



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

February 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:
Kathy Davis
Marge Saucier
Sue Sutton
Susan Iserhardt

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



Doris' new puppy Mia

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IMPORTANT NOTES

Our Annual Show January 24th and 25th was a GREAT success! Thanks to everyone who made it happen. Except for the lack of coffee... comments were overwhelmingly positive.

We will need everyone's support again next year!



National Security Issue: Working Dog Shortage

www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeds/supply-more-us-bred-working-dogs/

The United States produces only seven percent of government working dogs (GWD) domestically. A recent report from the Graduate School of Defense Management, Naval Postgraduate School, highlights the importance of working dogs within the War Department and other federal agencies, and backs concerns previously raised by the AKC about over-reliance on foreign-sourced dogs.

Currently, GWD are purchased domestically and overseas by a variety of government agencies using an opaque and inconsistent variety of contracting mechanisms. Consistent with AKC's concerns, the researchers found that the shortage of domestically produced working dogs is due to a lack of consistency in sourcing standards and a lack of communication and transparency with providers regarding pricing and requirements. Other contributing factors include:

- Import vs. domestic production costs
- Challenges faced by domestic dog breeders and trainers in doing business with the government
- Forces influencing participation of potential suppliers in government contracts
- Cultural factors

Recommended solutions focus on better supply chain management with consistency across contracting agreements, and establishment of a GWD acquisition and marketing plan.

Specifically, GWD programs can gain exposure through industry media and attending events like the AKC Detection Dog Task Force conference. They also noted that that GWD purchasers would benefit by attending AKC-lead events, AKC sporting invitationals, and providing interviews to canine magazines such as AKC Gazette.



Update on Chronic Inflammatory Enteropathy

www.avma.org/news/updated-guidance-canine-chronic-inflammatory-enteropathy-discourages-antibiotic-use-encourages#

In January, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) endorsed new guidance on the diagnosis and treatment of chronic inflammatory enteropathy (CIE) in dogs. **"CIE can be frustrating for both clinicians and pet owners due to its variable presentation and response to treatment,"** said Dr. Romy Heilmann, lead author of the statement, in a January 27 press release. **"(This) guidance brings together the latest evidence to help veterinarians make informed decisions, optimize treatment plans, and ultimately improve quality of life for affected dogs."**

Dietary treatment trials are the preferred first-choice for CIE, which is still only diagnosed by exclusion, and subclassified based on response to treatment. The AVMA guidance also recommends avoiding general empirical antibiotic use in canine CIE, which can induce substantial long-lasting intestinal dysbiosis.

For dogs suspected of having CIE, the guidance recommends, among others:

- Diagnostic evaluation for signs of malnutrition such as body and muscle condition scores or indications of hypoalbuminemia.
- Grading clinical disease severity with the Canine Inflammatory Bowel Disease Activity Index (CIBDAI) or Canine Chronic Enteropathy Clinical Activity Index (CCECAI).
- Considering fecal culture exclusively for dogs with specific risk factors such as a raw meat-based diet (e.g., for *Campylobacter* spp.), which also has zoonotic risk. Authors add that a fecal microbiome analysis may also support more individualized patient management.



Dogs and the Law

Congressman Fine Introduces Legislation to Protect Puppies

www.fine.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=167

On February 20, 2026, Congressman Randy Fine (R-FL 6th) introduced the Protecting Puppies from Sharia Act. According to Fine, the bill was filed in response to comments from an advisor to Zohran Mamdani, the Mayor of New York City. Fine shared a screenshot of a social media post by Nerdeen Kiswani which reads, *“Finally, NYC is coming to Islam. Dogs definitely have a place in society, just not as indoor pets. Like we’ve said all along, they are unclean.”* Kiswani has since said that the post was a joke referring to melting snow exposing dog waste. Fine drew fire for his own social media post which read, *“If they force us to choose, the choice between dogs and Muslims is not a difficult one.”* Democrats called for his resignation or censure, calling the post Islamophobic.

Fine told The Hill, *“If a group of people says, ‘Hey, we’ve just shown up in your country, and dogs violate our religion, so you have to stop having them.’ My answer to them is, ‘No, these are our pets. You can go home.’”* and followed by saying, *“Immigration means assimilation. Immigration doesn’t mean the people that were there have to change how they live to make you happy.”*

The brief legislation would prohibit federal funds from being provided to any state or local government that bans dogs as pets. The bill explains, *“Sharia law is a foreign concept that is against the pursuit of happiness.”* It goes on to state that every American should have the right to own a dog.

Dogs have long been used as political pawns to sway public opinion, and serve as diplomatic, sometimes intimidating symbols. Increasingly, they are becoming part of political culture wars. Politico published an interesting column on the politics of pets which provides some current and historical color on dogs in, *The Bizarre New Politics of Pets* by Michael Schaffer. www.politico.com/news/magazine/2024/09/24/pets-politics-culture-war-00180800

Springtime for Dogs

While springtime brings great weather for outdoor activities, it also brings some hazards and health issues.

Parasites – while dogs should be on a year-round parasite prevention plan, springtime means an increase in fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes; and increased risks of exposure to those parasites found in those tastiest of outdoor treats – poop, scat, doo-doo, etc.

Toxic Plants – Lilies, daffodils, tulips, azaleas, oleander, and Coontie palms can be fatal.

Landscape Chemicals – fertilizers and pesticides can be toxic and should be used and stored with care. Avoid drinking from puddles which can contain runoff.

Dangerous Critters – snakes, spiders, bees, Cane toads, and even alligators, coyotes, bids of prey, and pythons (further south) can be dangerous to dogs in Florida.

Temperature – Even on chilly days, cars and asphalt heat up fast. Outdoor activities in winter coats require extra hydration.





Links and Info...

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 January 13, 2026

Board Meeting Notes:

2027 show planning discussions.

General Meeting Notes:

A well-earned AKC 2025 sportsmanship award and medallion was presented to Doris by Macy and Denise to unanimous acclaim.

By unanimous decision, the February meeting is moved to February 10, to avoid conflicting with the Westminster Kennel Club show.

Arvind is taking names for the 2027 Judging panel for the GGDFFA show. The qualifications are: pleasant and must like dogs.

Joyce will be going to Sam's club to pick up the following supplies for hospitality at the show to save multi trips and money: Kleenex (small packs); 3 paper table covers; clear plastic plates dinner size and plastic cutlery; bottled water; 1 case of mixed juices; 8 salt and pepper shakers for each table; paper towels; fresh candy (chocolate and hard candy) for the judges tables.

Macy will be accepting orders for plaques until June 1, 2026. **No exceptions on this deadline will be accepted.**

Braggs:

- Macy will be getting a new Great Dane puppy!
- Macy Van Cleave- Maya (Great Dane) earned her Rally Championship at the Great Dane National Specialty and was high triple and high combined in both trials.
- Nox officially became a UF Blood Doner and donated blood for the first time.
- Wiley said yes to Doris getting a new Afghan puppy from the Hallmark Litter....lime green collar.
- Sharon Hiemenz-Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes – in Orlando her girls' puppies, Fable took 2 BOS wins for 2 majors at 6 mo. old and Schuyler took 1 BOS for a major. Pilot who Sharon bred won BOB Sat in Orlando and is the #1 Kooikerhondje for 2025.

Membership:

We had a first reading for Kristen Iannuzzi