



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

May 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

Sue Sutton

Susan Iserhardt

Ashley Sanders

Newsletter Editor: Ashley Sanders
gatorsanders@gmail.com

Website Manager: Barb Copping



GGDFA & Alachua County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit

In this month's edition...

AKC Feature – The Mother of Obedience	2
Science News – New urinary stone tied to diet	2
Dogs and the Law – 2026 Farm Bill	3
The Great Flea War	3
Links and Info	4
Minutes	5

IMPORTANT NOTES

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



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

The Mother of Dog Obedience Training

www.akc.org/expert-advice/family-dog/blanche-saunders-obedience/

If you are a pet owner who has taught your dog to sit, stay, heel, or perform any manner of tricks, you probably have Blanche Saunders to thank.

While in England during the early 1930s, American Poodle breeder Helen Whitehouse Walker saw obedience trials for the first time and decided to establish the practice in America. She began hosting informal events on her Mount Kisco, New York estate, Bedford Hills. In 1934, Blanche Saunders, who had graduated from Massachusetts Agricultural College with majors in both animal husbandry and poultry raising, was “getting a little bored with heavy animals” and responded to an ad Walker posted in *The Rural New Yorker* for a kennel maid.

With Saunders on board to mind the Poodles, Walker concentrated on convincing the AKC to acknowledge Obedience as a competitive field, which they did in 1936. Next, she and Saunders set their sights on the American public and in 1937, they hauled a 21-foot behind a Buick remodeled to fit three dogs in the backseat. They traveled 10,000 miles in 10 weeks performing demos. The crowds came out to see the ‘two crazy women from New York with the trick Poodles.’

Saunders became the face of dog obedience as it swiftly grew in popularity. She conducted demonstrations in Rockefeller Plaza and at Yankee Stadium, before a crowd of 70,000. Her book *Training You to Train Your Dog*, first published in 1946, was a stalwart bestseller well through the 1970s. She was known for her low and husky voice—seldom raised in anger, only in a subtly annoyed “My goodness’ sakes!”—and instinctive sense of how any dog would behave in any given situation.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

UMN researchers discover new urinary stone—and a likely cause

profiles-vetmed.umn.edu/article/umn-researchers-discover-new-urinary-stone-and-likely-cause

The Minnesota Urology Center (MUC) processes more urinary stones than any other veterinary center in the world (nearly 100,000 last year). A few years ago, MUC received two stones among all those samples that were an unfamiliar type. Infrared spectroscopy showed that they were formed from a naturally occurring organic compound called choline and a food ingredient called tartrate. Then they started seeing more.

Outside veterinarians were asking how to prevent the new stones. The MUC team had a theory. Dogs get choline bitartrate, the main compound in CTT uroliths, from fresh dog food and through supplements recommended for dogs that eat homemade food. As fresh dog food companies gain popularity the switch from dry food may be having unintended consequences for some dogs.

CTT urinary stones have also been reported in people who take muscle-building supplements that contain tartrate. Using information about each dog’s diet, the researchers were able to determine what type of choline bitartrate was in the food dogs with CTT uroliths were eating. The data shows a likely cause between choline bitartrate found in certain diet formulations produced by some fresh dog food companies and the newly discovered CTT uroliths. The discovery was published in April in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*.

Because some brands would not disclose what type of choline bitartrate they used, it’s still not clear exactly which types may put dogs more at risk for CTT uroliths. But if the link is confirmed, brands will likely change the type of choline bitartrate they use in their fresh dog food.

House Farm Bill Passed with Support from AKC and Sportsmen's Alliance

On April 30, 2026, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (aka, the Farm Bill). A multiyear omnibus bill, with implications far beyond agriculture, the Farm Bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation considered by the U.S. Congress and has significant impacts on the lives of American families.

Key aspects of the 2026 Farm Bill supported by AKC include:

- **AWA Enforcement:** Provides additional resources for the USDA to enforce the Animal Welfare Act and improves educational outreach.
- **Dog Importation:** Incorporates elements of the Healthy Dog Importation Act to enhance health requirements for imported dogs.
- **Responsible Breeding:** Supports the rights of responsible breeders.
- **Protection of Rights:** The AKC worked to ensure the bill did not include overreaching, restrictive language regarding dog training or ownership.

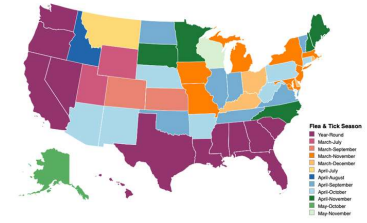
AKC, Sportsmen's Alliance, and other supporters of dog sports lobbied successfully to ensure that language from the **Greyhound Protection Act** (which was folded into the Farm Bill) was constrained, removing language that would have inadvertently banned various hunting dog training methods and performance events. Particularly at issue was language related to use of live lure training or coursing, which is considered by many to be crucial to training of hunting dogs. The Greyhound Protection Act is intended to ban commercial greyhound racing nationwide, end betting on dog races, and prohibit exporting dogs for racing. Already banned in 44 states, including Florida, this legislation would eliminate the final two active commercial dog tracks in West Virginia.

Dogs also appear in the Farm Bill in an amendment of the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 which establishes requirements for **Additional Training Facilities for Detector Dogs**.

Animal welfare and animal rights organizations including the ASPCA and the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) gave the 2026 Farm Bill mix reviews or opposed the current bill, claiming it does not do enough to protect animals, including dogs.

The Great Flea War

Florida flea season is year-round.



Until well into the 20th century, fleas were a part of life – and death from cat scratch fever, typhus, and the plague. Fleas' preference for animals' higher body temperature made keeping dogs close a way to keep fleas off ourselves, but we assumed they just lived all over, and pets carried them into our homes. Many powders, soaps, and dips were marketed from the late 1800s on to treat dogs and cats, but it was not until the 1960s that slow-release flea collars provided more consistent protection than ever before.

In 1989 came the discovery that fleas don't *live* in the couch or dog bedding, they live on animals almost continuously. It seems obvious now, but it was a game changer. 1993 saw the first International Symposium on Ectoparasites in Pets. In 1994 lufenuron was introduced, and in 1996 imidacloprid and fipronil joined the fight. For the first time, you could give something to a pet monthly that really worked against fleas and their infestations.

Bravecto is the latest treatment development, eliminating fleas for an entire year through a slow release injection.





Links and Info...

May Featured Link: Sweet Paws Bakery (www.sweetpawsbakery.com/)

Offers bakery treats for dogs and other dog gear. Also provides doggy daycare and a self-serve dog wash

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=AU85jsG1-9k

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

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

Find out more at: www.stfrancisevetcare.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 April 14, 2026

Board Meeting Highlights:

Secretary and Treasurer reports accepted.

Denise reported on her follow through with the Alachua County Sheriff Dept. about a donation to their police dog /equipment fund. The Sheriff's office purchases 1-2 dogs per year at a price of \$16,500 per dog. Denise made a motion to donate \$10,000 to the Alachua County Sheriff's Dept. for their canine/equipment fund.

Doris seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously passed.

The sheriff's office would be willing to come to a meeting and do a demo for the club.

Arvind ordered the ribbons as requested from our vendor in Canada. Order completed once he verified wording from Macy for the obedience and rally title ribbons..

General Meeting Notes:

Board meeting report.

Doris read the new slate of Club officers as follows:

- President – Denise Gaboury
- 1st VP – Pam Rice
- 2nd VP – Macy Van Cleaver
- Treasurer – Doris Horton
- Secretary – Ann Lowery
- Board Members: Marge Saucier, Susan Sutton, Susan Isenhardt, Ashley Sanders

No one opposed the panel and Sharon cast one vote to approve the panel of club officers as is.

Ashley will remain as newsletter editor and Denise and Macy will be working on getting a current membership roster and emails, so we are not sending emails to people who are no longer members.

Joyce will be the new Assistant Show Chair. Doris will turn over what she has that she took care of last year.

A discussion started about getting a complete Treasure's report as voted on several months ago as well as a complete accounting for the 2024 and 2025 Greater Gainesville DFA Assoc. shows. This is important as we move forward with, so far, with a 2 day show.

A long discussion was revisited about what the status of our conformation dog class is and how to go forward. There were many questions and concerns for dog classes to start that should be figured out before a start date. Topics brought up for discussion and clarification are listed below.

- What classes? Conformation? Beginning Obedience? Intro to Rally? We have the venue 1 evening a week, so what is feasible and what is not to do in one evening?
- A hold harmless agreement still must be found and submitted to the insurance company for approval before classes can start. Who will hold the contracts, sign in sheets? Decided the Treasurer will hold all copies of the Liability (Hold Harmless) agreement.
- What makes a good or qualified beginner obedience and intro to rally instructor.
- What marketing will be used to advertise we are having any classes.
- What are we going to charge for class? What is the split between instructor and the club?
- What can we do to draw people to class? Since The Ocala Dog Club holds classes for free and we have several good obedience and rally classes in Gainesville already.



Meeting Notes (Digest Minutes)...

Tuesday April 14, 2026

Braggs by Sharon Hiemenz:

- Elkton FL.
 - GCh. Ch. Jubelend Crown Jewel CGC TKN RN FDC ATT Rally Novice 2nd to finish her title.
 - GChB Ch. Golden Gage Saliforth Sierra CD RE CGC TKN; Fri BOS; Sat. Select Bitch; Sun. Select bitch.
 - Jubelend Cookies and Cream Saturday WB.
- Perry Kooikerhondje National Specialty and Supported Entry
 - Jubelend Rocky Road Thursday BW to finish his Ch. Friday Select/BOBOH/OHGr1/BISOH. Specialty WB/BOW/BOBOH.
 - Jubelend Cookies and Cream: Wednesday BBE Group 4
 - GChB Ch Golden Gagte Saliforth Sierra CD RE CGC TKN Specialty 1st Veterans Bitch.