



July 2019

# THE GUARDIAN

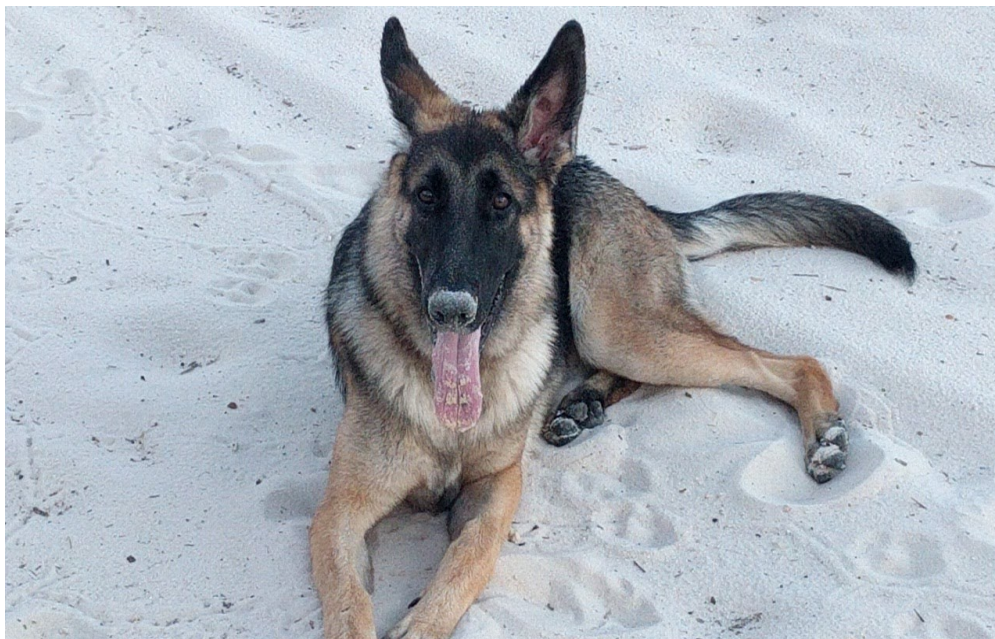
[www.gsdcatlanta.org](http://www.gsdcatlanta.org)  
Remember to join our Facebook  
Group: GSDC of Atlanta

## Message from the President

Atlanta in July is living up to its reputation – hot and humid. I go to bed with great plans for bright and early the next morning to take my dogs out and do a little training – fast and effective and then in the morning I open the door and say oh wow maybe we'll work inside a little today.

Hopefully you are making plans as to what you hope to accomplish with your dogs in the coming months. If the club can help you achieve your goals, please let us know. We are working hard to come up with a solution to our need for training classes and hope to offer an introduction to herding day. Any other suggestions?

Hope to see you Sunday, July 21 at our Awards Banquet, Aldo's Restaurant at 5:00 p.m.



Summertime Fun At The Beach!!

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Upcoming Programs              | 2     |
| From the Editor/Our 2020 Shows | 3     |
| Updated Advertising Rates      | 4     |
| Puppies, Puppies, Puppies      | 5     |
| Stud Dog Ad                    | 6     |
| Thinking of Getting a GSD?     | 7-11  |
| Upcoming Events                | 12    |
| FDA's Grain Free Alert         | 13-14 |
| GSDC Atlanta Membership App    | 15    |
| GSDCA Membership App           | 16    |

**EVERYONE INVITED!! SPREAD THE WORD....**

**The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta  
wishes to cordially invite you to three special  
upcoming programs.**

Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 8pm

Canine Good Citizen and Trick Dog titles—what's required and how to earn them, with additional information about an upcoming clinic where dogs of all breeds (including mixed) can be tested and possibly earn those titles.

Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 8pm

Dr. Carmen Battaglia, chair of the American Kennel Club's Detector Dogs program, will give a presentation on that program, whose purpose is to increase the number of dogs trained to help defend and protect the United States.

Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 8pm

Representatives from the German Shepherd Dog Rescue of Georgia will present a program on their rescue group and how it works, and will bring special canine visitors who have been successfully adopted or are up for adoption.

**Location:**

**Blue Pearl Pet Hospital, 455 Abernathy Road, Sandy Springs**

2nd floor meeting room on left side of building as you face it from the parking lot. There is an elevator. (This is formerly Georgia Veterinary Specialists.)

## FROM THE EDITOR

- ♦ Special thanks to Alice Carnahan for composing “Thinking About Getting A German Shepherd?”. We believe this will be a great resource for anyone considering a GSD. This will be used as a hand-out for prospective new GSD owners.
- ♦ The last 2 pages of this newsletter contain membership applications for both the GSDC of Atlanta and the GSDCA. Also included below are the website links to both.  
<https://www.gsdcatlanta.org/forms.php>  
<https://store.gsdca.org/GSDCA-New-Membership-s/1845.htm>
- ♦ Do you shop at Amazon? If so, please consider setting up your account so AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% to the charity of your choice with every eligible purchase. We suggest the GSD Charitable Foundation. Contact Ren Lewis if you need assistance with this.
- ♦ We are working on several improvements/updates to our website. Check back often.
- ♦ For those that are also members of the GSDCA, did you see the results are posted from our shows in May? They are also in the July Review on pages 48 & 49. Congrats to all the winners!
- ♦ Help US Help You! Your suggestions and comments are always welcome as we strive to give you what you need, and want.
- ♦ REMINDER: The Awards Banquet is July 21st, please RSVP to Joye Evans.

### May 15-17, 2020 SHOWS

Your Board has been busy working on details for our 2020 shows that will be held in Augusta, GA. The Augusta GSDC will be hosting the 2020 Futurity/Maturity on May 17th. They've asked us to cluster with them on the pre-shows. The GSDC of Atlanta will host the Friday and Saturday PM shows with the Augusta GSDC hosting the Friday and Saturday AM shows. There will be no obedience or rally at these shows. The judges are as follows:

|              |                   |                |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Friday AM:   | Randy Chestnut    | (Augusta GSDC) |
| Friday PM:   | Dr. Didier Ardoin | (Atlanta GSDC) |
| Saturday AM: | Michael Cheeks    | (Augusta GSDC) |
| Saturday PM: | Doug Crane        | (Atlanta GSDC) |

Futurity/Maturity will be held on Sunday and the judge is Jeff Pyle.

We are working out the details now, but we plan to host Fast CAT all three days, with a “fun run” on Thursday for those that will be getting into Augusta early. Never tried it? Go to the AKC website for details or YouTube for videos. No prior training is needed and the dogs love it!



## UPDATED NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

### Commercial Advertising Rates

Design is extra and based on time spent

| Size                        | Monthly                    | Quarterly         | Yearly             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Full Page</b>            | \$17.00                    | \$27.50           | \$50.00            |
| <b>Half Page</b>            | \$10.00                    | \$22.50           | \$32.50            |
| <b>Quarter Page</b>         | \$7.50                     | \$15.00           | \$22.50            |
| <b>Business Card</b>        | \$5.00                     | \$7.50            | \$12.50            |
| <b>Large Business Cards</b> | 3" - \$5.75<br>4" - \$6.75 | \$9.50<br>\$11.00 | \$17.50<br>\$22.50 |

### Non-Commercial Advertising Rates

|                           | Member                 | Non-Member |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Front Page</b>         | \$12.50                | N/A        |
| <b>Back Cover</b>         | \$12.50                | N/A        |
| <b>Stud Dogs</b>          | \$6.00 per year        | N/A        |
| <b>Breeder / Services</b> | \$6.00 per year        | N/A        |
| <b>Whelping Box</b>       | 1 free litter per year | N/A        |
| <b>Full Page</b>          | \$12.50                | \$17.50    |
| <b>Half Page</b>          | \$7.50                 | \$12.50    |
| <b>Quarter Page</b>       | \$6.50                 | \$10.00    |

# PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES!!

These adorable pups are owned by Philippa Fendler, and some will be available to wonderful homes!. Two pups are spoken for already. Anyone interested should contact Philippa directly at (404) 667-3698 or [vonderraeuberbande@gmail.com](mailto:vonderraeuberbande@gmail.com). (4 males, 2 females)



**If you have puppies or adults available, please be sure to contact  
Connie Irvine ([francon1@bellsouth.net](mailto:francon1@bellsouth.net) or 770-507-7408).  
Connie handles the club referrals.**



# STUD DOG

Heinerburg Shepherds Presents  
Am Bronze Ch & Can Select Ch

**MALCOLM**

OFA H&E / OFA DM Clear



At stud to approved bitches.  
With very limited Breeding,  
Sire of 4 Champions, Futurity winners,  
and a Group Placement at 14 months.

Ron & Nancy Harper-Mulvaney  
(770) 640-0149  
[nancy@heinerburgshepherds.com](mailto:nancy@heinerburgshepherds.com)

# **THINKING ABOUT GETTING A GERMAN SHEPHERD?**

## **Resources**

German Shepherd Dog Club of America – [www.gsdca.org](http://www.gsdca.org)

German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta – [www.gsdcatlanta.org](http://www.gsdcatlanta.org)

Facebook: GSDC of Atlanta

Breeder Referral (has list of puppies and dogs available from club members) – Connie Irvine – 770-507-7408

German Shepherd Dog Rescue of Georgia – [www.gashepherd.org](http://www.gashepherd.org), [info@gashepherd.org](mailto:info@gashepherd.org)

Canine Pet Rescue - [www.caninepetrescue.com](http://www.caninepetrescue.com)

German Shepherd Rescue Association (National organization) – [www.agsra.com](http://www.agsra.com)

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals – [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)

Canine Health Information Center – [www.caninehealthinfo.org](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org)

Atlanta Kennel Club – [www.atlantakennelclub.org](http://www.atlantakennelclub.org)

American Kennel Club – [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) (There are other registries, but the AKC is the “gold standard.”)

American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation (sponsors research on health problems of GSD’s) – [www.agsdcf.org](http://www.agsdcf.org)

## **What to Look for:**

A breeder or rescue group who/which ***will take back any German Shepherd Dog*** (GSD) the breeder has bred or the rescue group has placed, ***at any time in the dog’s life***, if you cannot keep him or her for any reason.

A breeder whose puppies are or can be registered with the American Kennel Club (this means that ***both the parents must be AKC-registered***). (Purebred rescued dogs of unknown pedigree, who are spayed or neutered, can get special AKC registrations which allow them to compete in AKC performance events.)

A breeder who ***performs health testing on the puppies’ parents*** (the breeder may have only the dam, but will have this information on the sire as well). If you have the complete registered name and breed of a dog, you can look that dog up on [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org) to see what health tests it has had, and the results. The breeder should be willing to give you that information for both the sire and the dam, and/or to give you copies of the health certificates the parents have earned (pups are too young to be tested for most health conditions).

A breeder who will ***give you the health records of any puppy you buy***, who ***uses a contract***, ***provides a guarantee*** for the pups (that is, you can return the pup and get your money refunded within a specified time based on your veterinarian’s evaluation), brings the puppies up inside a home rather than a kennel, and who ***socializes the pups*** to people from a very early age.

A breeder who *shows his/her dogs in competitive events* such as conformation, obedience, rally, tracking, agility, herding, Working Dog Sport, or participates in Search and Rescue, therapy dog work, or whose dog is a working Service Dog. The pups' pedigree should include dogs who have titles and/or certifications in one or more of these areas. Ask the breeder to go over the pedigree with you and to explain what the titles mean. The more dogs with titles the better! You can find lists of titles and what they mean at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

### **Why this Breeding? Why this Litter? Why Now?**

Look for a breeder who *tries to breed puppies which meet the Standard for the German Shepherd Dog Breed*. You can find it on [www.gsdc.org](http://www.gsdc.org) and [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org); everyone interested in German Shepherd Dogs should read it, as it addresses temperament as well as conformation and correct movement. Ask the breeder why s/he bred this particular dam to this particular sire – what was s/he hoping to get? All breeders should always be striving to improve the breed, and responsible bitch owners usually choose a male who can improve on their bitch's weaknesses, or who has a compatible pedigree to hers.

### **Health Issues:**

There is *no such thing as a perfect dog* in the German Shepherd Dog breed or in any other breed. However, there are a number of tests available which responsible breeders use to enhance the chances of the puppies' having as few problems as possible. The Canine Health Information Center, after obtaining input from the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, has listed three tests as essential for German Shepherd Dogs; those are evaluations of *hips, elbows, and temperament* (the latter is not a health issue, of course, but it is vital to the wellbeing of the breed). Optional CHIC tests include those for *cardiac, thyroid, DM (degenerative myelopathy)* and *eyes*. Few breeders have all these tests done on all their dogs; hip and elbow tests are most common. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals will give a preliminary hip or elbow status to a dog as young as one year; the dog must be two years old before he can be assigned a "permanent" hip or elbow rating. Elbows are either normal (passing) or not. Hips can be rated Excellent, Good, or Fair; any grade below that is not passing. As noted above, *the breeder should show you the sire and dam's certifications. The breeder should also give you at least a three-generation pedigree, which will note any champions, performance titles, and OFA certifications of the sire, dam, and ancestors.*

Unfortunately, there is no genetic test for propensity to *bloat*, which is a life-threatening condition that occurs in large-breed dogs when their stomachs swell and then twist, cutting off blood supply. Ask the breeder if there has been any bloat in their lines, and also to describe the signs of bloat and their recommendations to keep it from occurring. *Symptoms may (but do not always) include restlessness, trying to vomit but being unable to do so, and a swollen, hard stomach.* Once you get your dog or puppy, discuss this with your veterinarian as well, as bloat is the most common killer of German Shepherd Dogs. If you ever think your dog may be bloating, get him to the nearest emergency vet clinic immediately; only surgery can save the life of a dog who is bloating. Also ask the breeder if there has been any *DM (Degenerative Myelopathy)* in their lines and if the puppies have been tested for it. (This is an important DNA test that can be done on very young puppies.) DM is a neurological disease very similar to multiple sclerosis in people; there is no cure. This disease is quite prevalent in GSD's as well as many other breeds. There is no pain involved, but the condition causes a gradual loss of mobility of the dog's rear end and eventual death.

Ask the breeder to tell you about *"pano,"* as well. This is a common problem with young German Shepherd Dogs, and is sometimes called "shifting leg lameness." Your vet should be familiar with it, and can help make the dog more comfortable; the good news is that affected GSD's grow out of it, usually by age two.



Another problem which exists within the breed (as well as in other breeds) is ***poor digestive function***, including but not limited to exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI), mega esophagus, and irritable bowel syndrome. Ask the breeder if s/he has had problems with any of these, and if so how s/he handled them. Remember that just as there is no perfect dog, GSD or other breed, there is also no perfect breeder.

Ask the breeder how long the puppies' grandparents and great-grandparents lived, and what they died from, if they know. German Shepherd Dogs generally live to be 10 to 12 years old.

***If the breeder has never heard of bloat, DM, digestive disorders, or pano, or says that they “don’t believe” in doing any health tests on the sire and dam of their puppies, run away politely but quickly!***

### **American-bred vs. German-bred:**

Although some fanciers would disagree, ***both American-bred and German-bred GSD's can be wonderful dogs***. In general, because German-bred GSD's are required to have working titles prior to breeding, German-bred GSD's have higher play and prey drives than American-bred GSD's, but this is not always the case. Although all GSD's require a modicum of daily exercise, any GSD with a high play or prey drive will need more exercise than one who just wants to be a couch potato. The pedigree of your prospective pup should be evaluated on what is in the pedigree rather than whether the dog is American- or German-bred. Tell the breeder what type of personality you would prefer, and the breeder will be able to match you with the right pup, as dogs are “hard-wired” at birth, and it is possible to tell from a very early age what type of personality they will have, including play and prey drive and dominance. For most people, a “middle of the road” pup is the best bet.

### **Puppy vs. Adult Dog?**

Puppies are a lot of trouble, but they're awfully cute! Although all puppies should be crate-trained, a puppy cannot go 8-10 hours every day in a crate. So, if there is no one home in the daytime at your house, you will need to make arrangements to have someone come in to take the pup out at least once a day. ***Puppies need to be fed at least 3 times a day at the beginning, and they like to chew. Many people feel that GSD's should not be given the total run of the house until they are about 2 years old.*** However, if you get a puppy from a reputable breeder, and take it through appropriate positive-reinforcement training classes, then you can take legitimate pride in having “made” a wonderful adult. The ***effort you put into a puppy in the first two years pays off for the rest of the dog's life***. GSD's are naturally clean (although they shed all the time, and require frequent brushing), and are very easy to crate- and house-train, if you follow a consistent and reasonable schedule. ***Every GSD puppy should go to “puppy kindergarten,”*** training classes geared for pups and which use positive reinforcement. Ask your breeder and your veterinarian about recommendations for reputable trainers.

Adult dogs, which can be adopted from reputable rescue groups or from reputable breeders who want a good pet home for an adult dog who is finished with his/her show career, have one great advantage: ***you can already see “what you're going to get.”*** GSD's are capable of bonding with new owners, and sometimes ***an adult GSD from Rescue can be the “perfect dog” for a family that simply does not have the time to cope with a puppy.*** Reputable rescue groups will tell you everything they know about the dog, and will agree to take him or her back if placement with you

does not work out. Expect to be grilled by them as though you were adopting a human child! As noted above, if you are interested in competing with your dog in performance events (obedience, agility, tracking, herding, etc.), if your purebred GSD is neutered or spayed, ***you can obtain a special registration (PAL) from AKC*** which will allow your dog to compete in those events.

### **Color, Coat, and Size in the German Shepherd Dog**

The Official Standard of the German Shepherd Dog, as published by the American Kennel Club, includes the following section on color: “The German Shepherd Dog varies in color, and most colors are permissible. ***Strong rich colors are preferred.*** Nose black. Pale, washed-out colors and blues or livers are serious faults. A white dog or a dog with a nose that is not predominantly black must be disqualified.”

***Black and tan, usually with a “saddle” pattern and varying amounts of tan, from light to dark, is the most common GSD color, followed by sable and solid black.*** Although sable is thought of as a color, it is actually a pattern of coloring: each hair on the body of the dog is tipped in black. The background color may be any shade or color ranging from light tan to mahogany, or light grey to charcoal. Solid black is exactly that. ***Most GSD puppies are born very dark, and lighten up a great deal in the first few months, and then at a lesser rate as they get older.*** So, don’t assume that a puppy will look the same in six months! Although white GSD’s can be registered with the AKC if their sire and dam were AKC-registered, and may compete in performance events, white is a disqualifying color for AKC conformation competition.

According to the Standard, the ***ideal GSD has a double coat of medium length.*** The top or outer coat is coarse, and the undercoat is almost down-like. The undercoat acts as an insulator against heat and cold, while the outer coat sheds water and dirt to “weatherproof” the dog. The “long-coated” shepherd is the product of a recessive gene. While the long coat in the past has not been desirable for the “show dog” (in conformation, because some long-coated GSD’s do not have undercoats), this has been changing in recent years. No hereditary problems have been associated with this gene. Some extra grooming is required to maintain the long coat.

Finally, despite ads you may see to the contrary, ***bigger is not better***, in the German Shepherd Dog. The standard says that bitches (***females***) ***should be from 22 to 24 inches tall at the withers*** (where the neck attaches to the back); dogs (***males***) ***should be from 24 to 26 inches tall at the withers.*** Weight should be in proportion to size. The body of a GSD should give an impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness. GSD’s were bred to be tough, weatherproof herding dogs who could work all day without tiring, and GSD’s today benefit from being kept fit, lean, and ready to work.

### **Where Not to Get a Dog:**

- A ***pet shop which sells puppies*** (Places like PetsMart which hold adoption days for rescue groups are fine; they do not sell dogs themselves. Dogs in pet shops come from puppy mills, which house breeding dogs in deplorable conditions. Do not buy anything from such a store.)
- A rescue group which will not tell you how they obtained the dog, and any background they know about it.

- A breeder or rescue group which will not take the dog back if you feel you cannot keep it.
- A breeder who has a male and female GSD and is obviously breeding just to make money; this person will not compete with their dogs in any sport, and probably will not be able to answer the questions noted in this flyer.

### **Who Should *Not* Get a German Shepherd Dog?**

- People who have severe *allergies to dog hair/dander; GSD's are shedding machines.*
- People who intend to leave a dog outside all day, with no company.
- People who do not have an adequate fenced yard or exercise area; GSD's should never be chained.
- People who do not have the time or energy to provide daily exercise and play with a dog.
- People who are very "house proud" and do not like dog hair on their carpets and furniture.
- People who think all puppies are cute but can't handle large dogs with tails that swipe everything off coffee tables.
- People who are *not willing to take their dog to obedience classes, beginning with puppy kindergarten.*
- People who do not want a dog who is smarter than they are!
- People who do not have the resources to provide appropriate shelter, food, preventive and veterinary care for a dog who may live 10 – 14 years. *There is no shame in not getting a dog if you cannot afford one.*

### **Who Should Get a German Shepherd Dog?**

- Responsible people who are *willing to commit to their new family member for as long as the dog lives*, which could be from 10 to 14 years.
- People who *have the resources to care for a GSD for its entire life.*
- People who are *willing to train their new GSD to have good manners with other dogs and with people* (see the AKC's web site for information about the CGC, Canine Good Citizen, program – every GSD should be capable of obtaining this certification).
- People who like to decorate their home with beautiful dog hair.
- People who understand that, despite their size, *GSD's are house dogs*, not "outside" dogs; although a secure fenced-in yard or area is necessary, a GSD will not exercise himself if left alone, and will be miserable.
- People who are willing to provide regular, daily exercise for their new family member.
- If these points describe you, please attend a club meeting, go to a dog show or agility or obedience trial, and meet other people who love the *most versatile dog in the world!*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **July 21st at 5pm, Annual Awards**

**Banquet** Aldo's on Roswell Rd. RSVP to Joye Evans



Lady Lily chillin' on ice from Dad's cooler!

## **The AKC Dog Detection Task Force**

will host its 3rd conference for stakeholders in Durham NC , on **August 27-29**. The agenda and speakers can be found at "AKC Dog Detection Conference". The limit of 230 has been set by the fire marshal. We are at 200 now. Those interested should not wait.

## **Jonesboro Shows Aug 22nd-25th**

Shows close Aug 7th, superintendent is MB-F, Inc.

Breed judges are Linda Hurlebaus, Jan N. Paulk, Janet Turnage Nahikian, and Dorothy N. Collier

## **Greenville, SC shows July 25th—July 28th**

Shows close July 10th, superintendent is MB-F Inc.

Breed judges are Mr. Thomas W Coen, Jamie Hubbard, Sheila Polk, and Mr. Robert J. Shreve

Good Luck and Safe Travels to those attending!

## **Mobile, AL shows Sept 4th-Sept 8th**

Shows close Aug 21st, superintendent is Onofrio  
*Specialty shows are Wed, Sept 4th, judges are Lynda Bragg-Workman & Patricia Trotter*

Judges for other shows are Dana Cline, James Frederiksen, Charles Olvis, and Charles Trotter  
Greater Gulf States Fairgrounds

**The Atlanta Kennel Club** will host its first activity at their new facility called the "Atlanta KC Training Bldg" on Aug 17th, located at: 1155 Alpha Dr. Suite B, in Alpharetta, just a few exits up 400. This is a **one day seminar**, topics include: Breeding Better Dogs, Developing Puppies, Early Neurological Stimulation, Structure, Movement & Pedigree Analysis. **Presenter: Dr. Carmen Battaglia**, Contact Persons are : Mary Ellen Macke and Ginger Aldrich, maryellenmacke@gmail.com; snofire@aol.com; Phone: 1 (404) 310-5933, 1 (770) 380-9404

# What Dog Owners Need to Know About the FDA's Grain-Free Diet Alert

By Anna Burke

June 28, 2019

The FDA is investigating potential links between canine heart disease and diet — specifically grain-free dog food diets. We've compiled the information you need to know to understand this ongoing investigation.

## Why is the FDA Investigating Grain-Free Dog Food?

It is easy to panic anytime we see an FDA headline about pet food. After all, keeping our dogs healthy is essential to us, and we know that diet can make a big difference in a dog's well-being. We reached out to Dr. Jerry Klein, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the AKC, to hear his thoughts on the ongoing FDA investigation.

“The FDA is investigating a potential dietary link between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and dogs eating certain grain-free dog foods. The foods of concern are those containing legumes such as peas or lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes listed as primary ingredients. The FDA began investigating this matter after it received reports of DCM in dogs that had been eating these diets for a period of months to years. DCM itself is not considered rare in dogs, but these reports are unusual because the disease occurred in breeds of dogs not typically prone to the disease.”

Between January 1, 2014 and April 30, 2019, the FDA received 524 reports of DCM (515 dogs, 9 cats), and most reports were submitted after the FDA's first public alert in July 2018. The total number of pets affected is greater than 524 because some reports included multi-pet households.

## What is Canine Heart Disease or Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM)?

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a type of canine heart disease that affects the heart muscle. The hearts of dogs with DCM have a decreased ability to pump blood, which often results in congestive heart failure.

Some breeds, especially large and giant breeds, have a predisposition to DCM. These breeds include Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Newfoundlands, Irish Wolfhounds, and Saint Bernards. While DCM is less common in medium and small breeds, English and American Cocker Spaniels are also predisposed to this condition.

The reports submitted to the FDA span a wide range of breeds, including many without a known genetic predisposition. When early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicated that recent, atypical cases in breeds like Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Whippets, Bulldogs, and Shih Tzus all consistently ate grain alternatives in their diets, the FDA took notice.

## Should you be Concerned About Grain-Free Dog Food?

In the FDA's July 2019 update on diet and canine heart disease, they examined labels of dog food products reported in DCM cases to determine whether the foods were “grain-free” (defined as no corn, soy, wheat, rice, barley or other grains), and whether the foods contained peas, lentils, chickpeas, beans, or potatoes (including sweet potatoes). Their report states that more than 90 percent of foods reported in DCM cases were grain-free, 93 percent of reported foods contained peas and/or lentils, and 42 percent contained potatoes/sweet potatoes.

According to Dr. Klein, “At this time, there is no proof that these ingredients are the cause of DCM in a broader range of dogs, but dog owners should be aware of this alert from the FDA. The FDA continues to work with veterinary cardiologists and veterinary nutritionists to better understand the effect, if any, of grain-free diets on dogs.”

The FDA's July 2019 update includes the names of dog food brands that were named 10 times or more in reports submitted through April 30, 2019. Most reports were for dry dog food, but raw, semi-moist and wet foods were all represented.

- Acana (67 reports)
- Zignature (64 reports)
- Taste of the Wild (53 reports)
- 4Health (32 reports)
- Earthborn Holistic (32 reports)
- Blue Buffalo (31 reports)
- Nature's Domain (29 reports)
- Fromm (24 reports)
- Merrick (16 reports)
- California Natural (15 reports)
- Natural Balance (15 reports)
- Orijen (12 reports)
- Nature's Variety (10 reports)
- Nutrisource (10 reports)
- Nutro (10 reports)
- Rachael Ray Nutrish (10 reports)

In the Dec. 1 version of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, Ph.D., DACVN, provided an update to the research on DCM and emphasized the issue is not just grain-free diets. She calls the suspected diets “BEG” diets (boutique companies, exotic ingredients, or grain-free diets).

“The apparent link between BEG diets and DCM may be due to ingredients used to replace grains in grain-free diets, such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits,” Freeman wrote.

Freeman emphasizes that although there appears to be an association between DCM and BEG diets, the relationship has not yet been proven, and other factors may be equally or more important.

The FDA encourages pet owners to report cases of dogs and cats with DCM that they suspect to be linked to diet by using the Safety Reporting Portal.

As a general rule of thumb, the best thing you can do for your dog's dietary health is to consult your veterinarian. Together you can weigh the pros and cons of your dog's diet and, if necessary, monitor your dog for signs of DCM.

[https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-fdas-grain-free-diet-alert/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20190705-communicates&utm\\_content=expert\\_advice-nutrition\\_what\\_you\\_need\\_to\\_know\\_about\\_the\\_fdas\\_grain\\_free\\_diet\\_alert-p1](https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-fdas-grain-free-diet-alert/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190705-communicates&utm_content=expert_advice-nutrition_what_you_need_to_know_about_the_fdas_grain_free_diet_alert-p1)



*GSDC of Atlanta reserves the right to visit your dog facilities prior to acceptance for membership.*



## Membership Application

Membership Dues 1st Year: \$35 Individual \$45 Household  
(Membership Dues Each Year Thereafter -\$20 Individual; \$30 Household)  
Check/payment must accompany application.  
Make check payable to: The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc.

**For Office Use Only:**

Reviewed by Board

Joined GSDCAtl

PLEASE PRINT Last Name First Name Telephone ☐ communicate via USPS mail only

Address City

Occupation E-Mail address

*I/We authorize the GSDC of Atlanta to communicate with me/us via email unless otherwise indicated by checking the box listed above.*

Second Member (Household Membership Only)

Last Name First Name Occupation

*Each Member is encouraged to participate in Club activities. Please circle your areas of interest.*

|            |             |                          |                 |          |
|------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Equipment  | Telephone   | Microchip/Tattoo Clinics | Publicity       | Trophies |
| Newsletter | Hospitality | Training Classes         | Matches & Shows | Library  |

Why do you want to join the German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta? \_\_\_\_\_

Let us get to know you better. ....

Circle any areas in which you have experience:

Obedience    Tracking    Conformation  
Herding    Training    Agility

Do you belong to any other dog clubs or animal related organization? (i.e. humane societies, welfare organizations, etc.) Please list:

Do you have any children living at home? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what are their names? \_\_\_\_\_

What other interests, talents or hobbies do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Let us get to know your dogs better.... Please complete the back of this form

I/We agree to abide by the ideas espoused by the German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc. I/We agree to raise and show dogs in the true spirit of the breed, and to follow the rules, Constitution and By Laws of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc. and the American Kennel Club.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Active Club Member

Signature of Active Club Member

Requirement for membership: Prospective members shall be required to attend two of the last six club meetings or one club meeting and one club event before submitting an application to the Board of Directors. Names of applicants will be published in the Guardian 30 days prior to membership consideration.

Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_



## German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc.

### Application for Membership

There are two types of membership. **Regular Members:** Minimum age of 18 years. Must be in good standing with AKC. Applicant (and renewing members) agrees to abide by the GSDCA by-laws and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club. Two endorsements by current members must be provided by new applicants. Applicant's name will be published in the *German Shepherd Dog Review*. Provided no objections

have been filed within 30 days of publication in the *Review*, applicant will be notified that he/she is eligible for all privileges including the right to vote. **Junior Members:** Must be 10 years of age and not more than 18 years of age and shall subscribe to the same criteria as Regular Membership with the exception of the requirement to pay dues. Junior members cannot vote, hold office, or serve on committees other than junior committees.

To apply and pay **ONLINE** with a credit card, please go to [gsdca.org/join-the-gsdca/apply-online](http://gsdca.org/join-the-gsdca/apply-online).

You can **MAIL** this form to Laura Gilbert, 557 Dunning Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23322

#### Circle Your Desired Membership Type:

| Membership Category | Review Delivery | One year | Three year                              | Five year |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|---|-----------|
| Single              | Online only     | \$45     | \$130                                   | \$215     |
| Single              | Print & online  | \$75     | \$215                                   | \$355     |
| Family              | Online only     | \$70     | \$200                                   | \$335     |
| Family              | Print & online  | \$115    | \$325                                   | \$545     |
|                     |                 |          | <b>Additional delivery charges</b>      |           |
|                     |                 |          | Delivery in poly wrap: \$5.00           |           |
|                     |                 |          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Class delivery: \$36.00 |           |
|                     |                 |          | Outside United States: \$24.00          |           |

#### Membership Information (please print)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (Juniors Only)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**For FAMILY Memberships, provide 2nd member information.** (Family membership is defined as 2 people living in the same household – principal & one other person).

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**What activities do you enjoy with your GSD?** (Circle all that apply)      Agility      Conformation      Herding

House Pet      Obedience      Rally      Schutzhund/Working Dog Sport      Tracking      Other

#### Endorser 1 Printed

Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Endorser 2 Printed

Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant/ Member Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_