



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

March 2022

Newsletter for Dog Lovers

G.G.D.F.A.
P.O. Box 358332
Gainesville, Florida
32635-8332
www.ggdffa.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 - APRIL DEADLINE

PAY DUES

\$ 12.00 individual
\$ 15.00 family



AWARDS

- **Awards Needed** Each year we acknowledge AKC Titles won by our members fur-children. We are collecting Awards for 2020 and 2021.
- **Copy the Certificate** and send copy to Denise Gaboury.

PO Box 683, Newberry, FL 32669

Hard Copy required!!!



News From AKC

Published www.akc.org



How to Make Your Home More Accessible For Your Senior Dog

By Jan Reisen 3/8/2022

Taking care of a senior dog can present a lot of challenges for pet owners. Your canine companion is moving more slowly. His coordination and eyesight aren't what they used to be — and neither are his bones. To help your aging dog get around better, here are some ways you can make your home more accessible.

Mobility Aids For Senior Dogs

Pet stairs: If your senior dog has good balance and is still relatively agile, stairs are a good choice. Choose a style with deep steps and an anti-skid surface, like carpet or textured rubber. Rounded edges on the treads are also helpful.

Dog ramp: For dogs that can no longer master stairs, try a ramp. Look for a gentle slope and non-slip surface. Read the product specifications to make sure the ramp will support your dog's weight. If you plan to use the ramp or pet stairs in different parts of the house and for travel, look for something lightweight enough to move easily. Fold-up models are even more portable.

Floors: Some senior dogs have a really hard time walking on hardwood floors. Dog boots with traction on the bottom can help combat slippery surfaces. You can also lay down rugs with non-slip pads underneath, giving your dog a designated walkway and put easy-to-grip surfaces on stairs.

Dog gates: If your canine companion has serious mobility issues, it's best to block the stairs with a dog gate to avoid any risk of him falling. In some cases, installing a ramp might be necessary, if staying downstairs is not an option.

Dog strollers: Your older dog can still enjoy a brisk walk—with you doing the walking and him doing the riding. Strollers come in both 3-wheel and 4-wheel styles. Three-wheel models tend to sit higher and be easily maneuvered. This is a good choice if you like to run or jog with your dog. Because the dog sits so high in the stroller, this style is better for smaller dogs. Four-wheel strollers are more stable and are a good choice for everyday walks. They also have a lower profile and therefore, a lower center of gravity, making them suitable for larger dogs.

Keeping Your Old Dog Comfortable

Older dogs benefit from beds and crate pads that are easy on achy muscles and stiff joints. Look for products made of a thick solid piece of polyurethane foam or of memory foam. High-quality, thick foam distributes your dog's weight evenly and provides firm support.

Memory foam, invented by NASA, actually molds to the dog's body and adjusts to his weight distribution. Because of its density, memory foam dog beds don't need to be as thick as polyurethane beds to have the same, or more, support.

A cozy plush cover makes any dog bed more comfortable. Additional features to consider are heating pads and cooling pads to help regulate his temperature and machine-washable materials.

Feeding Your Senior Dog

Many dog food brands offer varieties meant for senior dogs. Nutrition information is right on the packaging. Here are a few things to consider:

For overweight older dogs: Metabolism

slows as dogs age, which means fewer calories are burned and more are stored as fat. This contributes to weight gain in senior dogs. Look for dog food that's lower in calories and fat, to keep your dog trim.

For underweight older dogs: Paradoxically, very old dogs may actually lose weight, either because of difficulty chewing and swallowing or because of decreased appetite. Dog food with a higher fat content should help keep the weight on.

Senior Dog (Continued)

Published www.akc.org

For all older dogs: Older dogs need protein to counteract the loss of muscle tissue, where protein is stored. Look for food with at least 25 percent of the calories coming from protein. Because older dogs are prone to heart or kidney ailments and hypertension, it's a good idea to decrease your dog's sodium intake.

Active Mind, Happy Dog

Your golden-ager might not be as physically active as she once was, but that's no reason to give up toys and games. You may have to adjust for a lower energy level as well as for aging muscles, joints, and jaws by choosing softer tug and chew toys and shorter playtime.

For catch and fetch, soft foam balls are gentle on older jaws and teeth. Choose brightly colored toys that are easier for your dog to track visually and toys that make sounds while they move, which will give your dog aural cues.

Interactive toys and puzzles, especially if filled with her favorite treats, will spark enough interest to keep her brain engaged. Look for puzzle games that have varying degrees of difficulty and use different problem-solving skills. This keeps your elderly dog's mind sharp and stimulated.

If Their Sight Is Going

If your dog is starting to lose his eyesight, consider the following:

Try not to move things from their regular places while he adjusts to this big change. You should also avoid leaving items, such as school backpacks or laundry baskets, where your dog frequently walks.

Rug paths help here, too. Even if your dog doesn't have trouble walking on the floor, creating a path out of a different material can help him get around when his sight is fading. Either by using treats or a leash, guide your dog along the paths, showing that one leads to his water dish, one leads outside, one leads to his dog bed, etc.

If your dog has any special needs, like a wheelchair, talk to your vet about how best to accommodate his disability. The more we can do to keep our homes safe and accessible for senior dogs, the more active they will be, which will help them stay healthier longer.



Why Are Dog Noses Wet?

Published petmd.com

Sandra C. Mitchell, DVM, DABVP

Ever been bumped by your dog's wet, cold nose and wondered why it always seems to be that way? Or have you felt that your dog's nose was warm and dry and debated whether that meant they were getting sick?

Here's everything you need to know about your dog's nose, from why it's usually cold and wet to what you should do if it seems dry or warm.

Is It Normal for a Dog's Nose to Be Wet?

When up and about, dogs will generally have very wet and cool noses. But when they're sleeping, it is certainly also normal for them to be warm and dry.

And then there is often variation amongst individual dogs, so while one dog may always have a wet, cold nose, another dog may have one that is usually much drier or warmer.

That's why it's important to learn what is normal for each pup in your household.

Why Is a Dog's Nose Wet?

There are a number of reasons that have been proposed for why a dog's nose is wet, and it may be that science doesn't yet know the exact answer.

However, we do know there are glands inside a dog's nose that secrete a thin, watery material that likely contributes to the moisture, much like the fluids found inside our own noses. This liquid wicks out to the nose surface, evaporates, and then helps to cool the dog.

The nose pad and the footpads are the only places dogs are able to sweat, so this cooling mechanism (along with panting) can be important to them, especially in hot weather.

Additionally, our canine friends tend to lick their noses frequently, which—much like humans licking their lips—tends to keep their noses moist.

This moisture may also help humidify the air as it moves into a dog's nasal cavity, which keeps it from drying out their respiratory tract and may even help prevent respiratory infections.

Why Are Dog Noses Wet? (continued)

Some people speculate that the moisture helps dogs retain scents, thus improving their sense of smell.

What Does It Mean if a Dog's Nose Is Dry?

A dry nose may be perfectly normal, and some dogs tend to have wetter noses than others. For example, very often, sleeping dogs will have warm, dry noses because they aren't awake to lick them.

Since the amount of nose moisture will vary with humidity and throughout the day, a dog that just woke up from a nap at 2 p.m. with a dry nose may have a moist nose after a game of ball at 7 p.m. So, in most cases, it is not automatically a sign of illness if your dog has a dry nose.

Occasionally, a dry nose can indicate dehydration or fever, but this is usually not the case.

If your dog is acting sick AND has a dry nose, this may be cause for concern, and you should call your vet.

Should You Take Your Dog to the Vet If Their Nose Is Dry?

If your dog has a dry nose but is feeling well and acting normal, it should be safe to monitor things for a bit. Offer your dog some water, try taking them to a humid environment (sitting in the bathroom with your dog after running the shower is great for this), and monitor them for any other possible symptoms. Chances are good that things will go back to normal pretty quickly without a trip to the veterinary hospital.

However, if your dog seems lethargic or isn't eating well, or you sense that your dog doesn't feel well, schedule a vet visit and mention to the veterinarian that you've noticed that your dog's nose is unusually dry. By the same token, if your dog's nose is crusty, raw, or has bleeding spots, you should also schedule an appointment.

Wet noses and dogs just seem to go together, whether they're prodding us for treats during the day or nudging us to get up for a walk at night. Even if your dog tends to have a drier-than-average nose, it's likely just normal for them.



March Pet Holidays

Published 2022 Pet Holidays | Pet Sitters International

- *Month-Long Celebrations* Month
- Poison Prevention Awareness Month

Week Celebrations

March 6-12: Professional Pet Sitters Week

March 20-26: National Poison Prevention Week

Day Celebrations

March 3: If Pets Had Thumbs Day

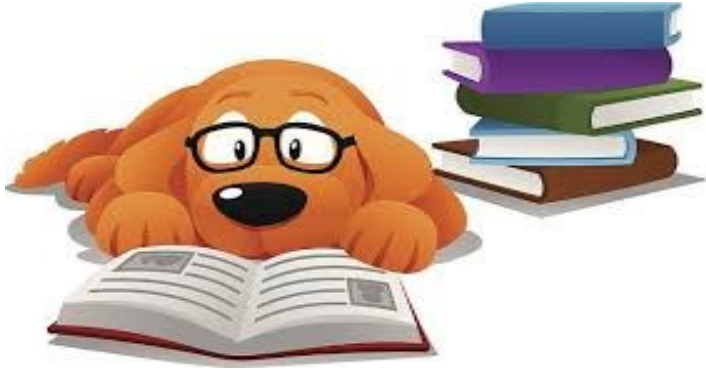
March 4: Employee Appreciation Day

March 13: K9 Veterans Day; Daylight Saving Time starts

March 23: National Puppy Day; Cuddly Kitten Day

March 30: Take A Walk in the Park Day





GGDFA Board Meeting 2/8/22

Board meeting called to order at 6:52pm.

Seven members in attendance.

Secretary's Error:

Sharon had a club brag to share last month, and her dogs were incorrectly called Quakers. She owns Nederlander Kooikerhondies! Here is a link for more information regarding the breed. (<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/nederlandse-kooikerhondje/>)

Treasurer's Report

Please send in your yearly dues to Doris Horton by the next meeting! (\$12 for individual membership, \$15 for family membership)

Updated list of fees from the last month

Reimbursement to Claire for website
This gives us ownership over the name "ggdfa.org" for the next five years.

Insurance (crime policy)
Insurance (property and liability -> for the dog show)

Kokomo storage (Miscellaneous show supplies are stored in here.)

New checks

Rental space for meetings (Pine Grove Baptist Church)

Obedience and Rally toys for the show

Hotel reserved block for the show

There was a significant increase this year for this cost. Further discussion on the matter will occur at a later date at a joint meeting with the show committee and board of directors

Ribbons and shadow boxes

Again, this was a significant expense. Further discussion at a later date.

Show income this year

Saturday raffle: \$545

Saturday gate: \$4,703.50

Sunday gate: \$1180 This is an increase from last year.

Catalog sales: \$190

Photographer sitting fee: \$300

MBF entries: \$46,915.95

This is a decrease from last year.
(\$63,304.60)

RV parking/vendor rentals: \$6,601.14

Doris plans to send in the club's taxes within the next month or so.

Doris and Claire traveled over to the Hampton Inn with chocolates to thank them for hosting show personnel.

Miscellaneous Discussion

The board of directors would like to schedule a joint BOD and Show Committee meeting to discuss rules to avoid future miscommunication.

Claire will schedule this meeting in the following weeks.

Doris posted pictures on Facebook from the show. Her set up this year for the hospitality room was beautiful!

In the future, Doris will only be decorating the photography booth and the dining room.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Liz. Marj seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Following the board meeting, 11 members engaged in a potluck-style celebration for all our hard work from the show!

The next board meeting will be on 3/8/22 at 6:45pm. The next general body meeting will be on 3/8/22 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth "Liz" Mignin.



.Skin Problems with Dogs

Published petmed.com
By Geneva Pagliai, DVM
Contributed by Denise Gaboury

Skin problems are among the most common reasons dogs end up at the veterinarian's office.

A dog's skin condition can have a wide range of causes, from external parasites like fleas and mites, to allergies and serious endocrine disorders.

While some dogs' skin conditions can be treated at home, any worsening skin issue or one that continues beyond one or two weeks without improvement is a good reason to head to your veterinarian. Here are some telltale signs of common skin problems for dogs and what could be causing them.

Rash (Commonly on the Belly)

A rash (redness or irritation) can occur on any part of your dog's skin but is commonly seen on the belly. Common causes of a dog's belly rash are:

Contact dermatitis, which is a reaction to coming into contact with something irritating like poison ivy, fertilizer, or lawn chemicals

Insect bites

Allergies

If contact dermatitis is suspected, wash the affected skin to remove any of the irritant that may still be present.

For a rash caused by insect bites that doesn't appear to be bothering your dog, no treatment is necessary. The spots should go away on their own.

For a rash caused by insect bites or allergies that is bothering your dog, give your dog a cool bath using a dog shampoo containing colloidal oatmeal. Contact your veterinarian if the rash persists.

Scabs

Scabs, or crusting of the skin, can be the primary problem, or it can occur after a short-lived pustule (or pimple) pops and crusts over. Scabs on dogs can be caused by:

Puppy impetigo

Ectoparasites (mites and fleas)

Pyoderma (skin infection; wrinkly dog breeds can have skin fold pyoderma)

Treatments will differ, but they may include medicated shampoos or ointments, and possibly oral antibiotics or an antiparasitic medication.

Red Spots

Red spots on a dog's belly during the late spring and early summer can be caused by black fly bites. These flat, red spots typically do not bother dogs and can be left untreated.

Black fly bites can be confused with ringworm spots, which do require treatment in the form of topical or oral antifungals.

Black fly bites will appear suddenly, be accompanied by other bites, be confined to the belly, and not bother the dog.

Ringworm, on the other hand, can appear anywhere, may or may not irritate your dog, and usually starts in one area as opposed to several areas appearing at once.

Small Red Bumps

Raised red bumps can be caused by several different things. If the bumps are smaller and include crusts, they may be caused by a bacterial or fungal skin infection called folliculitis. This is typically treated by your veterinarian with oral antibiotics and possibly with medicated shampoos or ointments.

Large Red Bumps

If the bumps are larger and flatter with no crusting, they may be hives caused by an allergic reaction. They are usually treated with an antihistamine and/or steroids. While usually not life-threatening, the swelling caused by an allergic reaction can obstruct the airway, so it's important to contact your veterinarian immediately.

Redness/Irritated Skin

Along with itching, redness and irritation are often the most common signs of allergies in dogs. Finding the cause of the allergic reaction, whether it's to a food, fleas, or something in their environment, is the most effective way to treat the irritated skin.

Skin(continued)

While the root cause is being discovered, and to give your dog temporary relief, a gentle oatmeal dog shampoo or [oatmeal bath](#) can be used to soothe and hydrate the skin.

Hot Spots

A hot spot is a moist, irritated area of skin, usually with hair matted over it. Hot spots are caused by excessive licking or chewing of an area. The excessive licking introduces bacteria to traumatized skin, causing the hot spot. Hot spots are more common in hot, humid climates and will sometimes arise after a dog has been exposed to moisture from swimming or muddy/rainy weather. They are also more common in dogs with a dense undercoat.

Uncomplicated hot spots can be treated by carefully clipping the area to allow the skin to breathe and cleaning the area with a diluted chlorhexidine solution. You can prevent hot spots by keeping your dog groomed and drying them after swimming or being in the rain.

Dry/Flaky Skin

Flaking of your dog's skin can be caused by more serious conditions like seborrhea, where a dog produces too much sebum, or cheyletiellosis, a condition caused by a mite that's also known as "walking dandruff."

But these flakes can also simply be a sign of dry skin. Ensuring that your dog is fed a good-quality food that is high in omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids is a good first step in maintaining their skin health. If the flaking continues, consult your veterinarian.

Itchy Skin

The two main causes of itchy skin are allergies and external parasites like fleas and mites.

Allergies

Itchiness due to allergies usually involves a dog's feet, armpits, flank, ears, and groin. Mild allergies or itchiness can be treated with a soothing dog shampoo containing oatmeal. Switching your dog to a sensitive-skin diet (which often contain fish as the main protein source and are high in omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids) can also help.

External Parasites

Fleas will more commonly cause itchiness at the base of the tail, on the stomach, and along the inner thighs. Itchiness due to fleas and mites (that cause sarcoptic mange) will need to be treated with medications specific to the type of parasite, such as a flea preventative.

Hair Loss/Bald Patches

The causes of hair loss, excessive shedding, or bald patches in dogs are extremely varied, including:

- Allergies

- Ectoparasites like fleas and mange mites (demodectic mange)

- Cushing's disease

- Pressure sores, most often seen in large breed dogs, will cause hair loss at bony pressure spots like the elbow

- Genetics

- Stress

- Poor nutrition

Most causes of hair loss in dogs require a trip to the veterinarian to diagnose the cause. If you suspect pressure sores, ensuring your large breed dog has a cushioned place to lie down can help prevent the pressure sores.

Sores

Sores that do not have an obvious cause or are not healing properly could be the sign of a serious underlying condition such as cancer or another disorder that is preventing proper healing. These areas should be kept clean and seen by your veterinarian.

Dark Spots

Dark spots, or hyperpigmentation, can be secondary to chronic inflammation, in which case, they can clear up (slowly) if the underlying condition is treated. Dark spots on dogs can also indicate a hormone-associated disorder or be a sign of skin damage from the sun, trauma, or constant friction. See your veterinarian to diagnose the underlying cause of dark spots.





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



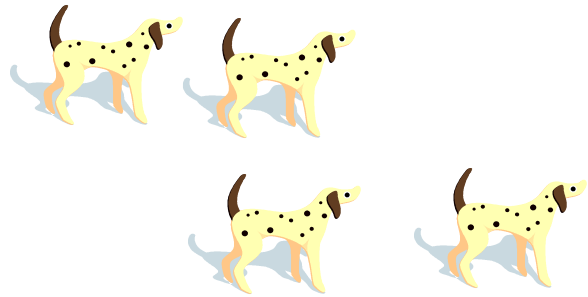
Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be
Tuesday, 03/08 — 7:30

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 03/08 — 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