



# The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

May 2023

Newsletter for Dog Lovers

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

[www.ggdfa.org](http://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

## April Showers Bring May Flowers!



*In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.*

*Edward Hoagland—Writer*

## News From AKC

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



.By AKC Staff  
4/13/2023

### Ticks on Dogs: What to Look For

We all know that spring and summer are seasons to be on high alert for ticks. Dogs are particularly susceptible to tick bites and can also carry ticks into the house. [Tick-borne diseases](#)—such as [Lyme disease](#), canine ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and [canine anaplasmosis](#)—can affect both humans and dogs.

And although ticks are common throughout the country, people in some states are more at risk than others, according to the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#). If you live in a state where Lyme disease cases are high or on the rise, you should be extra vigilant, take preventative measures, and [check your dog](#) and yourself for ticks frequently.

### Knowing Which Ticks to Look Out For

There are at least fifteen species of tick in the United States. A few of these are considered harmful to humans and dogs :

**American Dog Tick** is the most common tick in Pennsylvania, found throughout the state. It's also common in Southern states and coastal areas and is one of the most [common ticks in Virginia](#). Although not a transmitter of Lyme disease, these ticks can transmit other serious, often deadly diseases to humans and dogs.

**Lone Star Tick** lives in the underbrush in wooded areas and along rivers and creeks, although in Pennsylvania, it's been reported near urban areas. It's also found in eastern areas of Virginia, east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. [Lone star ticks](#) can transmit diseases, including ehrlichiosis and tularemia, to dogs and humans.

**Black-legged Tick** is commonly called the “deer tick” and can carry Lyme disease. It's found all over the Northeast and has recently expanded its range

Infestations have been found in several parts of Pennsylvania—north, central, and south—and northern parts of Virginia, including suburban areas.

### How to Remove a Tick From a Dog

It's important to [remove the tick](#) promptly and correctly. Use rubbing alcohol on the area and delicately remove the tick with [tick removal tweezers](#), making sure you also remove the head. If you're unsure how to do this properly, have your vet show you. Then you'll be ready for next time—and there will most likely be a next time.

### Can I Prevent Tick-Borne Diseases?

While you can't wipe ticks off the face of the earth, you can take [preventative measures against ticks](#).

- Check your dog for ticks daily, or more if they spend a lot of time outside
- Keep yard mown and remove tall weeds
- To protect yourself, wear long pants and socks when out in woods or fields

Your vet can recommend topical or systemic [tick-control treatments](#). Be diligent and make sure to keep treatments up-to-date. Have your vet test for tick-borne diseases annually, even if your dog shows no symptoms.



# **Thunderstorm, Thunder and Lightning Safety for Dogs**

By [Sandra C. Mitchell, DVM, DABVP](#)  
Petmd.com

Even before you hear the first rumble, you can tell just by looking at your dog that a thunderstorm is brewing. Many dogs become very frightened with even the smallest storm. An upset pet may cause damage to your home or even run outside, where they can become lost or get struck by lightning. And what about the times when you're walking your dog and get caught in a sudden thunderstorm?

Here's what you need to know about keeping your pets safe during thunderstorm season.\

## **How to Prepare for Thunderstorms With Pets**

Spring and summer are thunderstorm season across much of the United States, so no matter what the weather forecast says, it's a good idea to stay prepared for big storms. Here are some tips to help your pet safely weather the storm.

### **Bring your pets inside**

Your pets will be safer inside, even if they don't like being cooped up. This includes cats that are normally outdoors during the day. Cats will sometimes try to hide under a vehicle for safety, but try to bring them indoors before a storm hits. In the event that lightning hits the car, your cat could be injured or killed by the electrical surge.

This is true even for pets that have outdoor shelter, like a dog or cat house. These are generally not considered to be safe in the event of a storm. Also, if your pet becomes anxious because of the storm, they may roam around looking for safer territory and become lost. All things considered, having your pet safely confined indoors is the best plan—they can go back out when the storm has passed.

### **Remove metal collars/leashes/harnesses**

Metal can transmit electricity, which could worsen the effect of a lightning strike. This is why you should remove any collars and harnesses from your pet that contain metal. Also, if your pet becomes nervous during the storm and tries to hide behind furniture or squeeze into a tight corner, the metal on these wearables can injure your pet, damage your furnishings, or trap or restrain your pet.

As a rule, it's safest for your pet to spend the storm without any collar or gear, other than calming devices such as a ThunderShirt.

## **Make sure your pet is microchipped and your contact info is up to date**

All pets should wear some form of identification, just to be safe. A microchip is a safe, metal-free way to protect your pet. It's a chip that's about the size of a grain of rice that your veterinarian injects in much the same fashion as a vaccine.

Any vet's office or shelter has a small machine to scan microchips. When your pet is found and scanned, the microchip provides information you've saved in your microchip account, such as health concerns, necessary medications, and your contact information.

Unfortunately, many animals run away during storms—shelters often report a spike in missing pet reports in the days after a severe storm. Up to 80% of these animals are never reunited with their pet parents, so making sure your pet is indoors and equipped with microchip identification greatly increases the chances you will find them again.

## **Try calming products**

There are many products that can be used to help calm and relax your pet during a storm. It may take some experimentation to figure out which ones work for your pet. Some work great for some animals and not at all for others. Ask your vet for their recommendation to help identify what's best for your pet.

Cats may respond to pheromone diffusers and sprays such as [Feliway](#), and many dogs respond to anxiety vests such as the [ThunderShirt](#) or another brand. Try a number of products until you find a product or combination of products that works for your pet.

## **Create a safe space for your pets**

Creating a safe space for your pet is a great strategy to comfort them during a storm. Many dogs like crates covered by blankets, which resembles a safe, cozy den. Give your dog something they enjoy, like a [KONG](#) treat toy or another chew toy. For cats, give them a cat tree or other spots where they can hide.

## **Thunderstorm, Thunder and Lightning Safety for Dogs (CONT)**

If possible, avoid getting stressed out yourself—your pets can feel that you're stressed and interpret this to mean that danger is nearby. You may think it's calming to hold your pet and to keep saying, "It's okay." But since this is not something you do on a daily basis, they may interpret it the opposite way you intend: there is danger.

If you are relaxed, your pet is also likely to stay calm. After all, if you have made the situation as safe as possible, what is there to stress over?

### **How to Keep Pets Safe During Lightning and Thunderstorms**

Thunderstorms are an inevitable feature of summer, but there are steps you can take before or even during a storm to keep your pet safe.

### **What if you're caught outside while walking your dog?**

Try to find a solid, enclosed structure like a house, vehicle, or shed where you can wait out the storm. If you are unable to get inside, stay away from trees or tall structures and don't climb on top of anything so you don't attract lightning.

If you find yourself in a field, crouch as low as possible until the storm passes. Do not lie flat on the ground. Avoid anything that might conduct electricity, such as metal fence posts or the undercarriage of a vehicle.

### **If you are inside when the storm starts, where in your house should you go?**

During a bad storm, look for an interior room without exterior windows and doors. Not only could these be blown in by strong winds, but many also contain metal.

Do not run water and don't allow your pet to hide in the bathtub, as plumbing can also conduct electricity. Concrete floors may also allow a lightning strike to transmit, so keep your pet off any concrete floors. An interior bedroom is likely the safest location to weather the storm.

### **How soon should you let pets out again after the last thunder?**

It's usually safe to go back outside again once you have heard no thunder and seen no lightning for at least 30 minutes. Keep in mind that if you can hear thunder—even distantly—you could still be in danger. Lightning can strike as far away as 10 miles from storm clouds! When in doubt, wait it out.

Thunderstorms can be scary for both people and pets. However, it's important to remember that the chance of getting struck by lightning is extremely small, and there are many steps you can take to minimize the risks.

Bringing your pets indoors and keeping everyone as calm as possible goes a long way toward weathering the storm. Plan ahead, speak to your veterinarian, and have any supplies you might need on hand. Then sit back and watch nature's beauty at work, knowing you have taken all the appropriate steps to keep your family safe.



May 2023—Pet Holidays

Published 2023 Pet Holidays [ Pet Sitter's International

### **MONTH**

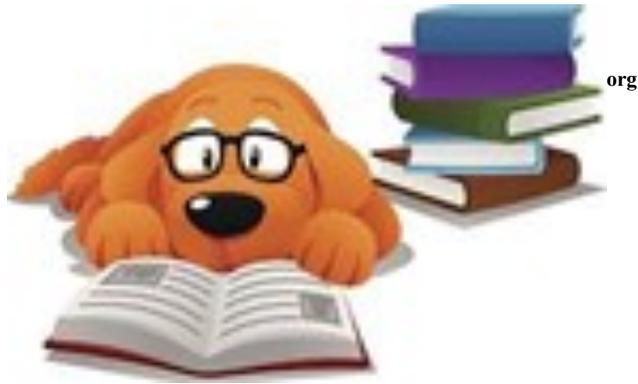
PSI's Pet Sitter Safety Month™  
National Pet Month  
Chip Your Pet Month  
Responsible Animal Guardian Month

### **DAYS**

May 3: National Specially-Abled Pets Day  
May 7: Mayday for Mutts  
May 8: National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day  
May 13: National Dog Mom's Day  
May 14: International Chihuahua Appreciation Day  
May 20: National Rescue Dog Day  
May 23: World Turtle Day

### **WEEK**

May 7-13: National Pet Week®; Be Kind to Animals Week®



#### 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

Proposal that we as a club reserve a booth to represent our club and 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

## <Minutes Continued

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.



GGDFA Board Meeting 4-17-23

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.

Arvind begins discussion on moving the show dates from January into February. This would involve separating from Lake Eustis and expanding the show to three days.

Discussed Disadvantages:

It could be difficult to find volunteers in our club for an additional show day.

Dog showing professionals have commented that the break between the Brookville show and our current show dates is nice.

Discussed Advantages:

There is a show pipeline in February from Atlanta to Lakeland. Our show would sit in the middle of both of those.

Our club would have full control over the judging panel.

We would have increased revenue from a three day show instead of a two day show.

By breaking from Lake Eustis, we would not have to split revenue/split expenses.

Jeremy brought up the idea of potentially having a separate weekend for performance events later in the year.

In January, we could limit the show to just conformation, which would add two additional rings.

Doris voiced that it could be helpful to create some parameters for Lake Eustis to meet to ensure the show runs more smoothly. (i.e. time limit to have judging panel ready)

After more discussion it was decided we would continue the Obedience and Rally Shows on the January Cluster along with Conformation. And research a separate performance weekend as new events. Claire will notify Phil and Susan about the January Cluster.

Arvind requested that we set up a “selfie” space in the building and at the Obedience ring for folks to take personal (non-judge) camera shots with their dogs and ribbons.

Motion to send a check directly to Hilary Hynes for \$1000.00, so she will get 100% of it. Claire will contact Pati Colvin to confirm.

Motion made by Claire and seconded by Jeremy.

Motion to approve judge’s room bags and chocolate for show (will request Kathy Davis to coordinate).

Motion made by Claire and seconded by Jeremy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Mignin and Claire Hedrick.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



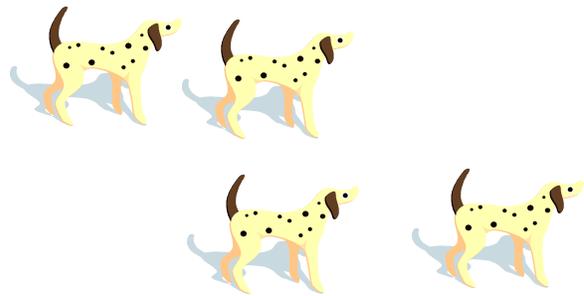
### Secretary's Notice of GGDFA Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFA club will be  
**Tuesday, 5/09 — 7:30**

**Next Board Meeting is Tuesday 5/09 — 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