



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

October 2025

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
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
Membership Chair: Kathy Davis
Website Manager: Barb Copping



Tia

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AKC News

2025 Obedience Championship

July 6-7 at Purina Farms

Gray Summit, Missouri

The 2025 AKC National Obedience Championship crowned a new champion: **Zesty**, a 5-year-old Labrador Retriever, handled by **Petra Ford** of Washington, New Jersey.

This was Zesty's first time competing at the event, making the win especially surprising for Ford, who also placed in the Top 10 with another of her Labradors, **Zayna**.

Ford was emotional and overwhelmed by the unexpected victory, describing Zesty as young and inexperienced but full of heart. She's been training Labradors in obedience since the late 1990s and began working with Zesty when he was just 8 weeks old. His favorite activity is retrieving, but Ford says he enjoys it all because he wants to please her.

For newcomers to obedience, Ford advises finding a good local trainer, noting it's tough to succeed without guidance.



Interested in Obedience? Contact [Denise Gaboury](#) for information on local classes.

From the pages of...

UF | College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Osteoarthritis studies: nerve block techniques prove successful

Under a grant from the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Health Foundation, Dr. Diego Portela and his team at the University of Florida Veterinary Medicine have successfully developed two techniques to target sensory nerves in the joints of dogs to ease pain from osteoarthritis.

This degenerative joint disease affects a staggering 80% of dogs over eight years old, causing inflammation, stiffness, and chronic pain, with limited effective treatments available.

The research focused on creating a safe and effective nerve block—similar to those used in human medicine—to specifically disable the sensory nerves in the knee and elbow without impacting the dog's ability to move the leg.

The challenge was to avoid injecting large nerves, which can lead to temporary paralysis. After extensive work, the team developed two innovative methods, with the technique for the knee joint being especially promising due to its high success rate and minimal risk.

The procedure is designed to be easy to perform and reproduce, allowing many veterinarians to adopt it with minimal training. While still being refined, these nerve block techniques show great promise for providing dogs with safer, more targeted pain relief and improving their quality of life.

Dr. Diego Portela is an associate professor of veterinary anesthesiology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and is board certified in Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia.



Dogs and the Law

The Pam Rock Act

A new Florida law aimed at preventing dog attacks took effect July 1, 2025. The Pam Rock Act strengthens the way dangerous dogs are defined, reported, and regulated across the state.

The law focuses entirely on behavior and severity of injuries.

Dogs may be classified as dangerous if they:

- Severely injure or kills a person
- Aggressively chase or threaten someone unprovoked
- Attack another domestic animal more than once

In serious bite cases, involving multiple deep wounds or fatal injuries, dogs must be confiscated immediately without requiring multiple prior incidents.

Once a dog is officially classified as dangerous, the owner must:

- Keep the dog in a secure, locked enclosure
- Post visible warning signs on the property
- Microchip and sterilize the dog
- Carry at least \$100,000 in liability insurance
- Register the dog annually with Animal Control
- Complete obedience training
- Obtain an annual health certificate
- Muzzle the dog in public spaces

Violations can result in fines, criminal charges, and mandatory removal or euthanasia of the animal.

Residents can report dangerous or aggressive dog behavior to County Animal Control and an investigation will follow. Owners have the right to a hearing if they wish to appeal a dangerous dog designation.

This law also requires shelters and rescue groups to clearly label dangerous dogs if transferred or adopted out.

To read the full bill see:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/572>

Dog Lore

Autumn Leaves

A pile of crunchy leaves offers massive sensory stimulation for a dog's nose, which is up to 10,000 times more sensitive than our own. The sound, the texture, and the layers of scent are all a thrilling experience. When a dog rolls in a pile of dead leaves, it's often a deep-seated instinct to use the smells (other animals, mold, and decomposition) to mask their own scent or roll in the "cool" discovery to share the scent with their "pack" (you!) back home. Fall is a great time for scent work!

Fall Hazards

While they look harmless, **acorns** (from oak trees) and **conkers** (from horse chestnut trees) are toxic to dogs. They contain chemicals (tannin and aesculin, respectively) that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and in large quantities, severe organ damage. They are also a major choking hazard.

Ticks are often most active from August to November!

Although plain cooked pumpkin is great for dogs, pumpkin spice usually includes nutmeg which is toxic to pets.



Meeting Minutes...

Tuesday September 9, 2025 at Pine Grove Baptist Church

Board Meeting Notes:

Treasurer's Report:

Doris has been working on updating the membership excel sheet and current dues. Note that March 31st will be considered late membership.

There is an account extension to create EFTPS 1065 IRS income tax payment. Donations were exceeded for 2024, and they are allowing them to spread out into 2025. There was an IRS overpayment credit which was sent back to IRS as a credit. Accountant fee was paid. Doris to expense and update Quick Books for easier accounting and a hard drive was purchased.

The annual corporation fee was paid for the following year.

A motion passed to match the gift card amount for rally and combined wins to be the same amount as obedience.

Macy's name has been fixed at AKC.

Arvind will call MB-F to change the logo on our show catalog.

General meeting Notes:

Treasurer's Report:

Doris will look into creating a club Venmo account for make parking and our raffle easier and possibly more successful.

Secretary Report:

No meeting minutes from Aug. due to it being a dinner meeting.

Sarah gave an update from St. Francis Vet Care.

Their open house took place with several members in attendance. George and others got to see "Clair's Room" at the Vet Clinic. Sarah also discovered she still had access to the FB page and will be updating.

Denise spoke to Sharon Hiemenz who would like to do conformation handling classes in Gainesville.

Doris said it would be an additional \$600 per year for insurance.

We will need to come up with a release form and sign in sheet/payment sheet.

Several numbers were discussed as far as what to charge for classes. Denise is going to discuss it with Sharon.

Classes would be at 6:00 PM at the Oak Hall School in Gainesville, FL. on Tuesdays. Tentative dates:
10/7,11/4,11/18,11/25,12/2.

Arvind made a motion to end the meeting; seconded by Macy, Motion passed unanimously.