



# The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

April 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 Spring



***It's that time of year to get folks to help  
with next year's shows.***

***We need volunteers!***  
***We have an opportunity to cross-train***

**Co-Show Chair to work with Chair (Arvind)**

**OBED/Rally Show Chair**

**Trophy Chair**

**Premium List Coordinator**

**Contact Denise Gaboury—352-316-4643**

## News From AKC

Published [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)



### Fast CAT

Sure, you think your dog is fast. But have you ever wondered *how* fast? Can your dog outrun Usain Bolt, who has been called the fastest runner in the world? They just might: Usain's fastest time has been clocked at almost 28 mph – yet dogs have been known to reach speeds of 35-45 mph.

Well, you no longer have to wonder how fast your dog can run. Fast CAT® – which stands for Coursing Ability Test – is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time, chasing a lure. It's over before you know it — and it's nothing short of awe-inspiring to watch your dog run at top speed, ears back, eyes focused, legs strong. And if your dog is *really* fast, you might earn bragging rights if their name makes onto our list of top 20 fastest dogs by breed! All dogs can participate in Fast CAT, whether purebred or mixed breed.

Although it is a relatively new sport, its popularity has spread like wildfire. No wonder. According to one AKC official, “The Fast CAT® provides a terrific opportunity to introduce new participants to the world of AKC sports as one of the few events where all that is needed to compete is a dog's natural instincts.”

### Competition Eligibility

To participate in FAST CAT®, your dog must be:

- At least 12 months of age.
  - Have an AKC number via **one** of the following:
- AKC Registration as one of the AKC's recognized breeds.
- AKC Canine Partners, which is for mixed-breed dogs and dogs ineligible for AKC registration.

Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program, which is for purebred dogs that cannot be fully registered with the AKC to participate in AKC events.

Foundation Stock Service®(FSS), which is for recorded breeds on the road to full AKC recognition.

### In addition:

Spayed and neutered dogs are eligible to compete in these events and are welcome.

- Dogs with Limited or Conditional Registration are eligible to participate.
- Females in season are not eligible to participate.

An inspection committee will also inspect each dog for lameness and fitness to compete.

New! If you need to have a correction made to your dog's record, there is a new and convenient way to let us know. Please use the new Fast CAT Correction Request Form for faster service.

### Actions to Help AKC CAT and Fast CAT Clubs Impacted by COVID19

The AKC Performance Events Department has been processing numerous event cancellations as the COVID19 virus continues to spread throughout the country. Clubs and participants are encouraged to view the AKC Performance Events Cancellation Listing page to see which events have been cancelled.





#### GGDFA board meeting minutes

No official board meeting this week due 4 members in attendance.

#### GGDFA general meeting minutes 3-14-2023

General meeting called to order at 7:31 pm  
11 members in attendance.

#### Treasurers Report (Doris):

Total income from the 2023 dog show  
\$46,964.52

\$40,214.52 from entries  
\$300 from the photographer  
\$144 from catalog sales  
\$150 from the clothing sale  
\$1140 from raffle basket sales (\$1500  
was donated to the St. Francis House Pet Care)  
\$3771 from the gate on Saturday  
\$1245 from the gate on Sunday

All bills are paid, and accounts are balanced.  
The IRS double payment has been resolved.

#### Fit Dog Club (Macy):

Our application to become a Fit Dog club has been submitted to AKC for approval.

There are no charges or fees to become a Fit Dog club.

We as a club have to host 4 group walks of a minimum 1 mile per year to keep our qualification.

Proposed dates for a group walk are 3-25-23 or 3-26-23 possibly at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala in the evening after the fastCAT event at GODC.

NEW BUSINESS (Macy and Jeremy with group discussion):

Pet-Palooza event (Ocala Pet Expo) at the World Equestrian Center June 3-4, 2023

purebred dog sports. This would be for community outreach and advertising for

our club in an effort to increase membership and community involvement.

10 X 10 booth offered with a discount for non-profit organizations \$200.

10 X 20 booth for \$650. Tables chairs, online and print advertising package available for additional \$200.

#### Performance dog event:

Proposed for late summer/fall 2023

Advertised as for beginners and experienced fanciers.

Similar to the GODC even in held March

#### Demonstrations?

Offering events such as: Fast CAT, CGC, ATT, farm dog, barn hunt, fit dog, obedience/rally, b-match, 4-6 month beginner puppy, K9 partner registration information

Possible location: GODC, Marge's friend has a large open field in High Springs  
Mini Meet the Breeds event:

Location proposal- One Love Café  
For fall 2023

Club members represent their breeds and invite trusted non-member individuals with their dog breeds.

Invite local vendors, veterinary clinics, UF Animal Hospital/Vet school, games/prizes, demonstrations, raffle, ask breed clubs to sponsor the event to help cover the costs.

"Pal-entines" Day event in February 2024 for community involvement and outreach for the club.

Fall festival pet event in fall 2023.

Reminder for members to submit new titles from 2022-2023 to Macy to get your plaque and recognition.

#### New member applications:

Patricia Bartlett (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

John DiGiorgio (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

Lynne Weiser (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

Movement to adjourn meeting at 9 pm by Macy, seconded by Debbie Branneck.

Submitted by Jeremy White.



## **Do Dogs like Music?**

Published Dogster.com  
Jessica Peralta

Dogs can't tell us if they like music, but studies show that music may help calm them.

Music has an undeniable impact on humans. But do dogs like music? Considering that dogs can't tell us exactly how they feel, the answer isn't conclusive. But some studies have shown positive responses in dogs.

It's a tough question to answer, says dog behavior expert and VCA Animal Hospitals Vet Tech Ali Creighton, because there is no proven way to determine whether a dog is actually enjoying music. "Studies have shown positive responses in behavior and body language, but this is something that is going to vary dog to dog," she says. "Just like people, dogs have preferences too."

Derrick Garrett, Zoundz Music for Pets founder and CEO, is more certain.

"Of course, they do," he says. "But it must be the right music."

### **What kind of music do dogs like?**

While dogs don't necessarily respond to specific genres of music, they respond to specific parameters within a song, including tempo, chord progressions and instrumentation, Derrick says. Some classical music and sub-genres contain all the calming parameters for dog relaxation, but these can technically fall under any genre or sub-genre of music.

Empirical data has shown that dogs have a preference for classical and, interestingly enough, reggae music, says Ali.

What does a preference look like? One study evaluated dogs' heart rates in response to different types of music.

### **Calming music for dogs**

Relaxing music for dogs may help with stressful situations or anxious dogs.

"Music can absolutely affect dogs' behavior," Ali says. "Response and preference to music will vary from dog to dog. Common responses include relaxation and in some cases, a decrease in anxiety."

Each song in the Zoundz Music For Pets repertoire is tested to calm dogs in stressful environments or circumstances,

including shelters, veterinary hospitals, boarding and daycare facilities, explains Derrick.

A quick search will show online playlists like "Calming Music for Dogs" or "Dog Music" can work.

"A lot of those playlists will consist of soft, classical music," she says. "As long as your dog is not displaying a negative reaction to music (anxiety, fear, etc.), owners can feel free to try them out."

Some pet parents may also wonder if there's music to help dogs sleep. Derrick says no.

"Within the species-specific music parameters, there is some flexibility to lower the music tempo to a rate that could lead to your dog sleeping," he says. "Still, I would not venture to say there is specific music for dogs to sleep to."

### **How music can help dogs**

Music can be used for training sessions. For example, Ali says, if you're working to train your dog to go lie on her bed and calm down, play music during this training exercise.

"Eventually, in conjunction with the learned command, your dog can begin to associate the music with the desired behavior," she says.

"Additionally, playing music for your dog can be a form of enrichment — as long as your dog is not showing a negative response to music playing." Whether it's a stressful situation or a training session, the right kind of music may be able to help your dog relax. Experiment with playing different types of music in different situations to see if it helps calm your dog. But be careful with playing music too loud.

Ali says, "Dogs can be sensitive to extremely loud volumes, so be sure to practice common-sense volume safety just as you would for yourself."



## Easter Safety for Dogs (excerpts)

Published AKC.org

As you're getting ready for the arrival of the Easter Bunny, don't forget to plan for how your dog will be involved in the holiday. Many of our favorite Easter treats and traditions can be dangerous for our dogs, but with some preparation, you'll be able to enjoy your family traditions and keep your dog safe at the same time. You can even find ways to safely involve your pet in the day's festivities.

### Don't Share Your Meal

Unfortunately, most of our favorite Easter treats are dangerous for our dogs. Some of these foods, like chocolate bunnies, are toxic for dogs. Other Easter foods may be dangerous because they are usually prepared with ingredients that are toxic for dogs, like onions, garlic, or xylitol. Other Easter snacks have high levels of salt or sugar, which can upset your dog's stomach and aren't healthy for them to eat.

Some common Easter foods which should be kept away from dogs include:

- Deviled eggs
- Ham
- Cookies
- Cakes
- Chocolate eggs
- Candy
- Mashed/twice-baked potatoes
- Carrot cake
- Green beans (if prepared with butter or spices); plain green beans are safe to share with your dog.

If you are going to have guests over for Easter brunch or dinner, be sure to keep an eye on your dog, as well as where people put plates to make sure they aren't left unaccompanied in a location where your dog can reach.

### Watch Your Glass

Many families enjoy having a drink at Easter but it's important to not let your dog have a sip. Alcohol is toxic to dogs. Make sure that you and your guests don't leave glasses containing alcohol on low coffee tables, on the floor, or anywhere else your dog can access it.

### Egg Hunt Dangers

Easter egg hunts are fun for kids and families, but it's a good idea to prevent your dog from getting involved. The energy of children running, laughing, yelling, and racing to grab eggs can be overstimulating for many dogs, who could begin to chase Easter egg hunters. Dogs may also grab eggs themselves. The excitement of the hunt could trigger resource guarding from dogs that might not want to relinquish the eggs they find.

The primary safety issue of Easter egg hunts for dogs is the plastic eggs, and everything put inside them. Dogs can grab and open the eggs, possibly chewing or swallowing the plastic, which could cut their mouth or cause an obstruction. Hidden chocolate and candy in Easter eggs can be especially harmful. Easter eggs also often come with small plastic and rubber toys which, if ingested, could be hazardous to your dog. It is best to keep your dog away from any egg hunts by keeping them on a leash or in another area of your home.

### Avoid Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies are beautiful but they shouldn't be brought into homes with pets. Lilies are very popular gifts during the Easter season, but they are highly toxic to cats and dogs and can lead to kidney failure.

### Supervise Easter Baskets

If you're going to be creating and gifting Easter baskets, keep the baskets in a location where your dog cannot reach them. Easter baskets may contain plastic grass, which, if eaten by dogs, can lead to an obstruction and require emergency veterinary care.

A safer alternative is to purchase decorative Easter basket grass made from recycled paper. Consider making your dog their own festive dog-friendly Easter basket!





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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



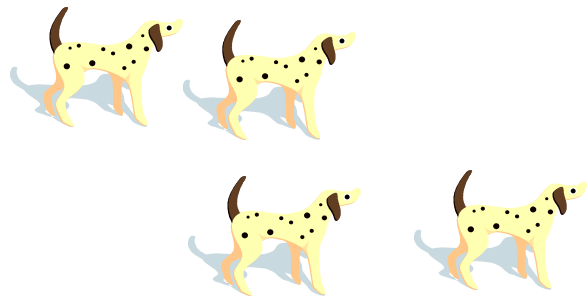
### Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be  
**Tuesday, 4/11 — 7:30**

**Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 4/11 — 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