



# The Golden Gait

Vol. 46, No. 06

June 2020



**Board Meeting**  
**Specialty**  
**Agility Trial**  
**Hunt Test**

**June 11 - 7pm**  
**Cancelled**  
**July 17-19**  
**Sept 12-13**

## What's **INSIDE** this ISSUE

- **President's Report**
- **New Members**
- **Summer Picnic**
- **Congratulations**
- **OFA Eye Registrations for Golden Retrievers > 8 yrs.**
- **GRPU Research Update**
- **Coping with Covid 19**
- **Five things to do while you #SITSTAYPLAY during the Coronavirus Pandemic**



# Hello Summer



# from the **PRESIDENT**

Thank you for electing me as your new President! I look forward to this next year. We have already been thinking of ways to make the future of your club more exciting. I am always open to ideas so please share if you have any. My email and phone number are listed at the end of this newsletter.

This is your board for the 2020/21 year with a newly elected President, Treasure and Board Member.

Marcy Kronz - President  
Candy Verduce - Vice President  
Roseanna Frankowski - Secretary  
Kathy Fertal - Treasurer

Board Members  
Denise McGill  
John Osheka  
Mellissa Voll-Stouffer

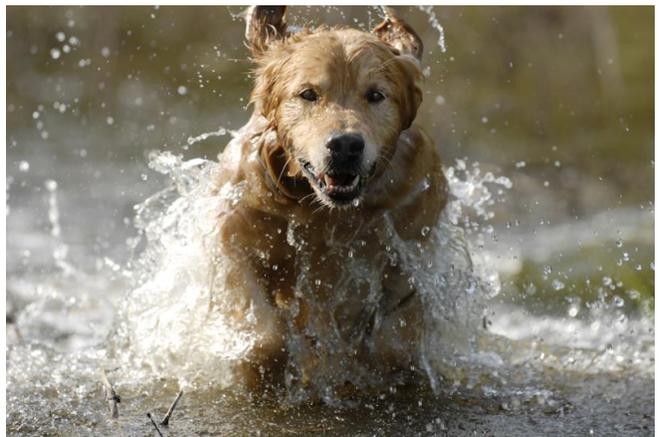
Unfortunately, the tough decision was made to cancel of specialty. I am optimistic that the clubs July agility trial and September hunt test will still happen. Please consider volunteering for one of both of these events. We are also investigating the ability to have a summer picnic. More information on that will be given as we get details.

Stay cool and healthy this summer.

Sincerely,

Marcy Kronz  
President

**STAY COOL**



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- **Jenn and Ryan Retter**, New Kensington PA. Jenn and Ryan attended the Christmas party and Halloween party at Misty Pines. They have an 18 month female named Ruby and they are interested in field, obedience, agility, therapy and possibly conformation. Sponsors are Candy Verduce and Roseanna Frankowski.



- **Sarah Stevenson**, Morgantown, WV. Sarah has two goldens, and is interested in field and conformation. She has worked as the steward at our specialties for several years and also worked at the hunt test in September. Her sponsors are Pat Depp and Sheryl Cooper.

• **Patricia Flanagan**, Kinsman, OH. Pat has six goldens and is interested in field and conformation. She has worked at the June specialties for 10+ years and also worked at the hunt test in September. Her sponsors are Pat Depp and Sheryl Cooper.



## The following person is applying to become a GPGRC member.

Danielle Reilly, 14 Rizzi Dr., Irwin, PA 15642. She has two goldens, aged 4 and 6, and is interested in obedience, agility and therapy. She attended the awards banquet and Christmas party. Her sponsors are Denise McGill and Marcy Kronz.

If there are any objections to this application, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roseanna Frankowski  
GPGRC secretary



# Picnic

As you are probably aware, we had to cancel the awards banquet due to the Covid-19 shutdown of most establishments. Now that things are starting to open up again, the board of directors is looking into the possibility of having a summer picnic / awards banquet in order to recognize the hard work of many of our members last year and to welcome new members this year. As details are gathered we will give more information.

## NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2020

President -	Marcy Kronz
Vice-President -	Candy Verduce
Treasurer -	Kathy Fertal
Secretary -	Roseanna Frankowski
Director -	John Osheka
Director -	Denise McGill
Director -	Mellissa Voll-Stouffer



## CONGRATULATIONS

### Owner Trained and Handled by Marcy Kronz

Smartee - Ruffwater Not Just A Pretty Face RN BN, JH, WC, CGC new Senior Hunter

Chickadee - Ruffwater Ready to Run DJ 2 junior hunter passes

Joker - Ruffwater Sno Laughing Matter DJ 2 junior hunter passes



## OFA EYE REGISTRATIONS FOR GOLDEN RETRIEVERS 8 YEARS AND OLDER

*The Golden Retriever Foundation is very excited to announce that plans have been finalized to pay for OFA Eye Registrations for Golden Retrievers 8 years and older to be added to the online registries.*

With the designation of Pigmentary Uveitis (PU) as a very serious hereditary disorder in Golden Retrievers and the realization that most dogs with this serious condition will not present with the disease until after many are no longer being bred, the newest recommendation is to check dogs annually for life. Additionally since PU is such a serious and painful disease, we want to encourage everyone with older dogs to get them checked even if they have never been used in a breeding program. Paying for the OFA registration is our way to encourage and support the effort. It is understood that all dogs will be included in the public database so the owner must agree to results being published. Let's all work together to help reduce the occurrence of this painful eye disease.

For more detailed information on this project, subscribe to GRF Updates.

When you submit your eye clearance to OFA, the DOB will exempt the senior from the registration fee. OFA does not require eye vouchers for seniors.

Please share this update with anyone you feel may be interested! To join, simply send a blank email to: [grfupdates-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:grfupdates-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)



### Coping with COVID-19

**On behalf of the American Kennel Club, our hearts go out to our community during this time of disruption and uncertainty associated with COVID-19. We are here to support you and your dog.**

**To assist in navigating the current crisis, we created a hub for resources, ideas, and fun to keep both you and your dogs connected while you're at home practicing social distancing. Find expert advice on indoor fun and games, AKC.tv training tip videos, non-stop cute puppy footage to calm your nerves, and lots more.**

**We recognize the need for people to stay connected during this trying time. And what better way than through the dogs who stick by our sides throughout all of life's challenges? We encourage you to share what you've read, watched, or tried. Did you learn something new? Or teach your dog a new trick? Share it with us on social media with the hashtag #ThisIsAKC. We can't wait to hear from you. Stay in touch!**

**Take care and be well!**



## **GRPU RESEARCH UPDATE (Golden Retriever Pigmentary Uveitis)**

From Gayle Watkins via a FB post

I have some good news. Not great but good.

A year ago, I connected with Diane Brown head of the AKC Canine Health Foundation for help clarifying diagnostic criteria for PU. She eagerly took this on, thinking it would take a few months. I was suspicious that it could be done that quickly and sadly, I was correct but we are nearly there!

Diagnostic criteria are a set of signs, symptoms, and tests for use in routine clinical care to guide the care of individual patients. Diagnostic criteria are generally broad and must reflect the different features of a disease, with a view to accurately identify as many dogs with the condition as possible.

Given this complexity, the development and validation of diagnostic criteria can be quite challenging. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is likely the best-known example of diagnostic criteria. Its initial development was prompted by the observation of extremely poor agreement among providers regarding patients' psychiatric diagnoses.

There have been no established diagnostic criteria for PU that have broad agreement throughout the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (AVCO). As a result, dogs are getting misdiagnosed regularly or in the case of my dog yesterday, undiagnosed. This happens when a VO doesn't know what to put on the OFA form so puts nothing....literally.

The committee has been working for 9 months on the PU diagnostic criteria and we found out yesterday that they are done. Unfortunately, they decided not to release the criteria as a public white paper but are going to publish the results in the journal, Veterinary Ophthalmology. This means we must wait longer for peer-review process, which always feels endless. The AKC CHF has agreed to fund that article so it will be open source and none of us will have to pay to see it. Thank you AKC CHF!

So be patient. Know that people are really working on helping us with the disease. We will all look forward to seeing the paper once published.

# 5 Things to Do While You #SitStayPlay

Being stuck at home during quarantine and self-isolation can be lonely, but if you have a furry companion in your home, they can be a great way to help pass the time. Just because we're practicing social distancing in our homes, doesn't mean we can't have fun. Here are five things you can do with your pet while you [#SitStayPlay](#)

## Teach Your Dog New Tricks

Whether you want to teach your pet some basic manners or advanced tricks, now is the perfect time to do it! If your house is loaded with treats, like mine, then this is the perfect opportunity to start training your pet. When it comes to manners, housetraining is the number one thing we recommend working on first, if you haven't already. A [housetrained](#) pet leads to a happy home!

## Bring on the Treats!

In my household, treats are the number one motivator! There's a whole shelf in the hallway closet dedicated to those marvelous things. Even though it's easier to just buy a bag of treats from your favorite store, making them can be even more rewarding. Pinterest is the best place to find treat recipes your pet may love. If your pet has dietary allergies, many of the pet treat recipes can be customized to fit the needs of your furry friend.

## Did Someone Say, Shutterbug?

Looking for a new hobby to try? Why not try pet photography! Whether you have a professional camera or a smartphone, you have the capabilities to capture amazing photos of your pet. It's important to remember that this is new to your pet as well, so don't get upset with your pet if they're not doing what you want. If you're motivated to try our photography, we recommend checking out [Lens Rentals' article](#) or our [Learning Center article](#) on pet photography!

## Movie Night

Being stuck at home stinks, especially if one of your favorite things to do is go to the movies! To help with that, we recommend throwing a movie night for your household. Having a cuddle sesh with your pet during the movie is a great way to relax. They may not watch the movie with you, but we know they'll appreciate all the love and attention.

## Adventure is Out There

When being in your home becomes too much, nothing beats a good walk around the neighborhood! Incorporating daily walks and playtime into your new daily routine can help you get out and stretch your legs and gives your pet a chance to burn off their extra energy. Not only will it allow you to get a little exercise, but it can also help ease some of the stress you may be feeling.

What are some of the things you and your pet are doing while you #SitStayPlay? Maybe you have other suggestions you think other pet owners might like. Let us know in the comments below and you might be featured in our next blog post!

# DURING THE CORONAVIRUS SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC

By [W. Jean Dodds, DVM](#) on April 6, 2020



Currently there is *no* evidence that companion pets or other domestic animals can spread the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 – the virus that can develop into the COVID-19 disease – to humans or other animals.

As many of us across the world settle in due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic that can become the COVID-19 disease, veterinary clinics are deemed essential businesses in many U.S. states. Most veterinary clinics are adopting protocols and procedures for the safety of clients and staff to stem the spread of the virus. Indeed, many veterinary practices will no longer schedule routine appointments until stay-at-home orders are lifted, and will only attend to companion pet patients needing critical care.

Before accepting your companion pet's case, the veterinarian can request that he/she first evaluate the pet's health to determine if the condition would fall into the routine case or critical case category.

However, this brings questions about the legally required rabies vaccinations in the majority of states and localities:

- What if my companion pet is due for the legally required rabies vaccination in my state?
- Will my state allow an extension of the rabies vaccination in light of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic?

The question of rabies vaccinations is a conundrum as the majority of states and localities have strict rabies vaccination laws such as the age a companion pet must be initially vaccinated. As well, many states have equally strict laws on revaccination, like:

“An initial rabies vaccine should be boosted within one year. If a 3-years rabies vaccine is administered as the booster vaccination, the animal should be re-vaccinated prior to the 3-year vaccine's expiration date.”

“If an animal is overdue for a rabies vaccination, the rabies vaccine that is administered should always be boosted within one year (regardless of the rabies vaccine that is administered).”

Will states allow an extension on the rabies vaccination time period? Are states deeming rabies vaccinations as critical? We looked at a handful of state websites for clarity on the rabies vaccination and revaccination guidelines with the current SARS-CoV-2 virus restrictions.

As of April 4, 2020 – these states offered **no** guidance on the rabies vaccination question:

California, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Ohio, New York and Washington

Maryland provided [guidance](#) as of April 1, 2020:

“Essential – Rabies Vaccination Guidance: In order to prevent another public health hazard during the current pandemic, the State Board and the Maryland Department of Health consider keeping animals up to date on rabies vaccinations an essential service.”

We applaud Maryland and other states that bring clarity to the issue of rabies vaccinations during the pandemic.

While we understand that states and their resources are overwhelmed by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, pet companion caregivers deserve an answer on rabies vaccination.

It is not just about whether their companion pets are “legally vaccinated against rabies”, but also involves economics and pet health. If caregivers need to factor in missing a deadline and having to get pets boosters within one year, they must also budget their money for a possible re-vaccination requirement in one year opposed to three years, and also prepare for the potential of adverse vaccine events, albeit rare.

As a pet companion caregiver, you can do your part. You will need to check when your companion pet is due for the rabies vaccination. If it is before August, 2020, we suggest contacting your veterinarian to find out the clinic’s policies and your state’s laws regarding rabies vaccinations during the coronavirus pandemic.

If the state or veterinary clinic do not have a policy or your clinic is uncomfortable giving the rabies vaccination at this time, we suggest finding a few backup clinics that give thimerosal-free (mercury-free) canine rabies vaccine (Merial IMRAB TF-1 or TF-3; Boehringer Ingelheim RabVac 1-TF or 3- TF) and are still giving rabies vaccinations.

If you are not feeling well and have symptoms such as shortness of breath, coughing or fever, please have another household member take your pet to the veterinarian and follow all of the clinic’s safety procedures. As well, you can reschedule the appointment if you give yourself time. The best thing to do is get the vaccination earlier than at the deadline in case you or members of your household do become ill.

## References

*Administration of Rabies Vaccination State Laws*. American Veterinary Medical Association, Mar. 2020, <https://www.avma.org/advocacy/state-local-issues/administration-rabies-vaccination-state-laws>.

Dodds, Jean. “Rabies: The Science & the Current Law.” *Pet Health Resources Blog*, Hemopet, 11 July 2015, <https://www.hemopet.org/rabies-vaccine-law/>.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Office of Marketing Animal Industries and Consumer Services. “Updated Guidance for Maryland Veterinarians (April 1, 2020).” 1 Apr. 2020, Annapolis, Maryland, <https://mda.maryland.gov/vetboard/Documents/Updated%20Guidance-04-01-2020.pdf>.



## Golden Retriever Club of America®

### **Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)**

All Golden lovers are encouraged to join our Parent Club, GRCA. The *GR News* is published bi-monthly by the GRCA and contains educational articles, provides a forum for issues of interest to Golden owners, highlights Golden accomplishments and contains correspondent columns from the Member Clubs across the country. Contact the Editor for more information.

### **GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (GPGRC)**

- Member club of the Golden retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA)  
Master National Retriever Club (MNRC)  
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. (PFDC)
- Licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for Conformation Shows and Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials and Hunt Tests.

General Membership Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available from the Membership Chairperson. Attendance at two Club functions (one being a General Membership Meeting) and endorsement of two Club Members is required before an application can be accepted. Dues are: Regular Membership (individual) - \$25.00, a second adult – an additional \$13.00. Associate Membership (individual) - \$15.00, a second adult – an additional \$8.00. Junior Membership - \$1.00. Completed applications and dues are to be submitted to the Membership Chair.

Newsletter is posted monthly on the Club's Website at [www.gpgrc.org](http://www.gpgrc.org). Club members may request printed, mailed copies of the *Golden Gait* for a fee of \$20 per year.

Litter advertisements are accepted from Club Members only on a space available basis. (Fees are full page - \$10; half page - \$5; quarter page - \$2.50.) Refer to the Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics for required clearances.

In summary, puppy referral is a service provided to GPGRC Members only. (1) Both sire and dam must be two years of age or older at the time of breeding; (2) copies of eye clearances within one year of breeding must be supplied; and (3) an OFA numbers for hips and elbows must be submitted. Also hearts must be evaluated by an approved veterinary cardiologist.

Acceptance and use of the information provided by GPGRC constitutes an acknowledgment that the user hereby releases and indemnifies the GPGRC and its Officers, Directors, Members and Agents from any and all liability and damages sustained by the user as a result of any information obtained from this organization.

Title/Award Record Form should be filled out and sent to the Accomplishments Recorder for all Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Field Events or Community Service Events before they can be reported in the Newsletter.

## General Meeting

We periodically have meetings at the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 301 Bellevue Rd 15229. The meetings are announced in the newsletter, website and via email. Guests are Welcome! Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

Directions from I-279: Take exit 12 toward US 19/Perrysville Ave. At Perrysville Avenue, turn left. Go approximately .8 mile and turn left onto Bellevue Road (Sunoco Station on corner). Go approximately .5 mile and turn right to stay on Bellevue Road. End at 301 Bellevue Road. Entrance to complex is one way. Sign will direct you to building. Yellow brick building behind large red brick building is the meeting place. There is an open parking lot or 2 deck parking garage available.

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Chris Killilea

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#### Program

Vacant  
Accepting Club Member  
Ideas and Requests to  
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#### Rescue Liaison

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*Please email pictures of your dogs that can be used in future issues to [sallydines4120@gmail.com](mailto:sallydines4120@gmail.com)*

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GOLDEN GAIT - Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club, Inc.- Sally Dines, Editor – Candy Verduce Co-Editor

Editor