



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

November 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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



DECEMBER MEETING—12/14/2021

HOLIDAY POTLUCK And Gift exchange

Bring a favorite item to share. The meeting location same as normal general meeting. Pine Grove Baptist Church.

Also bring a gift if you want to participate in a gift exchange. This is not required ONLY if you want to join in. Gift should be around \$15.

*Contact Claire Hedrick 339-6208
or Denise Gaboury 316-4543 if questions.*

TO DO LIST

*Donations for Basket "Raffle" at our January Show.
Proceeds for Paws On Parole
Need items or Loaded basket that will be offered at the
Gainesville Show January 29 and 31 2021
Any questions please contact Susan Iserhardt*

(352) 359-2486 = witchingwoman@cox.net



Why Is My Dog Better Behaved at Home?

By [Sassafra Lowrey, CTDI](#)

From AKC Expert Advice

You've probably had one of those moments when you're sure that you taught your dog a cool new trick and then you go to show someone and ... your dog doesn't do it. Why is it that dogs can do something perfectly at home and then seem unable to perform the same thing while at the park or in [training class](#)?

Better at Home

It's frustrating, and even embarrassing, when it feels like your dog is better trained when they're at home versus when they're out in the world. Dogs are highly situational, so just because your dog knows how to do something well in one place doesn't mean they'll automatically be able to perform the same skill somewhere else. The "better at home" phenomenon is very natural and normal. When you're at home, your dog is likely relaxed, calm, and comfortable. They know where they are and what is going on around them. In this space your dog can focus on learning new and challenging skills. When you take the skills elsewhere, your dog may need extra support to learn how to do this trick in a new environment.

Pay Attention to Distraction Levels

Just like you wouldn't ask a kindergartener to do calculus, you want to make sure that you're asking your dog to perform skills that are appropriate for their age and training level. Always start teaching new skills in areas with low distraction, which gives your dog the ability to focus. Once your dog knows a behavior in a low-distraction environment at home, you can start to work on that skill in more distracting environments like the park or farmers market.

When you're training in a more distracting environment, you'll want to bring out the [higher-value treats](#), like hot dog pieces. Be prepared to

lure or help your dog out more during the first few repetitions of a trick or cue to remind your dog it's the same skill they've already mastered at home. Learning something new is hard, so until your dog has a solid mastery of a skill, it will be very challenging for them to perform somewhere distracting. Try to set your dog up for success by putting them into training situations where they can be successful with their current level of skill.

Look Beyond Stubbornness

Dog training requires a lot of patience and it can be easy to get frustrated or discouraged. Many people mistake a dog's lack of understanding—or inability to focus amid distractions—for stubbornness. But if you're asking your dog to perform a specific behavior and they aren't doing it, chances are the dog isn't refusing to comply. Rather, it's likely that the [reinforcement rate](#) is too low, the distraction level is too high, and/or your dog doesn't yet fully understand the skill and isn't sure what you want.

Dogs want to please us and they want to learn new things, so a refusal to perform a behavior should be carefully considered. If you're asking for the behavior in a new area, or with new distractions present, it's likely your dog's failure to perform is because what you're asking for is too complicated for such a distracting environment. That said, if your dog suddenly stops performing a skill they know well in familiar environments, it could mean they are [experiencing pain or discomfort](#) and it's a good idea to schedule a thorough evaluation with your vet.

Intentionally Increasing Distractions

We all want our dogs to listen to us anywhere, but that doesn't happen overnight. It's important to slowly and intentionally increase the level of distraction. Think about what is most distracting for your dog. For some, that might be the sight of other dogs or being near people, while other dogs might struggle to focus most when near a barbecue or small animals like squirrels. And for some dogs, it will be all of the above. Slowly build up your dog's comfort and familiarity with a trick, skill, or behavior. As they become proficient and confident when performing a specific behavior with the current level of distraction, the goal is to [increase the distraction level](#) until they can perform that skill anywhere regardless of what's happening.

Better At Home (continued)

A slow progression might be starting to teach a new skill inside your house, then move to your backyard (if you have one), then in front of your house where there might be more things going on, then a quiet neighborhood street, and then finally moving onto training in a park, or other area with more of the distractions that are hardest for your dog. If at any point your dog struggles to perform a skill in a new area just take a (literal) step back and increase your dog's distance from the distractions before trying again!



Best in Show winner at 2021 National Dog Show makes history

Published www.akc.org

Claire is a bone-a-fide champ.

History was made Thursday at the National Dog Show — the beloved annual event hosted by the Kennel Club of Philadelphia — when a Scottish Deerhound named Claire, who also won last year, was named Best in Show.

Claire's victory marks the first time a dog has won back-to-back in the show's 20-year history, hosts noted.

"In 20 years of the National Dog Show, there's never been a repeat champion until tonight," commentator Mary Carillo said of the two-time top dog.

She was cheered on by vaccinated spectators — a return toward normal after last year's scaled-down, fan-less spectacle — as she pranced in a victory lap around the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pennsylvania. The event was filmed on Nov. 20 and 21 but aired Thursday on NBC.

"She's a year older and more sure of herself," her handler Angela Lloyd said of Claire, whose

registered name is GCH Foxcliffe Claire Randall Fraser.

Part of the Hound group, the 4-year-old canine also earned a \$20,000 prize in addition to the glory. Competition this year was tight as Claire was pitted against Chester the Affenpinscher, Sasha the Pyrenean Shepherd, MM the Lakeland Terrier, Jade the German Shorthaired Pointer, Mo'Ne the Kuvasz and Winter the Bulldog.

Last year, Claire was the first of her breed ever to fetch the coveted title, but she's not the first champ in her family: Claire's grandmother won Best in Show at the 2011 Westminster Dog Show.

But Claire, who resides in Virginia, has one-upped her granny since she's now the top-winning Scottish Deerhound in history.

Scottish Deerhound

The Scottish Deerhound, or simply the Deerhound, is a large breed of hound, once bred to hunt the red deer by coursing. In outward appearance, the Scottish Deerhound is similar to the Greyhound, but larger and more heavily boned with a rough-coat. The Deerhound is closely related to the Irish Wolfhound and was a contributor to that breed when it was re-created at the end of the 19th century.



Beware! These Plants are Poisonous for Dogs

Contributed By Susan Iserhardt
Published ultimatepetnutrition.com

You know some human foods can be harmful to dogs — and you know not to leave these foods, like chocolate, anywhere your dog might find them. But there's another danger that can be downright fatal to your beloved pet, and it's somewhat trickier — plants poisonous to dogs hiding out in your backyard.

Here's the thing:

Some backyard plants, or plants in any place you visit, are easier to identify than others. And if you don't know what they are, you can't determine whether they pose a threat to your dog. If you're building a yard from scratch, you can solve this problem with some research. But many people inherit a pre-existing garden.

So how can you protect your best buddy from potentially dangerous plants lurking all around you?

Plants Poisonous to Dogs

Some toxic plants are far more common than others, and this is a good place to start educating yourself. So, let's start by looking at 10 of the most common plants poisonous to dogs.

1. Azalea

Beloved for its beautifully colored flowers, the azalea is a popular garden plant. But the ingestion of just a few azalea leaves can cause dangerous reactions, including vomiting, diarrhea and, in the severest cases, even death. So try to keep your pup away from this flowering shrub.

2. Daffodil

Daffodils are stunningly gorgeous flowers, known for their bright yellow, star-shaped blooms. But unfortunately, the daffodil is not good for dogs. No part of the daffodil is safe for a dog to eat, and the bulb is especially toxic. If you think your dog has eaten a daffodil and they show any signs of poisoning (including vomiting, diarrhea, or convulsions) get them to the vet immediately.

3. Tulip

As with the daffodil, the tulip is a stunning, but poisonous, flower with a very toxic bulb. This is also a good time to consider indoor flowers — the kind that you may receive as a gift and place in a vase. Both tulips and daffodils are popular gifts. That's not to say that you can't have them, but they must be well out of reach of your dog. Be especially careful once they start to wilt, because the flowers can fall to the floor, where your dog may ingest them.

4. Sago Palm

A common decorative palm, the sago palm can be found in gardens in tropical environments, and is a popular house plant. When it comes to plants poisonous to dogs, the sago palm is one of the worst — with the seeds being the most toxic. Dogs who consume any part of a sago palm may experience drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, seizures, and tremors. Liver failure is ultimately why this plant can kill dogs, and only 50 percent of those poisoned usually survive.

5. Oleander

Oleander is a lovely flowering shrub that is toxic to humans, though the human mortality rate is low. Oleander may be more commonly found in warmer climates — like the Southern U.S. and California. These toxic plants can cause vomiting, bloody diarrhea, a loss of coordination, and heart problems in dogs.

6. Monkshood

With its bright violet petals, the monkshood is also known as the "wolfsbane," which should give some clue that these pretty petals weren't meant for dogs. The toxins in monkshood can affect the nervous system and result in symptoms like weakness, paralysis, seizures, and arrhythmias — in humans and in dogs.

7. Autumn Crocus

The autumn crocus belongs to the Lily family, and it actually has a long history as a deadly poison in human lore. For dogs, ingestion can be just as dangerous — bloody vomiting, diarrhea, multi-organ damage, and seizures are not unusual. The bulbs of the are the most toxic.

Poisonous Plants (cont.)

8. Caladium

Also known as angel wings or elephant plant, the Caladium plant has arrowhead-shaped leaves that are usually green and marked with patterns of pink or red. This plant contains insoluble calcium oxalate crystals which, when the plant is chewed, can penetrate tissue, irritate the mouth, and may even cause swelling in the upper airways of your dog.

9. Cyclamen

The cyclamen is a common indoor houseplant that flowers brightly and doesn't need a lot of watering. It's often given as a gift during the holidays. If your dog ingests this toxic plant, they might suffer oral irritation, vomiting, or even seizures, which can be fatal.

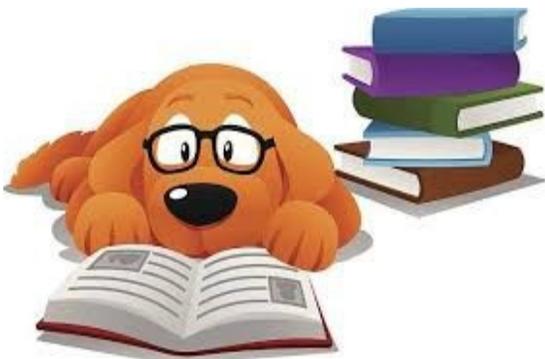
10. Amaryllis

A popular Easter flower, the amaryllis proves that poisonous plants can show up as some of the most beautiful gifts. In dogs, the bright red, patterned bloom can cause symptoms such as vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, lethargy, and coma. It can even be fatal.¹⁻³

Plants Poisonous to Dogs: Looks Can Be Deceiving

Though it's almost impossible to know every plant poisonous to dogs, making yourself aware of some of the most common and dangerous toxic plants is a great start. Don't be deceived by gorgeous, heavenly, colored blooms. They can be some of the worst culprits!

Remember, check that your houseplants aren't poisonous plants and be vigilant about any flower arrangements brought into your home. And if you have any concerns about plants in your backyard, you can always get a specialist to come to classify exactly what plants you are dealing with.



GGDFA Board Meeting—11/09/2021

Board meeting called to order at 6:48pm.

Seven board members in attendance.

Liz read minutes from 10/12.

Unanimously approved

Show Committee Report

Claire shared that everything is currently on track, but she initially ran into a couple bumps in the road. (The club is currently in the process of getting a new show representative from AKC.)

It seems that other shows are running behind this year in terms of getting paperwork processed, and because of needing a new AKC representative, our club is a bit behind as well.

Claire needs additional help with volunteers for dog show (preferably member of our club!)

AKC has given us the option to add a third day to our show each year.

Board discussed and determined that in order to add an additional day, we would need to move our show to a different weekend or a different show site.

At this time, it is not something we would like to do.

In addition, many clubs have been switching their show sites to the World Equestrian Center.

The price is much higher, and at this time, it is not something the club is considering.

Covid concerns for the show were also discussed.

Last year, there were different spaces/tables for judges and stewards to eat, in order to minimize the amount of people sitting in close proximity to each other. This year, seating arrangements will be back to normal

The club plans to still clean tables after each use and allow separate seating if an individual would feel more comfortable sitting further from others.\

Minutes Continued

At the time of the show, we will follow Marion County's current guidelines on the coronavirus.

Doris mentioned that her friend has donated two nice folding tables with tablecloths to GGDFFA, and Doris plans to set up the photo booth and to contribute some assorted decorations to spice up the judges' area.

Treasurer's Report

There are currently no big reports or large money flow right now, but Doris explained several small charges including liability insurance, general show credit card fees, printing new membership forms, etc.

Each of the club's bank accounts has earned less than one dollar in interest.

Taxes are finally settled for the club, and Doris will be checking this week to ensure that all electronic payments have been processed.

As a club, we have been spending a little more than is usual on prizes/trophies/ribbons.

Encouraging supported entries from specific breed clubs could eliminate some prize/ribbon costs

Doris has been receiving club dues in the mail. Please keep them coming!

Miscellaneous Discussion

The December meeting will be a Christmas party!

Please bring a gift to exchange (\$15 suggested) and contributions for a food drive to St. Francis House. (St. Francis House is a homeless shelter where people can bring their pets.)

Kathy moved to adjourn the board meeting. Seconded by Doris. (Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.)



General Meeting

11/9/2021

Meeting called to order at 7:34pm.

Eleven members in attendance.

Liz read general body meeting minutes from 10/12.

Unanimously approved.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Claire is still in search of interesting articles related to dogs to include in the newsletter each month. Please send any submissions to her email (claireh1950@cox.net).

Please consider donating a raffle basket to this year's show!

Claire and Liz will look into updating the member list/email list, as it has not been updated recently.

Second reading for Jordan Key and Jason Johnson.

Accepted as members!

Melonie Zuercher, a fourth year veterinary student at UF wants to see a live whelping. Please contact her (mzuercher326@gmail.com) if you or someone you know will be having a litter of puppies soon!

Club Brags!

Kathy's co-owned Schipperke just took a Best in Show and several group wins for a 4pt weekend.

Jeremy just had a litter of 3 puppies. All are happy and healthy.

Claire's 14 year old English Cocker Spaniel is doing well, after qualifying for a UF vet school cancer patient drug study!

Marge moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy seconded. (Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.)

Next board meeting will be on 12/13 at 6:45pm.

Next general meeting will be on 12/13 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elixabeth (Liz) Mignin.

Christmas Dog

Poem written by Shel Silverstein, who also wrote a children's classic called "The Giving Tree", and believe it or not, he used to draw for Playboy Magazine from 1956 to around the 70's. The poem is called *Christmas Dog*.

Tonight's my first night
as a watchdog,
And here it is Christmas
Eve.

The children are
sleeping all cozy
upstairs,
while I'm guardin' the
stockin's and tree.

What's that now—
footsteps on the
rooftop?
Could it be a cat or a
mouse?

Who's this down the
chimney?
A thief with a beard—
And a big sack for
robbin' the house?
I'm barkin', I'm
growlin', I'm bitin' his
butt.

He howls and jumps
back in his sleigh.
I scare his strange
horses, they leap in the
air.
I've frightened the
whole bunch away.
Now the house is all
peaceful and quiet
again.

The stockin's are safe
as can be.
Won't the kiddies be
glad when they wake up
tomorrow
And see how I've
guarded the tree.

October Pet Holidays and Veterinary Awareness Days

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

Month-Long Celebrations

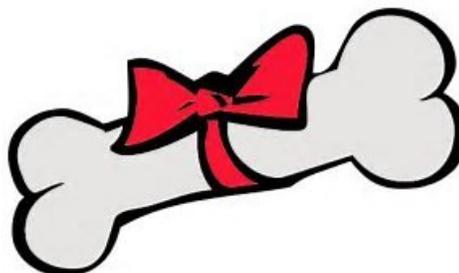
- National Cat Lovers' Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Week-Long Celebrations

- November 28–December 6 | Hanukkah
- December 26–January 1 | Kwanzaa

Day Celebrations

- December 2 | National Mutt Day
- December 4 | World Wildlife Conservation Day
- December 4 | National Cookie Day
- December 5 | International Volunteer Day
- December 13 | National Day of the Horse
- December 15 | Monkey Day
- December 15 | National Cat Herders Day
- December 17 | Underdog Day
- December 24 | Christmas Eve
- December 25 | Christmas Day
- December 27 | Visit the Zoo Day
- December 31 | New Year's Eve





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



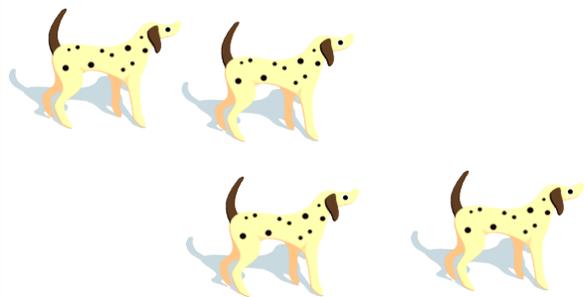
Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be
Tuesday, 12/ 14 —7:30

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 12/14 —6:45

There 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