



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

Summer (June-July) 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 — Ann Lowery

Treasurer — Doris Horton

Club Directors:

Marge Saucier

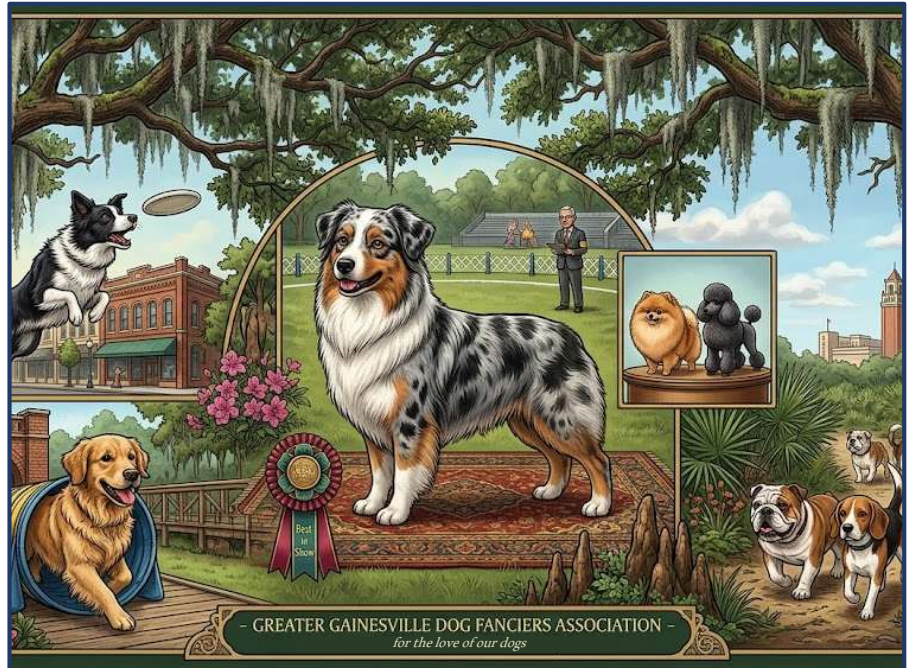
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GGDFA as imagined by Gemini using Imagen

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IMPORTANT NOTES

Enjoy beating the heat reading this double summer issue in A/C!
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



SHOWSIGHT

AKC Draws Hatred from Extremists

showsightmagazine.com/akcs-advocacy-for-dog-lovers-and-enthusiasts-draws-hatred-from-extremists/

The AKC, a private not-for-profit organization, is a club of over 4,900 member clubs and the world's largest all-breed dog registry. Recent attacks by animal rights groups focus on AKC's opposition to several flawed bills pushed forward by these groups using emotional bullying campaigns based on misinformation. But, none of these organizations have significant experience or expertise in responsible breeding or animal husbandry. They ignore the science, dedication, and expertise used by responsible dog breeders, applying the derogatory and inaccurate term "puppy mill" to anyone breeding dogs.

Despite lies and negativity from animal extremist organization, we know that dogs make our world a better place and we're proud that our actions share that love with others. As part of the AKC family, here are just a few of the many things you too can be proud of:

- **The AKC Canine Health Foundation** is the world's largest funder of canine health research, providing more than \$75 million in support for the improvement of all aspects of the physical, mental, and social well-being of dogs.
- **AKC Reunite** has reunited more than 700,000 lost pets with their owners. This program also provides direct and financial disaster relief to help care for our canine companions even in the worst situations.
- **AKC's Breeder Education and Canine College** programs provide over 400 online courses and webinars, and in-person courses covering both cutting-edge scientific advances and all aspects of canine health and well-being.
- **AKC inspections** (over 83,000 since 2000) provide educational opportunities and ensure proper care and conditions, and accurate record keeping, for AKC-registered dogs. Any evidence of cruelty or neglect is shared with authorities. No other private organization has this level of on-the-ground commitment, experience, or expertise that informs policy approaches.

Animal extremists push anti-breeder laws, legislation, and regulation as a way to regulate breeders out of operation. Their voice and their money is loud in Washington and in state legislatures, but the claims don't hold up to the truth. *To learn what you can do to protect and advocate for the future of our dogs visit: www.akcgr.org or The AKC Political Action Committee at: www.akc.org/pac.*



A new future for dog breeding?

askanimalweb.com/can-the-future-of-dog-breeding-focus-on-health-and-behaviour-rather-than-aesthetics/

A study published in 2025 in Animal Welfare aimed to open discussion on dog breeding reforms that would reprioritize health and welfare over aesthetics. The authors identified what they see as several transformative trends in the world of dog breeding:

- **Decline of traditional kennel clubs**, and an increase in dogs bred and sold outside formal pedigree systems
- **Stricter breeding regulations** worldwide as governments introduce more legal restrictions to promote responsible breeding practices
- **Popularity of 'designer' breeds** resulting from deliberate crossbreeding of established breeds
- **Increased appreciation for mixed-breed dogs**
- **Focus on genetic health**

While genetic diversity can reduce some inherited disorders, mixed breed dogs are not immune to health and behavioral issues. Purebred dogs offer predictable traits, such as size, behavior, grooming needs, and disorder profiles, which can foster strong human-dog relationships. However, the study also highlights the health challenges associated with extreme physical traits and limited genetic diversity in some purebreds.

The authors propose a balanced approach to dog breeding with recommendations including:

- **Maintaining formal breeding registries** to support genetic diversity, reduce uncontrolled breeding, and ensuring traceability
- **Revising breed standards** to remove those that encourage extreme physical traits detrimental to health
- **Expanding legislation to apply to all dogs**
- **Leveraging genetic tools** to select against disease-predisposing genotypes or phenotypes.



Dogs and the Law

AKC Key Federal Legislative Positions

showsightmagazine.com/akcs-advocacy-for-dog-lovers-and-enthusiasts-draws-hatred-from-extremists/

Animal Rights extremist groups promoting anti-breeder legislation openly attack the AKC in the press and on the hill. They publicized the modest lobbying (\$200K) and candidate support (\$67K) budgets of AKC, but these are far less than the over \$2 million spent by the organizations themselves. They claim that there are few federal, state, or local laws and regulations governing dog breeders and that all dogs come from large, commercial-sized kennels that need new laws. In fact, a person who keeps more than four small mammals (rodents, rabbits, cats, dogs etc. *combined*) and breeds a single animal that they transfer without physically meeting the new owner is subject to USDA licensing requirements designed for large-scale commercial breeders. AKC gives careful thought to the positions taken on canine legislation to ensure they are inclusive of all responsible breeders regardless of size. Fewer than 10 percent of breeders who register with AKC breed more than six litters a year. AKC works to ensure that legislation is reasonable, enforceable, and non-discriminatory, and protects the rights of responsible breeders, while ensuring that negligence and cruelty laws are fully enforced—whether in a case of one dog or one hundred.

Animal rights groups claim AKC opposes faster reporting of animal neglect. This is false. AKC consistently urged Congress to fully fund USDA enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and supports **Farm Bill** language requiring inspectors to alert authorities if a dog is in unrelieved suffering, with immediate confiscation considered.

The Puppy Protection Act imposes rigid, one-size-fits-all mandates better suited to commercial kennels than small home breeders. Provisions include arbitrary limits on breeding by age and size, unsafe “unfettered access” to exercise areas, and temperature rules that ignore breed differences and acclimatization. Such standards can compromise animal care rather than improve it.

Goldie’s Act blurs the line between serious welfare violations and minor paperwork issues, undermining focus on animal care. The bill also requires inspectors to remove/destroy ‘psychologically harmed’ animals without defining this or explaining how it will be identified and by whom.

The Better Care for Animals Act would hand enforcement power to the Department of Justice, bypassing USDA’s veterinary expertise—even though USDA and DOJ already collaborate under a 2024 Memorandum of Understanding. AKC opposes these measures that replace expertise with overreach.

See www.akcgr.org/posistionstatements/ to stay up to date.

Mushrooms Q & A

cvm.ncsu.edu/news/pet-owner-alert-toxic-mushrooms-claim-dogs-lives-what-you-should-know/



Q: How can you tell if your dog has eaten a toxic mushroom?

A: The hallmark signs include vomiting, diarrhea and gastrointestinal upset within 6 to 12 hours of ingestion, followed by a deceptive ‘honeymoon phase’ where symptoms temporarily improve. After this, dogs often progress to liver failure, which is when they become critically ill.

Q: What should a pet owner do?

A: Four things:

1. Never allow your dog to eat wild mushrooms, even if they appear harmless.
2. Supervise dogs in the yard, especially during warm, damp weather when mushrooms tend to grow.
3. Remove mushrooms promptly.
4. If you suspect your dog has ingested a mushroom, seek emergency veterinary care immediately. Waiting can cost precious time.

Q: What message would you like to share with pet owners?

A: This is a very serious and often fatal condition. The sooner treatment begins, the better the chance of survival. If you even suspect that your dog might have eaten a mushroom, do not wait, go to an emergency clinic right away. We often see these cases when it’s already too late, and early intervention can make all the difference.

IFAS provides free identification services and an online picture guide to common toxic types found in Florida
plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/misc/media/fungi-submission.pdf



Current Vaccine Guidance

www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/puppy-shots-complete-guide/#schedule

- **Rabies** – Required for dogs by law in Florida and most states. Rabies continues to kill over 50,000 people each year (mostly in rural Africa and Asia). 100% treatable with prompt care, rabies is 100% fatal once symptoms appear. Although only 1% or less of the most common carriers in the U.S. (bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes) are infected, this deadly disease should never be ignored. *In 2024, a new mRNA vaccine was approved for dogs. Having no adjuvant (additive in traditional vaccines to boost immune response), these have fewer side-effects, require smaller doses, but give stronger immunity.*
- **Distemper** – This virus (CDV) attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal (GI), and nervous systems and has no cure. Dog's that survive can shed virus (remaining contagious to others) for months. It is transmitted through shared water and contaminated surfaces or can be airborne (spread by sneezing/ coughing). *The 'D' in DHLPP or DHPP.*
- **Hepatitis** – This highly contagious virus (CAV-1) also has no cure. Recovered dogs can shed virus for more than 6 months and this extremely hardy virus can linger in soil or on surfaces. *The 'H' in DHLPP or DHPP.*
- **Parvo** – Another highly contagious virus with no cure, puppies and unvaccinated dogs are at high risk. When this virus attacks the GI system, it can kill a dog quickly. Spread through direct contact and contaminated environments, it can survive outdoors for months to years, and can hitchhike home on shoes, gear, or other dogs. *A 'P' in DHLPP or DHPP.*
- **Leptospirosis** – This bacteria, found in soil and water worldwide, is zoonotic (can spread to humans). It can be treated with antibiotics, but it can cause permanent organ damage or death. *The 'L' in DHLPP or often given as a separate vaccine. Both adjuvanted and non-adjuvant formulas are killed or subunit vaccines.*
- **Bordetella** – A highly infectious bacterial disease that causes severe coughing. Like Distemper, it is airborne and spread by contact with contaminated surfaces. This is the most common cause of 'kennel cough' but several viruses also contribute, including parainfluenza (A 'P' in DHLPP or DHPP) and coronavirus (*vaccine available*). *An intra-nasal or oral (modified-live) builds local (nose/mouth) immunity. An injectable (killed or subunit plus an adjuvant) is also available.*
- **Lyme Disease** – This tick-borne bacteria affects joints, organs, and nervous system. Prompt antibiotic treatment helps but relapses can happen for years. Tick prevention that keep ticks from staying attached longer than 24 hours reduces risk of infection. Vaccination reduces the odds of progression and severe complications. *A non-adjuvant subunit vaccine and a whole-killed vaccine are available.*
- **Influenza** – Like Bordetella, this vaccine is recommended for dogs frequently in contact with other dogs.

Ancestry-inclusive dog genomics challenges popular breed stereotypes

pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9675396/

Research sponsored by Darwin's Ark darwinsark.org

A study published in Science in 2022 looked at the temperament and behavior traits commonly associated with breed ancestry to explore how they are shaped by genetics. Researchers surveyed owners of over 18 thousand dogs (about half purebred) and sequenced DNA of 2155 dogs.

***Heritability** is an estimate for what percentage of the variation seen in a trait across the population is due to genetics. A heritability >.25 is considered 'heritable'—generally meaning that genetics makes a meaningful difference in type. This should not be confused with probability of inheritance or with estimated breeding value.*

Consistent with a history of selective breeding, aesthetic (physical type) traits are both heritable and genetically differentiated by breed. Most behavioral traits are also heritable, but breed differences explain only about 9% of the variation in behavior. Among the behavioral traits studied, biddability (how well dogs respond to human direction) was heritable with the most differentiation by breed. Unsurprisingly, border collie was the breed most significantly aligned with biddability, but with wide variability for individual dogs. Other traits commonly ascribed to certain breeds, like human sociability to Labrador retrievers, showed no breed differentiation.

Behavioral characteristics attributed to modern breeds are polygenic (influenced by multiple genes), environmentally influenced, and found, at varying prevalence, in all breeds. The researchers propose that although some behavioral traits highly connected to purpose differ by breed, many behaviors *perceived* as characteristic of modern breeds derive from millennium of polygenic adaptation *predating breed formation*, while modern breeds are primarily distinguished by aesthetic traits. Other studies showed that within-breed behavioral variation is similar to variation between breeds. This suggests that the genetic predictions of behavior (marketed in DNA test kits) may error prone even in purebred dogs.

Darwin's Ark is an open data resource for collecting owner-reported phenotypes and genetic data in dogs.



Links and Info...

June Featured Link: Tracks K9 Club (<https://tracksk9club.com/>)

Offers dock diving training and dock rental. Regularly hosts events. Scent work training also available.

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 May 12, 2026

Board Meeting Highlights:

Secretary reports accepted. Doris was unable to attend in person with a treasures report. She was available by phone.

The ACSO received the approved donation (\$10,000). Denise read their letter of thanks (attached at the end of this newsletter)

Arvind will order 7 large ribbons our vendor in Canada. Other ribbons will be through MBF as usual.

Macy will ensure that anyone that had a missing ribbon or medallion from the 1/26 show gets them mailed.

Dates for the 2027 show have been changed to February 5, 6, and 7 to avoid conflict with Westminster. The prior year dates should be available to revert to for at least the next 4 years.

Arvind will rewrite the judges' contracts for the added 3rd show day. He is continuing to work on getting the best judges panel, including well-qualified permitted judges that will assume the cost of travel to gain the experience they need.

Doris will secure the grounds rental for the added third show date.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Mid-Fl GRC to hold their 3-day specialty in conjunction with the GGDFA 2027 show.

Discussion was opened on which 2 days of the show to hold Rally and Obedience. NOHS will be all 3 days.

Health Clinic services at the 2027 show will include heart, thyroid, hips, elbows, patellas, CERF, and BAER.

Discussion was opened on exploration of future community service opportunities.

General Meeting Notes:

Board meeting report.

Show updates from the board notes above were shared and discussed. And the ACSO letter was read.

Sharon agreed to teach Rally and Obedience. Possible locations were discussed. A location and waiver procedure need to be finalized.

A discussion was opened about improving promotion for the 2027 show.

The community service discussion from the board meeting continued. Suggestions included: Sponsoring Vet students and residents to attend events like Royal Canin, with a responsibility to speak about what was learned at a club meeting, and providing pet food for owners in need.



Meeting Notes (Digest Minutes)...

Tuesday June 9, 2026

Board Meeting Highlights:

Secretary and Treasurer reports accepted.

Joyce delivered the checks to secure the show grounds for the 2027 show.

Joyce was given the GGDFA logo file for the Canada ribbon order.

July meeting will be held at the regular time at the normal location at Pine Grove Baptist Church, as it is too hot to hold a meeting outdoors at dog friendly locations in July.

August meeting will be a potluck and 2025 plaque presentation and to be held at regular meeting time at the church.

General Meeting Notes:

Board meeting report.

February show, as discussed last month, has been approved for all 3 days and future shows approved by AKC to return to the usual weekends for the following 5 years.

Arvind has been discussing with the Mid-FL GRC regarding their holding a 3 day specialty during our February show. MFGRC will be responsible for providing their own ribbons and prizes and using the same judges from GGDFA panel. Payment for each entry in this Golden Specialty to GGDFA will be \$5.

Arvind is also talking to Labrador clubs regarding the possibility of their interest in holding Labrador Specialty shows in a similar manner as with MFGRC.

The health clinics as discussed last month have been and will be advertised on the OFA website. The health clinicians have asked for signs directing those attending to the appropriate areas for testing. This was approved unanimously by all members present.

Macy should send names of Rally and Obedience judges to Arvind and Joyce who will secure contracts with judges for the Saturday and Sunday trials.

Denise reminded all to begin collections for raffle baskets now to avoid a time crunch in preparing these for the February show.

Again, all were reminded that the July meeting will not be held at an outdoor and dog friendly restaurant due to the heat and will be held at the Baptist Church with the Board meeting to begin at 6:30 and General meeting at 7 PM.

The August meeting will also be held at the church at the regular times, but will be a potluck and there will be the presentation of 2025 title award plaques.

All members are encouraged to attend both July and August meetings and to bring any items they wish to donate for the raffle baskets for the February show.



Meeting Notes (Digest Minutes)...

Tuesday May 12, 2026 - Brags

- Arvind has been tirelessly (?) travelling throughout the Southeast and has far too many titles and awards to list. Well don, sir, well done!
 - .
- Anne Lowery's Gryphon received his Hunter Retriever Championship and qualified for both Master National and Master Amateur National Hunting Retriever Championships.

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Sheriff Chad D. Scott
Post Office Box 5489 • Gainesville, FL 32627

May 4, 2026

Dear Members of the Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers,

On behalf of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of \$10,000 to our K-9 Unit.

Your support makes a meaningful and immediate impact on our ability to train, equip, and care for our K-9 teams. These highly skilled dogs play a critical role in protecting our community—assisting in search and rescue operations, bomb detection, narcotics detection, gun detection in our schools, suspect apprehension, and ensuring the safety of both our deputies and residents.

It is especially meaningful to receive this contribution from an organization that shares such a deep appreciation for dogs and their unique capabilities. Your commitment not only strengthens our K-9 program, but also reflects a strong partnership between our agency and the community we proudly serve.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to your president, Denise Gaboury, for her leadership and support in making this generous contribution possible. Her dedication to both the club and the broader community is truly appreciated.

We are sincerely grateful for your generosity and your continued support of law enforcement. Please know that your contribution will directly enhance the effectiveness and well-being of our K-9 teams.

Thank you again for your kindness and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Chad D. Scott".

Sheriff Chad D. Scott
Alachua County Sheriff's Office

CS/tr

(352) 367-4000