



# The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

April 2015

Newsletter for Dog Lovers

**G.G.D.F.A.**

**P.O. Box 358332**

**Gainesville, Florida**

**32635-8332**

[www.ggdfa.org](http://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:

4th Tuesday each month

**Club Officers**

President — Denise Gaboury  
1st VP — Pam Rice  
2nd VP — Carol Lamb  
Secretary — Sarah Wingfield  
Treasurer — Doris Horton

**Club Directors**

Debbie Brauneck  
Kathy Davis  
John McKamey  
Claire Hedrick

**Newsletter Editor**

Claire Hedrick

**Membership Chair**

Kathy Davis



## **WATCH OUR FUR KIDS WITH THE NEW PLANTS IN OUR YARDS**

It is said that the way to a dog's heart is through its stomach.

That may be true, but the combination of a voracious appetite, natural curiosity and indiscriminate taste can lead to trouble for our canine companions. Plants that are poisonous to dogs can be found in our homes, our yards and in the wild, and sometimes all it takes is a little bite to lead to an emergency trip to the veterinarian.

**Azalea** -- A member of the widely toxic genus rhododendron, the azalea is found in many varieties all over the United States and is commonly used as an ornamental flowering shrub in landscaping. Ingestion of just a few leaves can cause serious issues like digestive upset, drooling, loss of appetite, weakness and leg paralysis. In some cases, eating azalea can lead to coma or death.

**Daffodils** -- Among the first blooms to herald the arrival of spring, daffodils are a cheerful addition to the garden, but they contain poisonous alkaloids that can cause vomiting, excessive salivation, diarrhea, convulsions, tremors and heart problems. The bulbs are the most dangerous part of the plant.

For more information, see  
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/LIVING/04/02/dogs.poisonous.plants.mnn/>

## News From AKC

Published [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

### ANIMAL COGNITION

"Wow" finding: Dogs can pick out the faces of their own species among 40 others, and can even group them together regardless of breed.

Using only visual cues, dogs can distinguish the faces of other dogs (regardless of breed), dogs from human and other animal faces, according to new research by Dr. Dominique Autier-Dérian at the LEEC and National Veterinary School in Lyon, France. They can even group these canine faces into a single category, despite the wide variation of facial appearance. This ability is especially remarkable since domestic dogs have the largest variety of all animal species.

Science Daily reports that Autier-Dérian and his colleagues wanted to find out if this wide diversity would present a cognitive challenge to dogs when they were asked to recognize their own species, and other species using visual cues alone. To do this, the researchers showed nine dog images on a computer screen of the faces of various purebreds and mixed breeds, which simultaneously exposing them the faces of 40 different species of domestic and wild animals, as well as human ones.

The dogs were presented with over 144 pairs of pictures to choose from. The results suggest that dogs can form a visual category of dog faces and group pictures of very different dogs into a single category, despite the diversity in dog breeds. All nine dogs were able to group all the images of dogs within the same category.

Apparatus. a, b: The dog sits in front of the researcher, on a line between the 2 screens. C: When hearing an order, the dog expressed his choice by going to a given screen and putting his paw in front of the chosen image.

So the next time someone wonders aloud -- and they will -- if dogs recognize each other, you can show how smart you are by quoting this study. You'll seem almost as smart as your dog.

The study is the first of its kind and is published online in the journal Animal Cognition.



## **BRAG!!**



Lovingly owned by Ssan Tipton and Jeff Capehart

Marvin (on the left) and Misty each earn CAT (Coursing Ability Test) titles

AND -

Marvin is halfway to his Coursing Dog Excellent Title.

We think Marvin is smiling in the picture because he has one more ribbon than Misty.

## GOODBYE TO SOME FOREVER FRIENDS

In loving Memory of

**JAZZ LAMB (Beardie 14 yrs 10 mos)**

**CASEY HEDRICK (Irish Setter 15 yrs)**

*. Faithful friend, loyal companion,  
we say farewell to you now.*

*You have kept us warm at night,  
protected our home  
and offered us unconditional love.*

*For this we are thankful,  
and we will remember you forever.*

## THE BEST SHAMPOO FOR YOUR DOG IS NOT YOUR SHAMPOO!

Published Cyberdobs@yahoo.com  
Submitted by Denise Gaboury

The dog needs a bath, it's after 6 p.m. on a weekday, and you don't have any dog shampoo on hand. Let's concede that shampoo made for people will clean your dog, but the question is, is it good for your dog? This may seem like a quibbling question, but it can actually have far-reaching consequences.

We'll start with the how's of people skin and dog skin. A highly important component of skin is what is called the acid mantle. This is a lightly acidic layer that covers the skin, serving as a barrier to protect the porous topmost layer of the skin, the stratum corneum, from environmental contaminants such as bacteria and viruses. The stratum corneum is responsible for keeping the outer body well hydrated, by absorbing water and not allowing excessive evaporation to occur. When we bathe, using soaps and shampoos, we wash away this layer of acidic oil.

This is why most human shampoos and soaps are formulated with moisturizers to replace the protective layer that has been scrubbed away, at least until the skin is able to replenish itself around 12 hours later. If the stratum corneum is left stripped and unprotected, it is open to a host of microorganisms, which may present as dry, flaky skin, irritated, peeling skin, or as a rash of itchy bumps.

The acid mantle can also be defined as the relative pH balance of the skin. The pH scale ranges from 0 to 14, with levels less than 6.4 considered high acidity, and levels more than 6.4 considered high alkalinity. The normal range of skin pH levels for humans is 5.2 to 6.2, which means it tends to be on the acidic side, and shampoos and skin products are formulated specifically to maintain this balance.

Now consider the relative pH balance for dogs. Depending on breed, gender, climate, and the anatomical size on the dog, the pH levels range from 5.5 to 7.5, tending toward a more alkaline concentration. Therefore, if a shampoo that is formulated for human skin is used on a dog, the dog's acid mantle will be disrupted, creating an environment where bacteria, parasites, and viruses can run rampant. Unknowingly, many pet owners will repeat washings of their dogs because of the smell caused by a proliferation of bacteria, making the

problem worse as the skin's acid mantle/pH level becomes more imbalanced. Additionally, if the shampoo makes the skin feel dry, your dog will scratch at its skin, creating abrasions for bacteria to invade. It quickly becomes a vicious cycle.

Just as you would look for a shampoo that helps maintain the pH balance of your own scalp, you should also concentrate on finding a shampoo with a pH balance that is specifically balanced for a dog's skin. Dog shampoos should be in the neutral range, around 7. Many shampoo manufacturers will include the pH level on the label, but at the very least, they will clearly state that the shampoo is pH-balanced for dogs

### WHAT ELSE TO LOOK FOR

Do read the labels, making sure that there are no artificial fragrances or colors added to the shampoo. Your dog may be a big strong guy and still have sensitive skin.

Look for natural skin moisturizers like vitamin E, aloe vera, honey, and tea tree oil. Fragrances to look for should be natural; chamomile, lavender, eucalyptus, and citrus are some examples of clean, pleasant fragrances, some of which also do double duty as insect repellents.

If you can find organic or natural dog shampoos, even better, but don't rely on the front label alone. Again, read the ingredients list.

Your dog doesn't need to be washed with shampoo on a regular basis. A good cleaning every few months is all your dog needs (you can give water baths in between), so you can splurge a little on a shampoo with quality ingredients when you weigh the overall time you will be using it. One bottle can last a year, even if you only shampoo your dog once a month.

So go for the good stuff, and you won't mind when your dog places his paws on your lap for a friendly hug.



*"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive."  
- Gilda Radner*

## GROOMING—NAIL TRIMS

Published Cyberdobes@yahoo.com  
Submitted by Denise Gaboury

The most common reasons for avoiding nail trims are that the owner is afraid of “quicking” the dog, or that the dog fusses and creates bad feelings around the procedure. Nail cutting becomes an event surrounded by angst and drama. For very active dogs who run all day long on varied surfaces, cutting nails may not be necessary. High mileage wears them down naturally. But among city or suburban dogs who are lucky to get a mile or two walk daily, excessively long toenails are more common than not.

### Consequences Of Long Toenails

So what’s the big deal? The first consequence of long toenails is painful feet. When a dog’s toenails contact hard ground, like a sidewalk or your kitchen floor, the hard surface pushes the nail back up into the nail bed. This either puts pressure on all the toe joints or forces the toe to twist to the side. Either way, those toes become very sore, even arthritic. When the slightest touch is painful to your dog, he will fuss when you pick up his paw to cut nails.

The second consequence of long toenails is more serious. All animals rely on information from nerves in their feet to move through the world and process gravity accurately. For millions of years, wild dogs have run long distances while hunting and worn their nails short. The only time their toenails would touch the ground was when climbing a hill. So a dog’s brain is evolutionarily programmed to associate toenail contact with being on a hill, and he shifts his body posture accordingly: leaning forward over his forelimbs, up the imaginary hill as reported by his toes. Since the hill is not real, a secondary compensation with his hind limbs is necessary to avoid a face plant. This abnormal compensatory posture can be called “goat on a rock,” because it brings his paws closer together under his body.

Normal neutral posture is a nice show dog “stack,” with vertical legs like a table. Recent research shows that standing with limbs “camped-in” is hard work to maintain. These goat-on-a-rock dogs get over-used muscles and eventually over-used joints, especially in their hind limbs, making it difficult to jump in cars, climb stairs and even hard to get up from lying down. Sounds like a lot of older dogs we know! Cutting toenails short can be like a miracle cure for your dog whose hind end has become painful, weak and over-used.

That’s the “why.” Now for the “what and how.”

Toe nail maintenance requires a trim every two weeks, just like maintaining human fingernails. If you can hear nails clicking on your kitchen floor, they are much too long. But don’t despair, the technique shown here will make short work

of getting your dog’s nails back to their correct shape. The concept is easy: trim around, never across the quick, which is actually your dog’s finger.

### NAIL CLIPPERS

Use only “scissor” type clippers. Guillotine style clippers crush the toe, which is painful. Never put the whole nail in a clipper.

Use small size clippers for better control. Only giant breed dogs will need large ones.

Keep your tools sharp: either replace or sharpen your clippers regularly.

“Quick-guards” obscure your view of the nail. If possible, remove them, or at least tape them back so that they won’t interfere with your work.

“Pedi-paws” type grinder: Smooth out your trim afterwards with a rotating emeryboard.

File only the insensitive nail around the top and sides of the quick: “Sharpen the pencil” where the nail is the wood and the quick is the lead.

### IF YOU CUT THE QUICK

Use corn starch to staunch the bleeding if you make a nail leak. With shallow cuts, this will be rare.

It’s easiest if you use a small container with tightly packed powder.

### TIPS AND TRICKS

Trim nails outside or in a well lit room.

If you need “cheaters” for reading, use them for toenail clipping too.

It’s actually easier to see the nail structures on pigmented nails than on white ones. The insensitive nail will show as a chalky ring around the sensitive quick.



## **GROOMING—NAIL TRIM (continued)**

Keep clipper blades almost parallel to the nail – never cut across the finger.

Don't squeeze the toes – that hurts! Use your fingers to separate the toes for clipping and hold the paw gently. Use a pair of blunt edged children's scissors to remove excess toe hair: nothing dulls clippers quicker than cutting hair!

Remember, no dog ever died from a quicked toenail. If you "quickness" your dog accidentally, give a yummy treat right away.

Make nail trimming fun: always associate nail cutting with cookies and praise.

For maintenance, cut every two weeks. To shorten, cut every week.

Once the insensitive nail is thinned out and isn't supporting the quick, the quick will dry up and recede. This will allow you to cut your dog's nails even shorter. Each dog's nails are different, but very long toenails often become dry and cracked, with a clear separation of the living tissue and the insensitive nail. This will make it easier to trim back longer nails.

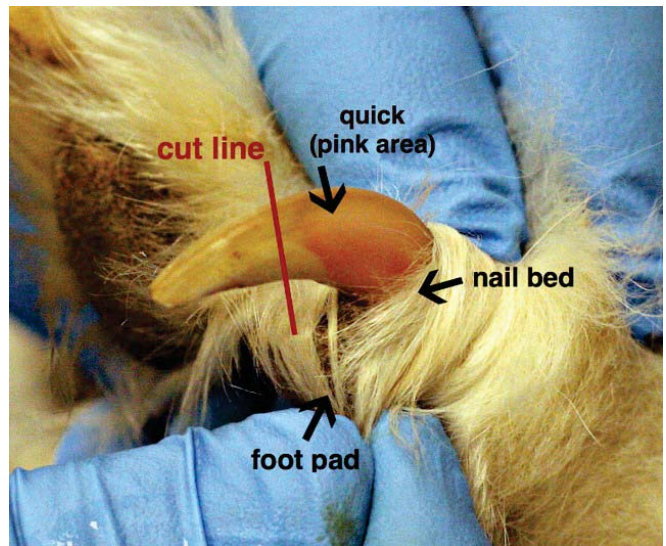
What's inside your dog's toenail? On the left, the interior structures are shown, along with the suggested angle to remove the "roof" of the nail, while not harming the sensitive quick. On a black claw, the interface between sensitive and insensitive nail is usually chalky and white – very easy to discern. On the right is a close-up view of the inside of the nail. On cross section, the sensitive quick will look translucent and glossy, like living flesh. In untrimmed claws, there will often be a "notch" below the tip of the quick. It is usually safe to initiate your angled cut at the notch.

Some dogs act like cutting their nails is their worst nightmare. This may be a learned behavior from their painful, overstimulated toes, which will slowly dissipate along with the pain once the nails are short. Use all your best restraint and behavior modification tricks to get through the initial phase, whether your dog is a squirmer or a drama queen.

Start on the hind feet, because the nails tend to be a little shorter and less sensitive than the front. But remember you can't make an accurate cut on

a moving target so get help from your dog trainer or groomer if needed. Make nail trimming "quality time" you spend with your dog. Lots of kisses, lots of treats and a positive attitude go a long way. If you dread it, your dog will too, so learn how to be a good actor until you succeed in believing it can be a loving experience for you both. If your dog loses patience quickly, try cutting one nail a day. As long as you keep the order of toes consistent, this will be a good maintenance schedule, giving every toe a trim every 16 days.

Short toenails are critical to your dog's health and soundness. *Failure is not an option!*



### **WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!**

**Same address but redesigned and links working as they should. Check It Out!**

**[www.ggdffa.org](http://www.ggdffa.org)**

**Our new look is managed by our web-master and Claire**

**Barbara Copping  
BC Web Service LLC**

**[www.bcwebservice.net](http://www.bcwebservice.net)**



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, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, promptly at 7:30 pm PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 4200 NW 39TH AVE, Gainesville, FL

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, **April 28th**

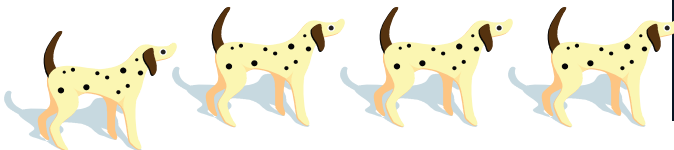
### Training Classes

#### LOCATION:

OAK HALL SCHOOL - Covered and lighted  
Tower Road , Gainesville

**Obedience/Rally classes**— Thursdays 6:00 pm  
With Denise Gaboury

**Conformation classes**—Thursdays 7:00pm  
With Claire Hedrick 339-6208



### 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:claire@ggdfa.org).