



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

April 2026

Newsletter for Dog Lovers

G.G.D.F.A.

P.O. Box 358332 Gainesville,
FL 32635-8332
www.ggdfa.org

General Meetings:

7:30 pm on the
2nd Tuesday of every month at
PINE GROVE Baptist Church
4200 NW 39th Ave
Gainesville, FL
Board meetings precede.

Club Officers

President — Denise Gaboury
cedargambol@gmail.com
1st VP — Pam Rice
2nd VP — Macy Van Cleaver
Secretary — Joyce De Braganca
Treasurer — Doris Horton
Club Directors:
Marge Saucier
Sue Sutton
Susan Iserhardt

Newsletter Editor: Ashley Sanders
gatorsanders@gmail.com
Membership Chair: TBD
Website Manager: Barb Copping



Jules – Heart Dog, circa 1990

In this month's edition...

AKC Feature – Doggy Day Care	2
Science News – UF Hemangiosarcoma Study	2
Dogs and the Law – Florida Legislative Wrap-Up	3
The Heat is Coming... Dogs in Cars	3
Links and Info	4
Minutes	5

IMPORTANT NOTES

Board Elections for 2026-2027 will be held at the 4/14 meeting! Please plan to attend!

Send me your Heart Dog picture for our newsletter cover!

Got an idea or topic you would like to see?

Found a cool local activity or group for the featured website?

Please share! gatorsanders@gmail.com

Finding the Right Day Care for Your Dog

www.akc.org/expert-advice/family-dog/dog-day-care/

Day Care or Dog Walker?

Dog walkers can be a great option for many dogs that are happy to spend workdays at home alone, but maybe the owner wants their dog to be more comfortable with new environments and experiences. Or after sleeping away the day, the dog is overflowing with energy when they come home. A day care where their dog interacts with new dogs and new people and gets more exercise than a walk around the block might be best.

All-day supervision can be better for dogs with special needs, whether temporary or long term, or dogs with separation anxiety that can do damage to their home and themselves when left alone all day. Although many dogs thrive in group play, day care can still be a good fit for dogs that need attention while remaining solo dogs otherwise.

What To Look For in a Facility

- Cleanliness – Neat, organized, and free from odors in all areas (and willing to show all areas).
- Staffing – Enough staff for the number of dogs. Staffing is not regulated, so observe and ask questions about training and turnover.
- Safety and Security – Fences and facilities in good repair. Dogs are vaccinated and free from communicable diseases.
- Good communication – Most important is an emergency contact plan, and responsiveness to clients. Some facilities have webcams or other ways to keep clients in the know.
- Program structure – This should start with a behavioral intake assessment. Days should include both play and rest. Dog handling or training and incident management should follow known guidelines.
- Happy Attendance – Dogs should like going to daycare. Ask for owner references.

Cancer Study: New Clues for Improved Treatment

ufhealth.org/news/2025/uf-study-of-deadly-dog-cancer-reveals-new-clues-for-improved-treatment

Researchers at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and the UF Health Cancer Center identified a link between a specific gene mutation and immune system signaling in canine hemangiosarcoma. This aggressive blood vessel cancer is difficult to diagnose early, as tumors can grow silently, then rupture without warning, leading to often fatal emergencies. The prognosis is poor, with only 10% of diagnosed dogs surviving beyond one year. The high incidence in dogs (more than 50,000 cases annually) provides researchers with valuable data that could benefit human patients with angiosarcoma, a rare but similar cancer that affects about 1,000 Americans each year.

The UF research team recently published findings that hemangiosarcoma doesn't just create its own blood vessels — it hijacks healthy cells nearby, forcing them to help build the blood vessels that feed the tumor. Even more significantly, the researchers discovered that a specific genetic mutation in the PIK3CA gene causes cancer cells to send out signals that confuse the body's immune system. While scientists have known about PIK3CA mutations in human cancers for years, they haven't fully understood how these mutations affect the way cancer grows and responds to treatment.

According to Dr. Jon Kim, *"This new research provides us with critical insights that could lead to novel therapies for both canine hemangiosarcoma patients with this mutation and human patients with angiosarcoma."* Learning how this cancer is driven by the mutant PIK3CA gene could suggest new therapeutic possibilities targeting this mutation.



Dogs and the Law



Florida Legislative Session Wrap-Up from AKC

www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/florida-legislative-session-wrap-up/

The session was defined by continued efforts to regulate dog breeding in Florida. Notably, SB 1356 / HB 1521 initially proposed significant regulatory changes, including mandatory breeder registration, facility oversight, and state-directed standards of care. These provisions raised substantial concerns among AKC and stakeholders due to their broad scope and potential impact on responsible hobby breeders.

Final Outcome: SB 1004 (Consumer Protection Bill)

Following extensive stakeholder engagement and legislative negotiations, key elements of the breeder legislation were ultimately amended and incorporated into SB 1004. The final version reflects a significant shift in approach:

- Removes statewide breeder registration requirements,
- Eliminates the new regulatory licensing structure for breeders,
- Directs the state to develop voluntary best management practices for dog breeding, and
- Maintains a focus on consumer protections, including transparency and remedies for purchasers.

Throughout session, AKC Government Relations worked closely with FAKC, local kennel clubs, and individual advocates to:

- Educate lawmakers on the role and responsibility of preservation breeders;
- Advocate against overbroad regulatory frameworks that would impact hobbyists and small-scale breeders; and
- Support reasonable, enforceable policies that prioritize animal welfare without unintended consequences.

The broader policy conversation this session also included:

- Addressing so-called “puppy mills” and unethical breeding practices;
- Enhancing enforcement tools and transparency in animal sales; and
- The appropriate role of state agencies in animal-related oversight.

Looking ahead, AKC Government Relations will continue to:

- Monitor implementation of SB 1004 and any rulemaking related to voluntary best practices,
- Engage with state agencies developing guidance impacting breeders,
- Prepare for potential reintroduction of more expansive regulatory proposals in future sessions, and
- Address local issues impacting responsible dog owners and breeders.

The Heat is Coming

It can take less than an hour for the temperature in your car to reach 116 degrees, even when the outside temperature is only 72 degrees. Dogs should never be left inside a parked vehicle in the Florida sun, even for a short period.

Dogs traveling for events and shows should always have adequate cooling. Relying on generators or power hookups still requires vigilance, as a failure could end in disaster quickly. Remote monitors can't replace regular checks.

In Florida, animal cruelty laws cover the transporting dogs in a cruel or inhumane manner. Possible penalties include stiff fines and even jail time.

What should you do if you see a dog locked in a car?

- Check to see if it is in distress.
Don't assume. Is the A/C on?
- Look for the owner nearby - Has it been more than a few minutes?
- If the dog is clearly suffering and the owner can not be located, CALL 911. Ask Law enforcement for help and only if instructed, forcibly enter the vehicle yourself.
- Be prepared to secure the dog once freed from the vehicle.

Florida law protects you IF:

- There is no other way out
- The dog is in imminent danger
- **911 has been contacted**
- Minimum necessary force is used
- You stay with the dog until law enforcement or first responder arrives.



Links and Info...

March Featured Link: Bring Fido (www.bringfido.com)

Claims to be the place to find dog friendly accommodations restaurants, and activities. The Gainesville listings look reasonably complete and have multiple reviews.

Crowdsourcing only works when we all contribute. Check it out and add your opinions

St. Francis Vet Care – provides compassionate veterinary care for those in need.

St. Francis was recently featured local media:

Ilene Silverman Show: www.youtube.com/watch?v=AU85jsGI-9k

WUFT Greater Good series: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtp7j-QwROo

Support their mission at: www.stfrancisvetcare.org/donate

Find out more at: www.stfrancisvetcare.org/

Follow on socials @StFrancisVetCare

Marion-Alachua Dog Training Association – AKC listed training club.

MADTA offers training classes in home obedience and for competition venues of Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and Agility; hosts competition trials in Obedience, Rally, Agility, Scent work, Fetch and Coursing (FastCat); hosts Dog Related Seminars in training methods, dog conditioning, and dog Wellness.

Find out more at: <https://madta.org/>

AKC Links:

- Getting Started in Dog Sports: www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/get-started-in-dog-sports-and-events – With over 22,000 events each year, AKC dog sports truly offer something for everyone and every dog.
- Event Search: webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search – Allows you to search by state and/or event type.

GGDFA Training Classes:

Contact: Denise Gaboury

352-316-4543

Location: Oak Hall School

(Covered and Lighted)

Tower Road, Gainesville

Thursdays, 6:00 pm by arrangement



Meeting Notes (Digest Minutes)...

Tuesday March 10, 2026

Board Meeting Highlights:

Secretary and Treasurer reports accepted.

Macy said we are to order the ribbons from Canada. Arvind will order them when he gets back from the dog show he is attending.

Doris will check with Connie about the charge for propane during the GGDFFA show in Jan. 2026 since that was never used.

The board voted to make a \$750 donation to AKC Canine Health

Possible sponsorship of a service dog was discussed, but it was then suggested that impact to the community would be greater through donation to the sheriff's department towards a police dog. Marge will check with the officer that comes to her school about who we should donate to (the sheriff's office or the city police) and what their current needs are.

A member, Kristen, may have information about another meeting place. The discussion came to be because the air conditioner needs repair or replacement at the church and as the year progresses it will be getting warmer in the hall. We also discussed getting one or two larger, portable air conditioner units that can be brought into the church for more comfort during the meeting. Denise is reserved about looking for a new place because we have lost every other place we have been at for meetings. Macy would like to change meeting places. Denise will research the cost of a portable ac unit and get back with her findings at the next meeting.

Denise did a first reading for potential new member Heather Hartnett from Ocala, FL. Email- Heather-Hartnett.com

Joyce brought up the dog class discussed last year but there had been no forward movement on having a dog conformation class.

General Meeting Notes:

Board meeting report.

WRT the awards discussion, Marge Spence orders the medallions.

Motions to order 3 extra Rally title ribbons and 2 obedience title ribbons both passed

Denise and Ashley provided links to new proposed legislation on the Animal Welfare Act enforcement that are open to outside comments for 30 days.

Articles and AKC update on this proposed legislation for Florida will be sent out to the email list.