org

Why Do Dogs Wag Their Tails(cont)

A tail lowered and between the legs could indicate fear, anxiety, or submission. A slow wag could mean that a dog is unsure and feeling insecure about a situation. A tail held up higher than normal could mean that something has piqued your dog's interest (like a squirrel running across the yard) and he is alert, while a tail wagging energetically from side to side, especially when accompanied with a play bow or a [few licks](#), can be a friendly greeting. However, there's more to [canine body language](#) than just tail movements, and it's important to pay attention to other factors.

A recent study found that the direction a dog is favoring when wagging his tail may be a mood indicator, as well. A dog wagging his tail more on the right side of his body is probably more relaxed, while a dog wagging his tail on the left side of his body could be more alert, stressed, or anxious, according to the study published in [Current Biology](#) in 2013.

While many of these cues seem fairly simple, recognizing them will help you communicate better with your dog and will help you read the moods of other dogs, as well.



September Pet Holidays and Veterinary Awareness Days

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

Month-Long Celebrations

- ✦ National Service Dog Month
- ✦ National Pet Insurance Month
- ✦ Responsible Dog Ownership Month
- ✦ Pet Sitter Education Month
- ✦ Animal Pain Awareness Month

Week-Long Celebrations

- ✦ September 12–18 | Adopt-a-Less-Adoptable-Pet Week (third week in September)
- ✦ September 19–25 | National Deaf Dog Awareness Week (last full week in September)
- ✦ September 19–25 | National Dog Week (last full week in September)

Day Celebrations

- ✦ September 8 | National Dog Walker Appreciation Day
- ✦ September 12 | National Hug Your Hound Day (second Sunday in September)
- ✦ September 12 | National Pet Memorial Day (second Sunday in September)
- ✦ September 18 | Puppy Mill Awareness Day (third Saturday in September)
- ✦ September 18 | Responsible Dog Ownership Day (third Saturday in September)
- ✦ September 23 | Dogs in Politics Day
- ✦ September 23 | Remember Me Thursday (#RememberMeThursday)
- ✦ September 28 | [World Rabies Day](#)



Diabetes in Dogs—Managing Diabetes

Contributed by Denise Gaboury
Published www.vetsulin.com

Caring for Your Dog With Diabetes

Although diabetes is not a completely curable disease, it can be managed successfully with proper treatment, diet and exercise.

The goal of managing diabetes is to maintain glucose in an acceptable range while avoiding hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and its associated signs. Proper management can reduce or eliminate signs of diabetes, such as excessive thirst and urination

Starting Insulin Therapy

After diagnosis, your veterinarian will determine the insulin dose based on your dog's weight.

Your veterinarian and veterinary nurse are your best advocates. They will teach you everything you need to know about giving Vetsulin® via syringe or VetPen®. They can also discuss monitoring your dog's blood or urine glucose levels at home.

Shortly after starting insulin therapy, you should begin to see a decrease in the amount of water consumption and urination volumes. Pay close attention to these changes, along with appetite and attitude, to help your veterinarian in treatment decisions. Based on these signs, and glucose monitoring, your veterinarian may adjust your dog's insulin dose. Consistent monitoring and patience is key to finding the best dose for your dog.

Monitoring Glucose Levels

Monitoring your dog's glucose level is important to overall therapy for managing diabetes. It can be done in two ways:

- **Blood Test**

Measuring the glucose level in your dog's blood is the most accurate method. It can be done either at the veterinarian clinic or at home with a portable glucometer and blood test strips.

- **Urine Test**

This test checks your dog's urine for the presence of glucose and ketones (a chemical produced when the body burns fat for energy). It is not as accurate as measuring glucose in the blood, but can be done at home easily.

Consistent Exercise

Exercise for dogs with diabetes needs to be monitored. Although it can help with happiness and health, it can also affect your dog's blood glucose levels. If your dog suddenly expends more energy than normal, they will burn up more glucose, resulting in an extremely low blood sugar level. Your veterinarian can help plan for changes in treatment associated with increased periods of exercise, like long hikes or agility exercises.

For dogs of a healthy weight, the usual amount of exercise should remain relatively unchanged. Overweight dogs could potentially use exercise for controlled weight loss, but it's important to talk to your veterinarian about exercise plans before starting.

Spaying Your Female Dog

If you have a female dog, your veterinarian will recommend that you have your dog spayed as part of the treatment. That's because one of the female sex hormones, progesterone, can interfere with the normal action of insulin. In order to remove the source of progesterone, spaying your diabetic female dog is critical.

Regular Veterinary Checkups

Keep up with regular visits to your veterinarian. This is the best way to properly manage your dog's diabetes. It can also prevent possible complications and side effects from happening. Typically your veterinarian will recommend visiting 2–4 times a year for a physical examination and possibly laboratory testing.

Even after a long period of stability, changes to insulin requirements may need to be updated. Many of these updates are due to changes such as:

- Weight loss or gain
- Change in exercise regimen
- Stress or other situations
- Presence of other diseases or infections
- Progesterone in unspayed females
- Additional medications

Diabetes in Dogs (cont)

If your dog is going through any of these changes, they may again show signs of diabetes (drinking, urinating more, etc.). If you're aware of changes, or notice signs reappearing, consult your veterinarian right away.

Living With a Dog With Diabetes

Attentive care and regular doses of Vetsulin® can help your dog lead a happy, normal life.

The good news is that the life expectancy of dogs that stay regulated with insulin is similar to other healthy dogs. Good communication between you and your veterinarian, and adhering to the management regimen, will help keep your dog healthy.



Your Dog's Personality Changes with Age, Study Finds

Published NBC news
By Linda Carroll

All dog lovers know that their pets in older age aren't the same as they were as puppies, but owners often can't pinpoint the exact personality changes brought on by the passage of time.

A study published Wednesday in Scientific Reports attempts to map out those changes and finds that there are some personality traits — such as attraction to novel experiences, the desire to explore and the urge to run around — that seem to change for most dogs with age.

"Similar to humans, dog personality is both stable and malleable," said the study's lead author, Borbála Turcsán, a research fellow at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary. "Dogs that are active and curious when young will remain active and curious when they get old, but only compared to other dogs. A dog's personality changes over time, and, on average, every dog becomes less active and less curious as they age."

To study how dogs' personalities might change with time, Turcsán and her colleagues recruited 217 border collies who were participants in the Clever Dog Database in Vienna. The dogs' ages at the beginning of the study were 6 months to 15 years old.

At the outset, the dogs were evaluated using a series of tests known as the Vienna Dog Personality Test. Four years later, the researchers invited dogs that were still alive, along with their owners, back to the lab for retesting. Thirty-seven dogs (and their owners) showed up.

Included in the tests were:

- Exploration test: Dogs were allowed to explore a room and the different objects in it for one minute while the owner stood in the middle of the room ignoring the dog.
- Frustration test: The experimenter swung a large piece of sausage on a string in front of the dog's nose, just out of reach, for one minute.
- Novel object test: The dog encountered a self-moving toy that made a sound and had one minute to interact with it.
- Ball playing test: The owner threw a tennis ball three times and encouraged the dog to retrieve it.
- Obedience test: The owner gave the dog [four basic commands](#) — sit, lie down, stay and come — while the experimenter was trying to distract the dog with rustling noises
- Problem-solving test: The owner showed the dog how to remove the lid of a bin to get a piece of sausage from it, and then the dog had one minute to remove the lid and get the food.

When the researchers compared the dogs, they found that the most active and curious ones in the first test were still the most active and curious ones four years later but that individually they were less active and curious than they had been.

Your Dog's Personality Changes (cont)

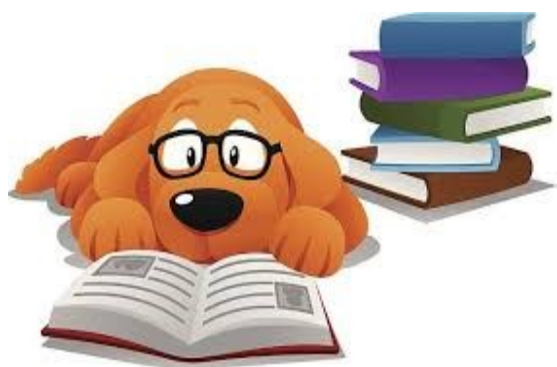
Overall, the researchers found that the dogs' attentiveness and ability to solve problems changed a lot during life, improving up until about 6 years of age and then remaining stable. The novelty-seeking trait didn't change much in early life, but then, when the dogs were 3, their curiosity about novel objects and situations started to decline.

The dogs' ability to tolerate frustration remained the same during their lives, as did their desire to socialize. But their activity levels decreased continuously as they got older. "The age of the dog was the strongest predictor of the dogs' level of calmness," Turcsán said.

The study was interesting, but it wasn't terribly surprising, said Dr. Katherine Houpt, professor emeritus at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. "Something that was surprising to me is that dogs don't seem to get particularly more intolerant of frustration as they get older," Houpt said.

The study's findings may not apply equally to all breeds, Houpt said. "They used the smartest breed to study, and [the downward trends], when it comes to diminution and novelty-seeking, might be different with beagles, for example."

There was some good news for dog owners, Houpt said. "Dogs get less active with age, and that should give hope to the people who have puppies that are too active," Houpt said. "And while they become less oriented to problem-solving and novelty-seeking as they get older, they remain obedient and social, which is probably the most important thing for owners."



LOSS

We lost two fur babes this past month unexpectedly.

Denise Loss her Rhonna and I lost my Chanel.

Rhonna was a nine year old Doberman and Chanel a nine year old Irish Setter.

A dog's life can be too short, we have seen them grow from puppies to old age, and all we are left with are good memories.

My FOREVER PET

Published:

[1001461076-my-forever-pet-100619253455.jpeg](https://www.quotesgram.com/1001461076-my-forever-pet-100619253455.jpeg) (697x1024)
([quotesgram.com](https://www.quotesgram.com))

**There's something missing in my home,
I feel it day and night,
I know it will take time and strength
Before things feel quite right.**

**But just for now, I need to mourn,
My heart -- it needs to mend.
Though some may say it's 'just a pet'
I know I've lost a friend.**

**You've brought such laughter to my home,
and richness to my days...
A constant friend through joy or loss,
With gentle loving ways.**

**Companion, pal, and confidante,
A friend I won't forget,
You'll live for always in my heart,
My sweet forever pet.."**





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



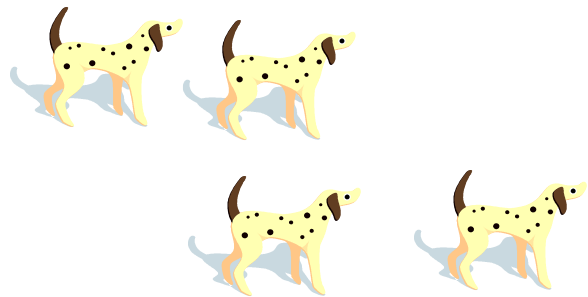
Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be
Tuesday, 9-14 —7:30

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 9-14—6:45

September WILL **NOT** HAVE A ZOOM MEETING set up.
Normal: Church Location:

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



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