



Suncoast Puppy Raisers

GDF Suncoast Puppy Raisers Newsletter

September 2016



Puppy Saturday Meeting

Date: September 10, 2016

Where: University of Tampa

401 E. Kennedy: Tampa, FL

33606

When: 10:00 AM – Noon

Hi everyone,

It's September and we are taking our puppies to college. Once again, we have been invited by the women of Delta Gama to join them on Philanthropy Day. This is the day all the Fraternities and Sororities try to attract new members. Having the puppies at their meetings is a great advantage for Delta Gama.

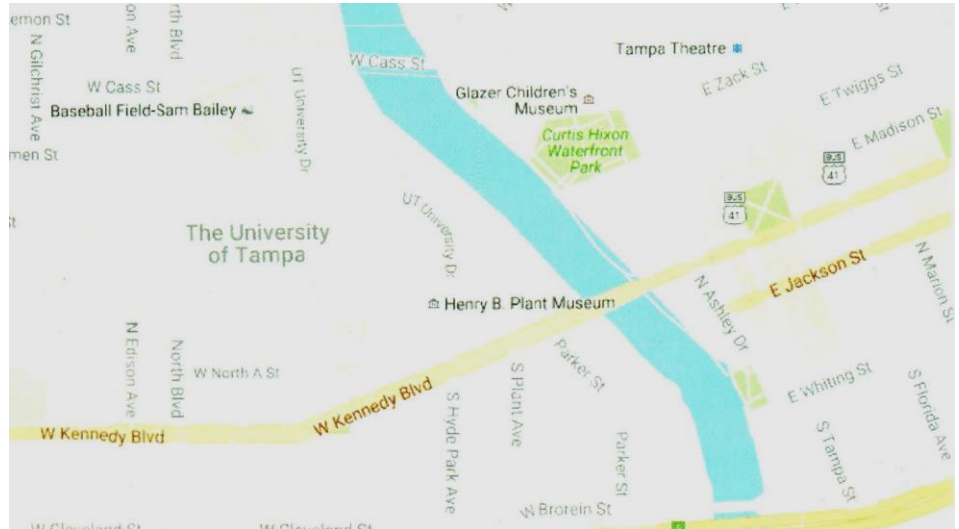
We have worked with Delta Gama on other projects in the past and want to support them in any way we can. To maintain membership in the group the young women have to complete several hours of community service and a specified number of hours related to sight related activities. Delta Gama has volunteered at the Lion's Club as well as the Guide Dog Users and Foundation Fighting Blindness fund raisers. Alumni of the Delta Gama continue doing sight related activities through their Philanthropic Foundation. It's nice to have all that young energy to tap into for a good cause.

Once started, the recruiting sessions are behind closed doors so it is important to be on time. We will meet at our regular time of 10:00 AM and the first session starts at 10:55 AM. There will be a consecutive session and then a lunch break. There is also a late afternoon session, from 5 – 6pm that could be an alternative option to the morning session. I know a few raisers will do both. There will be singing, clapping and many other distractions for our pups. It will be a great time to work on keeping them calm and in control with all the excitement.

Directions: Take I275 north bound, toward downtown Tampa, take the Ashley street exit stay right to stay on Ashley take Ashley to Kennedy Blvd, turn right on Kennedy Blvd, cross the river and take the first right which is University of Tampa drive east, take an immediate left onto University of Tampa Drive west, parking lots for staff will be in front of you, it should be open. Park in this lot, we will meet in front of Plant Hall. Delta Gama members will direct us to the room where we will meet.

Last Month

We want to thank the owners of (Swah-rey) for hosting our lunch meeting last month. We especially want to thank Deana Izzo, GDF's field rep for making the trip from Georgia to join us. After a great BBQ lunch provided by Deuce's BBQ, we indulged ourselves with some of (Swah-rey)'s decadent homemade desserts. I highly recommend the Apple Brown Betty! During our lunch, we tried to preview the Lowry Park Zoo video, but the sound could not carry in the restaurant. Don't worry; we will have plenty of other opportunities to show the video.



After lunch Deana brought us up to speed on what's going on in New York. Something new for us is GDF is asking all of their raisers to introduce the Gentle Leader head collar to their puppy before it goes in for training. Many of you are already using the gentle leader and can enlighten others that aren't familiar with it how it makes handling your dog much easier. When properly fitted to the dog, the collar goes around the snout and the neck in a figure 8 configuration. When the pup pulls out too hard, the collar gives them an automatic correction. At first, the pup will fight having something over their nose but eventually they get used to it. GDF is only asking raisers to at least introduce the collar so the dog has some familiarity with in when they go into the kennels in New York. Don't worry, there is an entire manual that we will be sharing with you on how to properly fit and use the Gentle Leader. We will take it one step at a time.

Wednesday night's meeting at the ball park went off without a hitch. There were about 10 people and 6 dogs. Thanks Donna and Don for another lovely evening at the ball park.

October's Meeting

We will be moving October's meeting to October 15th, the third Saturday of the month. The meeting will be held in Seminole at Chapel on the Hill, located at 12601 Park Blvd. The event is a Low Vision Expo from 10:00am – 2:00pm. A "Low Vision" expo is having all groups that have anything to do with vision and vision loss gather together in one place. There will be vision equipment and aids for sale, state and private agencies offering services and of course us, we will have a table representing the Guide Dog Foundation.

The public is invited and the expo is expecting a lot of visitors. Events of this type are typically held in October, which is, National Blindness Awareness month and October, 15th National White Cane Safety Day. This is usually celebrated by a public display of individuals walking a busy street with their white Canes and guide dogs to bring awareness to motor vehicles that the White Cane Law that allows us to have the right of way, exists and is for everyone's safety. A walk is planned at this event during the expo that we would like our raisers to participate in. So save the date and more information will be in next month's newsletter.

Training Up Date

We just got an email that Mac, raised by Joe and Fran Merle, continues to do well in his training. His daily obedience is excellent and he did well in the city. His crowd, obstacle and curb work were all good. He was introduced to the subway but needs more work feeling comfortable on the platform. If Mac continues to do well, it is possible he could be matched in September's class. Great job Mac, we will keep our fingers and paws crossed for luck.



Top and Bottom pictures from last month's meeting having Lunch at (swah-rey)



In For Training

We have one Poodle going in for training in September. Guess who, yes, Essie, being raised by Donna and Don Thompson. Although she is enjoying her alone time with the Thompson's now that that pesky Beatrice is out of the house, it is time for her to go back to New York. She is traveling by air and scheduled to go around the middle of September. Okay Essie, go in Banjo's footsteps and be the best Poodle guide ever!

Up Coming Event – Sunday September 11

Although we all kind of cringe when we hear the date 9-11, hopefully this year will be a good one. This is a special day for Chuck and me personally for many reasons. First, it is opening day for the Buc's which in itself is not anything special but we want to have a in home tail-gate party anyways. We want to invite all 2 and 4 legged friends to join us also because we will be celebrating Chuck's birthday which is September 12th. This will also be kind of a house warming party to show off the new renovations and additions we have been working on since April. So all are invited, come eat, drink, and watch a little football while wishing the old Man, a happy birthday! We will have the grill hot by Noon and the game starts at 1PM. So come on over eat a brat watch Chuck pout because Debbie would not let him go to Jacksonville to watch his Packers play, and have a good time kicking off a new football season.

Training Tip – GDF Videos

Every month, I spend a lot of time trying to pick a training topic. You would think after 23 years I would run out of topics, but NOOOOOO. Even though we have covered a topic in the past, someone new is hearing it for the first time. I usually go back to the GDF puppy manual and pick something pertinent to what is going on with the group at the present moment. This month, I didn't even get past the manual's forward.

Did you know that GDF has a series of training video's on you tube? If you have raised more than one puppy, you know that dogs do not learn the same way and not at the same pace. We as raisers need to tailor our training to the personality of the dog. Well, raisers do not learn in the same way either. Everyone learns differently. Some people are very visual and cannot understand instructions unless they are in print. Others depend on hands on instructions, which is how I need to learn it. And others do well learning from demonstrations and videos. Most likely, we all learn from combinations of the above. Fortunately, GDF has the entire base covered. You can go to www.youtube.com/GuideDogFoundation and look for the "Puppy Raiser Training Series." However, before you do, make sure you have plenty of time, there are all kinds of other cool videos on the sight that you could be on there for hours. Also, you may want a box of tissues. Happy browsing and see you soon.

Chuck did not take many pictures at last month's meeting so this is a short newsletter. We look forward to seeing you all at UT on the 10th. Let us know if you prefer to do the later time.

Your Area Coordinators Debbie & Chuck Hietala



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