

Golden Tales

JUNE 2019



Nina DePetris and "Peaches"

MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

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From the President's Desk

Summertime is here! Is everyone enjoying the heat? The past May temperatures have been quite the extreme this year to say the least. Let's be particularly mindful of heatstroke this time of year which is a hazard for both us and our dogs. When outdoors – keep an eye on your dog's behavior. If it's hot and your dog is acting strangely, it may be the first sign of a problem. Here are some other signs to watch for: rapid heartbeat, heavy panting, bright red tongue, red or pale gum, thick tacky saliva, drooling, lying down and unwilling to get up, vomiting and diarrhea.

How to avoid heatstroke: keep drinking water available for your dog at all times; offer shaded areas outside (even in the shade, a dog exposed to extreme heat and humidity is at risk for heatstroke); when walking on hot concrete or asphalt, stick to the shade or keep it short; avoid outdoor activities in the heat with older dogs, overweight dogs or those with breathing problems; offer your dog several ways to cool off – leave a fan on where your dog can sit in front of it (there are plenty of good cooling fans on the market). Add some ice cubes to their water or offer them a cool treat. And let's not forget to exercise your dog during the cooler hours of the day.

Reminder: the MFGRC Specialty will be held on Friday, **June 14**, at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. The Specialty is part of the Sunshine State Cluster and is a concurrent Specialty with the Greater Venice Florida Dog Club, Inc. The event will include Sweepstakes, Veteran Sweepstakes and Junior Showmanship in addition to regular Conformation for Golden Retrievers. Club members who are not competing will be welcomed as spectators. *Hope to see you there!*

Ann Rowe

MFGRC Member Spotlight - Laura Topping



Over the next year, Laura Topping will be answering a lot of questions.

A member of the MFGRC since 1998, Laura has volunteered to be the “answer person” as the club prepares to host the 2020 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty. She will be fielding calls, emails and social media messages from all over the country as people seek information on every topic imaginable.

Laura and her husband Chris have been involved with Goldens since they bought their first one in 1983 as a one-year wedding anniversary gift. They were exposed to the breed from some good friends who had a Golden and it was love at first sight for the Toppings.

“Kona came everywhere with us and he lived until 13, even after feeding him Kibbles and Bits,” she said.

After extensive research, they got their first show-quality Golden in 1998 from Gorca Kennels. Kailani (CH Gorca's Marsielle) became a Champion, mostly owner-handled, and became the foundation of Lorelei Goldens, the Topping's kennel. She lived to 15 years.

“I think like so many others, we won our first blue ribbon and we were hooked on conformation,” she said. “We have met so many great friends through the years. It really is a journey. We are constantly reading, learning and striving to do good for the breed, health being at the forefront. We consider ourselves a hobby breeder, breeding a litter once every one or two years.”

While conformation is her first priority, Laura also has competed and won titles as an owner-handler in Hunt Tests, WC/WCX, Obedience and Rally. She was the No. 2 ranked owner-handler in 2016 for GCH Lorelei's Eddie Would Go BISS BOSS JH WC and she is especially proud of the OD (GRCA Outstanding Dam Award) (major pointed) earned by her Golden girl Lorelei's Crocodile Kid OD. While she knows her record of titles placed on dogs is “not that many compared to a lot of people out there,” she is philosophical about it. “I seem to do it at a turtles pace, but again, I savor the ride.”

Born in New York, Laura moved to Clearwater, Fla., where she grew up, in 1968 when her father was transferred there. She and Chris moved to their current residence in Parrish, Fla., in 2009 so that they could have some room for their dogs.

Laura worked for many years in the Personnel industry, then became a marketing representative for a large insurance company before retiring early in 2015 as a Personal Lines insurance agent. She has recently returned to work with the launch of a t-shirt company called “Top Diggity Dog.”

A former MFGRC board member, Laura helped the board in 2018 as assistant membership director and has contributed in other ways over the years. “MFGRC has given me more than I could ever give back,” she said. She plans to continue working with Goldens for a long time. What gives her the most enjoyment? “Hanging out or competing with my dogs who I love to the moon and back,” she said. “And meeting so many friends who share our love of dogs and the outdoors.”

Editor's Note: A new feature of “Golden Tales” beginning with this issue, “Member Spotlight” will recognize a club member who is not a club officer or board member but is making significant contributions to the club.

MFGRC Obedience/Rally Trial



The MFGRC will host its annual
Obedience and Rally Trial
on Saturday and Sunday, **August 10-11** at the
Obedience Club of Daytona building in Daytona
Beach, FL. Judges for the trial will be
Ted McCall, Carol Mett and Nancy Watson.

Club members are needed to help as ring
stewards for the trial – experience helpful but
not required.

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to
contact event chair Andy Hall at
andyhall58@hotmail.com



Objectives of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club

To encourage and promote the purebred Golden Retriever; and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only Standard of Excellence by which Golden Retrievers shall be judged; and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, and field events.

ESTABLISHED 1984

Find us online at: WWW.MFGRC.ORG

Mark your calendars . . .

Specialty - June 14 - Tampa FL

CCA/Heart-Eye Clinic – July 20 – Ocala, FL

Obedience and Rally Trial - August 10-11 - Daytona Beach, FL

MFGRC general meeting – September 1 – Kissimmee, FL (at DOCOF)

Fall Agility Trial – October 18-19-20 – Wiersdale, FL

WC/WCX – November 2-3 – Montverde, FL

MFGRC Pot Luck Picnic and general meeting – November 16 – Ocala, FL

Winter Hunt Test – November 22-24 – Montverde, FL

Specialty – December 13 – Orlando, FL

MFGRC Christmas Party and Annual Meeting – December 14 – Sorrento, FL

A Word About Yearly New Title Rosettes

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club will continue to offer rosettes for members who earn new titles on their dogs in 2019 but this year a stipulation has been added by the Board.

In order to be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club, a member must have volunteered to at least work at one club event during the year, or have done equivalent work for the club behind-the-scenes.

The stipulation was added to encourage members to help with club events.

On the Cover:

Nina DePetris and her Golden girl **Peaches** ((Picabo's Sweet As A Peach NA NAJ NAF OA OAJ OF AX AXK MX) earned Peaches' Master Agility title at the Valdosta Kennel Club trial with Q's on both of their Standard runs. They also Q'd in Jumpers for their third QQ.

MFGRC

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, Inc. (MFGRC) was founded in 1984 by a group of Golden Retriever enthusiasts who came together in order to pursue ways of promoting and enjoying their Goldens. We are currently a member club of both the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) and the American Kennel Club (AKC). MFGRC is licensed by the AKC to hold conformation shows, obedience and rally trials, agility trials, and retriever hunting tests. We also hold Working Certificate / Working Certificate Excellent tests in accordance with the rules of the GRCA, and also offer a breed/obedience match every year. In addition, MFGRC offers an ongoing slate of seminars, clinics and "fun days" to encompass all aspects of the Golden Retriever. We promote the versatile competition golden, the gentleman's hunting retriever, and the consummate family pet.

It's a Boy!

Crescent Goldrox Worth His Wait in Gold

Born February 18th “**Eli**” came into the household a bundle of sheer cuteness! (... *but then what Golden puppy isn't cute!*) Eli's mother is *Ripley* from Crescent goldens and father is *BISS CH Goldrox Sunny Dreams Fire Starter BISS*.

“**Eli**” loves his brothers and sister. I can't say the same for all of them LOL! “**Ollie**”, my old guy, dislikes him – “**Tat**” tolerates him - and “**Lulu**” will play with him when she feels like it. Thank goodness for brother “**Jaguar**” who takes all the abuse from this little guy and wears him out for me!

“**Eli**” is very sweet and such a smart boy. We are hoping to start showing him at 6 months. Love this little guy ... we've waited a long time for him!

*From Paula Black – MFGRC Member
Sorrento FL*



Meet the New MFGRC Board Members for 2019

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club welcomed two new members to its board of directors for 2019 – Marilyn Booher and Ann Moye.

Marilyn and Ann join returning board members Robin Burket, Pam Ginn, Pat Kopco and Ted Misilo, along with club president Ann Rowe, vice president Michele Throm, secretary Andy Hall and treasurer Dee Thibodeaux as the club's leadership.



Meet Ann Moye . . .

Ann Moye, who became a member of the MFGRC in 2016, has a long history of involvement in dog breeding, competition and club work. A native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, Ann is retired from a career in Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine and lives in St. Cloud, Fla., with her son Christian, her parents and their Golden boy Negan (Magik's King of the Storm CGC CGCA).

Her family's participation with dogs dates back to 1954 when her grandparents operated a small hobby kennel for Golden Retrievers. They retired from showing before Ann was born but the love for dogs was passed down to her. Her first dog was a miniature poodle when she was growing up.

While living in Omaha, Neb., after college, Ann fell in love with dog shows after attending her first one in 1990. After she and her husband bought their first home in 1992, they were ready for their first dog and decided on a Golden. In May of 1992, Sandhills Little Bo Peep (Bo) came home.

"I remember we were so excited about trying everything with our first puppy," Ann said. "Obedience, conformation, therapy, hunting and field work."

Bo inspired Ann to become very involved with dog activities in her area, including becoming a founding member of Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska; joining the Council Bluffs Iowa Kennel Club and serving on its board of directors as well as teaching puppy kindergarten and conformation classes; doing AKC K9 safety education talks in grade schools; and training many of her dogs as therapy dogs to work with her in hospitals and nursing homes. She also bred a litter of Golden Retrievers.

While Ann was showing Bo, she met some friends with Newfoundlands who became her mentors. In 1994, she added a female Newfie to her family - Ch Cypress Bays Fairytale Classx (Disney). Disney was Ann's first OH champion and became the foundation of her Fairytale Kennel.

Disney placed at Ann's first Newfoundland Club of America National Specialty and produced two litters, each with a single puppy bitch. She finished both girls from the BB and OH classes and went on to finish five generations of BB and OH Champions. Ann was previously the rescue chair for the Heart of America Newfoundland Club and served on many NCA National Specialty show committees.

Ann's proudest achievement is breeding the winner of a Versatile Newfoundland (VN) title, meaning the dog earned AKC CH, CD and CDX titles and NCA water rescue and draft dog titles.

Ann and Christian moved to Florida in 2000 to be closer to family and she determined that the Florida weather made it hard to participate in activities with Newfoundlands. So when their last Newfie Bruce passed in 2015, they decided it wasn't fair to have another one in Florida.

"Our house felt so empty," she said. "But my parents' 50th wedding anniversary was coming up in 2016, and my mom said she wished she could have a Golden Retriever puppy again.

"So on November 2, 2016, almost 25 years after my first Golden and 62 years after mom's, Negan came home," she said. "He has been such a blessing in our lives. Christian enjoys showing Negan in conformation and learning about dog sports.

"MFGRC is wonderfully welcoming club where we have found experts in every aspect of dog sports.

"MFGRC is wonderfully welcoming club where we have found experts in every aspect of dog sports," she said. "Members willing to share their time and talents.

"If you have talents you're interested in sharing, please consider volunteering," she said. "You might be surprised at impact you make and the Golden friends you gain along the way."

The Obedience Corner



Bolting

*A subject rarely addressed by dog trainers
By Jean Bates*

It appears to be an ever expanding problem among dog owners,. It is neither breed nor size specific, although obviously a Basset would bolt at a leisurely trot, whereas some of the recently manufactured small "designer" dogs can be faster than a speeding bullet.

It is self-rewarding. Young dog, full of pent up energy, bolts out the door. Adding to this thrill is the fact that its owner joins in the "game" running after, and "barking" at, the dog. This is the most fun Phydeau has ever had. By the time the owner eventually catches the dog they want to wring its neck. Wrong. If you do that Phydeau will be twice as hard to catch the next time. Right would be to snap on the leash and sternly March him back home. As soon as you get him home praise him. If you punish him you can be sure the next time he will run further and much faster.

Now sit down and think about WHY? and HOW DO I FIX THIS ?

The first question is the easy one. Your dog probably needs alot more exercise than you are providing. A young healthy dog requires more exercise than the majority of owners imagine.

As with most problems, preventing them is easier than fixing them.

Firstly, from day one implement "alpha goes first" out the door. Place dog in a sit, you go out first, then invite dog to come out. ALWAYS ON LEASH. Doing this once or twice isn't the answer. It has to happen every time at any door he is likely to bolt through. In most cases it is a front door.

He should never be allowed to charge through ANY door. This includes exiting his crate, getting in and out of car etc.

Some owners have actually TAUGHT the dog to bolt. They go somewhere where it is safe for the dog to be off leash such as a dog park or their own back yard. As they unsnap the leash they flng up their arms and yell "free", encouraging the dog to take off running. Dog soon learns.....leash off.....yippee run for the hills.

I think the problem has become more prevalent in recent years with more and more people living in apartments or unfenced homes. I find it strange too that some people have a GATE but no FENCE. Then there are those who have a fence and gate but the gate is always OPEN, presumably because they are too lazy to close it. To recap.....teach your dog a reliable recall. It has to be taught from 6 ft up to five or ten acres.

At each distance it is a different picture for the dog. " Stay" and "come" are probably the two most important things to teach a dog.

Plenty of exercise is supremely important. What is exercise for some humans is NOTHING for even a small dog. If you don't like, or are unable to walk far, get a dog walker. Teach your dog to retrieve. Check out your local dog park. If you are walking on roads or sidewalks be aware of the ground heat. Low slung dogs such as Dachshunds and Corgis can overheat. Teach your dog to trot beside a bike. Get a second dog for him to play with. *Exercise. Exercise. Exercise.*

If you already have a dog that bolts, be it through a door, or just when the opportunity presents itself, there are several ways to fix it, depending upon the size of the dog...Don't delay. Seek help if you need it. There is also the dog that runs out of the ring at obedience trials. This is not only self-rewarding for the dog but has the embarrassing effect of showing everyone present that your recall needs work.!!!

I once watched two Irish Setters that lived together and we're being trained by a husband and wife in separate rings on opposite sides of an Armory, suddenly exchange glances across the room, and simultaneously bolt for the door. Fortunately the dogs were found several blocks away.

Be aware that not all "great escapes" have a happy ending. ■

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED . VOLUNTEERS NEEDED . VOLUNTEERS NEEDED . VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in volunteering for the 2020 GRCA National should contact volunteer coordinators Dot and Allison Hively at dnahively@gmail.com

2020 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club has been named to host the **2020 Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty**, which will include 13 days of competition, social events, clinics, seminars, shopping and more.

The National will span October 16-28, 2020, with the majority held between Monday, October 19, and Saturday, October 24 at the beautiful new **World Equestrian Center in Ocala FL**

A three-day Hunt Test will kick off the National beginning Friday, October 16, and a three-day Field Trial will conclude on Wednesday, October 28. The Hunt Test and Field Trial will be held at Lazy J Ranch in Williston, FL which is only 25 miles from the World Equestrian Center.

Conformation will include Sweepstakes, Junior Showmanship and a CCA and other events will include Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking and WC/WCX.
MFGRC members Pat Kopco and Tom Misilo are co-chairs of the National.

Preview of the facility can be found on <https://worldequestriancenter.com/>



New Farm Dog Titles



Goldens belonging to club members **Johann Goines** and **Dalia Ruffatto** earned their FDC Farm Dog titles at Draxen Farms in Fort Pierce, FL. Johann's two are

CH JAZZIES SUNSHINE ON A LEASH CARTER

BN RN CA DCAT RATN CGCA TKN FDC

and **LAKWOODS MURPHY BROWN BAMA CLOWN**

CD BN RA CAX DCAT THDN RATN DN CGCA FDC

Dalia's Golden girl is

LUNA THE WAGGING TAIL WONDER CAA DCAT RATN DSX CGCA TKI FDC

BIG CONGRATS!

Accolades . . .



Zevon (SHR Blazinlake RockStar Disorder In The House MH WC), who belongs to MFGRC board member **Pat Kopco**, her husband **Mike Orloff**, earned his Master Hunter title at the MFGRC Hunt test in February and then qualified for the Master National with his sixth pass two weeks later at the Treasure Coast Retriever Club Hunt Test in Okeechobee FL.



Snobird's Raise Your Glass, Party Crasher

Carol Atkinson's Golden boy **Crash** (Snobird's Raise Your Glass, Party Crasher BN RN SWN SCA SIA SHDA SEA DN CGCA TKP) earned first place in Vehicle Search and his NW2 title at the NACSW K9 Nose Work Trial hosted by RebeLL Noses in Tequesta, FL.

Crash also earned his AKC Advanced Buried and Scent Work Advanced (SWA) titles in the Obedience Club of Daytona trial in May.

More Accolades . . .



New Junior Hunter title - **Bonnie Scherer** earned **Tahani's** (Malagold Tahani CGC TD RN JH) Junior Hunter title at the MidAtlantic Hunting Retrieving Club of Virginia in March in Emporia, VA.



Kristin Sipus and her Golden girl **Millie** (CH Richwood Moments Away CD MH WCX BISS) earned Millie's Obedience CD title at the Central Florida Obedience Dog Club's trial in Eustis, FL in March with a first place finish.



Nina DePetris and her Golden girl **Peaches** ((Picabo's Sweet As A Peach NA NAJ NAF OA OAJ OF AX AXK MX) earned Peaches' Master Agility title at the Valdosta Kennel Club trial with Q's on both of their Standard runs. They also Q'd in Jumpers for their third QQ.



Ralph Orlando and his Golden boy **Smokey** earned Smokey's Master Standard agility title at the Central Florida Agility Club Trial in DeLand, FL. **Smokey** also earned two titles in the Obedience Club of Daytona AKC scent work trial in May – Handler Discrimination and Novice Interior.



Dot and Allison Denise Hively's Golden girl **Nora** earned her Dock Diving Senior Title with a personal best of 17'6" at the NADD Competition at Courteous Canine in Lutz, FL.

And More Accolades . . .



New Champion! Vern and Diane Gank's 13-month-old Golden boy **Hendrix** (Wonderlands Excuse Me While I Kiss The Sky) finished his championship at the Birmingham Kennel Club in Columbiana, AL and he did it in grand style by taking Winners Dog and Best of Winners for a five-point major, his third major in two weekends. **Hendrix** was handled by Aaron Wilkerson (pictured).



Ditto (GCH Questan's RegenerACEshun MBISS RI DM BN RATN CGC TKI) finished his Grand Championship at the Tarheel Specialty in Pinehurst, NC. **Ditto** went Select Dog in a lineup of specials in Pinehurst to finish his GCH in three weekends with five majors, a BOB and Sporting Group 3 and a Specialty Award of Merit. **Ditto** is owned by **Julie Wangelin** and the handler was Chatham Napoli (pictured).



Laura Bellochi's Golden girl **Echo** (Tangleloft Pathfinder's Rendezvous with Destiny) finished her title in March in Syracuse, NY by winning Best of Opposite in the Central New York Kennel Club show. She finished with two five-point majors, BOB from the classes over top winning specials and a Group 1 Best Owner Handler. **Echo** is bred and co-owned by Lindsay McDowell.

MFGRC board member **Marilyn Booher** and her Golden girl **Mya** finished Mya's Master Hunt title in Coshocton, OH in April. **Mya** was the No. 1 Golden in AKC Derby for 2018.

How to ALPHAbetize Yourself

... or how to help your dog regard you as leader

If your dog is rather pushy and out of control, lacks respect for your point of view and doesn't mind letting you know about it he or she could be showing signs of the **ALPHA SYNDROME!**

The Alpha Syndrome is at the root of many behavior problems. **IN MOST CASES, WE ARE NOT REALLY DEALING WITH A PROBLEM DOG, BUT A PROBLEM ENVIRONMENT OR PROBLEM RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOG AND OWNER.** Dogs, just like their ancestor the wolf, need a leader. If the dog is not provided with appropriate guidance, if in your dog's opinion you are not a worthy leader, your dog may try to take over and call the shots. In other words, your dog may be running for higher office.

The ALPHAbetizing plan will make an improvement on how your dog views the social hierarchy in your pack. This plan involves changing daily interactions with your dog. It does not resort to punishment and very few actual TRAINING exercises are used.

Implement as many of the concepts as you possibly can. Stay with it for several weeks. Your dog did not climb to the top of the totem pole overnight, therefore it may take a little time to change your pal's mind about things. As your dog becomes rehabilitated, you may gradually phase out these corrective measures.

Good luck and remember - dog ownership is not a democracy. Be firm, be patient, be consistent, but be ALPHA!

A LEADER MUST FIRST GET THE FOLLOWER'S ATTENTION!

Encourage eye contact several times a day: Call your dog's name, help the dog make eye contact with you by tracing a line with your hand between your dog's face and yours. You can make your hand more interesting by holding a toy or other inducement. Even a one second glance should be reinforced with praise or a reward. You are setting up communication channels and a bond between you and your dog.

A LEADER IS DEPENDABLE

Scheduled (rather than free choice) meals aid in housetraining problems and puts your dog in a position of dependence on you for food. (More than one meal a day will relieve "hunger stress"). Food is a primary reinforcer. Use it to your best advantage.

LEADERS EAT FIRST

If your meals coincide with the dog's scheduled meals, make it a point to feed the dog **AFTER** you have eaten. Dogs are nonverbal communicators. This is a statement. Remember the National Geographic specials! Which wolf eats first?

EARNING PRAISE AND TREATS

Stop all food treats and petting for your dog during this rehabilitation period **EXCEPT** what is "earned" by obeying a command. Examples: If your dog comes to you for attention, tell the dog to "sit" before petting. A brief heeling session can precede a treat. Don't worry, this is only a temporary measure until your dog's behavior improves!

LEADERS GO FIRST

Don't allow your dog to charge in and out of "territory" before you. At the door of your home, vehicle, or at a fence gate, put your dog on a stay, go through first, then call the dog in or out.

THE LEADER CONTROLS THE TERRITORY

A follower yields to the leader. For instance: If your dog is lying down in a hallway and you wish to pass, **MAKE YOUR DOG MOVE**, don't step over or around.

LEADERS MEAN WHAT THEY SAY

When giving your dog a command, don't beg or scream, speak in low firm tones. And remember, no matter how simple the command, give it only once and make sure to help your dog comply.

LEADERS ARE WINNERS

"Control the games, control the dog."
Ordinarily tug-of-war games are inappropriate for a pushy dog. It may escalate assertiveness and when you let go, your dog considers it a "win". An important message can be conveyed, however, if you play by these rules. Keep the game brief so your dog won't become overly excited. Be sure to **WIN** (have your dog release the toy to you) and while your dog is watching, put the toy away for the day, out of the dog's reach.

... continued on next page

How to ALPHAbetize Yourself continued . . .

LIFE WITH YOUR DOG IS NOT A DEMOCRACY

. . . but please be a kind and gentle dictator! I'd like to think of it as a partnership, with you making the important decisions! To help explain this to your dog, for now, you get the bed! Your dog may sleep in your bedroom at night, but until the behavior problem's resolved, not on your bed. Sleeping together in the bed makes you seem like a littermate, an equal. Besides, there have been MANY alpha confrontations regarding possession of resting areas!

ALPHA OWNERS ARE FUN

Do some things you know your dog will enjoy, but you should remain "in charge" of these activities. For example: If your dog likes to retrieve, tell your pal to COME, help with compliance if necessary, and as a reward, play fetch. Help your dog release the object immediately on command. When play is over, praise and as the dog watches, put the object away.

TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN

- about neutering or spaying your dog. Frequently this procedure has a positive impact on behavior problems and your veterinarian will explain numerous other benefits as well.

A thorough exam is important to determine if your dog's misbehavior is caused by a physical problem.

MUZZLE CONTROL IS A NATURALLY DOMINANT GESTURE

Put your hand over the top of your dog's muzzle and gently hold it there for a few seconds. This can be a regular part of your petting and attention.

BELLY UP IS A NATURAL ACCEPTANCE POSTURE

Once a day invite your dog over for a free belly rub. show your pet how enjoyable this gesture of subordination can be.

A FOLLOWER ALLOWS GENTLE HANDLING

Have regular grooming sessions with your dog. With positive reinforcement, gradually include "sensitive" spots, if any. Your goal is to have your dog relax and allow you to brush (or at least pet) the belly area.

DOWN IS A SUBORDINATE POSITION

Have your dog hold one 30-minute down- stay per day. Enforce it!! This can be done while you eat a meal or read the paper, but be sure you are in a position to help your dog stay down.

TRAIN, DON'T COMPLAIN

Give your dog about twenty minutes of obedience training a day. Break it up into two or three sessions. You do not have to be a member of an organized obedience class for this, but the guidance of a qualified instructor and the group experience for the dog are valuable. Give a command, help your dog comply, praise for a job well done.

LEADERS ARE FAIR, KIND, CONSISTENT

Be firm, not harsh. Don't work with your dog if you lose your patience, but stay with it! The concept of an alpha owner will become clear to your dog with consistent repetition. ■

