



# The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

January 2023

Newsletter for Dog Lovers

**G.G.D.F.A.**  
**P.O. Box 358332**  
**Gainesville, Florida**  
**32635-8332**  
www.ggdfa.org

General Meeting Dates:  
2nd Tuesday each month  
PINE GROVE Baptist Church  
4200 NW 39th Ave  
7:30 pm Gainesville, FL

Board Meeting Dates:  
2nd Tuesday each month

#### **Club Officers**

President — Denise Gaboury  
1st VP — Pam Rice  
2nd VP — Kathy Davis  
Secretary — Liz Mignin  
Treasurer — Doris Horton

#### **Club Directors**

Claire Hedrick  
Marge Saucier  
Sue Sutton  
Jeremy White

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Claire Hedrick

#### **Membership Chair**

Kathy Davis



## *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Our yearly "Gator Classic" is held every January at the Greater Ocala Dog Club show grounds. We partner with a local club and host the "Gator Classic" each January. This event offers conformation, obedience and rally trials.

The show is part of the winter dog show circuit's that happen here in Florida and is attended by many well know handlers from all over the Country.

Contact: For General Questions: Arvind DeBraganca 321-262-7601 / RV Parking & Vendors: Connie Sager 407-973-4040

### **L.E.K.C.**

Lake Eustis Kennel Club will host the Breed ring competitions on January 26-27th, 2023

### **G.G.D.F.A.**

Greater Gainesville Dog Fancier' Club will host the Breed ring competitions, Obedience and Rally trials on January 28-29th, 2023



October 4, 2022  
By Jan Reisen

### **Physical and Mental Signs that Your Dog is Aging**

Everybody gets old, including your dog. That adorable little pup that grew into your constant companion may be showing signs of getting old, both physical and mental. Different breeds and sizes of dog age at different rates. A large breed like a Great Dane is considered senior at around six years old. A small dog, like a Chihuahua, for example, may not be considered old until they are seven to ten years old. The more tuned-in you are to the typical signs, the sooner you can help your dog age gracefully

#### **Physical Signs That Your Dog is Aging**

**Cloudy eyes or difficulty seeing:** Eye cloudiness (nuclear sclerosis) can happen so gradually that you might not notice it right away. While it's a fairly common occurrence in senior dogs and doesn't affect vision, it may also be a sign of cataracts or other eye diseases, most of which are easily treatable. Your dog may also start bumping into things or have trouble locating a toy on the floor or other familiar objects. This could signal vision loss.

**Horrible breath:** While doggie breath isn't uncommon at any age, if your dog seems to suddenly have awful breath, it could indicate gum disease, tooth decay, or infection. The immune system weakens as dogs age and they are not able to fight off infections as easily as they did when they were younger. Along with a good dental cleaning, your vet may decide to do blood work to rule out infection.

**Slowing down or difficulty getting around:** An older dog may have trouble with stairs, jumping into the car, or just getting up after a nap. You might notice weakness in her back legs. While we all slow down as we age, your dog's mobility issues could be caused by

arthritis or another degenerative disease. Along with any medication or supplements your vet recommends, you will have to adjust your dog's exercise regimen to slower and shorter walks or a new exercise routine. Swimming, for example, is gentle on the body and many dogs love it.

**New lumps and bumps:** Some dogs are prone to harmless fatty lipomas, but these lumps under the skin are more common as dogs age. However, any new lump should be checked by a veterinarian to rule out a malignant tumor

**A change in weight:** It's not surprising that older, less active dogs sometimes gain weight and you may have to adjust your dog's diet and exercise to maintain a healthy weight. However, you should also pay attention if your senior dog loses weight. This could be the result of reduced muscle mass, which is common in older dogs, or it might be caused by reduced appetite, poor absorption of nutrients, or a digestive illness. If your dog loses more than 10 percent of their body weight in a few months, or even in a year, consult your vet.

**Incontinence or difficulty "going:"** If your dog suddenly seems to forget his housetraining or seems to strain when urinating, these could be signs of an urinary tract infection or kidney disease. However, incontinence is not unusual in elderly dogs and there are medications that can help.

#### **Behavioral and Mental Signs of Aging in Dogs**

Physical changes aren't the only differences you may notice in your dog as he ages. Changes in behavior can signal an underlying physical problem or may be a normal sign of aging. For example, if your sweet dog has suddenly turned grumpy, they may be in pain caused by arthritis or be experiencing some other physical discomfort. Or your high-energy companion may be sleeping hours a day. Older dogs need more sleep, just let them nap.

## Physical and Mental Signs that Your Dog is Aging (cont)

However, changes in behavior may also be the result of canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CCDS). According to a 2016 study, CCDS affects 14 to 35 percent of dogs over eight years old. As a dementia that is similar to Alzheimer's in humans, CCDS can bring about pronounced changes in your dog's everyday behavior:

- Fear of familiar people or objects
- Changes in the sleeping-waking cycle, including restlessness or pacing at night
- Increased barking and vocalization
- Repetitive or compulsive behaviors
- Forgetting commands and cues that she once knew
- House soiling
- Increased anxiety
- Confusion and disorientation
- Marked change in activity level

Your vet will be able to make a diagnosis by asking you simple questions during the appointment. While there is no cure for CCDS, there are some new medications and therapeutic options your vet can discuss with you.

### How Can You Help Your Aging Dog?

The single most important thing you can do is check with your vet if you see any of these physical or mental changes in your pet. The vet can determine the underlying medical causes and prescribe treatments. They can also help you make some decisions about your dog's care going forward, such as changes in diet and exercise, and changes you can make around the house or in their daily routine.

Wendy Stevens, a former veterinary technician at VCA Alton Road Animal Hospital in Miami Beach, said that pet owners' greatest fear is having to make a decision about their pets' end of life, and that fear may make an owner unwilling to visit the vet. They may also not be educated about the signs of aging and take a "wait-and-see" attitude. The cost of care is also an issue for many pet owners.

Our dogs give us many years of love and loyalty and it's only natural to want to make their senior years as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. Aging is a normal part of life and with some vigilance and attention to your dog's health, these can truly be "golden years."



## **Dangers of Topical Medication for Pets**

Published [www.petMD.com](http://www.petMD.com)  
By Helen Anne Travis

The topical products we use on ourselves and even our pets could cause big problems if accidentally ingested or administered incorrectly. Here's how to keep your pets safe.

### **Protect Your Pets From People Products**

Animals are curious and no one is perfect, which means it's all too easy to accidentally leave your favorite topical product in the path of an inquisitive pet.

The following products can cause major problems:

**Zinc oxide:** A common ingredient in sunscreen, diaper rash formulas, and calamine lotions, zinc oxide can be particularly damaging to a dog's intestines if ingested, says Dr. Rachel Barrack of New York City's Animal Acupuncture. Keep an eye out for vomiting and diarrhea; these are signs your dog's intestines have been injured. And once absorbed into the bloodstream, zinc damages red blood cells, leading to anemia, pale or yellow mucous membranes, weakness, rapid breathing, and abnormally dark urine.

**Retinoids:** Found in many anti-aging products, retinoids can cause tummy trouble for dogs if ingested, resulting in lethargy, vomiting, and decreased appetite, says Dr. Carol Osborne, veterinarian at Chagrin Falls Pet Clinic in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Another potential side effect in dogs is the development of keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye). You'll also want to keep any pregnant dogs far from your wrinkle reducers, as the retinoids could cause birth defects, she adds.

**NSAIDs:** Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, are commonly used in over-the-counter and prescription creams to treat pain and inflammation. They make you feel better, but they can cause everything from stomach ulcers to kidney failure in pets if administered incorrectly. Signs of toxicity include decreased appetite and vomiting,

Barrack says.

**Steroid creams:** If ingested or absorbed through your dog's skin, these can cause endocrine disorders, Osborne says. You may notice an increase in thirst and the need to urinate. The dog may also have nausea and diarrhea. Exposure to estrogen creams can cause heat-like symptoms in spayed female dogs and mammary gland enlargement in males.

**Minoxidil:** Found in hair growth products, minoxidil can cause severe cardiovascular issues, including heart failure, if ingested, Barrack says. The easiest way to keep your pets safe is to store your topical products in a secure location, Barrack says. Wash your hands thoroughly after applying any topical medicine or treatment, and never use human products on your pet without a veterinarian's guidance.

"I always say to keep the items out of paw's reach," Osborne recommends.

If you suspect your pet has ingested something he shouldn't have, or if he exhibits any signs of strange or unusual behavior, call your veterinarian or nearest emergency clinic, she advises. If there are any traces of products still on their skin or coat, get them in the tub immediately.

### **Protect Your Pets From Pet Products**

Even topical products that are intended for pets can cause problems. Pet parents may accidentally administer the wrong amount of medicine for the animal's body weight, or the pet may lick a spot that has just been treated.

Topical flea and tick medications may contain insecticides like pyrethrin and permethrin, Barrack says. If ingested or applied improperly, these can harm the nervous system, resulting in seizures, nerve damage, and even collapse. Always read the instructions thoroughly and call your vet immediately if your pet exhibits excessive salivation, vomiting, or diarrhea, she says.

"If you realize you made a big mistake, wash the pet immediately," Osborne adds. "Cats are especially sensitive."

## Dangers of Topical Medication for Pets (CONT)

In multi-pet households, it's all too easy to accidentally use a product intended for one pet on another. Or perhaps one pet decided to give the other a few good licks after an application.

A product designed for a 60-pound dog could cause big problems in a 6-pound cat. Keep an eye out for signs of toxicity, which can range from vomiting and lethargy to nervousness, twitching, and seizures. Some toxic exposures lead to a condition known as S.L.U.D., Osborne says. This stands for salivation, lacrimation (running eyes), urination, and defecation.

“Anytime your pet inadvertently takes a medication that wasn't intended for them—be it your medication or one intended for another member of the household, call your veterinarian immediately,” Barrack stresses.



## January—Pet Holidays

Published 2022 Pet Holidays | Pet Sitters International

### *MONTH*

- National Train Your Dog Month
- Walk Your Dog Month/Walk Your Pet Month

### *DAYS*

- January 2: National Pet Travel Safety Day;
- January 14: National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- January 21: Squirrel Appreciation Day; National Hug Day
- January 24: Change a Pet's Life Day
- National Peanut Butter Day
- January 27: National Fun At Work Day
- January 29: National Seeing Eye Guide Dog Anniversary

### Funny Thoughts for Dogs

Bark out the old and bark in the new.

My human calls me her therapy dog and all I really think about is peanut butter all day.

If I sit, my human gives me a treat. Her training is coming along nicely.

Every snack you take, every bite you make, I'll be watching you.

I always carry my leash outside so my human doesn't get lost.

Trust me, no measurements are required. I can fit in your lap.



GGDFA Newsletter  
c/o Claire Hedrick  
514 NW 127th Street  
Newberry, FL 32669

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



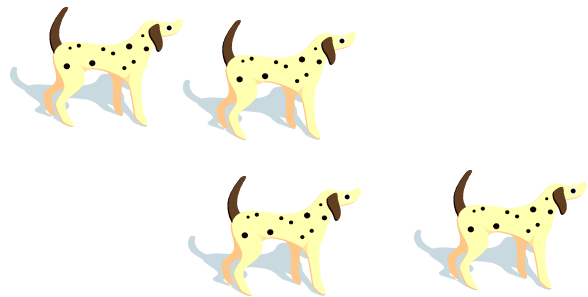
### Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be  
**Tuesday, 1/10 — 7:30**

**Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 1/10 — 6:45**

**Normal: Church Location:**

PINE GROVE Baptist Church  
4200 NW 39th Ave, Gainesville, FL



### Training Classes Contact:

Denise Gaboury 316-4543

#### LOCATION:

OAK HALL SCHOOL - Covered and lighted  
Tower Road , Gainesville

**Obedience/Rally classes— THURSDAYS 6:00 pm**  
**Conformation classes—Call to make arrangements**

### Training Classes Contact:

Jeremy White 445-8873

#### LOCATION:

PINE GROVE Baptist Church  
4200 NW 39th Ave  
Gainesville, FL

**Conformation Classes — SATURDAYS 9:30am**  
Goal is twice a month—call to make arrangements