



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

January 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



Denise's Lyric and Kimber

In this month's edition...

AKC News – Three New Breeds for 2026	2
Veterinary News from the Morris Foundation	2
Dogs and the Law	3
Dog Lore	3
Minutes	4

IMPORTANT NOTES

Our Annual Show is January 24th and 25th!

See show premium for details:

<https://www.ggdfa.org/gator-classic-2026.pdf>

Please plan to attend the January meeting

January 13, 7:30 at Pine Grove Baptist Church

Bring your Baskets for the Show!

If you can't make it to the meeting, please reach out to GGDFa or the show chair for volunteer information.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

AKC News

Three New Breeds for 2026

www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeds/newly-recognized-breeds-2026/

As of January 1, 2026, The [Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka](#), the French [Basset Fauve de Bretagne](#), and the distinctly American [Teddy Roosevelt Terrier](#) all have full AKC recognition.

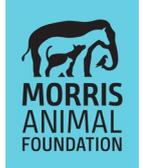
The **Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka** (plural: Bolonki) is a curly-coated companion from the Bichon family whose name translates to "Russian Colored Lapdog." These intelligent, sociable dogs stand up to 10.25 inches tall and weigh 7 to 9 pounds. Developed in St. Petersburg during the 1950s, the Bolonka was created to provide the Russian public with a dark-colored toy breed. The lineage includes circus dogs, the Maltese, and the Shih Tzu. Recognized as Russia's national breed, it was introduced to North America in 2000.

The **Basset Fauve de Bretagne** (Fawn Colored Brittany Basset) is a scent hound originating in the 1500s and perfected during the French Revolution. Because peasants hunted on foot without horses, they bred the smallest hounds to create a shorter-legged companion capable of keeping pace. Standing 12.5 to 15.5 inches tall, with a rough coat, this is the shortest-backed of the four Basset breeds. Known for their characteristic "aahrooo" howl and ability to adapt to any terrain, these high-energy dogs enjoy sports but are also famously social and make great family pets. The American club formed in 2013.

The **Teddy Roosevelt Terrier** shares ancestry with 18th-century British terriers bred for vermin control. In 1999, U.S. breeders sought a separate standard to distinguish the short-legged variety from the longer-legged Rat Terrier. Characterized by a muscular, smooth-coated body and short legs, this spirited dog weighs 8 to 25 pounds and stands between 8 and 14 inches tall. The Teddy excels in dog sports and pursuing small game. They are vigilant watchdogs suited to almost any lifestyle.

Veterinary Medicine in the News...

*The Morris Animal Foundation
funds the science that gives animals
longer, healthier lives.*



In December 2025, The Morris Animal Foundation announced funding of 4 canine research projects.

www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/article/new-canine-health-studies-2026

Dr. An Vanhaesebrouck,
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Researchers will investigate whether myasthenia gravis, is an underdiagnosed cause of canine megaesophagus. Megaesophagus is a condition where the esophagus loses its ability to contract and move food to the stomach, causing dogs to regurgitate food and risk aspiration pneumonia. The team will also work to improve diagnostic tools and identify new treatment targets.

Dr. Christopher Contag,
Michigan State University

Researchers will develop engineered bacteria called quasiorganelles designed to enter cancer cells and deliver therapeutic proteins from the inside. The study focuses on histiocytic sarcoma, an aggressive and often fatal cancer in dogs with limited treatment options.

Dr. Marietta Ravesloot-Chavez,
University of California, Davis

This fellowship reserved for canine cancer research and recognizing the contributions of Dr. Rodney Page and the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Hero Dogs, will provide for development of monoclonal antibodies designed to target and destroy mast cell tumors. The goal is to provide precise therapy that spares healthy tissue and improves patient outcomes.

Dr. Ahmed H. Lugelo,
Global Animal Health Tanzania

This work integrates facial recognition technology in an oral rabies vaccine program, improving vaccination tracking and increasing access for dogs in remote areas. Rabies is a global health threat that continues to kill dogs and people, especially where access to veterinary care and reliable vaccine delivery systems are limited.



Dogs and the Law

New York judge declares dog an immediate family member

www.avma.org/blog/new-york-judge-declares-dog-immediate-family-member

In a 2025 case involving a dog that was struck and killed by a car, a New York trial court allowed a claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress (NEID) by the uninjured owner to proceed. New York law limits such “bystander claims” to someone whose distress is caused by witnessing an immediate family member’s death or serious injury while also being in the “zone of danger” themselves. This case involves a woman who was crossing through an intersection while walking her family’s dog on a leash. The lawsuit alleges that a driver failed to stop at a stop sign, striking and killing the dog.

The question for the court was whether the dog was an immediate family member under New York law for the purpose of NEID claims. The AVMA and New York State Veterinary Medical Society, along with other organizations, filed a brief opposing the noneconomic damages claim. Allowing for the payment of emotion-based damages does nothing to address the loss of a pet. However, if applied more broadly, this precedent could drive up the cost of veterinary care, ultimately harming pets by making it harder for their owners to provide the medical care they need.

According to the AVMA, it also allows the possibility of greater value on human-animal relationships than on other close human relationships currently excluded from NEID claims, such as unmarried partners, cousins, other relatives, and close friends. Unlike economic damages that provide for a single person to be compensated for a specific amount, noneconomic damages have no clear dollar value to refer to and calculating compensation for the loss of an animal could become very complicated.

The ruling garnered praise from animal rights activists, who called the Judge courageous for making a breakthrough ruling that acknowledges Duke (the dog) as a member of the family. The ruling is currently under appeal.

Dog Lore

Luck in the New Year

In many parts of the world, dogs are considered “good omens” and bringing a dog into a home or even seeing one nearby your home at the start of a new year, can set a positive tone for the entire year. For example, small dogs protect their humans by alerting us of intruders, perhaps even keeping evil spirits away. Meanwhile, large dogs are symbols of prosperity, protection, and success. In particular, Huskies and sled dogs represent survival and hard work, especially great at the start of a new year, and Japanese folklore tells us that Shiba Inus and Akitas, are considered household protectors that bring good fortune.

New Year’s Eve is also a time for the Wild Hunt, when the The Hounds of Annwn, usually described as large white dogs with glowing eyes and bright red ears appear, to hunt wrongdoers and escort souls, with their baying often heard on New Year's.





Meeting Notes (Digest Minutes)...

Tuesday December 2, 2025 at New Deal Café

Thanks to Everyone for a lovely evening of holiday spirit! We hope everyone had a great time and got exactly what they wanted from Santa!

The next meeting will be the second Tuesday of 2026 (January 13) at Pine Grove Baptist Church. This is our final meeting before our show (January 24-25), so please try to join us. Bring your gift baskets for the show!