

# Golden Tales

SEPTEMBER 2024



MID-FLORIDA GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB

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Photo by Jon Burket

*Play with your dog every day –  
because they are there as your best  
friend for a short time;  
but you are their best friend  
for their whole life.*  
iHeartDogs

*“Don't give up on the hard  
dogs, They will teach you  
something you never knew  
you needed.”*

–Kathy Kawalec



Cover photo by Jayanti Seiler

# From the President's Desk . . .

September 2024

It's hard to believe summer is winding down, school has started for many families, and fall is approaching fast. And what a summer it was for the MFGRC. At our July Specialty at the World Equestrian Center, we celebrated the club's 40th anniversary with cake for everyone and ruby-red commemorative buckets as prizes. Then in August the club's annual Obedience and Rally Trial was held for the first time as ODTC in Orlando. The obedience committee headed up by event chair Joyce Swegle did an excellent job to make it a success. Special thanks to Camille Nasca and Susan Sherman as well as all the volunteers for making everything run smoothly.

We continue with our monthly field training days in Paisley, FL and we are coordinating an indoor venue to have a cooler option for conformation handling practice until the weather is more suited to outdoor training again.

In October comes the National Specialty, and the MFGRC would like to wish good luck and safe travels to everyone competing in Massachusetts this year.

Stay tuned at our next club meeting for the dates of all our upcoming events for the fall and winter, and remember to get outside and spend some time doing what you love with your dog as the weather cools down in the coming months.

*Robin Burket*



# Welcome New Club Members!

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club welcomed new members during its general meetings held in June, July, August and September.

## **Voted in at June meeting**

Amy & Rick Krumenauer  
Englewood FL  
Sponsored by Julie Wangelin

**Voted in at July meeting -**  
William Johnson & Laura Scruggs  
Bridgeton NJ  
Sponsored by Brian Parker

Susan & Paul Vetter  
St Augustine FL  
Sponsored by Michele Panetta

Yuko Okazato  
Dunedin FL  
Sponsored by Lori Callahan

**Voted in August meeting -**  
Kris Weiss  
Estero FL  
Sponsored by Kristin Sipus

## **Voted in September meeting -**

Shelly Russell  
Gainesville FL  
Sponsored by Kristin Sipus

Linda Wilken  
Terra Ceia FL  
Sponsored by Pat Carlile

Bevin Bocchicchio  
Cassleberry FL  
Sponsored by Laura Kling, Robin Bowen



Photo by Jon Burket

## **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](http://WWW.MFGRC.ORG)



# Obedience and Rally Trials 2024 . . .

*From Camille Nasca - Trial Coordinator*

I apologize for being so late in writing this message, but I was trying to find the words to thank the members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club. We have the best members, hands down, ever. You really came out to support the efforts of the club and your enthusiasm and dedication to quality and exceptional service was well noted. Our Obedience and Rally trial was complimented by the judges and the exhibitors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make this trial a success on every front. Without the help of the members of the Orlando Dog Training Club this trial would not have happened. From their help with cleaning and set up on Thursday to stewarding, helping with hospitality, judging and to clean up on Sunday, they were there to help when and where we needed them.

A special shout out to our 4 judges, Leslye Pinnell, Cathy Knight, Bob Knight and Linda Unger, who not only judged with kindness, fairness and knowledge but also stepped up to fill in for one of our judges who was unable to attend due to illness. A very special thank you to Linda Unger, V.P and Training Director for ODTC for giving up her entry and stepping in to Judge the novice classes on Sunday.

No event can be successful without exceptional volunteers, and we had an abundance of them. Let's start with our hospitality crew who provided breakfast and lunch that kept us going through the 3 long days of competition. Thank you Cindy Patz, and Ann Rowe who, despite very busy schedules, made our lunches and the delicious breakfast goodies each day. Thanks also to the rest of the hospitality crew, Cynthia Rothman (MFGRC) and Teresa Reis (ODTC). Teresa was the first person at the site in the morning to ensure that everything was ready for the attendees and the last to leave at night.

Along with having the best judges trials cannot succeed without exceptional stewards and a detail oriented Chief Ring Steward who is also a good teacher and patient in their guidance. Special thanks to Susan Sherman, Chief Ring Steward extraordinaire who fulfilled all the needs and beyond. Every time I attempted to do something Susan had already done it. Susan made my job a lot easier, and I am grateful that she said yes when I asked her to take on this task. The same goes for Joyce Swegle, Trial Chair. Joyce's support and expertise throughout the entire planning and execution of this trial was invaluable.



MFGRC members who led a fantastic team of workers at our recent Rally and Obedience Trial. Susan Sherman, Chief Ring Steward; Cindy Patz, Hospitality; Joyce Swegle, Trial Chairperson; Camille Nasca, Trial Coordinator and Ann Rowe, the other part of the Hospitality team providing yummy food that kept us going all weekend.

We had several people new to stewarding and many that were new to obedience events and to a person they did a wonderful job. I know that they learned a lot and I hope we can count on them to help again next year. I need to mention that the judges and the competitors were very complimentary about all the stewards and each judge wanted those stewards to remain with them throughout the weekend.

Thank you to the club members who volunteered to steward. Starting with our Rally stewards, Elizabeth Scherer, Claire Brainard (also helped on Sunday), Abigale Del Valle, Chris Huppert, Susan Howard, Carol Fitzsimmons (also helped on Thursday), and Sally Sherman. The following were our obedience stewards and general help. Susan Vetter, Michele Panetta, Samantha Hajas, Elizabeth Mound, Andy Hall (former Trial Chair), Taylor Desmond, Debbie Tregler, Amy Glester, Jack Torielli (dual member), Linda Rappaport, Robin Burket, Amanda Fell, Jayanti Seiler (also photographed the trial on Sunday), Sandy Stokes and Sam Stokes (dual members) who were there every day to help where ever and whenever needed (they also remained to help when a club member's car would not start on Sunday). The ODTC members who were also stewards/volunteers Betty Van Dellen, Bobbi Kurivial, Rose Oesterle, Kim Demanche, Merrilyn Jones, Claire Brainard, Julie Thompson.

Thank you all!

*Camille Nasca*



## New Title Rosettes Available to Eligible MFGRC Members for Accomplishments in 2024

*Members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club who earn new AKC or GRCA titles for their Golden Retrievers during calendar year 2024 may be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club. The new title rosette program has been part of the MFGRC for many years and is one the club leadership is happy to continue.*

In order to be eligible to receive a new title rosette from the club, a member must have worked at least one club event during the year, or have done equivalent work for the club behind-the-scenes (subject to verification). The stipulation is in place to encourage members to help with club events and activities.

The program is for new **AKC** or **GRCA** titles won between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. The deadline for receiving applications is end of business on January 5, 2025.

### **Please read and follow directions carefully:**

There is only one way to request a new title rosette: the requests must be sent via email to MFGRC board member Susan Sherman at this address: [Ripley.GoldenBear@gmail.com](mailto:Ripley.GoldenBear@gmail.com)

No requests sent to any other email address or via text, phone call or any other method will be accepted. All requests will get an acknowledgement via email when received. IF you do not get an acknowledgment, please email Susan and inquire.

The subject line of the email should be **"New Title Rosettes."** Requests should be in the body of the email (not as an attachment) using this format:

#### **A. OWNER NAME**

**B. DOG'S REGISTERED NAME** including all titles (and do not add in titles that are precursors for others, only the highest title for that venue – example, do not list 'Sam's Susie Q, RN, RA, RE' because the Rally Novice and Rally Advanced titles are precursors for the Rally Excellent title. Your request should just say 'Sam's Susie Q, RE' in the dog's registered name.

**C. LIST ALL AKC AND/OR GRCA TITLES EARNED IN 2024:** This is the place to put in precursor titles, IF they were earned in 2024. Again, please do not list them as part of the dog's registered name. This creates additional work for the rosettes committee.

**D. VOLUNTEER WORK:** Please list what events you worked at or what you did for the club in 2024 (all subject to verification).

#### **E. IF UNSURE ABOUT WHICH TITLES ARE LISTED AND WHICH ARE NOT:**

- Go to [akc.org](http://akc.org)
- Click "products and services" tab
- On the left of that page, click 'individual dog award record and points progression'
- Click "find a dog"
- Input YOUR dog's name or registration number and then click the dog's name
- Once the dog is on the report page, click 'view points' to the right and your dog's info will populate
- Please note the order the AKC lists the titles in – titles have a specified order and MFGRC wants to be correct on new title rosettes
- Please DO NOT use K9 data as a reference to order new title rosettes as the information there is often not listed in proper AKC form

#### **HERE'S AN EXAMPLE of what the email should look like:**

- A. Pam Ginn
- B. Richwood's Every Move You Make at Kestrel Farm JH WC CCA
- C. JH CCA
- D. Worked at the Feb and Nov Hunt Tests

The goal is to get the rosettes done and into the hands of eligible members as fast as possible. Distribution is planned for the February Hunt Test.

NOTE: If you will not be able to pick up your rosette(s) at the February Hunt Test, the rosettes can be mailed to you. You must mail a check for \$10, per owner, up to three rosettes, made out to MFGRC, to:

Robin Bowen  
3001 SW College Rd.  
PMB41  
Ocala, FL 34474

The deadline for payment is January 30, 2024. If you are lucky enough to have more than three, you will need to include another \$10 for the next rosettes to be mailed.

Congratulations on your successes in 2024! Please let us know of any questions.

Susan Sherman  
Robin Bowen  
MFGRC New Title Rosettes Committee



# TRAINING DAYS

**OCTOBER 19**

**NOVEMBER - tba**

Email [MFGRCfield@gmail.com](mailto:MFGRCfield@gmail.com) to sign up

*Make a note!*

# Inside the Vet's Office . . .

## A Quick Guide to Girlie Dog Lumps and Bumps

*Part 1: Introduction to Canine Mammary Tumors and Guide for Mammary Examination/Screening for Owners*

By: Serena Craft, DVM, DACVP  
Access Veterinary Care  
[www.avcvetcare.com](http://www.avcvetcare.com)

October is breast cancer awareness month and is a good reminder for the women in our lives to make sure they are doing their monthly self-exams and yearly mammograms. With the exception of skin cancer (stay safe from the sun!), breast cancer is the most common cancer in females.

Are you aware though, how prevalent breast or mammary tumors are in dogs? Most owners are aware that dogs also suffer from breast cancer to a degree, but the veterinary profession lags behind our human counterparts in educating owners on the frequency, risks, and advocating simple screening techniques to detect mammary tumors in their dogs while they are small. Humans and dogs share the unique distinction among all the animals that they both have a high frequency and a wide variety of mammary tumors. This makes dogs a natural model for breast cancer studies for humans.

Development of breast cancer is complicated and not completely elucidated in humans or dogs. While a genetic mutation contributes to the development of some cases of breast cancer in women, strong evidence that obesity, diet, environmental toxin exposure, alcohol consumption, and stress among many other factors contribute to an individual's risk. One of the known links is presence of hormones, which act as growth factors or stimulation for hormone positive breast cancer to grow. It is thought that the rather constant hormone influence over years (both estrogen and progesterone) due to monthly menstruation cycles in humans and during estrus and diestrus phases in bitches is the likely reason that both humans and dogs are more susceptible to development of mammary tumors when compared to other animals. You might think, but wait, a dog may have only 2-3 estrus cycles a year, they're not monthly like people. You're right. The average time between heat cycles, or estrus, is 5-12 months. Interestingly, smaller breed dogs tend to cycle more frequently, up to 4 times a year whereas large breed dogs sometimes only have an estrus cycle once a year. This is where the unique physiology of the dog estrus cycle comes into play. While they technically have fewer estrus cycles, the hormonal influence from that heat cycle can last close to 3 months. A dog has a prolonged period of their cycle, called diestrus, that has high levels of progesterone and is the length of a normal pregnancy. Regardless, if they are pregnant or not, their body sees the same levels of hormones during diestrus. That's why pseudopregnancy can sometimes occur because hormonally, a bitch sees the same hormones as a pregnant dog, and sometimes this can lead to nesting behaviors, weight gain, and even lactation.

Mammary tumors are the most frequently diagnosed tumor in intact females, with rates of malignancy (i.e. aggressive cancer) ranging from 40 to 60% depending on the study. As a pathologist, I typically tell my clients that if it is a small mammary tumor there's approximately a 50% chance of malignancy. If the mass is larger at the time of presentation (>3-5 cm), then there is a higher chance of malignancy. Due to the influence of hormones, early ovariohysterectomy has been associated with markedly decreased rates of mammary tumors. In dogs that are spayed before their first estrus the risk of developing mammary tumors drops all the way down to 0.05%, if spayed before their second estrus cycle the risk rises to 8%, and the risk of developing mammary tumors rises to 26% if spayed after the second estrus cycle. No statistically protective effect has been detected if spayed after the third estrus cycle or later. Like all things there are pros and cons to early ovariohysterectomy as it has also been associated with some less than desirable outcomes. The perfect timing of ovariohysterectomy and neutering is a hot button topic right now, with lots of information coming out frequently. That topic deserves its own discussion, but briefly early ovariohysterectomy has also been associated with recessed or hooded vulva, incontinence, possible growth issues in large breed dogs, and recently studies hint that some non-mammary cancers might be more common in spayed dogs! Just like trying to figure out if eating eggs are good or bad for you, sometimes it just depends on what day you watched the news and what study just came out. Figuring out the best recommendation for my client is an process to determine the benefits and risk factors for that dog and family. If you have questions, please reach out to your personal vet.

We also have studies that have looked at the number and distribution of mammary masses at the time of diagnosis. Approximately 50% of dogs present with one mass, the other 50% can have 2 or numerous masses at the time of diagnosis. Large breed dogs tend to have a single mammary mass and occurrence tends to happen more in midlife. Small breed dogs tend to have multiple mammary masses that occur later in their senior years. Small breed dogs also tend to develop multiple new mammary masses throughout their senior years. Most people advocate spaying a dog that has multiple episodes of de nova mammary tumor development. It may not prevent all future mammary tumors, but by removing the main source of estrogen and progesterone you are essentially removing the likely "food source" or growth stimulant for the current and/or potential future mammary tumors.

Then there are the owners that chose for one reason or another to keep their female dog intact for a variety of reasons. The reasons may be for showing, breeding potential, sport, health concerns, or other personal beliefs. I am currently sitting next to a whelping box, where my precious girl is quietly nursing her litter of 6 beautiful puppies while simultaneously increasing her chance of developing mammary tumors. So how do we be proactive in the detection of mammary tumors in our adult intact females?

*Continued on next page . . .*



# A Quick Guide to Lumps and Bumps

*Continued . . .*

I encourage my clients of intact female dogs to start doing monthly breast examinations. Just like for us, early detection is a huge factor in survival. Early detection and complete removal are curative for most mammary tumors! Dogs are only a little trickier than humans, in that instead of two mammary glands to keep an eye on they may have 6-10 mammary glands. Just like people, mammary tissue and mammary lymph nodes can extend into the armpit or axillary region, so we cannot forget to check those areas. Unlike people, our dogs can also have mammary tissue going all the way down their belly so they can also have mammary tissue in the crease of their hind legs, or what we call the inguinal region. My son would call them the "legpits", if that helps clarify location for some people.

So how do I do a breast examination on my dog? First, let's talk frequency. I would recommend doing a monthly exam, and if you really want to remember to check your dog, link it to your own person self-exam. It's a win-win all around if everyone remembers to do their breast exam. Or if you prefer or don't need to do an exam on yourself, you could link doing an exam to giving a monthly heartworm treatment. Why monthly? The monthly recommendation is simply because how quickly our middle age to older dogs age and change, how crucial it is to find masses earlier rather than later, and it also allows you to develop a familiarity of how your dog's mammary tissue normally feels. Some dogs as they age may get more lumpy, bumpy, breast tissue, but they should have no distinct masses.

I recommend starting the exam of the nipple. This is a good time to check the cleanliness and health of the skin of the nipple. Due to natural skin excretions, it is fairly common for the nipple to get encrusted with light grey, brown, to black soft to hard concretions. This is sometimes how nipples get mistaken for ticks! This material typically can be gently rubbed or rolled off with digital manipulation. If the material is adhered strongly and not budging, then a warm washcloth can do wonders in removing the material. You would be surprised on how neglected or overlooked nipples are! They're like the equivalent of the human belly button, surprisingly frequently forgotten when it comes to cleaning. Every female is different and some have more excretions that accumulate around the nipple more frequently than others, but once a month seems to be a good compromise for everyone.

Is the nipple inverted? If so, mild nipple inversion is fairly common, especially in bitches that have previously lactated. Most inversions are not severe or complete, where the nipple lies below the skin surface, so most puppies have no problem pulling the nipple out fully and successfully nursing from it. If your bitch has a slightly inverted nipple, gently extract the nipple fully and use a warm washcloth and gently dry around the base of the nipple. Due to the inversion, dirt and debris is more likely to accumulate along the base or crease of the nipple. If it gets wet or moist, we can see ulceration of the skin and secondary yeast or less commonly secondary bacterial overgrowth in that area. These complications are more common in female dogs that are laying in moist conditions.

Next, closely examine the skin of the nipple or teat itself. Any sores, ulcerations, is it thickened, lumpy, or is there loss or increased pigmentation of the nipple? Increased pigmentation of the tip of the nipple can be a benign finding called nipple melanosis, but sometimes can be an indication of melanoma. If you notice anything that has changed or concerns you, please schedule an exam with your vet so they can take a peek and help you figure out what is going on.

To finish the nipple exam, gently squeeze the nipple between your fingers. You're feeling for any lumps or bumps within the teat itself. Ductal adenoma and ductal carcinoma can occur within the teat duct or within adjacent ducts and spread to involve the nipple. During this palpation, I will often see if I can express any fluid from the nipple. Normally, nothing should be able to be expressed, but depending on the stage of the estrus cycle or if your dog is not too far from weaning puppies you may be able to express a small amount of clear to white watery fluid. Expressing red, brown, smelly, or chunky or viscous fluid is never normal and could be an indication of either an underlying neoplastic process or mastitis. Again, if you have any concerns, please reach out to your veterinarian.

During this exam, palpation only needs to be gentle and therefore nothing should be painful for your dog. If your dog seems painful with any part examination, that could indicate an underlying problem. Your dog may be a little confused by the sudden nipple attention, but the rest of the exam should feel like a good belly rub or massage. I found it can be a really good bonding time.

After the nipple, start at the base of the nipple and palpate the mammary tissue in an outward spiral fashion, so that you end up palpating the entire gland and end at the edge of the mammary gland. Use the tips of your fingers of both hands to gently knead the underlying tissue, feeling for any masses or hard tissue. Often the margins of where one mammary gland stops and the adjacent one starts can be palpated as a slight depression with less fat deposition. If you cannot palpate this margin, just make sure that your palpation overlaps so no mammary gland tissue is missed. Likewise, if the distance between mammary glands is wide, the intermammary gland tissue should also be quickly palpated for lumps and bumps. Sometimes the intermammary gland tissue is a place where lymph nodes or other non-mammary gland tumors live, like mast cell tumors or lipomas. Remember the mammary tissue is located within the subcutis, this is the fatty layer beneath the skin. If your dog has increased fat stores in this area, it can make it more difficult to detect smaller nodules.

And that's pretty much it! Repeat for each individual mammary gland. Don't forget to palpate the axillary and inguinal regions. Lymph nodes live in this region. Most of the time, they are too small to detect with routine palpation. However, if you ever feel a lump in either of these regions, those are always of concern and warrant a vet visit. With practice, a thorough examination of the whole mammary chain can be done in minutes. Approximately 70% of mammary gland tumors arise in the most caudal mammary glands; the fourth or fifth mammary glands back by the inguinal region of middle age to senior intact female dogs so if all else fails just get back and feel those caudal or back mammary glands.

I hope this discussion has increased your familiarity of the incidence and distribution of mammary tumors in intact bitches, but also empowered you on how to do a quick screening exam that should allow early detection on almost all mammary tumors. Just like with us, early detection saves lives! Stay tuned for a follow up article addressing the diagnosis and treatment of mammary tumors in dogs. ■



# Entry Form for MFGRC's 2024 End of Year Awards Sent to Members

Recently, the entry form for the MFGRC's end of year awards for dogs was sent to club members. Members of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club who meet the criteria for eligibility are invited to submit entries for the club's annual year-end awards for 2024. The MFGRC encourages all members who meet the eligibility requirements to enter and compete for the awards and there is **no charge** to enter.

The dates for the awards run from December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024. All entries must be received by December 1, 2024, at 6 p.m. EST. NONE will be accepted after the deadline. Entries can be emailed to Nina DePetris at [ninadepetris@att.net](mailto:ninadepetris@att.net) or sent by mail to:

Nina DePetris  
7290 Cottonwood Ct.,  
Middleburg, FL 32068.

**(If entry sent by mail, it must be received, not postmarked, by the same deadline as email).**

## **PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY!**

Documentation must be provided as specified.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Dogs **MUST** reside with the person making the application. To be eligible for any official MFGRC award, member **MUST** have attended one club general meeting and worked a minimum of four hours at one MFGRC event for the club during the awards period (or performed the equivalent work behind-the-scenes, all subject to approval and verification). Information must be included on the entry form about meetings attended and club work performed (all subject to verification). Member submitting award entry must have been a member in good standing of MFGRC for the entire awards period as described above.

MFGRC is offering the following awards for 2024:

***Agility Dog of the Year***  
***Field Dog of the Year***  
***Hunt Dog of the Year***  
***Obedience Dog of the Year***  
***Rally Dog of the Year***  
***Show Dog of the Year (Conformation)***  
***Tracking Dog of the Year***  
***Versatility Award***

*(calculated by adding points from at least three separate categories)*

***Fallchase Owner-Handler Award*** – recognizing the club's top owner-handler in conformation during the awards year with a perpetual award donated by Fallchase Kennels.

***Gold Standard Challenge*** -- awarded to the owner handler accumulating the highest points in breed shows and field events during the awards year. Perpetual trophy donated by Kristin Sipus.

***Upland Hunting Dog of the Year Award*** (new in 2023) – awarding the club's top owner/handler in AKC Upland Hunting Dog competition with a perpetual trophy donated by Elizabeth Scherer. Dogs will not earn points toward the MFGRC Versatility Award by competing in this category.

The club's awards period runs from December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024. The deadline for entering will be November 30 and awards will be presented at the club's annual Christmas party.

Full details for all awards, including additional eligibility requirements are included in the official entry form that was recently emailed to members.

***Any questions about the MFGRC Year-End Dog Awards can be directed to [ninadepetris@att.net](mailto:ninadepetris@att.net)***

**ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2024, AT 6 P.M. ET**

# Dock Diving – Hydro Dash



**Hydro Dash** is the newest discipline in dock diving. It is a NADD (North America Diving Dogs) discipline. Unlike the other two disciplines which judge the dog on its ability to jump a distance, **Hydro Dash** tests the dog on how fast it can swim. The bumper toy is set 37 feet out into the pool and suspended 1 inch above the water.

The dog must start from the 10 foot mark on the dock in order to accurately and fairly score the swim times of each dog. They jump off the dock, swim to the bumper, grab it from the hanger, and swim back to the dock and up the ramp. The timer begins when the dog's last foot leave the dock, and it is stopped when the dog swims past the 10 foot mark of the pool after having retrieved the bumper.



Golden Boy "Charlie" (owned by Betty Lambert) and Golden Girl "Willow" (owned by Donna Hogan) both earned their Hydro Dash Novice (HDN) title on September 20 at the west Volusia Cluster. The time range for this novice level is 21.000 – 39.999 seconds.

To earn this title they each had to make this swim within that time range five separate times!

# SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS!



## A TOP 20 GOLDEN RETRIEVER

MBISS GCHS Crescent Goldrox Worth His Weight In Gold  
CGC TKN POA MBISS

# ELI

OWNED BY PAULA BLACK — SORRENTO FL

Eli is handled by MFGC member Chatham Napoli

THE 149<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
WESTMINSTER  
KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

*Unleash the* **EXCITEMENT**

February 8, 10, 11 – Javits Center  
February 10 & 11 – Madison Square Garden

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Act fast, tickets are now on sale now for the  
**149th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show**  
presented by Purina Pro Plan!

Three action-packed days of live dog sporting events featuring more than 2,500 champion dogs will kick off on Saturday, February 8 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, and evening events will be held at the iconic Madison Square Garden on February 10 & 11.

For more information about **Westminster Week** and to purchase tickets, please visit the **Westminster Kennel Club's website**.

See you in February!

*Good luck to all participants!*

# VOLUNTEERING . . .

## *Opportunities to Volunteer are Upcoming*

Hello everyone,

The MFGRC would like to encourage members to learn about various activities and gain knowledge about how to run events. If you have an interest in a particular venue of competition, please let us know so that we can connect you with those who currently chair the events and have knowledge to share. Mentorship is the best way to ensure that we can continue to offer these activities to our golden community for years to come. Below are the events we usually hold each year, so if you are interested in learning and shadowing current chairs, please email our volunteer coordinator Kirsten Sumal at [VolunteerMFGRC@gmail.com](mailto:VolunteerMFGRC@gmail.com).

Hunt Test (February)  
Dock Diving Fun Day  
Fun Match (obedience, rally, conformation)  
Barn Hunt Fun Day  
Health Clinic  
CCA/Breeder's Ed. Seminar  
July Specialty (conformation)  
Rally/Obedience Trial  
Agility Fun Day  
WC/WCX  
Hunt Test (November)  
December Specialty (conformation)

Thank you! We look forward to seeing you soon!

*Robin Burket*

MFGRC President



## **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.

# Halloween Pet Safety Guide . . .

## Toxic Foods for Dogs

**Keep this list of toxic foods for dogs handy and review our tricks for keeping poisonous foods out of your pet's reach.**

Medically Reviewed by Dr. Elizabeth Racine, DVM  
Jean Marie Bauhaus, Digital Writer . Posted November 01, 2022

With Halloween just around the corner, you'll likely have more candy, chocolate and other holiday goodies than usual hanging around the house. Since even small doses of chocolate and certain other human treats can have toxic effects on your dog, now is an ideal time to learn about Halloween pet safety. Keep this list of toxic foods for dogs handy and review our tricks for keeping these foods out of your pet's reach.



## Twelve Foods Dogs Should Not Eat

### 1. Chocolate and chocolate-flavored food

From cupcakes to candy bars, both milk chocolate and dark chocolate can be harmful to dogs even in small doses. All types of chocolate contain methylxanthines, such as caffeine and theobromine, which are highly toxic to your pooch and can cause symptoms that range from mild stomach upset to seizures and cardiac arrest. "The darker the chocolate and more rich, the more likely you are to have issues ... and depending on your dog's size, that's where it could be more of an issue," says Dr. Ayeley Okine.

### 2. Raisins and grapes

Your health-conscious neighbors might have good intentions by handing out those little boxes of raisins, but they're the opposite of healthy for your dog. Both fresh and dried grapes are toxic to dogs and can wreak havoc on their kidneys.

### 3. Candy corn and other high-sugar foods

Sugar is as irresistible to your pup as it is to your kids, but it's not good for their systems. Beware of your pets ingesting high-sugar foods, which can bring on an upset tummy.

### 4. Sugar-free gum, mints and candy

Though harmless to humans, the artificial sweetener xylitol is even more dangerous to your dog than real sugar. Commonly found in products marketed as "sugar-free," even tiny amounts of xylitol can be fatal in canines.

### 5. Popcorn

By itself, unseasoned, air-popped popcorn is safe for dogs. But the salt, butter, fat and other flavorings found in a typical bowl of popcorn generally aren't good for your pup's health and can cause gastrointestinal distress and other issues. The high sugar content in caramel corn or popcorn balls can be harmful as well. Unpopped kernels can also be a choking hazard and can damage your dog's teeth.

### 6. Macadamia nuts

Even a few chomps on a cookie or candy bar containing these nuts could make your pooch severely ill, with a high fever, vomiting, weakness and tremors.

### 7. Dairy might upset your dog's stomach

While not quite a toxic food for dogs, many dogs have trouble digesting dairy and dairy products. So malted milk balls and other dairy-based treats might give your pooch a bad case of **dog indigestion**.

### 8. Garlic and onions

Party mix and other snacks seasoned with these and other types of alliums can trigger a disorder known as hemolytic anemia, which destroys the red blood cells and can lead to severe kidney damage.

### 9. Salty treats

The salt content in that party mix, popcorn or other salty snacks like chips can cause sodium ion poisoning if your dog eats large amounts. This can result in high fever, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, seizures and kidney damage.

### 10. Moldy food

Jack-o'-lanterns, gourds, corn cobs and other foods used as seasonal decor can become moldy over time — and can also be mistaken for a snack by your dog. Toxic mold that's ingested by your pooch can cause a wide variety of health problems ranging from mild to serious.

### 11. Alcoholic treats

Not all Halloween treats are for kids. Your holiday pumpkin ale or spiked punch could be just as enticing to your dog as candy, and can be just as dangerous. The ethanol contained in alcoholic beverages can depress both your dog's central nervous and respiratory systems and elevate the acid in their blood, all of which can cause symptoms as serious as seizures or coma.

### 12. Candy wrappers can cause obstructions

It's not just the food. Gobbling up packaging made of paper, foil and plastic can cause your dog intestinal blockage that may require X-rays and surgical removal.

*Continued on next page . . .*

## Halloween Pet Safety Guide

*Continued . . .*

### Tricks for Keeping Toxic Foods for Dogs Away

If you'll be opening your door to trick-or-treaters, keep your dog in another part of the house where he or she will be safe.

If you have children who will be sorting through their Halloween candy haul, keep pets in a separate area before dumping out buckets and bags.

When opening candy, collect the wrappers and put them in the trash immediately.

Have a plan for where you'll store the goodies after trick-or-treating is over. Avoid putting bags or baskets of candy on the floor, on tables or on other surfaces where your dog can reach.

Don't take your dog trick-or-treating, where they can find dropped candy and wrappers on the ground while you're too distracted to supervise.

If hosting a Halloween party, keep your pup shut away from the festivities. Exercise them first so they'll be tired out and calm. If they want to say hi, keep their visit short and closely supervised, and politely ask guests not to give them treats.

Give your pooch their own special treats to keep them from being tempted and make them feel like part of the fun. Hand-feed them pieces of plain, air-popped popcorn, fill a Kong with pureed pumpkin mixed with **kibble** or treat them with commercially-made Halloween dog treats.

Review the list of toxic foods for dogs and these Halloween safety tips for pets with everyone in your household.

### What to Do if Your Dog Eats Chocolate or Another Toxic Food

If you think your dog might have eaten something harmful, **treat it like an emergency**. Signs of poisoning in dogs can include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, loss of coordination, excessive thirst, rapid heartbeat and seizures.

Even if you don't notice signs of distress but think your dog might have ingested something potentially harmful, it's a good idea to call the ASPCA's animal poison control center at **(888) 426-4435**. You should also contact your veterinarian as soon as possible, or if one's available, contact your local emergency veterinarian after hours.



*Dock Diving Moments . . . from left to right are: Suzanne Dukes & "Olive", Betty Lambert & "Charlie", and Donna Hogan with 10 year old "Sage"*



# December MFGRC Specialty – Trophy Sponsorships

Our annual winter Golden Retriever Specialty will be held on **Friday, December 13, 2024**. The specialty will top off 3 days of all breed shows starting on Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, which will be held at the Orange County Convention Center. The 2024 AKC National Championship, sponsored by Royal Canin, follows on Saturday and Sunday December 14 and 15. We hope you will join us for one of the largest gatherings of Golden Retrievers in the US (other than National and Regional Specialties).

Last year's beautiful rosette shadowboxes were so well received by the exhibitors we decided to offer them again this year. In addition, I know everyone will be pleased with the rest of the trophies we are offering.

As in previous years, your sponsorship will be showcased in the catalog (if received in a timely manner) and on the large trophy board prominently displayed ringside. Please email me at [mischiefgolden@gmail.com](mailto:mischiefgolden@gmail.com) indicating the trophy(s) you would like to sponsor, your name, kennel name, and if you would like to dedicate "in memory of". If you will be paying by check, please include the information with your check. If you would like to support our trophies but not sponsor an individual trophy you may donate to the General Fund. All additional donations will help to defray the cost of our specialty.

Please make checks payable to MFGRC and mail to:

**Camille Nasca**  
**4008 Bradley Ave.**  
**Orlando, FL 32839**

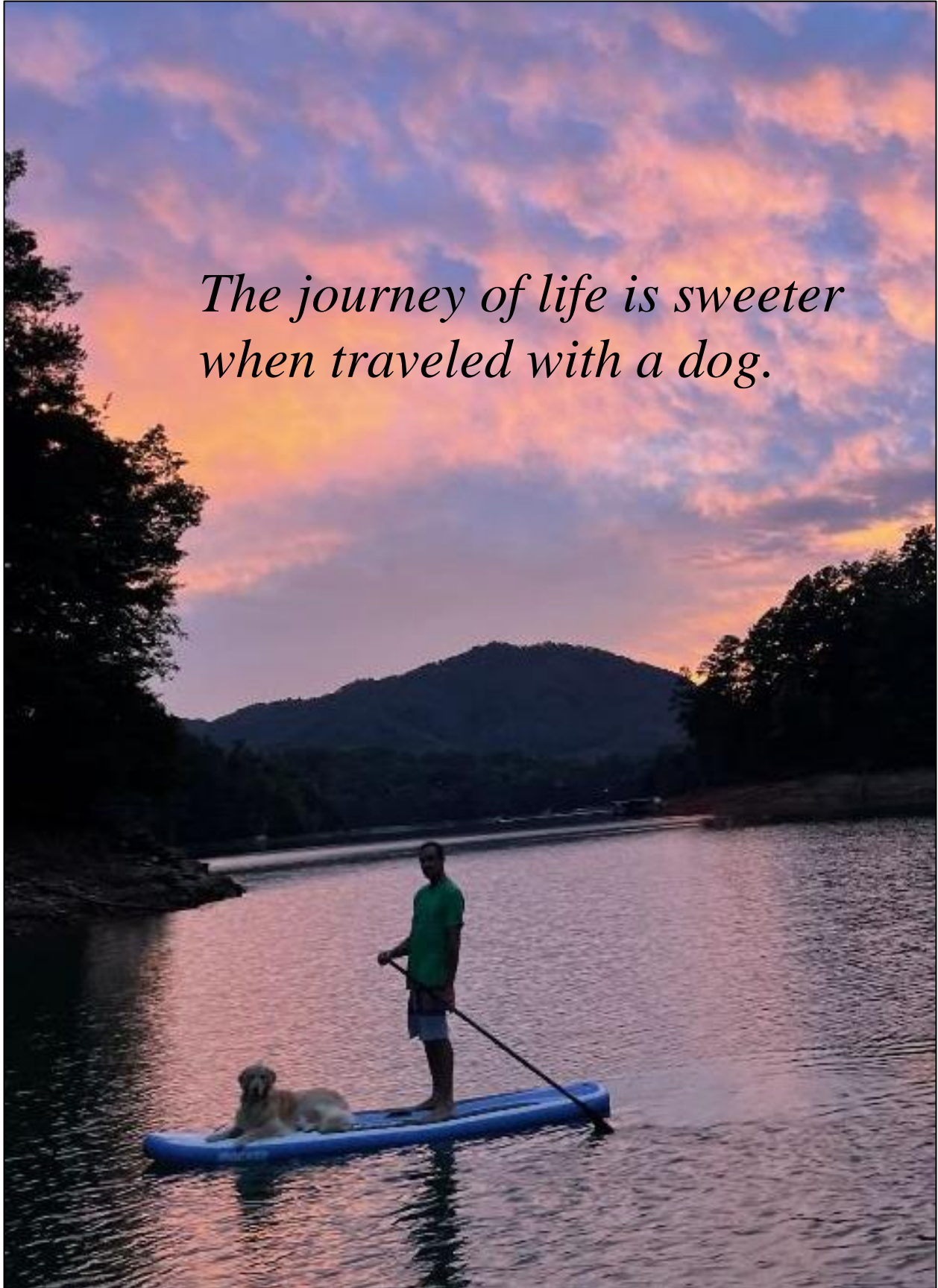
If you wish to pay via Zelle, the address is [mfgRCTreasurer112011@gmail.com](mailto:mfgRCTreasurer112011@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please contact me at [mischiefgolden@gmail.com](mailto:mischiefgolden@gmail.com).

## Available Trophy Sponsorships

Donation	Trophy
150	Best of Breed
130	Best of Opposite Sex
110	Best of Winners
80	Winners Dog
80	Winners Bitch
50	Reserve Winners Dog
50	Reserve Winners Bitch
50	Select Dog
50	Select Bitch
50	Best Veteran
50	Best Puppy
50	Best Owner Handler
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 6-9 Month Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 9-12 Month Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 12-15 Month Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 15-18 Month Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Amat/Owner Handler
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 6 Mo – Under 12 Mo Bred By Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Bred By Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place American Bred Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Open Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 6-9 Month Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 9-12 Month Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 12-15 Month Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 15-18 Month Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Amat/Owner Handler
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 6 Mo – Under 12 Mo Bred By Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Bred By Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place American Bred Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Open Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Novice Junior
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Novice Intermediate
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Novice Senior
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Open Junior
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Open Intermediate
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Open Senior
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Master
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 7-10 Veteran Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 10-12 Veteran Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 12 and over Veteran Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 7-10 Veteran Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 10-12 Veteran Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place 12 and over Veteran Bitch
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place H R Dog
20	1 <sup>st</sup> Place H R Bitch

*The journey of life is sweeter  
when traveled with a dog.*





## ACCOLADES . . .

Liz Scherer's Golden Boy "Kody" (Am CH; SHR; U-CH; IABCA WBCH Star Crowned Kodiak Island CD BN RE SHU JH FDC CCA CGC TKI WCX VC RATI) are very proud to have been selected for an Owner-Handled Group 3 under Judge Douglas Johnson in Palm Beach FL in July. "Kody" went Owner-Handled Best of Breed under Judge Johnson and then again under Judge Debra Thornton also that same weekend in Palm Beach in July. Big Congrats!



Susan Howard and her well accomplished Golden Boy "Winston" added another big title to their resume finishing their OTCH 15 (Obedience Trial Championship – 15<sup>th</sup> time). Susan and "Winston" won everything at the July Obedience Club of Daytona event taking Utility B and Open B in both trials as well as High in Trial and High Combined for both trials. Wow!



Debbie Finch's Golden Girl "Abbey" achieved her Novice Trick dog title in July.

# MORE ACCOLADES . . .



Katie



Luke

## SCENT TRIAL KUDOS

From Connie Adams -

What a GREAT DAY "KATIE" and "LUKE" had at the SWCO Trial held in Bushnell, Florida. Katie started by earning her EXCELLENT BURIED title with a FIFTH Placement out of Nine at the First Trial and then a THIRD Placement out of Nine at the Second Trial. She was awesome, stuck to the task at hand and if her handler (me!) took her at her word, I am sure we would have finished with two First Placements!

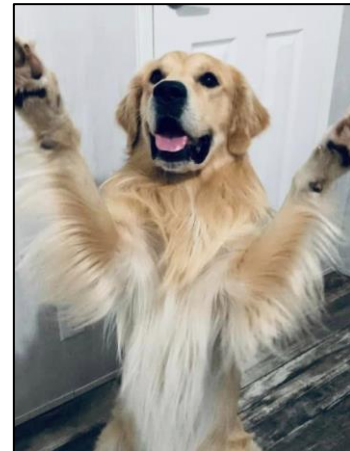
Luke earned two legs in Advanced Buried with a FOURTH Placement out of 17 at the first trial and a SECOND Placement out of 17 at the second trial. Both dogs performed under the watchful eye of awesome Judge Wendy Hudson.

Luke then went on to earn two legs in ADVANCED CONTAINER with a FIRST Placement out of 18 at the first trial and then a SECOND Placement out of 19 at the Second Trial. He was judged by super judge Lauren Walsh. Lauren's kind words to me afterwards were very special.

As if this wasn't enough, LUKE went HIGH IN TRIAL in Buried and Containers. My VERY FIRST HIT EVER and by LUKE-WOW!!!



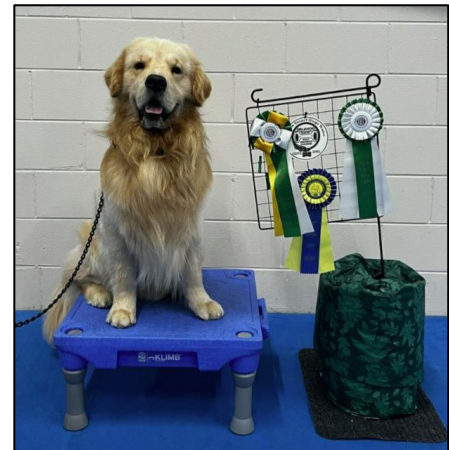
Cynthia Rothman's Golden Girl "Maia" achieved her Advanced Rally Title in May.



Taylor Gordon's Golden Boy "Banner" (Celtics Majik Money Maker CGC BCAT TKI VHMA FITB) completed his Trick Dog Intermediate Title in July.



Ann Rowe's Golden Boy "Brody" recently finished his Beginner Novice Title, Rally Novice Title, and Companion Dog Title *plus* achieved his Jr Dock Diving Title. *Go Brody Go!*



Charlie Lopez and Owen Kelly's Golden Boy "Liam" achieved his CGC and Novice Trick Dog Title.