



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

August 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



AUGUST MEETING **IS POTLUCK NIGHT!!**

7:30 PM

August 9th, 2016

*We will have a picnic night
instead of our regular
meeting just to relax and
spend some time
networking.*

*Bring your favorite dish to
share!*



??? Call Claire 352-339-6208

AWARDS

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

Special plaques will be awarded at our August dinner.



News From AKC

Published www.akc.org

Note from Claire:

Stories like these happen in many places and are so significant.

FOR MORE STORIES—Check out more on Canine Officers.

<http://www.akc.org/celebrates/canine-officer-program/>

K-9 Rescues Kidnapped Girl

GREAT day for K-9 Deja and handler Deputy Stone. They were called up to the local mountains around 3:00 AM this morning to assist in the search of a female juvenile who went missing from her residence. The juvenile was last seen being taken into the woods by an unknown male subject. Drag marks and the juvenile's purse were located in the area.

Deja started tracking the juvenile from the drag marks. Deja trailed through a wooded area and up to a house. Deja followed the juvenile's scent all of the way up to the front door and would not leave.

The juvenile was located inside of the residence along with the male suspect. The male was subsequently arrested for kidnapping. Great work by K-9 Deja and the Twin Peaks Sheriff's Station.

Types Of Allergic Reactions In Dogs

Dr. Jeff Grognet, AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
July 28, 2016

What does "allergy" mean to you? Does it mean a life-threatening reaction to a bee sting? Does it suggest an itchy dog? Hives? All of these are examples of the many different types of allergic reactions. Learn how to manage each one.

Anaphylactic Reactions in Dogs

Have you ever heard of a person dying after eating one shrimp because he was deathly allergic to seafood? Or someone having to inject himself after being stung by a bee? These are anaphylactic reactions, the scariest and most lethal allergic reactions we see.

In dogs, we see major reactions like this if they are bitten by an insect (bee or wasp) or if they have an

injection of medication (like a vaccine) they're allergic to. Antibodies produced by the host react to the substance, dropping blood pressure and sending the body into shock. If a dog has had a past incident and survived, the owner may carry an epipen, but sometimes the first occurrence can lead to death. Fortunately these reactions are very rare in dogs.

Facial Swelling and Hives in Dogs

The next reaction, in terms of severity, is swelling of the throat or face, including the lips and sometimes the eyelids and ear flaps.

If a dog has swelling of the face, what vets call angioneurotic edema, this is actually a good sign. I say this because the dog has likely passed the time for a fatal reaction to occur, and his life is rarely in danger. The swelling occurs 30 minutes to a few hours after the exposure. A veterinarian will often give dogs with this reaction an antihistamine injection. Untreated, it may take a day or two for the swelling to subside.

A different reaction we see 6 to 24 hours after exposure to the antigen is hives. Also called urticaria, this reaction consists of very itchy swellings in the skin. These are easy to spot in short-coated dogs, but with dogs with long hair, you may be more likely to feel them rather than see them. An antihistamine is again in order to treat the reaction.

Skin Allergies In Dogs

The last reaction is allergic dermatitis, and it is rampant in dogs. Three things cause allergic dermatitis: fleas, food allergies, and atopic—or environmental—allergies.

Dermatitis from fleas is the easiest to treat. In these cases, the dog reacts to saliva injected into the skin as the flea feeds. It's like having mosquito bites all over you. The key with this type of allergy is that the itch is more intense over the tail head. You usually see fleas, or you may find flea dirt, which looks like black pepper on the skin surface.

We treat these cases by applying a product that kills fleas before they bite. I've seen dogs that have had horrible red skin covered in scabs, and a week after a flea medication is applied, they are healing beautifully.

In an atopic allergy, the dog reacts to airborne allergens such as pollen, molds, fungus, and house dust. These are often seasonal, meaning that the dog itches only at certain times of the year. The itch can be anywhere on the body, but it is common for affected dogs to scratch their ears or lick their paws.

Types Of Allergic Reactions In Dogs (continued)

Published www.akc.org

Food allergies are reactions to foods, specifically ingredients in the food like corn or chicken. The symptoms are the same as atopic allergies.

There are several possibilities why food allergies develop. Some dogs have a genetic predisposition to developing allergies. The same holds true for atopic allergies. The other contributing factor to food allergies is constant exposure to the same ingredients. For example, if you have continually fed a lamb and rice diet, the prolonged exposure to those ingredients can cause intestinal inflammation and what we call “leaky gut syndrome,” in which the antigen is absorbed through the permeable gut lining. The reaction manifests in the skin, creating the itch. Rotating foods can help prevent allergy development. Common foods to trigger skin allergies including grains (e.g., corn, wheat, rice, barley, oats) and chicken.

To determine which food is causing an allergic reaction, we begin with an elimination trial. We take every food ingredient the dog is currently eating out of the diet and offer a food containing ingredients the dog has never had. So, if you were feeding a lamb and rice diet, a logical choice could be salmon and potato. Of course, all treats and snacks are avoided because they can be creating the reaction as well. We feed the new diet exclusively for at least six weeks before we determine if it is working.

Another thing we can do for dogs with atopic or food allergies is to add an omega-3 fatty acid source to reduce the skin inflammation. Salmon oil, slowly introduced to achieve a dose of 1,000 mg for each 10 pounds body weight is the standard. In severe cases, medication can be added, and your veterinarian is the best source for advice on this.

As you can see, allergies show up in different ways. Some are life-threatening and can cause death in minutes. Others, although less serious, are a source of considerable frustration. Each is treated differently—speak to your veterinarian about the best medical solution.



Coping with Dogs' Blindness

Published MyPetsDoctor.com

- Your dog (or cat) is going blind.
- You have no experience with a blind pet.
- You don't know what to expect.
- You don't know how to cope.

Fortunately, your pet does.

Our only remaining dog, Pearl, is experiencing a degenerative retinal condition that is causing a gradual deterioration of her vision. Fortunately it is so slow that we notice a change only every few months.

Our first clue that something was wrong with Pearl's vision was a usual and common condition of aging, Lenticular Sclerosis. Lenticular Sclerosis is a hardening of the lens that occurs as part of the aging process. As the lens hardens it tends to become cloudy, a little opaque. It is this opacity that causes pet owners to see a little grey reflection when light hits a pet's eyes just right. Pet owners often ask us whether the pet has cataracts. While Lenticular Sclerosis can progress to a true cataract, in this stage light still goes through the lens and images are still fairly clearly formed on the retina. As often as not, Lenticular Sclerosis does not progress to cataract formation during a pet's lifetime.

Lenticular Sclerosis also occurs in people around age 40. It's what causes us to have “arms too short,” or lose our ability to focus close up.

Almost as a matter of routine I made arrangements for Dr. Laurence Galle, a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist practicing here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, to evaluate Pearl for possible future cataract surgery. It was during his thorough examination with specialized equipment that he discovered her poor vision was unrelated to her lenses.

Instead, Pearl has Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration, a form of Progressive Retinal Atrophy or PRA.

Just as in people, dogs' and cats' retinas include two types of photoreceptor cells: rods and cones. Rods work best in minimal light and convey little color, mostly blue hues. Cones are receptive only to bright light, and offer animals the ability to see a wider range of colors and more detail than rod vision.

Rods and cones are highly active metabolically and even have controlling effects on other cells in the eye.

Coping with Dogs' Blindness (continued)

PRA results first in damage to the rods and causes nyctalopia, or reduced visual capability in low light. It is sometimes incorrectly referred to as night blindness, although partial loss of vision occurs before total blindness. As rods degenerate and die, they create a toxic environment in the retina which damages the cones, also. Eventually the carnage affecting both rods and cones results in total blindness, regardless of the amount of light present.

With the inflammatory process of PRA releasing rod and cone cells' internal contents, the lens of the eye may respond by forming a cataract. The presence of cataracts in eyes already affected by PRA is an inconsequential finding, as removal of the cataracts will not improve vision and is not recommended. Diagnosis of PRA may be straightforward in the affected animal by way of a funduscopy (retinal) examination by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist. The usual onset of clinical signs occurs between three and seven years of age. Some patients may be diagnosed before signs are present. Some, more subtle cases, may require ERG or ElectroRetinoGraphy to stimulate the retina under general anesthesia. Early cases in very young animals may still be missed.

Progressive Rod-Cone Degeneration is a gene-defect condition and transmissible to offspring. A genetic test is now available for some breeds and will determine whether a patient is normal (does not carry the gene), a carrier (vision is not affected but the offspring of this individual may be affected) or is an active case whose rods and are now or will be degenerating.

Puppies in the latter two categories must be surgically sterilized so that they cannot pass on the defective gene.

Dr. Galle has this to say about treatment: "Unfortunately, there is no cure for any of the diseases in the progressive retinal atrophy complex. There are limited anecdotal reports that antioxidant supplementation may slow the progression of the disease, but controlled studies do not support the effectiveness of antioxidant therapy. Furthermore, oversupplementation with antioxidants may be harmful to patients. I discourage use of such antioxidant therapies, because of the lack of proven effect and the potential for harm. However, due to the feelings of helplessness that many pet owners have

when their pet is diagnosed with PRA, we often find it necessary to try to provide some sort of therapy that may help, despite the lack of evidence supporting its efficacy. In any case, use of such antioxidant therapy should be only under the recommendation of a veterinarian."

PRA is degenerative and there is no specific treatment. Under Dr. Galle's guidance we are using a supplement containing lutein, vitamins A, C and E and several other ingredients believed to help with conditions such as macular degeneration in people. As dosages will vary among patients, you, too, should follow Dr. Galle's advice and do not begin supplementation except under your veterinarian's watchful care.

Pearl's diagnosis was over a year ago and now her vision is about 20% worse than it was then. Prior to deterioration of her vision Pearl was attentive to every human's location. She was quick to move out of the way when she saw someone walking toward her. Now, however, she simply doesn't see people coming. Add the effect of age-related hearing loss and she often doesn't know that anyone is even in the room with her.

Pearl is startled more easily than she used to be, so she's "jumper." She still feels vibrations quite well, so when a sharp noise occurs (such as a cabinet door that accidentally slams), it causes her to wheel around as if something is after her. Obviously, such events are heartrending, so we avoid pops and snaps when we can, but Pearl is resilient and she copes well.

We also notice that she is less courageous than she used to be. When Pearl goes outside to use the bathroom she looks around to be sure that one of us is with her. She used to go out all alone, but we no longer allow her to do so since she sometimes loses her sense of direction and goes toward the street when it's time to come back indoors.

Amazingly, dogs cope with blindness so well that gradual-onset blindness is something we often have to inform pet owners about, instead of the other way around. If a dog's environment remains unchanged he may so totally acclimate to his blindness that his family is unaware that he gets around by feel and sound instead of by sight. Then, during a routine physical examination we may discover blindness the family was unaware of.



DOG FACTS

Published www.petfinder.com

It pays to be a lap dog. Three dogs (from First Class cabins!) survived the sinking of the Titanic – two Pomeranians and one Pekingese.

Source: Vetstreet

A Beatles hit. It's rumored that, at the end of the Beatles song, "A Day in the Life," Paul McCartney recorded an ultrasonic whistle, audible only to dogs, just for his Shetland sheepdog.

Source: PBS

Wow, check out those choppers! Puppies have 28 teeth and normal adult dogs have 42.

Source: About.com

Chase that tail! Dogs chase their tails for a variety of reasons: curiosity, exercise, anxiety, predatory instinct or, they might have fleas! If your dog is chasing his tail excessively, talk with your vet.

Seeing spots? Or not... Dalmatian puppies are pure white when they are born and develop their spots as they grow older.

Source: Vetstreet

Dogs do dream! Dogs and humans have the same type of slow wave sleep (SWS) and rapid eye movement (REM) and during this REM stage dogs can dream. The twitching and paw movements that occur during their sleep are signs that your pet is dreaming

Source: Healthy Pet

No night vision goggles needed! Dogs' eyes contain a special membrane, called the tapetum lucidum, which allows them to see in the dark.

Source: Healthy Pet

It's not a fever...A dog's normal temperature is between 101 and 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. How much do you know about dog health? Take our Doggy First Aid Quiz!

Source: Web MD

Is something wet? Unlike humans who sweat everywhere, dogs only sweat through the pads of their feet.

Source: Healthy Pet

Watch that plate of cookies! A Dog's sense of smell is 10,000 – 100,000 times more acute as that of humans.

Source: PBS

Here's looking at you. Dogs have three eyelids, an upper lid, a lower lid and the third lid, called a nictitating membrane or "haw," which helps keep the eye moist and protected.

Source: Whole Dog Journal

Americans love dogs! 62% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 72.9 million homes

Source: American Pet Products Association

Move over Rover! 45% of dogs sleep in their owner's bed (we're pretty sure a large percentage also hog the blankets!)

Source: American Pet Products Association

Why are dogs' noses so wet? Dogs' noses secrete a thin layer of mucous that helps them absorb scent. They then lick their noses to sample the scent through their mouth.

Source: Vetstreet

Yummy! Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. Humans have approximately 9,000 and cats have around 473.

Source: Psychology Today

It's not so black and white. It's a myth that dogs only see in black and white. In fact, it's believed that dogs see primarily in blue, greenish-yellow, yellow and various shades of gray.

Source: About.com

Express yourself. Dogs' ears are extremely expressive. It's no wonder! There are more than a dozen separate muscles that control a dog's ear movements.

Source: Whole Dog Journal

Growing up. While the Chow Chow dogs are well known for their distinctive blue-black tongues, they're actually born with pink tongues. They turn blue-black at 8-10 weeks of age.

Source: Vetstreet

Why do they do that? When dogs kick after going to the bathroom, they are using the scent glands on their paws to further mark their territory.

Source: Healthy Pet

No, it's not just to make themselves look adorable. Dogs curl up in a ball when they sleep due to an age-old instinct to keep themselves warm and protect their abdomen and vital organs from predators.

Source: Vetstreet



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, Aug 9^h**, promptly at 7:30 pm PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 4200 NW 39TH AVE, Gainesville, FL

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, **Aug 23rd**

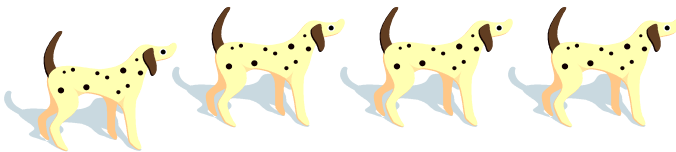
Training Classes

LOCATION:

OAK HALL SCHOOL - Covered and lighted
Tower Road , Gainesville

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

Conformation classes—will resume in September
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.