



The Golden Gait

Vol. 42, No.6

June 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting	June 9
General Meeting	at Specialty
Specialty	June 22 – 24
Agility Trial	July 22 - 24

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message
Title/Award Record Form
New Titles and Awards
Can Dogs Eat Wheat and Other Grains
Three key strategies to reduce genetic disorders in dogs



Members who offered to help with setup for the Specialty - we will gather at the Farmshow Grounds at 10 A.M Wednesday. Lunch will be provided for all good souls who show up!!

2016 General Meeting Snack Sign Up

Folks who signed up to bring snacks for the General Meetings, will find the schedule below. We should have two members per meeting bringing a snack. There are still some openings at meetings. Please fill the empty slots and let Anne Pittman know when you can bring something.

June - Clark / Sheryle Long and Anne Pittman
August - Roseanna Frankowski and Ann Ferguson
September – Pat Depp and Barbara Brock

October - Candy Verduce; *still need one person here*
November – Billie / Bonnie Loya; *still need one person here*

President's Message June 2016

John R. Osheka, President

June 1st is upon us and Summer is just 20 days away. Everything is in place for an exciting summer season for both individuals and the club. I want to thank the membership for their vote of confidence by electing me as the Club's President for one more year. I also want to congratulate both the board and officers who were elected to serve the club starting today. The officers and board members are as follows; Vice President Sally Dines, Secretary Rosanne Frankowski, Treasurer Melissa Jarvis, Board Member Kris Tosadori, Board Member Marcy Kronz, Board Member, Ray Koper. I know that each of us pledges to continue to promote the Club's Mission.

Behind us already is the Club's Spring Hunt Test. What a huge success! We had more than 70 dogs running in the three levels. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of a group of club volunteers. Special thanks goes out to the following; Bob and Kris Tosadori, Dave and Peggy Bauman, Rosanne Frankowski, John and Candace Verduce. These individuals provided the leadership and muscle that made the test a success.

Don't forget that the Club's Specialty and Agility are right around the corner. Check the calendar and come out for these two events. We can also use your help in running these events. Just as a reminder, the June General Membership/Dinner Meeting will be held on June 23rd starting at 5:30 at the Pittman's Camper. This will be at the Specialty held at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Therefore, you can attend the Specialty as well as attending the Membership Meeting. Members whose last name ends with A-L should bring a side dish or salad, while those with a last name ending in M-Z should bring a dessert.

The club is also looking to expand its offerings to all of the membership. A Lure Course has been purchased and we are awaiting its arrival. Once here, we will try to hold a club event around the course. Dock diving is also an event that has been talked about. If anyone out there is familiar with starting dogs on this flight path, please step forward. I know who you are. We are also looking to expand our activities and experiences around our beloved dogs while having a positive club activity. Please send your suggestions on to the officers and board members.

In the meantime, have a safe and relaxing summer. I hope to see you at our events.

John

[Awards and Titles:](#)

Don't forget to send in your awards for this year. The form is available below and on the website:

GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.

Title/Award Record Form

Club members must report achievements to the Club's Accomplishment Recorder to be recognized for an award. The Awards Guidelines are available on the Club's website: www.gpgrc.org for clarification and award description.

Use a separate form for each award

Send to: Kathy Fertal
909 Ruth Street
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15243

Dog's Registered Name:
Dog's Call Name:
Owner's Name:
Date of Accomplishment:

AKC or GRCA Title or Award

Name of Title or Award

Master National Retriever Club Hunting Retriever Annual Test

- I have qualified at the MNRC Annual Test
- I have earned a title at the MNRC Annual Test

Name of Title or Award

Abbreviation

Community Service

- I have participated in 50 Community Service Events.
- I have completed the requirement for registration in an organization that promotes dog activities

Name of organization

Abbreviation

Junior Members – Additional Considerations

Junior Member Name _____

- I have earned a Junior AKC or GRCA title or award

Name of Title or Award	Abbreviation
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- I have qualified to attend a Limited Jr. Class Show
- I have placed in a Limited Jr. Class Show

Name of Show giving club and class

Placement

- I am ranked in the Top 20 GRCA Junior Showmanship

AWARD PREFERENCE: If the award is recognized with a plaque, I prefer to receive a certificate.

Effective 4/20/2016



NEW TITLES AND AWARDS

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN, CGC
Brienne’s Total Eclipse of the Sun
“Sunny”
John Osheka

THERAPY DOG INTERN’L, TDI
Gangway’s Lexi
“Lexi”
Ann Ferguson

CHAMPION, CH
Hillocks Sunflower Goodnight Moon
“Luna”
Carol Russo, Paula Strazza & Tammy
Tomlinson

THERAPY DOG INTERN’L, TDI
Brienne’s Total Eclipse of the Sun
“Sunny”
John Osheka

CANINE GOOD CITIZEN, CGC
Brienne’s Summer Olympic Games
“London”
Kathy Fertal and Anne Pittman

It's a Wild West Dog Show

GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB
 CUYAHOGA VALLEY GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

6th Annual Combined Specialties
wear your western attire!

Conformation
 Puggy Sweeps
 Junior Showmanship
 Obedience
 Rally

June 22 - 24

Two days - Four Majors!

Lawrence County Fairgrounds
 New Castle, PA

Wednesday June 22

CVGRC Sweepstakes and Veterans - Teri Poetker
 Rally - Karen Schroeder

GPGRC Rally - Karen Schroeder

Thursday June 23 - Morning
 CVGRC Breed, 4-6 puppy & Jrs. - James M. Brown
 Obedience - Don Levinson

Thursday June 23 - Afternoon
 GPGRC Breed & Jrs. - Cindy Partridge
 Obedience & Rally - Cathy Thompson

Friday June 24 - Morning
 GPGRC Breed, 4-6 puppy & Jrs. - Dr. Robert Indeglia
 Obedience - Don Levinson

Friday June 24 - Afternoon
 CVGRC Breed & Jrs. - Susan Peterman
 Obedience & Rally - Cathy Thompson

For more information contact:
 Sally Dines, GPGRC Show Chairman, 724-584-3300
 Pat Flanagan, CVGRC Show Chairman, 330-272-6601




Come and join us next month!

Wear your wild west clothes and come for a lot of fun

EVENT DATES FOR 2016

CONFORMATION SPECIALTY
AGILITY TRIAL

June 22 through 24
July 22 through 24

CAN DOGS EAT WHEAT AND OTHER GRAINS?

Caroline Coile, PhD | May 19, 2016



A walk down the pet food aisle shows high-end (and high-priced) kibbles boasting “grain-free” formulas. We’re made to feel guilty if we [feed our dogs](#) the dreaded grain. But what’s the big deal?

Grain may have gotten a really bad name from the 2007 pet-food contamination tragedy in which wheat gluten imported from China had been contaminated with industrial chemicals used to falsely boost protein-level readings and caused [kidney damage](#) when ingested. Thousands of pets got ill and many died. Of course it wasn’t the grain itself that was the culprit, but that’s what many people remember.

Combine that incident with the human gluten-free food fad, and it’s only natural that health-conscious pet owners would consider the same for their dogs. It’s not that wheat gluten is evil. It’s that about 10 percent of people have gluten intolerance. The rest of us are just fine with it. We don’t know what percentage of dogs may have a similar condition, but chances are it’s not all of them.

DO GRAINS CAUSE ALLERGIES?

What about the claim that grains cause [food allergies](#)? Grains don’t *cause* allergies. They can, however, be the target of allergies, and some foods are more allergenic than others. Those foods are specific ones, such as wheat, not general categories, such as grains.

The top five allergy-provoking ingredients for dogs are (in order):

- beef
- dairy
- wheat
- chicken
- egg

Some dogs can have an allergy to storage mites. Several studies have found that dry dog food that has been opened and stored in non-sealed containers for six weeks often (but not always) grows storage mites. The studies did not differentiate between grain-free foods and those containing grain. One study concluded that these mites can be prevented by storing food in cool, dry environments, in sealed containers, and for not more than a month. They also concluded that while dogs can be allergic to storage mites, more are allergic to household dust mites.

WHAT ABOUT GMOS?

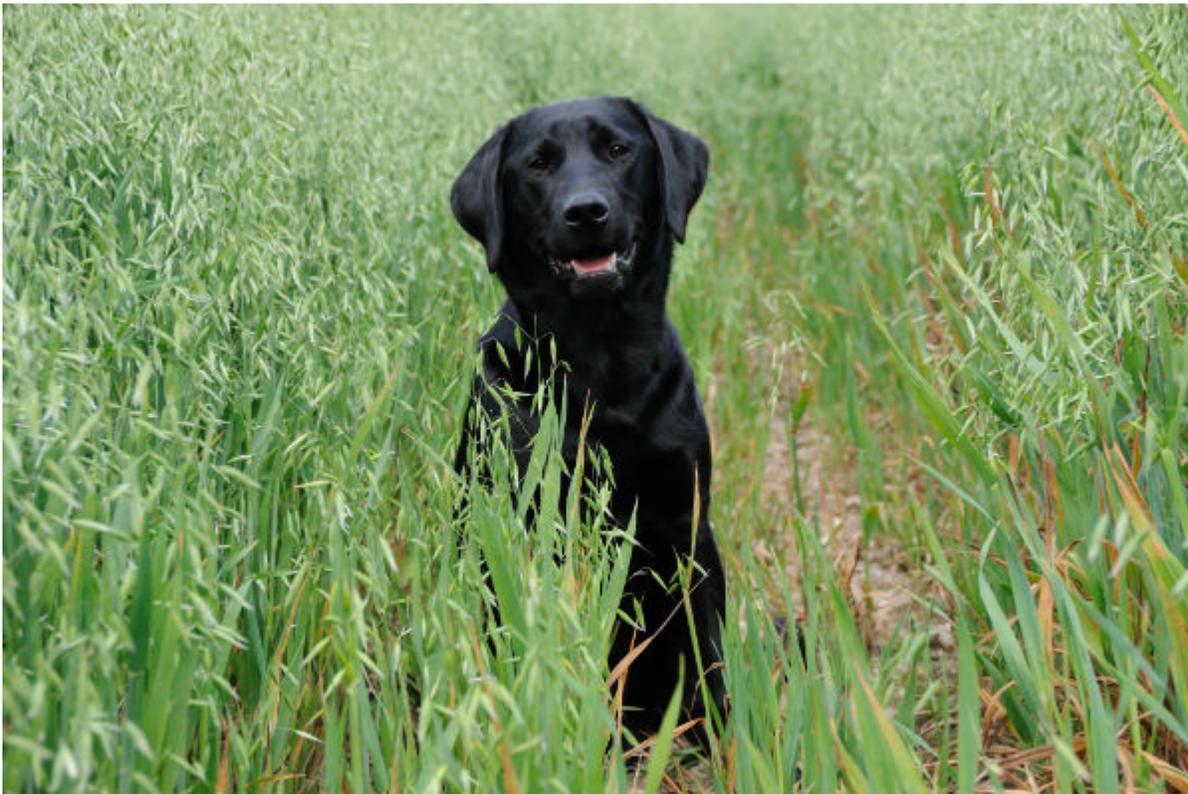
Some people are concerned about the use of genetically modified grains. They believe their use can lead to “leaky gut syndrome” in which small fissures develop in the gut lining, allowing bacteria, toxins, incompletely digested proteins, and fats to leak into the bloodstream, triggering an autoimmune response resulting in food sensitivities, fatigue, skin rashes, gas, and bloating. But there is no actual evidence of this occurring—at this point, just speculation. Nonetheless, if GMOs concern you, look for foods with less

popular grains, which are less likely to be genetically modified. These include barley, oats, millet, quinoa, teff, buckwheat, and amaranth.

SHOULDN'T DOGS EAT LIKE WOLVES?

There's also the perception that dogs should be eating a diet similar to their wild ancestors'. When was the last time you saw a wolf nibbling the kernels off a corn cob? However, dogs are actually different from wolves in this regard; in fact, scientists believe that one of the physiological changes that helped dogs evolve alongside humans was the [ability to digest starch](#). Dogs have differences in 10 key genes compared to wolves that enable them to better utilize grains than wolves can.

Furthermore, grain-free foods don't mean plant-free foods. Grains are seeds, like wheat, rice, oats, corn, barley, millet, oatmeal, and quinoa. Grain-free diets use other plant sources such as potato, sweet potato, pumpkin, tapioca, peas, butternut squash, parsnips, carrots, spinach greens, and various fruits. These are also not foods wolves are known to eat. In fact, some of these ingredients provide less nutrition than grains.



CAN GRAINS MAKE DOGS FAT?

This idea probably came about from the Atkins low-carb diet popular with humans. But grain-free does not mean carbohydrate-free. Grain-free foods contain about the same amount of carbohydrates as foods containing grains. In actuality, wheat gluten contains more than 80 percent protein, is 99 percent digestible,

and has an amino acid profile similar to meat proteins. Corn, when prepared properly, is actually an excellent source of highly digestible carbohydrate, essential fatty acids, and fiber, and can be an especially crucial ingredient in diets for dogs with medical conditions requiring reduced fat or protein.

ARE GRAIN-FREE DIETS A WASTE OF MONEY?

If you're feeding them for one of the above reasons, and your dog was otherwise doing well on a grain-based diet, probably yes. If your dog prefers a grain-free diet, is doing well on it, and you can afford it, then go for it. But if your dog is doing fine on a non-grain free diet, and your wallet is hurting, stow the guilt and buy the grains!

If your dog has signs of allergies, this type of food might be worth a try, but so might switching to non-beef or non-chicken foods. If your dog has signs of food intolerance such as [repeated diarrhea](#), a food change might be a good idea, but getting him checked by a veterinarian is an even better option.

Three key strategies to reduce genetic disorders in dogs

1/27/2016

By Carol Beuchat PhD

In many breeds, dodging genetic disorders is becoming a significant problem because troublesome recessive mutations can be widespread in the population. The need to avoid producing dogs that are homozygous for a particular mutation drives the search for the gene and subsequent development of a genetic test. In many cases, these efforts are funded by breeders who believe that "identify-and-eliminate" is the best strategy for dealing with the problem. (See [Managing genetic disorders: "Just eliminate the bad gene"](#).)

Unfortunately, because there can be dozens or even hundreds of disease-causing mutations in every dog, [there will always be another genetic problem](#) waiting in the wings to suddenly pop up in a breed. If we had tests for all the mutations found in purebred dogs, both the ones we know about and the ones that have not yet been identified, it would become impossible to breed if breeders wanted to avoid every risk. You can appreciate the futility of this search-and-destroy strategy when you see that even now, [the number of known disorders in dogs outstrips the available tests](#).



Claiming that a dog is "health tested" and therefore a good candidate for breeding is wholly misleading when there might be 5 available tests for a breed, but there are also dozens of known disorders without tests and more appearing every day ([What does](#)

"health tested" really mean?). This is genetic whack-a-mole, and it will be no more successful in eliminating genetic disorders in dogs than the strategy of trying to rid your yard of moles by shooting just the ones that stick their heads out of a hole. We are trying to eliminate lung cancer without giving up cigarettes. We can spend millions on research and testing to battle genetic diseases in dogs, but we cannot win this fight unless we change the breeding strategies that produce the problems in the first place. [Most genetic disorders in dogs are caused by recessive mutations](#) that have been lurking harmlessly in the gene pool for hundreds of generations. They suddenly become a problem because of the way we breed purebred dogs, by inbreeding in a closed gene pool. The level of inbreeding in a closed population will increase relentlessly, and as homozygosity increases so will the expression of disease-causing mutations. This is not just predictable, but inevitable.

In an ideal world, studbooks would be open to the introduction of new dogs that could benefit the gene pool, and there are a few kennel clubs that are now permitting and even encouraging this. But whether the gene pool is open or closed, producing healthy animals requires a healthy gene pool, and for this breeders need to practice sound strategies for genetic management. In an open gene pool, this will prevent the development of problems, and in a closed one it will reduce the incidence of genetic disorders and the rate of genetic decline.

Here are three basic principles of sound genetic management that breeders can adopt to reduce the frequency of genetic disorders in their breed.

1) **Increase the number of breeding animals**

[Smaller populations become inbred more quickly](#), so the simplest way to reduce the rate that inbreeding is to maintain a larger population of breeding animals. The easiest way to do this without producing an oversupply of puppies is to increase the number of different sires being used in breeding. Instead of a few individuals producing most of the next generation, limit the number of breedings per individual and make use of more dogs.

2) **Eliminate popular sires**

Popular sires are a double whammy on the gene pool. Not only do they reduce the number of male dogs contributing to the next generation by doing more than their fair share of breeding (see #1 above), they also distribute dozens or even hundreds of copies of their mutations (and ALL dogs have mutations!) in the puppies that they produce. The pups might all be healthy because they got only one copy of a mutation, but a generation or two down the road, those mutations will start showing up in pairs and suddenly breeders will find themselves dealing with a new genetic disease that seemingly came out of nowhere. In fact, the new genetic problem is the completely predictable result of a breeding strategy that creates many copies of a particular dog's mutations. Blaming the dog ("We didn't have this awful problem until Fido introduced it to the breed!") is only an effort to deflect responsibility, because every breeder that used him as a sire participated in creating the resulting genetic problem. (For more about this, read [The pox of popular sires](#).)

3) **Use strategic outcrossing to reduce inbreeding**

In many breeds, there are genetically-distinct subpopulations of dogs. They might represent bench versus field lines, color or coat varieties, geographic areas, size, or some other factor. Because they carry genes that will be less common in other groups, they can be used to reduce the level of inbreeding in a litter of puppies. The number of loci that are homozygous (with two copies of the same allele) will be reduced, and therefore the risk of expressing a recessive mutation will be less. An outcross every now and then can be sufficient to reset the inbreeding to a healthier level.

By the way, you will hear some breeders claim that outcrossing will introduce new genetic disorders to your dogs. But if you understand how recessive genes work and you practice good genetic management, those new mutations are no different than the ones already in your lines - they won't cause any problems unless you create puppies that inherit two copies in the same one. New mutations will have low frequencies in the population, and sound genetic management will keep them that way. (See [Using inbreeding to manage inbreeding](#).)

Three key strategies to reduce genetic disorders

Every dog - in fact, every animal - has mutations that could potentially cause disease, and don't let anybody try to claim that *their* dogs are any different. The key to producing healthier dogs is breeding in a way that reduces the chance that an animal will inherit two copies of the same mutation. Doing the available DNA tests for a breed, then producing a litter with an inbreeding coefficient of 20% is self-defeating and just asking for trouble.

Money to identify mutations, develop tests, and screen potential breeding stock is all for naught if we are using breeding strategies that are specifically designed to increase homozygosity of the genes for desirable traits, because homozygosity of mutations will necessarily increase as well. You cannot do one without the other.

If we're serious about reducing genetic disorders in dogs, the things we must do are simple and clear. It is responsible breeders, not researchers and DNA tests, that will reduce the burden of genetic disease in dogs.

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. 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.

If you have any matters you would like the Board to consider, contact the President, John Osheka, at 412-977-3870.

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meetings are held at the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 301 Bellevue Rd 15229. Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M. Guests are Welcome!

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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Please email me pictures of your dogs which I can use in future issues. sallydines4120@gmail.com

GOLDEN GAIT - Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club, Inc.- Sally Dines, Editor