



The Greater Gainesville Dog Fanciers' Association, Inc.

May 2011

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
7:30 pm at the United Way
Building, 6031 NW 1st Street,
Gainesville, FL

Board Meeting Dates:

4th Tuesday each month

Club Officers

President — John McKamey
1st VP — Pam Rice
2nd VP — Denise Gaboury
Secretary — Ellen Eriksson
Treasurer — Doris Horton

Club Directors

Barbara Matthews
Russ Milner
Brenda Satterfield
Carl Siflinger

Newsletter Editor

Claire Hedrick

Membership Chair

Brenda Satterfield

NEW BOARD - Congratulations

Officers

President - John McKamey
1st Vice President - Pam Rice
2nd Vice President - Denise Gaboury
Treasurer - Doris Horton
Secretary - Ellen Eriksson

Board of Directors

Barbara Matthews
Russ Milner
Brenda Satterfield
Carol Siflinger

**IMPORTANT!!! May General Meeting Location
Back at the United Way Building!!!**



Ellen Eriksson WELCOMES New Baby "Porter"

TRACKING

Published www.akc.org

The first tracking test (as part of the UD title) was held on September 13, 1937, as reported in "The Story of Dog Obedience" by Blanche Saunders. The first tracking test at which a dog could earn a TD title was October 7, 1947. Until that time, tracking was part of the Utility Dog title. The TDX test was first offered in 1980 and the VST test offered in 1995.

April 10, 1936 - the first official "Regulations and Standard for Obedience Test Field Trials" was published. The first licensed test held in accordance with these regulations took place on June 13, 1936, and appropriately enough, was held with the North Westchester Kennel Club all-breed show at Mount Kisco, New York.

Tracking was originally part of the Utility class, and a dog had to pass a separate tracking test in order to earn a UD. For roughly the first ten years, tracking received one paragraph of description in the regulations, which set out the barest basics of length and age of the track. On the day of the test, the tracklayers were to walk the tracks, deposit the article, and retrace their steps to remove all but the two starting flags. By 1938, it was added that the tracklayer could not wear rubber-soled shoes, and the dog had to be on a 30-40 foot leash and work without help from the handler. By 1943, the tracklayers were required to follow the track, deposit the article, and walk directly off the course.

In 1947, tracking was made a separate class, and more detail began to appear in the regulations: The tracklayers were required to wear leather-soled shoes until they deposited the article, whereupon they were to put on a pair of rubbers and walk off the course at a right angle. The article was to be a leather glove or wallet. Finally, the dog was permitted one additional chance to take the scent between the starting flags, provided he had not passed the second flag. It is obvious from the changes in the regulations that there must have been considerable discussion of how a track was to be properly laid by the tracklayer. Tracking and advanced tracking regulations were destined eventually to swell, from the original single paragraph of description in 1936, to forty-five pages today.

As early as 1947, and encouraged by Obedience Advisory Committees, the tracking fraternity urged AKC to approve a more advanced type of tracking test that would test a dog's ability to track a person over a course that had aged for at least three hours and for about twice the distance required by the Tracking Test. This advanced test, called Tracking Dog Excellent, was approved by the AKC in 1979 and became effective on March 1, 1980. The first TDX dog was a Dachshund, Gretel Von Bupp Murr UD, who passed the Tracking Dog Excellent Test on March 15 of that year. This dog was owned and handled by George Richards of Sun City Center, Florida.

From the beginning of the sport, all tracking tests were held in fields and open spaces. Due to urban pressures, these are fast disappearing in many areas of the country. A new test, called Variable Surface Tracking, was designed to utilize industrial and office parks, college campuses, etc.

In 1995, Merrill Cohen laid the number one track at the first Variable Surface Tracking Test on a beautiful, clear morning in Ellicott City, Maryland. Darlene Ceretto competed on the track laid by Cohen, track one (of six). "The tracks were the epitome of what VST is all about," said Ceretto. "Although none of us actually passed, all the dogs did a remarkable and credible job, working with determination and perseverance."

The following weekend Ceretto became the first exhibitor to put the VST title on a dog, at an event held by the Northwest Obedience Club of Glenview, Illinois. Her female German Shepherd Dog Sealair's Raggedy Ann UD TDX, also became the first CT - Champion Tracker - a designation awarded to dogs with all three tracking titles.

What is Tracking?

Dogs have a very keen sense of smell – 100,000 times stronger than humans! Dogs with the help of their noses are often used to find lost people and animals, drugs, avalanche and disaster victims, and even to detect cancer! AKC Tracking is a canine sport that demonstrates a dog's natural ability to recognize and follow a scent and is the foundation of canine search and rescue work. Unlike obedience and rally trials, where dogs respond to the handler's commands, in tracking the dog is completely in charge, for only he knows how to use his nose to find and follow the track. For many, the greatest pleasure of tracking is the hours spent outside training and interacting with their dogs. The tracking community is known for its camaraderie and they all share in the excitement of a "pass" and the disappointment of a "fail."

How Do I Get Started in Tracking?

Getting started in tracking is easy and you won't find a more willing participant than your dog! A puppy instinctively uses his nose – training your dog to track simply hones his natural ability. And since all dogs have a natural ability to follow a scent, any breed is capable of learning to track. Your first step is finding a tracking class or an instructor who is experienced in the sport. Some AKC-affiliated clubs offer tracking classes and some are "Tracking Only" clubs. To find a club in your area, go to the AKC website, Club Search or Training Resources. Tracking requires very little equipment. You just need a harness, a 20-to-40 foot lead, a few flags to mark your track, and an open grassy area free of obstacles such as roads, ditches or woods. Before you enter a Tracking Dog Test (TD), you must have the dog certified by an AKC-approved or provisional judge. This certification form must accompany the entry form. Once you and your dog are ready, find a tracking event in your area by going to the AKC Events Calendar on the AKC website.

There is a great demand for tracking tests and the number of dogs that can be judged in one day is very limited. As a result, there are more entries than spaces available. For this reason tracking is not open to dogs listed in AKC Canine Partners at this time.

Tracking Titles

A dog can earn three AKC Tracking titles, each with an increased degree of difficulty. The **TD (Tracking Dog)** title must be earned before competing for a **TDX (Tracking Dog Excellent)** or **VST (Variable Surface Tracker)** title.

A **Champion Tracker (CT)** is awarded only to those dogs that have earned all three tracking titles – TD, TDX and VST. If a dog is awarded the CT title, he is among the elite of those active in tracking. To earn a tracking title, a dog needs to pass the test in which he is exhibiting only once.

Tracking Dog (TD)

The TD track is from 440-to-500 yards long with 3-to-5 turns (or change in direction), and aged from a half-hour to two hours. A dog must indicate a glove or wallet placed at the end of the track. Tracks are plotted in an open field with uniform cover. There are no obstacles. The start of the track will be marked with a flag. A second flag is placed 30 yards from the start flag to indicate the direction of the first leg of the track. There are no other flags in the field.

Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)

The TDX track is 800-to-1000 yards long with 5-to-7 turns, and aged from 3-to-5 hours. The track also has two sets of cross (diversionary) tracks and has some of the aforementioned obstacles. The start is marked with a single flag and the dog must determine the direction of the first leg. There are four dissimilar articles for each track, one at the start and three more on the track.

Variable Surface Tracking (VST)

A VST track is from 600-to-800 yards long, with 4-to-8 turns, and aged from 3-to-5 hours. The articles must be one each of leather, cloth, plastic and metal. The VST track must also contain three different surfaces with one turn on a non-vegetated surface such as concrete. This test demonstrates the utility of the tracking dog to work in an urban environment.

How a Tracking Test Works

For the host club and the two judges, a tracking test is a two-day commitment, regardless of weather. Tracking tests are usually held on Sunday, but the judges and tracklayers spend most of Saturday plotting a track for each dog. The judges draw charts of each track indicating landmarks that will allow them to locate the track with flags that mark the turns. The flags will be removed when the tracklayers walk the track the morning of the test. On the morning of the test, the exhibitors gather for a “draw,” which determines the order dogs are to exhibit. After the tracks have aged the required time, the exhibitor puts the harness on the dog, attaches a 20-to-40-foot lead and begins the track. The dog is not allowed off lead at any time. The dog must follow the path the tracklayer has walked and find the article(s) dropped along the track. Judges follow the dog and handler to determine if the dog is on or off the track. If the dog is off the track and the judges determine the dog cannot return, one judge will blow the whistle signaling the dog has failed. There is no time limit as long as the dog is working. If the dog follows the track and finds the article(s) placed on the track, he earns the tracking title for the level at which he is exhibiting.



SUMMERTIME!!



Avoiding Heat Related Injuries in Dogs

Nate Baxter DVM
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The first thing that needs to be understood is that dogs and people are different enough that most of the info cannot cross lines. I do not profess to know what the appropriate procedures for people other than what I learned in first aid.

Dogs do not lose enough electrolytes thru exercise to make a difference, but if the dog gets truly into heat stroke the physiology changes will make them necessary. BUT oral replacement at that point is futile, they need intravenous fluids and electrolytes and lots of it.

Cooling: Evaporative cooling is the most efficient mean of cooling.

However, in a muggy environment, the moisture will not evaporate so cooling does not happen well. I cool with the coldest water I can find and will use ice depending on the situation. The best way is to run water over the dog, so there is always fresh water in contact with the skin. When you immerse a dog in a tub, the water trapped in the hair coat will get warm next to the dog, and act as an insulator against the cool water and cooling stops. If you can run water over the dog and place it in front of a fan that is the best. Misting the dog with water will only help if you are in a dry environment or in front of a fan. Just getting the dog wet is not the point, you want the water to be cool itself, or to evaporate.

For MOST situations all you will need to do is get the dog in a cooler, or in the cab of the truck with the air conditioning on (driving around so the truck does not overheat and the AC is more efficient). Up to a couple of years ago, I was very concerned about my dogs getting too hot in the back of my black pickup with a black cap. New white truck fixed a lot of that problem. When I had one dog I just pulled the wire crate out of the car and put it in some shade and hopefully a breeze. But having 2 dogs and running from one stake to another, that was not feasible. So I built a platform to put the wire crates on, this raises the dog up in the truck box where the air flow is better. Then I placed a 3 speed box fan in front blowing on the dogs with a foot of space to allow

better airflow. I purchased a power inverter that connects to the battery and allows the 3 speed fan to run from the truck power. It has an automatic feature that prevents it from draining the battery. When I turned that fan on medium I would find that the dogs were asleep, breathing slowly and appeared very relaxed and comfortable in a matter of 20 minutes or less, even on very hot muggy days.

I purchased those cooling pads that you soak in cold water, but found that the dogs would not lay on them. I would hold them on the back of a dog that just worked to get a quick cool, but have not use them for years. I also bought a pair of battery operated fans but found them pretty useless. Spend your money on the power inverter and get a real fan.

Watching temperature: If you feel your dog is in danger of heat injury, check its temp and write it down. Keep checking the temp every 3 minutes. I recommend to get a "rectal glass thermometer. The digital ones for the drug store I have found to be very unreliable, Don't forget to shake it down completely each time, sounds silly, but when are worried about your companion, things tend to get mixed up. This is VERY IMPORTANT**once the COOLING EFFORTS. The cooling process will continue even though you have stopped. If the temp starts at 106.5, and then next time it drops to 105.5, stop cooling the dog, dry it off, and continue monitoring. You will be amazed how it continues to go down. If you do not stop until the temp is 102, the temp will drop way too low. I cannot emphasize this point enough.

When the dog is so heated that it is panting severely, only let it have a few laps of water. Water in the stomach does not cool the dog, you just need to keep the mouth wet so the panting is more effective.

Do not worry about hydration until the temp has started down. A dog panting heavily taking in large amounts of water is a risk of bloat.

Due to the heavy panting they will swallow air, mixed with a large amount of water they can bloat. Once the temp is going down and panting has slowed to more normal panting then allow water. The dog will rehydrate it self after temp is normal. If the dog has a serious problem and even though you have gotten the temp normal, get the dog to a vet, as it can still need IV fluids and some medication. Also, a case of heat stroke can induce a case of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis

(not parvo), with a ton of very bloody diarrhea and a lot of fluid and electrolyte loss. These cases need aggressive treatment.

The best method of treatment is prevention. Learn to watch your dog, and see the changes in the size of the tongue, and how quickly it goes down. Learn our dogs response to the different environments, and be careful when you head south for an early season hunt test or trial. I have been to Nashville at the end of May, only 5 hours away, but the difference in temp and humidity did effect the dogs as they were used to more spring weather in Ohio. Try different things in training to help the dog cool and learn what works better. Another very important point=> Do not swim your hot dog to cool it then put in put in a box/ tight crate. Remember, evaporation can not take place in a tight space, and the box will turn into a sauna and you will cook your dog.

Carry a stake out chain, and let the dog cool and dry before putting it up. I demonstrated this lesson this spring with my 10 monthold pup.

After doing a 15 minute session in yard drill on a warm 70+ degree day, she was panting pretty hard and was pretty hot. She was OK but it was time to stop. Just for the heck of it I took her temp. She was 103.6, above normal but too bad for a dog that had just finished working. In my back yard I have a 300 gallon Rubbermaid tub filled with water. I took her to it and she jumped in and out 3-4 times. She appeared totally improved, tongue was much

smaller, and eyes brighter and her full spring was back into her step. So I re-took her temp and it was 104.2, so even though she looked better she was hotter. This is a perfect lesson to show not get a hot dog wet and then put them in a box. The water on her skin caused the blood vessels to constrict, decreasing blood flow to the skin. Therefore the hot blood was shunted back to the dog's core and retained the heat. You may have felt the same thing, after exercising but still being very warm, take a shower and get cooled off

but as soon as you turn the shower off you start sweating again.

I know this is a bit long, but hopefully this is easy to understand and helps provide some useful information.

Remember: Prevention, learn your dog. It is worth the time and effort.



Not the least hard thing to bear when they go from us, these quiet friends, is that they carry away with them so many years of our own lives.

John Galsworthy



*"Ladron" Acosta Mobster's Ladron Bueno
5/1/2000 - 3/26/2011
Owned & Loved by Grace Acosta*



*"Blue" Januk's Blueprint V Adolfe
8/13/1997 - 4/9/2011
Owned & Loved by Janet Fletcher*

Also in our hearts:

Also Loved & Missed

Kathy Davis' Schipperkes "Celeste" & "Star"

Carol Lamb's Beardie "Sarah Louise"

*“Until one has loved an animal a part
Of one’s soul remains unawakened”
Anatole France*

AKC Mission Statement

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.



DOG SHOW	TYPE	CITY	SHOW	CLOSES
Dog Training Club Of Tampa	AG	Palmetto	Sun 05/29/2011	Sat 05/14
Dog Training Club Of Tampa	AG	Palmetto	Mon 05/30/2011	Sat 05/14
Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	RLY	Tallahassee	Sat 06/04/2011	Wed 05/18
Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	O	Tallahassee	Sat 06/04/2011	Wed 05/18
Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	O	Tallahassee	Sat 06/04/2011	Wed 05/18
Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	RLY	Tallahassee	Sat 06/04/2011	Wed 05/18
Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	O	Tallahassee	Sun 06/05/2011	Wed 05/18
Tallahassee Dog Obedience Club	RLY	Tallahassee	Sun 06/05/2011	Wed 05/18
Indian River Coon Hunters Association	CHBS	Scottsmoor	Wed 06/08/2011	Pending
Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club	AG	Brooksville	Fri 06/10/2011	Wed 05/25
Obedience Training Club Of Palm Beach County	O	Fort Pierce	Sat 06/11/2011	Wed 05/25
Obedience Training Club Of Palm Beach County	RLY	Fort Pierce	Sat 06/11/2011	Wed 05/25
Obedience Training Club Of Palm Beach County	RLY	Fort Pierce	Sat 06/11/2011	Wed 05/25
Obedience Training Club Of Palm Beach County	O	Fort Pierce	Sat 06/11/2011	Wed 05/25
Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club	AG	Brooksville	Sat 06/11/2011	Wed 05/25
Obedience Training Club Of Palm Beach County	O	Fort Pierce	Sun 06/12/2011	Wed 05/25
Obedience Training Club Of Palm Beach County	RLY	Fort Pierce	Sun 06/12/2011	Wed 05/25
Tampa Bay German Shepherd Dog Club	AG	Brooksville	Sun 06/12/2011	Wed 05/25
St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Palmetto	Sat 06/18/2011	Wed 06/01
Imperial Polk Obedience Club Of Lakeland, Florida	RLY	Lakeland	Sat 06/18/2011	Wed 06/01
Imperial Polk Obedience Club Of Lakeland, Florida	O	Lakeland	Sat 06/18/2011	Wed 06/01
St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Palmetto	Sun 06/19/2011	Wed 06/01
Imperial Polk Obedience Club Of Lakeland, Florida	RLY	Lakeland	Sun 06/19/2011	Wed 06/01
Imperial Polk Obedience Club Of Lakeland, Florida	O	Lakeland	Sun 06/19/2011	Wed 06/01
Suncoast Cocker Spaniel Club Of Greater Clearwater	S/SWPC	Orlando	Thu 06/23/2011	Wed 06/08
Central Florida Working Group Association	LB/SWPC	Orlando	Thu 06/23/2011	Wed 06/08
Central Florida Polish Lowland Sheepdog Fanciers	S/SWPC	Orlando	Thu 06/23/2011	Wed 06/08
Orlando Poodle Club, Inc.	S	Orlando	Thu 06/23/2011	Wed 06/08
Brevard Kennel Club	AB/JSHW	Orlando	Fri 06/24/2011	Wed 06/08
Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.	AB/JSHW	Orlando	Sat 06/25/2011	Wed 06/08
Space Coast Kennel Club Of Palm Bay	AB/JSHW	Orlando	Sun 06/26/2011	Wed 06/08
Jupiter-tequesta Dog Club, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW	West Palm Beach	Sat 07/16/2011	Wed 06/29
Jupiter-tequesta Dog Club, Inc.	RLY	West Palm Beach	Sat 07/16/2011	Wed 06/29
Obedience Club Of Daytona, Inc.	O	Deland	Sat 07/16/2011	Fri 06/24
Obedience Club Of Daytona	RLY	Deland	Sat 07/16/2011	Fri 06/24
Jupiter-tequesta Dog Club, Inc.	AB/O/JSHW	West Palm Beach	Sun 07/17/2011	Wed 06/29
Jupiter-tequesta Dog Club, Inc.	RLY	West Palm Beach	Sun 07/17/2011	Wed 06/29
Obedience Club Of Daytona, Inc.	O	Deland	Sun 07/17/2011	Fri 06/24
Obedience Club Of Daytona	RLY	Deland	Sun 07/17/2011	Fri 06/24

Secretary's Notice of GGDFa Meetings

The next General Meeting of the GGDFa will be **Tuesday, May 10th**, promptly at 7:30 pm at United Way Building, 6031 NW 1st Street, Gainesville, FL

The next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, **May 24th**.



Training Classes

Conformation classes—no classes at this time

Obedience/Rally classes— Thursdays 6:00 pm
with Denise Gaboury

LOCATION:
OAK HALL SCHOOL - Covered and lighted
Tower Road , Gainesville

Newsletter

The views and opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Editor or those of the GGDFa Officers and Board of Directors.

The editor reserves the right to edit or withhold copy that which may be detrimental to the standards of this publication. The deadline for submission of articles, announcements, and brags to the newsletter is the 15th of each month. Materials received after that date will appear in the following month's publication, depending upon space availability.

You can email the editor at claire@ggdfa.org.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED