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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER APRIL

The show season is progressing and our members have been very successful in showing in All Breed and in Specialty Shows. Congratulations to all of who have participated so far and Best of Luck to all of you who are going to the Potomac.

At our Board meeting we had a discussion about what is in some of our sales contracts and how that may be affected by Federal, State and Local laws. This is intended for discussion purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. You should get legal advice from your attorney if you require it.

In Georgia, there are numerous laws which affect your contracts and your status as breeders They include but are not limited to the Uniform Commercial Code, the Animal Protection Act and the Federal Department of Agriculture regulations.

The sale of puppies in our state is a sale of goods which is regulated by the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code where the price is over \$600. There are implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for an intended purpose. These warranties can be disclaimed expressly in writing. For example some people say that the puppies are sold "as is, where is" or "there are no warranties express or implied other than what is expressly contained herein, any implied warranties under the uniform commercial code are expressly excluded."

This is one time where you might want to consult your attorney to prevent some unhappy buyer who says "this dog won't hunt!" from coming back on you. Their claim could involve claims for refund of the purchase price, veterinary expense, other related damages or more.

You may want to examine as well the language you use in your contract to determine whether and or when you are obligated to sell a puppy. If you accept a deposit or if you tell a prospective puppy person you have puppies to sell and they say "fine, I will take one.", you should be clear about when you are obligated to sell, when they are obligated to buy or forfeit their deposit, and under what conditions you can exit the contract by returning the deposit. You may also want to limit the contractual damages you are liable for should you decide not to sell or should they want to return a puppy which they find objectionable. The emotions involved in these contracts are sometimes greater than you would expect.

You may also want to make some determination about how to limit the refund or return of an objectionable puppy. It is very likely that a buyer's expectations are different than yours. In a world where people are used to taking back defective merchandise for a full refund or replacement – no questions asked, you need to be up front and in writing about what you are prepared to guarantee, how that guaranty (warranty) works and what are the limits of liability. If you take deposits you may want to be clear what the deposit is for, how and if it is refundable, and



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

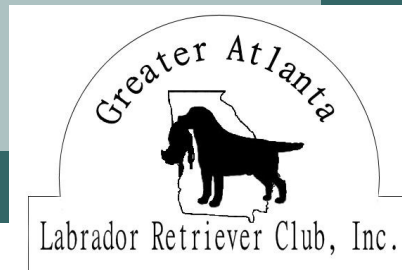
what it requires you to do. Again you should consult your attorney about the issues of liability in sales contracts. You may be surprised to learn that simply telling someone that they are getting their deposit or purchase price back may not satisfy them. Even if they do not have a claim the cost of defending a claim may exceed the purchase price of the puppy.

Finally the sale of puppies may make you subject to regulation by the State and Federal government. If you have more than 4 bitches capable of being bred or if you sell a puppy to a buyer sight unseen(like over the internet) you may be a "pet dealer" for USDA purposes and subject to Federal regulation. There are certain exceptions but you should be familiar with what they are and how they work. Please consult your attorney for more information. If you board or train or keep dogs for a fee or other compensation; If you sell more than one litter in a calendar year or more than 30 adult dogs you may be subject to regulation under the Georgia animal Protection Act.

This Act has specific requirements including the regulation that no puppies can be sold before they are 8 weeks old among other things. The Georgia Department of Agriculture has the right to come on your property to inspect and check for violations of this act including cleanliness and welfare of you animals. Many counties limit the number of pets you can have and zoning regulations may very well limit where in the county you are allowed to operate. Again there are exceptions to these laws but you should be aware of them.

The point of all of this is that the days of a handshake agreement may be gone if you want to protect yourself from claims by buyers (even people you have known for a while). The sale of puppies that you produce may make you subject to licensing fees, inspections, regulation. The time you spend looking into how to do this correctly with your attorney may well be worth the expense.

If you have questions or would like more information on how animal protection acts and these laws can affect you there are many articles on the web. If you have concerns about you sales agreements you can always call your lawyer. It could save you money in the long run.

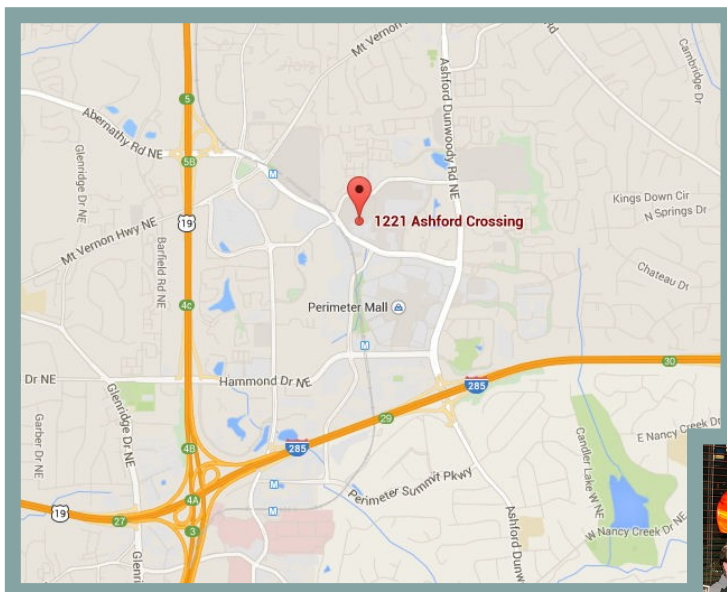


MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

OUR NEXT 2 MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON **THURSDAY** APRIL 28TH AND MAY 26TH.

Location: Mimi's Café at the Perimeter Place.

Address: 1221 ASHFORD CROSSING. ATLANTA, GA 30346. (770) 351-8444



[Directions](#)



The regular monthly meeting of the Club will be held on the Fourth **Thursday** of each month at 6:30 p.m. As always, all club members are invited.

We hope to see you there!



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Dues Reminder

Our membership dues for 2016 are due on 11/1/15.

Please completely fill out this form and return it with your check so that we can keep our records up to date.

\$20.00 individual ~ \$25.00 family ~ \$15 Associate

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please make checks out to GALRC and mail to:

Jim Griffin

130 Hickory Pointe Dr.

Athens, Ga. 30605

**Remember to support our club by
renewing your membership!**

Member's breeder directory

To be included in the breeder's directory of the club's website, please e-mail the following information to our Website master: [Jean McLain](#)

Kennel name, Contact person, Website URL address, e-mail address, phone number and a brief description of your practices. You may include any updated information about current litters.

The club welcomes two new Members:

Tanya Swoape and Debbie Winn.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

20% discount on all website design/redesign – marketing/internet marketing to GALRC members/friends. Personal or Business

It's more important than ever for Google search results that websites are responsive (resize for smartphones and tablets) as over 50% of searches are now done on mobile devices. Very reasonably priced.

Please email me, Jean McLain, jean@Business-Solutions-Center.com and let me know how I can help.

Thanks,

Jean

jean@emailjrm.com

Interested in having fun and working with your dogs in the field ? There are plans to start practice training sessions for WC.

Contact [Lisa Bailey](#) for more info.



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Member's Meeting

The Greater Atlanta Labrador Retriever Club Board meeting was held on February 23rd, 2016 at Mimi's Café.

The member's meeting was called to order by president, Barry Staples at 6:45 PM.

Members present:

Barry Staples, Jodi Martin, Neil Martin, Linda Rehkopf, and Laura van Dalen.

Treasurer's Report:

No new payments have been made.

Committees reports:

The judges' selection committee for the 2016 show formed by Carol Quaif, Jodi Martin, and Barry Staples are working on the selection of the judges for the 2016 show. Some contracts have been signed already.

Election of New Members:

2nd Reading:

Tanya Swoape and Debbie Winn.

Old Business:

The motion made by Jodi Martin and seconded by Laura van Dalen to move the calendar year from November 1st –October 31st to January 1st—December 31st was voted and passed.

The motion made by Neil Martin and Seconded by Lisa Bailey to make the board officials and member term last 2 years instead of 1 year was voted and passed.

New Business:



FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

The proposal made by Lisa Bailey to start WC and field work training sessions is in progress.

The proposal made by Jodi Martin to set a full year calendar in the club's website with all the meetings and events for the year is in progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laura van Dalen, recording secretary



MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Member's Meeting

The Greater Atlanta Labrador Retriever Club Board meeting was held on March 31, 2016 at Mimi's Café.

The member's meeting was called to order by president, Barry Staples at 6:45 PM.

Members present:

Barry Staples, Carol Quaif, Julia Kuni, Lisa Bailey, Jim Griffin, and Laura van Dalen

Treasurer's Report:

No report.

Committees reports:

The judges' selection committee for the 2016 show formed by Carol Quaif, Jodi Martin, and Barry Staples are working on the selection of the judges for the 2016 show. Some contracts have been signed already.

Membership:

There wasn't any new membership applications.

Old Business:

There was no old business discussion

New Business:

The proposal made by Lisa Bailey to start WC and field work training sessions for members is in progress. 1st session might be in May.

The meetings were moved back to the 4th Thursday of every month instead of the 4th Tuesday of every month.

Barry Staples talked about puppy sales contracts. Do's and Don'ts, legal implications, and Georgia sale laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted, Laura van Dalen, recording secretary



AKC'S CGC PROGRAM

Welcome to the AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program. Started in 1989, the CGC Program is designed to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. The Canine Good Citizen Program is a two-part program that stresses responsible pet ownership for owners and basic good manners for dogs. All dogs who pass the 10-step CGC test may receive a certificate from the American Kennel Club.

Many dog owners choose Canine Good Citizen training as the first step in training their dogs. The Canine Good Citizen Program lays the foundation for other AKC activities such as obedience, agility, tracking, and performance events. As you work with your dog to teach the CGC skills, you'll discover the many benefits and joys of training your dog. Training will enhance the bond between you and your dog. Dogs who have a solid obedience education are a joy to live with—they respond well to household routines, have good manners in the presence of people and other dogs, and they fully enjoy the company of the owner who took the time to provide training, intellectual stimulation, and a high quality life. We sincerely hope that CGC will be only a beginning for you and your dog and that after passing the CGC test, you'll continue training in obedience, agility, tracking, or performance events.

AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program is one of the most rapidly growing programs in the American Kennel Club. There are many exciting applications of this wonderful, entry level that go beyond the testing and certifying of dogs.

Many other countries (including England, Australia, Japan, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, and Finland) have developed CGC programs based on the AKC's CGC Program. A CGC Neighborhood Model has been established, police and animal control agencies use CGC for dealing with dog problems in communities, some therapy dog groups use the CGC as a partial screening tool, and some 4-H groups around the country have been using the CGC as a beginning dog training program for children.

A number of specialty (one breed only) clubs give the CGC at their annual national dog show. Dog clubs have discovered that the CGC is an event that allows everyone to go home a winner. Veterinarians have recognized the benefits of well-trained dogs and there are some CGC programs in place in veterinary hospitals. State legislatures began recognizing the CGC program as a means of advocating responsible dog ownership and 34 states now have Canine Good Citizen resolutions.



In a little over one decade, the Canine Good Citizen Program has begun to have an extremely positive impact in many of our communities. This is a program that can help us assure that the dogs we love will always be welcomed and well-respected members of our communities.

All dogs, including both purebred and mixed breed dogs are welcome to participate in the AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program. Dogs must be old enough to have received necessary immunizations such as rabies vaccines. Owners will sign the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge attesting to having the dog under the routine care of a veterinarian who will work with the owner to determine an appropriate plan and schedule for vaccines and other health care procedures.

There is no age limit for the CGC test. A dog is never too old to be a good citizen. Puppies who have completed all immunizations and boosters may be tested, however, because we know that behavior and temperament can change over time, when puppies pass the CGC test, owners should have them re-tested as adults.

There are a few exceptions relating to participation in a CGC test. If the CGC test is given at an AKC show, the age requirements for the show apply to CGC also. Further, when the CGC test is administered at an AKC show, the test may be restricted to only dogs entered in the show or to purebred dogs.

Some dogs who are entered in CGC tests will have completed CGC classes or basic obedience classes. Owners who have trained their dogs themselves may also have their dogs tested. Clubs and training programs in almost every city can provide CGC training to owners and dogs who need to learn a few more skills before taking the test.



AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY

WELCOME TO THE AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY PROGRAM!

At the American Kennel Club®, we're not just champion dogs. We're the dogs' champion -- all dogs. We believe that all dogs deserve training and a responsible owner and our goal is to reward responsible dog ownership.

The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is an exciting new program designed to get dog owners and their puppies off to a good start. The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program is an incentive program for loving dog owners who have taken the time to take their puppies through a basic training class.

THE BENEFITS OF TRAINING

S.T.A.R. Puppy

Training classes teach you how to best communicate with your puppy. Organized training classes also provide an opportunity for your dog to socialize with other dogs. In classes aimed at earning the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy distinction, you'll be able to get information on all of your puppy-raising questions including housetraining, chewing, and the most effective way to teach practical skills such as coming when called. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy training is a natural lead in to the AKC® Canine Good Citizen® Program.

HOW IT WORKS

When you complete a basic training class (taught by an AKC Approved CGC Evaluator) with your puppy (up to 1 year old) your puppy is eligible to be enrolled in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program.

You'll attend any puppy or basic training class at least 6 weeks. Your instructor will administer the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy test at the end of the course. Upon passing the test, you'll get an application to send to AKC® for enrollment in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. All dogs are welcome to participate in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program including purebreds and mixed breeds.

Your puppy will receive the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Medal (for display or memento purposes; not suitable as a collar tag). You and your puppy will be listed in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records. In addition, so that you can continue learning, you'll receive our AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy package that includes:

- A beautiful, frameable certificate designating your puppy is in the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy records at AKC
- AKC Puppy Handbook, a valuable resource
- Ongoing Monthly Email Newsletter: Your AKC. This includes training tips and up-to-date information every dog owner needs to know. We want you and your puppy to continue learning beyond puppy classes.



NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this Newsletter is for information purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or an offer to sell products or services.

Although GALRC believes the information on this newsletter to be correct and attempt to keep the information current, GALRC does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of any information. The information is not advice, and should not be treated as such.

GALRC makes no representations whatsoever about the products or prices asked in the Lab Yard Sale section. The representations are exclusively those of the seller and have not been investigated by us for accuracy. The ads are for the convenience of our members. All transactions are solely between buyer and seller.

