



The Golden Gait

Vol. 45, No. 12

December 2019



Board Meeting
Valentine's Party

Jan 9 - 7pm
Feb 15, 2020

What's **INSIDE** this **ISSUE**

- Christmas Party Photos
- Awards Submission Deadline
- Website
- The Reasons Why Breeds Change
- How to Tell If Your Dog is Bored



Best wishes for you and your family this Christmas. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Sincerely,
Your GPGRC board and directors**



Member News and Happenings...



Any brags, pictures or other information you would like to share with the club via the monthly newsletter, please email Sally Dines a week before the month ends. Her email is sallydines4120@gmail.com.



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU!!



SANTA PAWS VISITS GPGRC GOLDENS!!!

Our Annual Christmas party was held on December 1st at Misty Pines Dog Park. It was a festive time had by all with new and old friends, games, good food, and photos with Santa! These are a few of the pictures with Santa. Anyone with more pictures is asked to share them on our FB page.





NEW TITLES AND AWARDS

Congratulations ★

The deadline for submitting your 2019 awards is rapidly approaching. If you got titles this past year, please fill out your awards forms (found on the GPGRC members page on our website) and get it to Kathy Fertal ASAP. It must be in the hands of Kathy by December 31st. NO EXCEPTIONS. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you need the password to access the members only page, please email Candy Verduce at Cverduce59@gmail.com or any board member.



Our website **GPGRC.org** was re-launched on a new platform about a month or so ago. Your input on things we can add to make it better for the membership is appreciated. We will periodically be changing the home page cover also. If you have a high resolution picture of your golden and would like it to be considered for the home page, please send the picture to GPGRCwebsite@gmail.com.

[Cathie Turner](#)
[November 29 at 3:54 PM](#)

We had some interesting discussions in Tucson about why breeder judges judge differently than non breeder judges. This was posted on the judges list and I think is spot on - especially the part about characteristics. How many times do you hear someone talking about great sidegait in Golden Retrievers - we are a moderate breed. Hope you find it as interesting as I did. Although it is directed at judges, I think it also addresses the issue of why some breeders and handlers eschew showing to judges who have a record of overlooking the dog that fits the standard in form and function and are impressed with flash and fancy - in grooming and presentation.

The Reason Why Breeds Change

By Andrew H. Brace

I wonder how often we – as breeders, exhibitors or judges – stop to consider how easily we become accustomed to changes within a breed? In some cases these changes can actually become so engrained in a breed that they are elevated to the level of desired characteristics, even though they might be quite alien to typical and necessary and actually at odds to the relevant Breed Standard.

It is generally the case that such changes begin with dogs shown by well-known exhibitors or handlers, as these so often set the benchmark that others gladly follow.

How do changes come about?

They begin with the breeder who produces a litter that gets to an age where the puppies need to be evaluated. The breeder who fully understands his breed is looking at every puppy in terms of the Breed Standard and what is correct for the breed. In most breeds “moderation” is a requirement that is desirable in many aspects, and it is the consistency of moderation throughout any animal that will contribute significantly to its balance, and the impression that everything fits and flows. However, occasionally there will be a puppy who has something about it that always catches the eye, and invariably that “something” tends to be an exaggeration of some kind or another ... too long a neck, too short a back, too refined or overtyped a head, excessive rear angulation ... and here is where the danger lies. The totally steeped-in-the-breed breeder will see this exaggeration for what it is and will discard the guilty puppy as being alien to correct type. Many others, possibly less experienced and less committed to THE BREED, however, will be realistic enough to acknowledge that the exaggeration, which is constantly catching his eye, will also catch the eye of the judge when the dog hits the show ring. And so the puppy is kept, nurtured, schooled and groomed.

As soon as a dog whose type deviates from correct starts winning, the ball is set rolling. That dog appears in the big ring and other judge’s comment on its great bone, long neck, fabulous angulation, ultra-short back, high tailset, fantastic profile, great open side-gait or whatever, even when these may not be breed-specific attributes. They reward it when they get it, and others follow suit. In due course breeders see this dog and all the winning it is doing, and they think that they had better start breeding something like it. They rush off to use said dog, and within a matter of years the rather deviant type has got a foothold in the breed. It takes a little time, but soon judges arrive at a situation where they get a class of six dogs – five of them are of the “new” rather off-beat type; one is completely correct. The knowledgeable and constructive judge will know enough about the breed to be able to say with conviction “This one is right – the others are wrong” and judge accordingly. Many other judges, however, perhaps lacking depth of knowledge of that

breed, will take the easy option, assume that the five must be right as they form the majority, and the sixth dogs gets left out of the awards.

This particularly applies to size in a breed. So many of our breeds have, over the years, got bigger, maybe because of improved nutrition, and very gradually size has crept up. As we only routinely measure or weigh a handful of breeds that have more than one variety determined by size this increase is barely noticed. However, when some dedicated breeder puts in the ring a dog that is of absolutely correct size in terms of its Breed Standard it is criticized by other exhibitors as being small. In truth, this is the correct sized dog, it's just that the others are noticeably over size.

At this juncture the dedicated breeder who has always been intent on maintaining type and simply intensifying quality begins to get, with good reason, frustrated. He knows what he is breeding is correct, but the numbers of those who are drifting away from type are such that other breeders, exhibitors and judges seem to be going with the flow, and he is left swimming upstream.

This has happened in several breeds in Britain and beyond, and I have seen many “old time” breeders reduce their exhibiting activities dramatically, simply because they feel it is pointless showing dogs under judges who just don't understand breed priorities. Yet these are the very breeders who SHOULD have stock in the ring, so that those who do have independent minds can see and appreciate it.

When dogs with major faults – usually of the “attractive” kind – continue to win and be bred from, newer breeders will see no reason to correct and improve. Why should they? These dogs are winning. Those who own the “modern” dogs can usually talk the talk, and provide convincing arguments as to natural evolution and obvious improvement. In some cases strong-minded individuals can actually be instrumental in persuading breed clubs to change the breed standard to fit these new dogs ... a heinous crime in anyone's book. And then of course there is the power of advertising!

Sadly many of the breed changes we have witnessed are pleasing to the average eye – so what if a dog is too necky, too hairy, too upright, too short, too long? It looks pretty and the judges like the look!

With the overwhelming influence of social media, it becomes all too easy for a dog that is fundamentally untypical, lacking in several essential breed points, to be elevated to the status of “stunning”. Beautifully photographed, impeccably groomed, the “flat catcher” attracts countless “Likes” and before you know what's happened it becomes a celebrity. As such dogs are invariably photographed with their handler, those judges who base their decisions on Facebook research (yes, it happens!) contribute to its winning record and breeders whose main goal is simply to win consider using this dog at stud, thus the downward spiral continues.

There is a further area of concern where temperament and character is concerned and this applies particularly to the strong-willed working breeds that may be basically “hard” in temperament. Whilst the show ring is no place for vicious or aggressive dogs there are certain breeds that, if they are to remain true to type, need to maintain their guarding instincts and these can still be shown effectively if they are properly under control. What is not desirable is to have the basic character bred out of these breeds so that they just become another companion dog.

Although showing dogs is today, in truth, more about chasing Challenge Certificates, ribbons and points than it is about preserving breeds, the show ring should remain the breeders' shop window. It would be sad to think that genuine breeders who are keen to maintain true breed type could not find the dogs necessary to perpetuate correctness in the next generation.

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SAVE THE DATE

GPGRC VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Holy Family Manor – Bellevue PA



How To Tell If Your Dog Is Bored & 7 Things You Can Do About It

By [CAROLYN STEBER](#)

Nov 5, 2018



Sandra Mu/Getty Images Entertainment/Getty Images

While you definitely can't entertain your dog 24/7, if they aren't getting enough exercise, time outside, or mental stimulation, they will find a way to let you know. When [dogs get bored](#), they often act out the same way a kid might, by doing whatever they can to get your attention — even if it means destroying your house. So for their sake, and the sake of your belongings, it's super important to listen.

"Signs of boredom will be different for every dog, and severity is often breed-dependent," Dr. Jess Trimble, DVM, of [Fuzzy Pet Health](#), tells Bustle. In general, you'll want to keep an eye out for signs your dog is acting differently or going out of [their way to get your attention](#). (Think chewing on furniture, or barking obsessively.)

"For 'high-drive' dogs, like herding, sporting, and working breeds, they often become more destructive or develop anxiety faster as compared to a [low-energy dog breed](#)," Dr. Trimble says. There is good news, though, in that any breed can feel better, with just a few small changes.

"Investing time in your dog is the answer to keeping boredom at bay, and it doesn't have to be much," professional dog trainer [Kim Paciotti, CPDT-KA, CDT, APDT](#), tells Bustle. Sometimes all they need is one more walk per day, a new toy, or a bit more attention. Here are a few behaviors that may mean your dog is bored, according to experts.

1. Tearing Up Furniture



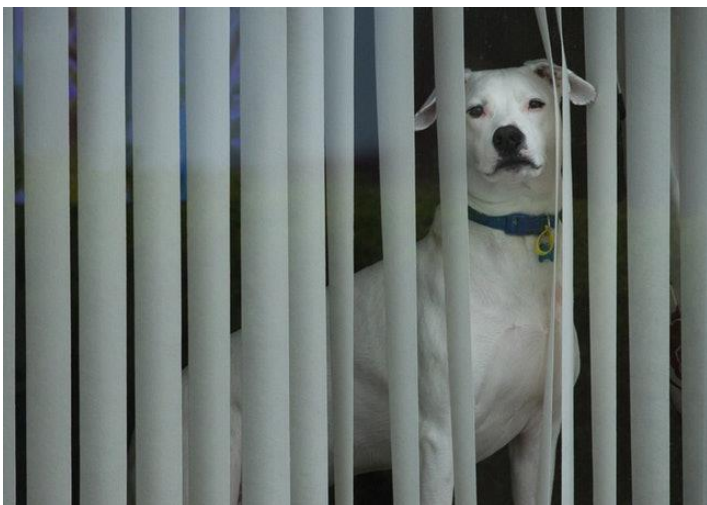
Matt Cardy/Getty Images News/Getty Images

If you come home to find a half-eaten couch, it may be a sign your dog was bored, and didn't know what else to do with themselves while you were away. And the same may be true for other destructive behaviors, such as chewing on shoes, digging at carpet, or mangling table legs.

"All of these things are fun for a dog to do, and mimic behaviors that they would do normally in an outside environment — like digging in the dirt and chewing on sticks," Dr. Trimble says.

To keep them from getting this bored again, it may help to give your dog more exercise, including long walks and trips to the park. "Tired dogs are happy dogs," Dr. Trimble says. "Different breeds and ages will need different amounts of exercise, so it may take time to find the perfect amount for your pup." If you aren't sure how much exercise your dog needs, ask a vet.

2. Barking Incessantly



Matt Cardy/Getty Images News/Getty Images

It's fine if your dog occasionally barks at someone passing by on the street, or if they run around whining whenever the doorbell rings. These are normal dog behaviors, and not a sign that they're bored.

Take note, though, if your dog barks a lot or whines constantly throughout the day. "These types of behaviors are more of a warning sign to me as a veterinarian that the dog's boredom has escalated to the point where their mental health is affected," Dr. Trimble says.

3. Stealing Food



Dan Kitwood/Getty Images News/Getty Images

If your dog is getting the right nutrition, but is still breaking into the biscuit container or stealing food off the counter, take note.

"[Many people] eat more when [they're] bored, and our pets do the same," Dr. Trimble says. "A dog who may not normally dig through the trash, when bored, can become a counter-surfing, trash-eating monster."

One way to counteract this bad habit is by making their mealtimes more fun. "Giving a bowl full of dry kibble is boring," Dr. Trimble says. "Putting the meal in a puzzle toy, maze, slow feeder, instituting the meal into a training session, hiding it around the house, sticking the meal in a treat ball— there are a ton of great options for more fun dinners."

4. Pawing At You For Attention



Ben Pruchnie/Getty Images News/Getty Images

Most dogs want attention from their owners, and will do whatever they can to get it. This may include normal stuff like sitting in your lap, following you around the house, and so on.

When a dog is bored, though, they'll take it to the extreme. Pawing, jumping up, extra licking, and neediness are all things to watch out for, Dr. Trimble says. "Going to their human friend — and the one who provides the entertainment — is a natural next step when your pup is looking for something to do."

If your dog is getting desperate, don't brush them off or push them away. "Mental stimulation is critical, especially for the super-smart, high-drive breeds," Dr. Trimble says. "Puzzle toys are a great way to provide entertainment, especially for food-driven dogs. Mental stimulation is a fantastic add-on once your pup is exercised well!"

5. Trying To Escape

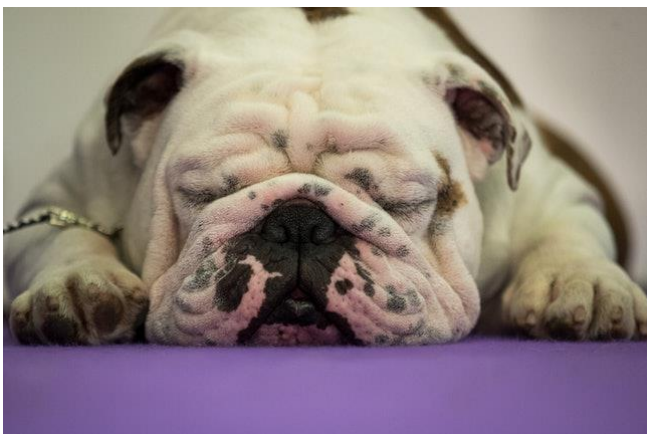


Matt Cardy/Getty Images News/Getty Images

If your otherwise well-behaved dog has taken to escaping the yard, or slipping out the front door, it may be their way of telling you they need more fun in their life. They may also dig under fences, chew or scratch at the door, or leap over gates, all of which are signs something needs to change.

You can start by making the outside world less appealing by taking them out into it more often. Letting them interact with other dogs and people can help, too. "Your dog wants friends," Dr. Trimble says. "Doggy day care, or group walks, can be a great way to increase social interactions and exercise."

6. Sleeping All The Time



Drew Angerer/Getty Images News/Getty Images

Just like people, many dogs take a nap when they're feeling bored, simply because they have nothing better to do, Kayla Fratt, an associate certified dog behavior consultant at [Journey Dog Training](#), tells Bustle. It's common for dogs to spend about 50 percent of the day asleep, 30 percent resting, and 20 percent being active.

But if your dog is lazing about more than necessary, you may want to play games and get them out of the house more often. Do, however, consult a vet if they're lethargic or won't get up, as this may be a sign of a health issue.

7. Obsessing Over Their Tail



Jamie McCarthy/Getty Images Entertainment/Getty Images

Some dogs, when they're starting to go batty with boredom, will begin to chase their tale, chew on their feet, or fixate on a certain toy — all of which are worrisome obsessive compulsive behaviors.

"Dogs resort to these behaviors because they are a release for the stress and frustration they're feeling," Paciotti says. "Essentially they are coping mechanisms. Left unaddressed, they can actually become an addictive behavior or habit." So the sooner you can make their routine more interesting, the better.

"While physical exercise is important, the key to relieving boredom in any dog is mental stimulation," Paciotti says. "It could be as simple as learning a new trick, hiding and finding treats, or even teaching them to imitate you! It's important to find out what your dog enjoys and do it with them on a regular basis."

You certainly don't have to entertain your dog all day long. But if they're showing signs of boredom, spicing up their routine by adding in more exercise, teaching them new tricks, or providing them with mentally-stimulating activities can go along way in keeping them happy.



Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA)

All Golden lovers are encouraged to join our Parent Club, GRCA. The *GR News* is published bi-monthly by the GRCA and contains educational articles, provides a forum for issues of interest to Golden owners, highlights Golden accomplishments and contains correspondent columns from the Member Clubs across the country. Contact the Editor for more information.

GREATER PITTSBURGH GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (GPGRC)

- Member club of the Golden retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA)
Master National Retriever Club (MNRC)
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, Inc. (PFDC)
- Licensed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) for Conformation Shows and Obedience, Rally and Agility Trials and Hunt Tests.

General Membership Meeting is held the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Membership applications are available from the Membership Chairperson. Attendance at two Club functions (one being a General Membership Meeting) and endorsement of two Club Members is required before an application can be accepted. Dues are: Regular Membership (individual) - \$25.00, a second adult – an additional \$13.00. Associate Membership (individual) - \$15.00, a second adult – an additional \$8.00. Junior Membership - \$1.00. Completed applications and dues are to be submitted to the Membership Chair.

Newsletter is posted monthly on the Club's Website at www.gpgrc.org. Club members may request printed, mailed copies of the *Golden Gait* for a fee of \$20 per year.

Litter advertisements are accepted from Club Members only on a space available basis. (Fees are full page - \$10; half page - \$5; quarter page - \$2.50.) Refer to the Puppy Referral Policy and Breeder Code of Ethics for required clearances.

In summary, puppy referral is a service provided to GPGRC Members only. (1) Both sire and dam must be two years of age or older at the time of breeding; (2) copies of eye clearances within one year of breeding must be supplied; and (3) an OFA numbers for hips and elbows must be submitted. Also hearts must be evaluated by an approved veterinary cardiologist.

Acceptance and use of the information provided by GPGRC constitutes an acknowledgment that the user hereby releases and indemnifies the GPGRC and its Officers, Directors, Members and Agents from any and all liability and damages sustained by the user as a result of any information obtained from this organization.

Title/Award Record Form should be filled out and sent to the Accomplishments Recorder for all Conformation, Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Rally, Field Events or Community Service Events before they can be reported in the Newsletter.

General Meeting

We periodically have meetings at the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, 301 Bellevue Rd 15229. The meetings are announced in the newsletter, website and via email. Guests are Welcome! Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

Directions from I-279: Take exit 12 toward US 19/Perrysville Ave. At Perrysville Avenue, turn left. Go approximately .8 mile and turn left onto Bellevue Road (Sunoco Station on corner). Go approximately .5 mile and turn right to stay on Bellevue Road. End at 301 Bellevue Road. Entrance to complex is one way. Sign will direct you to building. Yellow brick building behind large red brick building is the meeting place. There is an open parking lot or 2 deck parking garage available.

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Please email pictures of your dogs that can be used in future issues to sallydines4120@gmail.com