



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

April 2016

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:
4th Tuesday each month

Club Officers

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

Club Directors

Debbie Brauneck
Kathy Davis
Claire Hedrick
Marge Saucier
Linda Graham—alternate

Newsletter Editor

Claire Hedrick

Membership Chair

Kathy Davis

IMPORTANT TO DO LIST

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

- **AWARDS NEEDED**

Each year we acknowledge AKC Titles won by our members fur-children. This is any AKC Title won by your dog last calender year 2015.

Copy the Certificate and send or give copy to Denise Gaboury.

Special plaques will be awarded later this year. Let us know if any questions!!



“Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day. It is amazing how much love and laughter they bring into our lives and even how much closer we become with each other because of them.”

— [John Grogan, Marley and Me](#)

News From AKC

Published www.akc.org

ISSUE ANALYSIS: WHY BREED-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION DOESN'T WORK

We have all heard the heartbreaking stories: A child brutally attacked by a dog. A beloved family pet or a farmer's livestock killed or injured by a stray dog. Such stories are far too common, and everyone agrees our communities must be protected from dangerous animals.

When faced with this dilemma, many public officials have turned to breed-specific legislation (BSL) as a possible solution. Breed-specific legislation is any bill that seeks to ban or place severe restrictions on owners of a particular breed of dog or dogs with certain physical characteristics, regardless of whether or not the dog is a problem in the community.

Like racial profiling for dogs, BSL unfairly penalizes responsible dog owners without holding owners of truly dangerous dogs accountable. This is why the American Kennel Club, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Animal Control Association, the American Bar Association, and a host of other respected national organizations oppose BSL and recognize the inequities and inherent fallacies of such laws.

A Declining Trend

Around the world, governments are recognizing the inherent problems with BSL and revising their dangerous dog policies. Italy, for example, repealed its breed-specific policies after six years of costly enforcement and ineffectiveness. In June 2009, the Dutch government announced its intent to remove its "pit bull" ban after determining that it did not decrease dog bites or improve safety in the Netherlands.

In the United States, the American Kennel Club (AKC) sees multiple state legislatures and local governments introduce bills each year with breedspecific components. These bills take many forms and do not always simply ban the ownership of certain breeds. Some include a mandatory sterilization of specific breeds, liability insurance requirements, or higher licensing fees.

Some automatically designate specific breeds as "dangerous", thereby subjecting some responsible dog owners to specific laws not applicable to owners of other breeds.

The AKC plays an active role in stopping breed-specific legislation. Since 2005, the AKC has actively opposed more than a dozen state initiatives to enact breed-specific legislation. Only one of these bills became law. In 2012, the AKC actively supported the successful repeal of Ohio's statewide breed-specific laws, which had been in effect for over 20 years.

This resulted in numerous communities throughout Ohio re-examining – and in many cases repealing – their breedspecific policies.

The Cincinnati City Council, for example, repealed their long-standing policies by an 8-1 vote in April 2012. Ohio communities are not unique in this trend. Each year, the AKC works with counties and municipalities across the country that are seeking to amend or repeal their breed-specific laws as local governments and animal control recognize the ineffectiveness of these policies in addressing concerns with dangerous dogs.

Policy and Implementation Concerns

There are a number of inherent problems with breed-specific legislation. Banning a specific breed punishes responsible dog owners who have welltrained dogs of that breed, while irresponsible owners who want a "dangerous dog" as a status symbol will simply choose another breed. Public officials are left continuing to add to a list of forbidden breeds. Italy's list grew to over 90 breeds before the statute was repealed. Animal control officers must also become dog breed experts in order to determine whether a specific dog is on the list of regulated breeds.

In Iowa, for example, a dog owner had to fight for the right to keep her dog after animal control officers determined the mixedbreed dog violated the community's breed-specific ordinance – even though neither the owner nor their veterinarian immediately identified the dog as being any the banned breeds. Some communities have attempted to define a dangerous dog as any dog that has certain physical characteristics. This forces local officials to focus more on a dog's appearance than its behavior – and often results in incorrect identification.

Breed-specific laws also often lead to increased costs to the community, as many owners abandon their household pets at local shelters because they are no longer permitted to own them, or are unable to comply with the strict regulations imposed on them.

In many cases, the owner must choose between relocating to a different town or getting rid of their dog.

ISSUE ANALYSIS: WHY BREED-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION DOESN'T WORK—continued

Many of these dogs end up being housed and/or euthanized at the shelters at the taxpayer's expense.

Better Alternatives

Strict enforcement of animal control laws (such as leash laws) and guidelines that clearly define dangerous behavior in all breeds are more effective in protecting communities from dangerous animals. Dangerous dog guidelines should establish a fair process by which a dog is deemed "dangerous" or "vicious" based on stated, measurable actions, not merely based on breed. These laws should also impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible owners and establish a welldefined method for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous.

Increased public education efforts also prove effective, as they address the root issue of irresponsible dog ownership. Salt Lake County, Utah, implemented a program in 2009 to train "pit bull" breeds in an attempt to lower the numbers being euthanized in local shelters. This program utilizes the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen® program to teach owners on how to properly train and socialize their dogs. (www.animalservices.slco.org)

If a community truly wants to fix the problem of dangerous dogs, then it needs to abandon the idea of breedspecific legislation. Time and time again, communities that have enacted BSL get unenforceable and costly laws, but no solution to the problem. Addressing the issue of irresponsible ownership is a much more effective method of animal control. The AKC Government Relations Department is available to help communities develop dangerous dog policies that properly protect citizens and responsible dog owners.



New GG DFA Board as of April meeting:

The nominating committee announced the new slate which was uncontested and the slate was approved as read.

We have a new position this year and have added an "Alternate Board Member". This position will have no voting rights if all members of the board are in attendance. But can when a member is absent. We will be addressing the specifics and update our documentation.

The New Board:

President	-	Denise Gaboury
Vice President 1st	-	Pam Rice
Vice President 2nd	-	John McKamey
Treasurer	-	Doris Horton
Secretary	-	Sarah Wingfield

Board Members:

Kathy Davis
Debbie Brauneck
Claire Hedrick
Marge Saucier

Alternate

Linda Graham



DOG AGILITY BASICS

Published: www.petmd.com

Some dogs are more active than others. If you have found that your dog has a lot of stamina and seems to want to keep going even when it's time to call it quits for the day, you might want to try getting him more involved in sport activities. Find a dog park that is equipped with obstacle course, and if it proves that your dog has the innate speed and strength to run fast and jump over and through various obstacles, you just may have an "agility" dog on your hands.

Agility is a canine sport that puts dogs through courses of various jumps and obstacles at a rapid pace. The handler -- which may or may not be you, depending on your own stamina -- runs along with the off-leash dog, giving commands and directing the dog to the next obstacle along the way.

The best thing about agility training and competition is that any dog that is capable of taking part is welcome, regardless of size, weight, height, breed or age.

Getting Started

Most dogs can learn agility at any age. However, before undertaking any sort of new activity with your dog, check with your veterinarian to make sure that there are no underlying health issues to be cautious of. Conversely, if your dog is still very young, you may have to wait until he is mature enough and healthy enough to handle the running and jumping necessary for agility sports. Of course, you can start training while he is young, around a year old, and by the time he is old enough to compete he will be in top condition. During the training period, your dog should also be learning some basic obedience training. He should be consistently responding to obedience commands before getting started in group agility training and competitions.

It almost goes without saying that your dog will need to have a good temperament with other dogs and people, but this is important to take into account. Because he will be off-leash, it is essential that your dog is not aggressive toward others, and that he responds immediately to commands.

Training will begin with smaller, more simplified versions of the obstacles. There are several common obstacles that your dog will learn to navigate during agility training sessions, such as tunnels, hoops, and the A-frame. The see-saw (or teeter-totter) and the weave poles are among the most challenging on the course.

As training advances and your dog continues to excel, the obstacles are raised and extended to advance the challenges.

Never forget to reward your dog for a good performance. Treats and praise, as well as special objects, can be used to prompt the dog to achieve more. For a dog, one of the main pleasures in training and competition is the positive response and attention he receives from the human he has bonded with.

Competition

In a competition situation, you and your dog will run through a course of standard obstacles that have been laid out in a 100-foot by 100-foot area. Unique configurations are set up for the individual height class that the dog is in -- from dogs that are small in stature, to dogs that are tall. For each trial, obstacles are set up, each of which depend on the class or experience level of the dog that is competing. You and your dog are judged by the time it takes for you to complete the sequence as determined by the competition standards.

Handlers are allowed to give any command or signal to the dog, but are not allowed to touch the dog or the obstacle. Dogs are given point deductions if they miss an obstacle, go out of sequence, knock down a jump bar, or don't touch the specific contact area on the obstacle. The dog with the fewest faults and the quickest time wins the height division, or class.

Whether you are looking to compete at a world-class level, or you and your dog are just out to have a good time, your dog will certainly have fun doing his agility routines. Check out the local agility clubs in your area and attend some events to find out more about this sport.



25 Fun and Fascinating Dog Facts

Published: Erika Mansourian, AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

We realize we may be biased, but here at the AKC we never get tired of learning more about dogs, whether it's a new study on canine behavior, a statistic from the AKC's database, or even just cool facts about a dog's impressive physical and mental abilities. You may know some of these already, and others may be more of a "wait, really?" situation, but we think you'll find all of them entertaining. (Did we mention we're biased?)

- 1.The Labrador Retriever has been on the AKC's top 10 most popular breeds list for 25 consecutive years—longer than any other breed.
- 2.A dog's nose print is unique, much like a person's fingerprint.
- 3.Forty-five percent of U.S. dogs sleep in their owner's bed.
- 4.Speaking of sleeping ... all dogs dream, but puppies and senior dogs dream more frequently than adult dogs.
- 5.Seventy percent of people sign their dog's name on their holiday cards.
- 6.A dog's sense of smell is legendary, but did you know that his nose has as many as 300 million receptors? In comparison, a human nose has about 5 million.
- 7.Rin Tin Tin, the famous German Shepherd, was nominated for an Academy Award.
- 8.The shape of a dog's face suggests its longevity: A long face means a longer life.
- 9.Dog eyes have a part called the tapetum lucidum, allowing night vision.
- 10.The name Collie means "black." (Collies once tended black-faced sheep.)
- 11.Yawning is contagious—even for dogs. Research shows that the sound of a human yawn can trigger one from your dog. And it's four times as likely to happen when it's the yawn of a person he knows.
- 12.The Dandie Dinmont Terrier is the only breed named for a fictional person—a character in the novel *Guy Mannerings*, by Sir Walter Scott.
- 13.Dogs curl up in a ball when sleeping to protect their organs—a hold over from their days in the wild, when they were vulnerable to predator attacks.
- 14.The Basenji is not technically "barkless," as many people think. They can yodel.
- 15.The Australian Shepherd is not actually from Australia—they are an American breed.
- 16.... And the Labrador Retriever is originally from Newfoundland.
- 17.Human blood pressure goes down when petting a dog. And so does the dog's.
- 18.There are over 75 million pet dogs in the U.S.—more than in any other country.

19.A person who hunts with a Beagle is known as a "Beagler."

20.Dogs are not colorblind. They also see blue and yellow.

21.All puppies are born deaf.

22.Dalmatians are born completely white, and develop their spots as they get older.

23.Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. (We humans have between 2,000–10,000.)

24.When dogs kick backward after they go to the bathroom it's not to cover it up, but to mark their territory, using the scent glands in their feet.

25.A recent study shows that dogs are among a small group of animals who show voluntary unselfish kindness towards others without any reward. This is one fact dog lovers have known all along.

WHY DOGS MAY CHASE THEIR TAILS

Published: www.akc.org

There happens to be much speculation as to why a dog will chase his tail. Some say it's a sign of boredom or excitement or a compulsive disorder. A group of Turkish researchers suggest the answer might be biological.

Research published in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice* reported a connection between compulsive tail-chasing and high blood-cholesterol levels.

The 15 tail-chasing dogs in the study were first assessed to ensure they had no other problem conditions or diseases. Fifteen healthy, behaviorally "normal" dogs served as controls.

Blood samples were taken from each dog after a 12–16-hour fasting period. Total cholesterol, triglyceride, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and very low-density lipoprotein cholesterol levels were measured.

The scientists, from the University of Uludag in Bursa, Turkey, found that the tail-chasing dogs had significantly higher levels of total cholesterol and both high- and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol than did the control dogs. (The other measures did not differ between the two groups.) The researchers concluded that canine tail-chasing behavior may be associated with serum cholesterol elevation.





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 10th**, promptly at 7:30 pm PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 4200 NW 39TH AVE, Gainesville, FL

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, **Apr 26th**

Training Classes

LOCATION:

OAK HALL SCHOOL - Covered and lighted
Tower Road , Gainesville

Obedience/Rally classes— Thursdays 6:00 pm
With Denise Gaboury 316-4543

Conformation classes— Thursdays 7:00 pm
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 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.