



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

March 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 ST. PATRICK'S DAY



SPECIAL CONGRAULATIONS TO
OUR MEMBER JEREMY WHITE

***Graduated From Rasmussen College
and passed his Boards and now is
officially a licensed RN !!!!!!!!***

So proud of you!



News From AKC

Published www.akc.org



March 10, 2023

By Sassafras Lowrey, CTDI

History of Dog Agility: The Evolution of the Fast-Paced AKC Sport

AKC History

The fast-paced sport of dog agility has rapidly grown to become one of the most popular dog events. Agility captivates spectators of all ages—regardless of how much they know about dogs and dog training—and it’s even more fun to play.

The Beginning of Dog Agility

Dog agility’s roots go back to the United Kingdom and the legendary Crufts Dog Show. In advance of the 1978 Crufts annual show, as part of the show committee, John Varley was tasked to create an event that would entertain the audience between existing conformation and obedience segments of the show. John Varley collaborated with Peter Meanwell to create the first dog agility demonstration. The 1978 Crufts agility demonstration aired on Belgian television.

Varley, who narrated the competition, explained that his goal was to “bring some fun into the more serious side of Crufts ... it has been designed to test a dog’s ability over a number of obstacles and against the clock.” The competition started with an Alsatian Shepherd (or, as we would call them, a German Shepherd Dog), and then several Border Collies.

This first agility course was similar to our modern agility courses. It contained tunnels, the now-retired collapsed tunnel, a frame and jump (including one made from a literal tire), and a catwalk. Varley suggested in the original narration that perhaps the catwalk should be renamed a dog walk—and, of course, it ultimately was.

Initially, they only had one jump, which was very high. After the success and popularity of the 1978 demonstration, agility returned to Crufts in 1979.

In 1980, The Kennel Club (the official kennel club of the United Kingdom) officially recognized dog agility as a sport and began sanctioning trials.

Agility’s Equestrian Roots

The inspiration for the first dog-agility demonstration for Crufts came from the sport of equestrian show jumping. Varley, who had experience in the horse world, worked with Meanwell, an experienced dog trainer with a successful history with Working Trials (a UK dog sport that is a physically demanding civilian equivalent of police dog work). Furthering the connection to the horse world, in 1979 the first Pedigree Chum Agility Stakes Finals were held in collaboration with the Olympia Christmas Horse Show in the UK. In the years to come (including today), many dog agility competitions and training classes would take place in horse arenas.

AKC Agility

In 1993, the American Kennel Club held an advisory committee meeting around agility as a sport and named Sharon Anderson as the AKC consultant on agility. Anderson, who would later receive an AKC Lifetime Achievement Award, is credited with developing the AKC’s agility program and served as the Director of AKC Agility before retiring in 2008.

On August 11, 1994, the AKC’s first licensed agility trial took place in Houston, Texas, at the Astro World Series of Dog Shows. There were 192 dogs from 58 breeds entered in the trial, with dogs and their handlers traveling from across the country and Canada. In 1996, the AKC’s first World Agility Team was established and competed in Morges, Switzerland. That year, the large dog team earned ninth place in the international competition. Also in 1996, the first AKC Agility National competition was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with more than 200 dogs entered.



History of Dog Agility(cont)

Growth of Agility

As a modern sport, agility is welcoming to dogs of all sizes, with multiple jump heights. In 2009, the AKC Canine Partners Program was created, which enabled mixed-breed dogs to compete in AKC performance sports like Agility.

As agility courses have become more technical and as we learn more about canine safety, the sport has evolved. For example, in 2016 the AKC suspended use of the collapsed tunnel. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agility Course Test (ACT), an entry-level agility event for new dogs and handlers, now has a virtual option so that everyone can compete safely while maintaining social distancing.

Today, this is one of the most popular and recognizable canine sports, with more than one million entries into AKC Agility programs each year.



GGDFA Board Meeting 2/14/23

Board meeting called to order at 6:55pm.
Five board members in attendance.

Show Reports

The total deposit from the show was just made - \$47,764.52. Doris will be giving the board a more complete report, including net profit, at the following meeting.

The Ocala club offered to pay for half of the cost of the standing heaters in exchange for free storage on their grounds and allowing them to use the heaters occasionally.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Jeremy brought up the idea of the club hosting another performance event this year. This could be CGC, Farm Dog, American Temperament Test, Fit Dog, etc...

Marge moves to end the meeting; Jeremy seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

The board meeting was followed by a potluck and gift exchange.

The next board meeting will be on 3/14 at 6:45pm.

The next general body meeting will be on 3/14 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Mignin



Heart Disease in Dogs

Published medivet.co.uk
Contributed by Denise Gaboury

Heart disease affects up to 15% of dogs. Find out more about the signs & symptoms of heart disease in dogs.

Heart failure in dogs

While heart attacks are incredibly rare in dogs, heart failure is much more common and usually caused by underlying heart disease.

Types of heart disease in dogs

Heart disease can either be present from birth or acquired over the course of a dog's life. Roughly 95% of dog heart disease is acquired, usually as a result of general wear and tear on the heart, but occasionally through injury or infection. Accounting for 70-75% of heart disease in dogs, chronic valvular disease (CVD) is by far the most common.

Endocardiosis in Dogs

Also known as endocardiosis, CVD occurs when the valves of the heart weaken with age and begin to leak. Although there are four valves in the heart, this disease commonly affects the mitral valve.

Heartworm can also cause heart disease but thankfully this parasite isn't present in the UK. However, it may be a concern if you plan to travel abroad with your dog, so make sure their worming treatment is up to date before you go.

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Which dog breeds are more prone to heart disease?

Chronic Valvular Disease in dogs

The risk of developing CVD increases as dogs get older, and smaller breeds such as miniature poodles, dachshunds, Cavalier King Charles spaniels and cocker spaniels are much more likely to develop this condition.

Dilated Cardiomyopathy in dogs

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is less common, but still affects around 5-10% of dogs. Primarily concerning larger breeds such as dobermans, great danes, and boxers, DCM occurs when the chambers of the heart enlarge and the muscles become stretched and weak. This prevents the heart from pumping blood properly. DCM can have no symptoms at all.

What are the early signs and symptoms of heart disease in dogs?

The symptoms of heart disease in dogs include:

- Lack of energy
- Fainting and collapse
- Frequent coughing
- Breathing difficulties
- Reduced appetite
- Sudden weight gain or loss
- Swollen stomach

One of the most common early symptoms of CVD is a heart murmur - an abnormal sound (such as whooshing or swishing) made by turbulent blood flow through the heart. Not all heart murmurs are signs of heart disease but they can be an early warning sign. This is why it is important that your pet has an annual check-up each year. If a heart murmur is detected, it may still be nothing to worry about, but your vet can advise you on whether they believe further testing may be worthwhile.

Is heart disease in dogs treatable?

Sadly, heart disease can't be cured, but with early diagnosis and treatment, dogs can still maintain a good quality of life. Several medications are available to manage and slow down the progression of heart disease and heart failure – **your vet** will be able to suggest the best option for your individual dog.

Diet and treating heart disease in dogs

Nutrition can also play an important part in increasing their quality of life despite their condition. Sodium, taurine, fatty acids, and antioxidants are all considered important for dogs with heart disease, so opt for a balanced dog food that has all these nutrients.

Heart Disease in Dogs (cont)

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How to prevent heart disease in dogs

Unfortunately, most forms of heart disease can't be prevented (except for heartworm disease). Early diagnosis and treatment are the only way to manage the condition and improve your pet's quality of life. Attending regular health checks will allow your vet to listen for an irregular heartbeat or heart murmurs, which can indicate underlying heart disease.

Several studies such as the EPIC trial in 2018 have demonstrated that outcomes for heart disease are much improved when treatment is started early (often before symptoms are significant or even noticeable at home). If your vet detects a heart murmur (which may be an early symptom of heart disease) then it is important that follow up tests are conducted to see if your dog would benefit from early treatment.

Ask your vet about our Medivet Healthcare Plan which includes regular health checks and other benefits.

If you need more information about heart disease in dogs, contact your vet.



****POEM OF A DOG**

Contributed by Carol Lamb

I am the one who always waits for
you.
Your car has a special sound that I
have imprinted on my senses and I
can recognize it among a thousand.

Your steps have a magic timbre.
Your voice is music to my ears.
If I see your joy, it makes me
happy!

Your scent is the best.
Your presence is what moves my
senses.

Your awakening wakes me up.
I watch you sleep and for me you
are my everything.

Your gaze is a ray of light.
Your hands on me have the
lightness of peace and the sublime
display of infinite love.

When you go out, I feel a huge
emptiness in my heart.

I wait for you again and again.

I am the one who will wait for you
all my life today, tomorrow and
always:

I am your dog!

Author Unknown



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



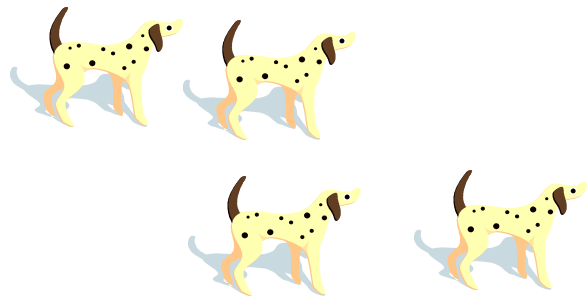
Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be
Tuesday, 3/14 —7:30

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 3/14 —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