



Penn-Dutchies enjoy Spring Walk-in-the-Woods at Lake Nockamixon

Help Needed with Newsletter

by David Kintsfather

As I get older things take longer, and I've reached a point where I can no longer do both the layout and the printing and distribution of the paper copies of the *Pyr-A-Scoop*. I still enjoy the layout and editing, but once an issue is posted to the Club web page, it requires another 24 hours or more to print, staple, stuff, label, stamp and mail the 40-plus paper copies that members currently request.

While there are companies like Kinkos which could handle the whole process, the cost would be very high. The most cost-effective way to produce and distribute paper copies is for a member to volunteer to take this on. It is not a difficult task, just time-consuming.

The Club has offered to purchase a professional printer with autoduplexing, so you basically just load it with paper and set the number of copies for the approximately 100 sheets an inkjet will reliably output. Then go to work,

to bed, to the mall, etc. for the 5-6 hours it will take to print one run of collated copies, ready for stapling. Repeat as necessary until you have the required number of copies.

I will help any volunteer select and set up the printer, and demonstrate the process. Virtually no technical knowledge is required—you just load paper (and occasionally ink) and click a couple of mouse buttons.

Stapling, stuffing, labeling (I will provide labels), stamping and mailing are very low-tech tasks, just requiring some time. So what do you think? Can you spare some time to help **YOUR** Club? If anyone is interested, please contact me at kintsfat@kutztown.edu.

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Penn-Dutch

Serving Pyrs & Pyr People in Southeastern Pennsylvania

Board of Directors:

President (2006, 2008)-
Vice President (2007, 2009)-
Secretary (2007, 2009)-
Treasurer (2006, 2008)-
Director (2006, 2008)-
Director (2007, 2009)-
Director (2006, 2009)-
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Educational Events Committee-
Fun Events Committee-
Fund Raising & Auctions Committee-
Match & Show Committee-
Nominating & Audit Committee-
Regional Specialty Committee-
Sunshine Committee Co-Chairs-

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President's Message

By Barbara Bowes

The Annual Meeting has come and gone and we have some new people on the Board as well as new officers. Thank you to Annette Manwiller, our retiring Vice President. Lorraine Garaguso has been elected as our new VP. Welcome Lorraine! Thank you Roz Wenrich, our retiring Secretary. Marci Port was elected as our new Secretary. Welcome Marci! Judy Skorup was elected as our new Director. She replaces Karl Edinger who passed away in 2006. Fred Unger was re-elected as a Director. Welcome Judy and great to have you back with us again, Fred! Fred has also agreed to head the Educational Events Committee. Thank you again, Fred!

Also new to Penn-Dutch is that we've added a new event in June. If we get good attendance we will make it a yearly event. It is an Obedience/Therapy Event. While the format may change each year, we'll try to keep it based around Obedience and/or Therapy. Bea Gottesman is now our food coordinator for most events. We'd like to get a head count for those planning to attend so please contact Bea. Thank you, Bea, for taking on this position!

We have a new Committee, the Sunshine Committee. Charlotte Powell and Annette Manwiller will co-chair this Committee. If someone is ill, has surgery, or if someone has a happening that is a happy event in their lives, let them know! We will get the info out in the newsletter and (depending on the happening) an appropriate acknowledgement will be sent on behalf of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club! See the minutes of the Annual Meeting for more info and happenings.

Speaking of the Newsletter, David will no longer be able to print the paper copies to send out. We need some-

one who is willing to take over the paper distribution only. The Club will supply a printer and, of course, the paper, ink and postage, etc. Our only other option is black and white copies from Staples or a similar place, which will cost more than inkjet printing in color. We may yet have to add a surcharge for those opting for paper copies but we are trying to avoid this if possible. David will continue to do the layout and post the newsletter on the Club's website; he will just no longer be printing it after this current issue.

When we first went to electronic distribution, there were less than 20 copies that needed to be printed for people who did not have computer access. Since that time, more people have decided to take paper distribution and the number of copies needing to be printed has climbed to more than 40. If you are interested in taking over the printing, stapling, labeling and mailing of the paper copies, please let David or me know ASAP. It can be printed right off the website, just as the rest of us who take it electronically do now.

We still need a Fun Events Committee Chair, so if you'd like to Chair this committee or to serve on any of the committees, please contact me or another Board member.

I'm sure there is something I may have forgotten and for that I apologize in advance. Check the events calendar to see what you can attend. I'm looking forward to either seeing or meeting you at one of the events this year!

The PDGPC newsletter, *Pyr-A-Scoop*, will be published at least 4 times a year for the members of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club as a means of sharing information. Opinions reflected in articles and advertisements are those of the writer(s) and are not necessarily held by the editorial staff, PDGPC members or the Board of Directors. Any material in this publication may be reprinted (unless otherwise noted), as long as credit is given to both the author and source and no changes are made in the copy without permission.

Deadline for the next issue is: July 1, 2007.

Advertising Rates:

Full Page \$10.00
Half Page \$5.00
Quarter Page \$3.00

B&W Photos (per photo) \$10.00
Color Photos (per photo) \$25.00
Business Card for One Year (5 issues) \$8.00
Business Card (per issue) \$2.00

Membership Meeting Minutes, 8/20/06

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bowes at 12:36 pm.

President's Report:

National Specialty- We have a loss of about \$2,000.00, however, the National books have not been closed out and we may still make a profit once the remaining items left over are sold and the remaining fees are collected. The people involved in putting on the National did a tremendous job raising funds of close to \$50,000.00 to pay for it. We only have the preliminary accounting to date so we do not yet have the final figures. The Independent Regional Specialty held the day after the National was lumped in with the National preliminary report so we have no idea if that covered costs or made some money. We are awaiting the final accounting from Maureen Simon who was the Treasurer for the National and the Regional. It's good to see such a nice turnout of the members for Fun Day. We hope you enjoy yourselves today.

Treasurer's Report:

There is \$7,527.50 in the Penn-Dutch bank account. We are in OK shape. Of that amount, \$5,000.00 was returned to Penn-Dutch from the National. We will be very careful about spending any of the funds until we are sure there is no more debt owed for the National, either to the GPCA or elsewhere.

Secretary's Report:

None. Secretary is not present. Dorene Choffel is acting Secretary for this meeting to take Minutes.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising Committee- None.

Newsletter Committee- David said we have saved a lot of money taking the Newsletter electronic. Thirty-seven issues were printed at a cost of about \$60.00. The Membership Directory and newsletter costs are estimated at about \$400.00 for the year. Everyone will continue to receive a paper copy of the Membership Directory.

Membership Committee- David reports we have 121 members to date. Down 1 member from last year.

Old Business:

Discussed upcoming events. Next event is the Fall Walk-in-the-Woods to be held at Beltzville State Park in Lehigh, PA, in October. Holiday Party is first Saturday in December at the Kiwanis Lodge in Lancaster County Park, Lancaster, PA. January is the Canine Learning Experience in Allentown. Philly Pet Expo has moved to Reading, March 16-18, 2007. East Penn Pyr Rescue will

attend if possible. Annette Manwiller and Dorene Choffel will coordinate volunteers to work a booth if anyone is interested. Penn-Dutch will not participate as a Club, as the booth fee is far too expensive for non-Rescues. More info as it becomes available. Dog Lovers Holiday Bazaar in Philly at the Armory is in November, a 2-day event at \$150.00 a day. Not many fundraising articles are left and it is too expensive to attend.

New Business:

Nominating Committee- Need volunteers. Dianne Migas, Nancy Coombs and Carol Ward volunteered. They will also serve on the Audit Committee to audit the 2006 Penn-Dutch books. In 2007 we will need a nomination for Vice President (Annette must retire as she will have served 3 consecutive terms on the Board). Karl Edinger's Director spot will be open, as he must retire as well for the same reason. Fred Unger will be up for re-election for his Director position. Roz Wenrich will be up for re-election for the Secretary's position. Anyone interested in running, please contact the Nominating Committee.

Annual Meeting- Need someone to host the Annual Meeting. Marci Port volunteered her home in Langhorne. Thank you Marci! Tentative date is March 24, 2007.

Dianne Migas talked about the GPCA Health Committee. All members are urged to fill out the revised Health Survey, available at www.gpcahealth.org. Print out the Health Survey form, fill it out and send it in. The GPCA donates funds to research to help protect the health of the breed. See website for ongoing projects. GPCA Longevity Award: Any Pyr over 10 years of age is eligible. See website for more info or contact Dianne Migas.

David Kintsfather is our GPCA Health liaison. He will be printing the health info sent to him from the GPCA in the *Pyr-A-Scoop*.

New member attending, Jeanne Anne Polichetti was introduced with her Pyr Blitz. He has earned his CDX title, which is the second level of title in Obedience, and is going on to Agility. They received a standing ovation for their accomplishments.

Discussed possible other events to attend. September 8-10- Irish Festival in Greenland Park, Doylestown Halloween Parade, October 29th, Halloween Parade in Allentown. For Allentown event, contact Karl Edinger or Kathy Gress. September is AKC Responsible Pet Ownership Month. Pam O'Connor will be setting up an educational booth at an event in Bloomsburg for this AKC-sponsored event.

Bea and Chic Gottesman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last month. A cake has been provided to help

them celebrate! 50 years! Congratulations Chic and Bea!

Grooming seminar and competition will start as soon as the meeting is adjourned. Prizes provided for everyone!

Barb Bowes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlotte Powell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

When You Own a Pyr

by Anita Crafton (posted on the Web)

Some of the folks wanting to get a Pyr could benefit from being exposed to the reality of living with Pyrs. I use the plural, because usually one is not enough. You can read all the articles in the world, but it might not sink in as well as real-life stories. (Some of my non-doggy friends consider them HORROR stories.)

When you are a Pyr owner, you have to make choices that ordinary people are not faced with. For example...

Do you really want that lovely, manicured lawn? Or are you tolerant enough to put up with the creativity of a four-legged Big White Backhoe? Frankly, I'm getting really tired of twisting my ankle when I fall into one of our dogs' caverns. I try NOT to walk anywhere in the dark.

Are you a neat freak? Probably not, if you're considering a long-haired, double-coated breed in the first place. Yikes if you are! Even when Pyrs come into the house looking perfectly clean, in their flews (lips) they may be harboring mud-hair-grass-slime goobers. When they shake, these goobers fly off and stick to the wall anywhere from 2 to 5 feet from the floor... just where they're not always noticeable. Until you have company...

Does anyone else have to vacuum out the INSIDE of their washing machine before washing people-clothes? I was doing laundry last weekend, and wondered about that. Someday, I'd like the luxury of two washing machines—one for the dogs, one for us that I DON'T have to vacuum before using!

Oh yes, and the barking. These guys are *supposed* to be vocal, shouting powerful warnings to potential intruders who might be a threat to their flock (sheep, goats, human, or otherwise). Although with effort it is possible to train these dogs about appropriate vs. inappropriate barking, if you live in a busy neighborhood where lots of children play outside during daylight hours, you could

have non-stop barking that neighbors will complain about. We live in a rural area that is sporadically fairly busy with farming equipment and employees passing by. Our dogs bark at all of them. There are times that we have to bring them indoors for their sanity and ours - such as when the neighbors across the road have a family barbecue. Luckily, we have a dog room in our basement where we can crate up to four Pyrs plus several smaller dogs if necessary.

Not everyone has that "luxury" Some people actually have nicely finished family/recreation rooms in their basements.

Remember the comment about choices mentioned earlier? Well, our choices always go with the dogs' comfort and security. I think people need to think about choices BEFORE getting certain kinds of dogs. (Don't even get me started on GSDs or Samoyeds!)

Just a few random thoughts triggered by gazing out over our fox-hole, er, I mean Pyr-hole-peppered property this evening.

Board Meeting Minutes, 3/24/07

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bowes at 11:30 am.

In attendance were President Barb Bowes, Treasurer Charlotte Powell, Director Fred Unger and acting Secretary Marci Port. Absent were Annette Manwiller, Roz Weinrich, Gail Hillard, & John Wenrich

Minutes of 8/20/06 General Meeting will need to be accepted at next meeting

President's Report:

* Work needed on old financial books due to: expenditures not matching those reported, the existence of a debit card for the Treasury account and use of same, excessive PayPal use for undocumented expenses (few or no receipts available), most expenses undocumented with back up receipts, over-expensed checks that cleared Bank for lesser amounts and need to have books that are auditable by outside entities if that should ever be required. Need a committee to figure out what happened, determine if any monies are missing and if so, how much. The committee will complete a review and make recommendations to the Board.

* Roz Wenrich withdrew her name from nomination for Vice President

* Will work at getting better membership attendance at future Penn Dutch events

* Loss of Karl Edinger

Secretary's Report: *None

Membership Report:

- * Report handed out to Board
- * Total Members as of 12/31/06 123
- * New members 8
- * Old members rejoining 2
- * Previous members not re-joining 23

Treasurer's Report:

- * Report was distributed to the Board
- * As of 12/31/06 (from 3/06 - 12/31/06) we have \$7,300.
- * All bills paid as of 12/31/06

Nominating Committee:

- * Report given to Board
- * Audit was done by Dianne Migas and Dorene Choffel on 2/10/07
- * The records were found to be in excellent order.

Regional Specialty Committee:

Dianne Migas recommended Regional at Macungie to be dedicated to the memory of Karl Edinger with a picture of Karl and Chance. All Board members agreed.

She also recommends allowing altered dogs in sweeps and allowing use of professional handlers in sweeps.

Mr. Gladstone, Judge

Valerie Seeley, Sweepstakes Judge

10 rooms at Days Inn reserved

Judges' gifts discussed but not chosen

Whitney Coombs Judge for 2008 Regional (no charge)

Discussion of Anniversary Shirt for Penn-Dutch for 2008 (20 Years)

Info on National to be reported in newsletter from now on when possible

Unfinished Business:

- * A committee will be formed to get to the bottom of the old Treasury reports: withdrawals/expenditures/deposits/PayPal
- * Monies expended with debit card and review committee discussed by Barb Bowes and Dave Simon
- * Fred Unger to take over duties of Chair of Educational Events Committee left vacant with Karl Edinger's death

New Business:

Formation of Sunshine Committee with Annette Man-

willer and Charlotte Powell as Co-Chairs. Not only cards and baskets when needed, but a column in the newsletter to keep members up-to-date on happenings of other members.

Judy Skorup is Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee. David Kintsfather and Charlotte Powell are members of the Committee. A report possible for July with hopes of a membership vote at the next Annual Meeting to be held in 2008.

Annual Meeting Minutes, 03/24/07

Meeting was called to order at 1:50 pm by Pres. Barb Bowes

Roll was taken

Acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting is tabled until they are printed. Will address this at the next meeting

President's Report:

- * Finances
- * Committee to be formed to figure out and make recommendations to Board (See Board Minutes for more detail)
- * Roz Wenrich withdrew her name from nomination for Vice President
- * Will work at getting better membership attendance at future Penn-Dutch events
- * Loss of Karl Edinger

Treasurer's Report:

- * \$7,560 as of end of 2006
- * \$7,300 as of now

Membership Report:

- * 123 members (see Board minutes for details)

Nominating Committee Report:

- * Audit of books for 3/06 - 12/06 was completed by Dianne Migas and Dorene Choffel and they were found to be in good order.
- * Suggestion on continuity of expenses: authorized signature before monies go out, form to be used that will go to the Treasurer for allocation and tracking of income and expenses.

Regional Specialties Committee Report:

- * Dianne Migas presented an Estimated Budget for the Regional which was adopted.
- * Dianne Migas also requested that this Show be Dedi-

cated to past member Karl Edinger. This was also adopted.

* Regional to be held 9/15/07 at Macungie, in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Kennel Club with Steven Gladstone- Breed Judge and Dr. Valerie Seeley-Sweepstakes Judge

* Sweeps breakdown by age- Puppy: 6-9 mos./9-12 mos./12-15 mos./15-18 mos. Veterans: 7-8 yrs./9-10 yrs./11 years and over. NEW: neutered and spayed Veterans may be entered in Sweeps.

* Professional handlers will be allowed to show dogs in both Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes.

* Pys must be AKC registered to enter.

* Registrants need to enter two weeks prior to the date of the Show. Information will be posted on the Club Website and in the newsletter.

* Hotel- Days Inn and Conference Center (Bulldog Drive) once again will be the Hotel for the "Mixer" later that evening and for those who need to stay overnight. Will have finger foods and auctions.

* Cost of the Hospitality room has been donated.

* We have secured a Specialty Rate for all guests. They must mention Penn-Dutch GPC when registering.

* Will have tailgate after show / \$150 for pavilion

* Trophies: will keep costs down and are currently seeking donations. Will also review what we currently have in inventory to utilize. Trophy donations can be made "in memory" and will be printed in the Catalog and Premium List.

2008 Lehigh Regional:

* Marks the 20th Anniversary of Penn-Dutch

* Breed Judge is Whitney Coombs (founding member).

* Sweeps Judge will be determined at the end of 2007/2008. Judge will be someone who is serious in obtaining their Pyrenees Judging License.

Regional Committee volunteers needed. Call Dianne Migas or email her at bluepyrs@comcast.net if interested.

Dave Simon moved acceptance of proposals and Barb Bowes seconded. The motion passed.

Fundraising Report:

* T-Shirts sell the best and are the least expensive/ make the most money

* Need new ideas for shirts and other items

* Need donations for raffles for all events especially for the Regional hospitality

* Next year is 20th Anniversary of Penn-Dutch. We will be asking for drawings, etc. from members for shirts depicting the anniversary. Follow-up will be put in future newsletter.

Educational Committee:

* Last and only Educational Seminar was 11/7/94. It would take a full year to get ready for such an event again. The first one was a great success.

* Fred Unger agreed to be chair of the Educational Committee to take over duties since Karl Edinger's passing.

Newsletter Report:

* From April to December the cost of the newsletter was \$126 (this was for expenses submitted, some expenses outstanding) which included Membership Directory. A great savings was obtained by using the internet.

* Having the newsletter online has also gotten outside people interested in the breed and the Club.

* Column in newsletter to include happenings going on with members to keep everyone informed and updated

Nominating Committee: presented the following slate:

Lorraine Garaguso- Vice President

Marci Port- Secretary

Fred Unger- Director

Dianne Migas- Director

Judy Skorup was nominated from the floor for Director. Judy accepted nomination. Dianne Migas withdrew her name.

Dave Simon moved to elect the slate as presented. Barb Bowes seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

Unfinished Business:

* Fun Events Committee, Chair still needed

* Finances Committee:

Dianne Migas

Lorraine Garaguso

Marci Port

* 4-year discrepancy in books (see Board Minutes for details)

Receipts and paperwork needed for Penn-Dutch Regional and National

New Business:

* Sunshine Committee

Charlotte Powell

Annette Manwiller

* Bea Gottesman has agreed to be Food Coordinator for all events.

* Some new things at events should promote better attendance from members. A Rally-Obedience event was proposed by Judy Skorup. An Animal Communicator was suggested. Discussion ensued on what members want offered by Penn-Dutch. 50 members interested in a Fun Match, 58 members interested in Obedience and Behavior, 54 members interested in Therapy work, 71 members interested in Health Information We will endeavor to add one new event to cover Obedience. Watch the *Pyr-A-Scoop* for info. We will try to give members what they have requested but we need member attendance at these events to continue offering them.

* Dianne Migas discussed GPCA Health Committee on advances of the Dog Genome Project and Dwarfism of Pyrs, which also includes a possibility of finding a DNA Marker for deafness, in addition to the Dwarfism Marker. Filling out the Health Survey on present and past Pyrs assists the GPCA Health Committee in identifying potential problems in the breed. Once problems are identified, they can seek grants for research to help cure, mark or treat a disease.

* The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) has two programs in which Pyrenees may also participate. One includes Testing and the other is the CHIC DNA Repository Program to which Pyrenees owners can submit either a blood sample or a bucco swab of DNA. CHIC will store this material to have available for researchers.

First DNA collection will be held at this year's National. The hope is to have DNA Collections performed on a Regional Level as well. People can go to www.gpcahealth.org to learn more.

* Calendar of Events:

Dianne Migas suggested a postcard be mailed with all the dates of Events that folks can schedule. Postcard proposal adopted.

Spring Walk-in-the-Woods / Lake Nockamixon / May 19th

Fun Day/ Evansburg State Park / July 14th to include: Board Meeting / General Meeting / FUN Match. Coordinators are Dianne Migas and Annette Manwiller.

Regional / Macungie / Sept 15th

Fall Walk-in-the-Woods / Beltzville State Park / October 20th, Fred Unger, Coordinator.

Christmas Party / Lancaster / December 1st

Will look into scheduling Obedience event.

Meeting adjourned 3:37 pm.

Rant: The Dog Ate What?

(Reprinted from the March/April issue of *Pyrceptions*, the newsletter of the GPC of Metro Milwaukee)

We have a dog by the name of Kismet. He came to us in the Summer of 2001 from the Rescue program I was heavily involved with. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this type of adoption, imagine taking in a 10-year-old child whom you know nothing about and committing to doing your best to be a good parent.

Like a child, the dog came with his own idiosyncrasies. He will only sleep on the bed, on top of the covers, nuzzled as close to my face as he can get without actually performing a French kiss on me. Lest you think this is a bad case of no discipline, I should tell you that hubby and I tried every means to break him of this habit including locking him in a separate bedroom for several nights. The new door cost over \$200. But I digress.

Five weeks ago we began remodeling our house. Although the cost of the project is downright obnoxious, it was 20 years overdue AND it got me out of cooking Thanksgiving dinner for family, extended family and a lot of friends that I like more than family most of the time. I was, however, assigned the task of preparing 124 of my famous yeast dinner rolls for a delayed celebration among friends this past weekend. I am still cursing the electrician for getting the new oven hooked up so quickly. It was the only appliance in the whole house that worked, thus the assignment.

I made the decision to cook the rolls on Friday evening to reheat on Saturday morning. Since the kitchen was freshly painted you can imagine the odor. Not wanting the rolls to smell like Sherwin Williams latex paint #586, I put the rolls on baking sheets and set them in the living room to rise for 5 hours. After 3 hours, hubby and I decided to go out to eat, returning in about an hour.

An hour later the rolls were ready to go in the oven. It was 8:30 pm. When I went to the living room to retrieve the pans, much to my shock one whole pan of 12 rolls was empty. I called out to Kismet and my worst nightmare became a reality. He literally wobbled over to me. He looked like a combination of the Pillsbury doughboy and the Michelin Tire man wrapped up in fur. He groaned when he walked. I swear even his cheeks were bloated.

I ran to the phone and called our vet. After a few seconds of uproarious laughter, he told me the dog would probably be OK, however, I needed to give him Pepto Bismol every 2 hours for the rest of the night. God only knows why I thought a dog would like Pepto Bismol any

more than kids do when they are sick. Suffice to say that by the time we went to bed the dog was black, white and pink. He was so bloated we had to lift him onto the bed for the night.

Naively thinking the dog would be all better by morning was very stupid on my part. We arose at 7:30 and as we always do first thing, took the dogs out to relieve themselves. Well, Kismet was as drunk as a sailor on his first leave. He was running into walls, falling flat on his butt and most of the time when he was walking, his front half was going one direction and the other half was either dragging the floor or headed 90 degrees in another direction. He couldn't lift his leg to pee, so he would just walk and pee at the same time.

When he ran down the small incline in our backyard he couldn't stop himself and nearly ended up running into the fence. His pupils were dilated and he was as dizzy as a loon. I endured another few seconds of laughter from the vet (second call within 12 hours) before he explained that the yeast had fermented in his belly and that he was indeed drunk. He assured me that, not unlike most binges we humans go through, it would wear off after about 4 or 5 hours and to keep giving him Pepto Bismol.

Afraid to leave him by himself in the house, hubby and I loaded him up and took him with us to our friend's house, a 10 to 15 minute drive. Rolls firmly secured in the car (124 less 12) and drunk dog leaning from the back seat onto the console of the car between hubby and me, we took off.

Now I know you probably don't believe that dogs burp, but believe me when I say that after eating a tray of risen unbaked yeast rolls, DOGS WILL BURP. These burps were pure Old Charter. They would have matched or beat any smell in a drunk tank at the police station. We endured this for the entire trip, thankful she didn't live any further away than she did.

Once Kismet was firmly placed in my friend's garage with the door locked, we finally sat down to enjoy our celebration with friends. The dog was the topic of conversation all morning long and everyone made trips to the garage to witness my drunk dog, each returning with a tale of Kismet's latest endeavor to walk without running into something.

Of course, as the old adage goes, "what goes in must come out," and Kismet was no exception. Granted if it had been me that had eaten 12 risen, unbaked yeast rolls, you might as well have put a concrete block up my behind, but alas a dog's digestive system is quite different from yours or mine. I discovered this was a mixed bless-



ing when we prepared to leave my friend's house. Having discovered his "packages" on the garage floor, we loaded him up in the car so we could hose down the floor.

This was another naive decision on our part. The blast of water from the hose hit the poop on the floor, and the poop on the floor withstood the blast from the hose. It was like Portland cement beginning to set up and cure. We finally tried to remove it with a shovel. I (obviously no one else was going to offer their services) had to get on my hands and knees with a coarse brush to get the remnants off of the floor.

And as if this wasn't degrading enough, the dog in his drunken state had walked through the poop and left paw prints all over the garage floor that had to be brushed, too.

Well, by this time the dog was sobering up nicely so we took him home and dropped him off before we left for our second celebration at another friend's house.

I am happy to report that as of today (Monday) the dog is back to normal both in size and temperament. He has had a bath and is no longer tricolor. None the worse for wear I presume.

I am also happy to report that just this evening I found 2 risen unbaked yeast rolls hidden inside my closet door. It appears he must have come to his senses after eating 10 of them, but decided hiding 2 of them for later would not be a bad idea.

Now, I'm doing research on the computer as to how to clean unbaked dough from the carpet, and how was your day?

Primrose Lane Farm

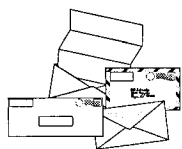
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Dear Penny

Dear Penny,

I have been meaning to write to you since mid-November of last year, just after my first birthday. I wanted to tell you that I've moved from Maranatha in Gettysburg, to Wake Forest, North Carolina where I live with Andy Ellis & Cristie Dowda. I understand from them that I am their second Pyr, their first being a beautiful (at least, she looks beautiful in her many photographs throughout the house and the painting over the mantle) girl named Beth, who went to play in God's backyard just before Thanksgiving, 2005. It seems that my Granddaddy, Grady, was Beth's father. How do you like that?

It was hard having to say goodbye to Nancy and Whitney and all of my kennel pals, but I'm doing well down here in North Carolina. The dogs here bark with kind of a funny accent. But I have a big backyard and I get two good long walks every day. Sometimes I go to the Seminary and walk around there and see the students. And other times I go to the cemetery, where Dad tells me I can't dig for bones. I think that's a joke. I am definitely the only Pyr in town, but Dad saw a minivan filled with Newfoundlanders headed to some dog show last week. I wish he'd invited them home to play, because all of the dogs I play with in the neighborhood are smaller than me. I have started obedience classes, hoping to one day become a therapy dog.

So, it looks like I'm not bound for the show ring, rather I'll live here in the Tar Heel State (what does that mean?), guarding my flock (Cristie and Andy) and living the good life—and showing people in the South what makes a Great Pyrenees, great.

With love, Surge Ellis

New Board Meeting Minutes, 3/24/07

Meeting called to order at 4:45 pm by President Barb Bowes

Present were Barb Bowes, Fred Unger, Judy Skorup, Marci Port, Lorraine Garaguso and Dianne Migas

Barb Bowes gave out copies of e-mails and bank statements to Board for review.

Discussion of past finances and what needs to be accomplished to remedy situation

By-Laws Revision Committee should help in the future.

Dianne Migas will contact Lorraine Garaguso and Marci Port after she puts statements and records in format for Committee to have a plan of execution.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Dwarf Study Update, 4/2007

In late April, Dr. Mark Neff's laboratory at UC Davis reported the achievement of an important milestone in understanding the genetic basis of dwarfism in Great Pyrenees. The research team had recently compared the DNA profiles of affected Pyrs (n=12) and unaffected control dogs (n=19), and they found a DNA marker that is highly correlated with the defect.

For the laymen among us, the result means two things. First, it supports the prediction that dwarfism in Pyrs is controlled by a single gene acting recessively (hence two copies of the mutation are needed for a dog to be affected). All affected dogs had two copies of the DNA marker. Second, the progress substantially reduces the problem of identifying the causative mutation.

To identify the individual gene responsible for dwarfism, the researchers at UC Davis hope to collect additional samples from affected and unaffected dogs. Their target is DNA from an additional 10 affected dogs (to essentially double the power of the mapping approach).

Please contact Peggy Watson if you know of any dwarves or unaffected dogs from which blood or cheek swab samples can be collected. Peggy has the submission information for blood samples and has swabs for the cheek collections. You can reach her at pyrstaf@aol.com.

UC Davis is underwriting the blood collections at \$15 per dog and is providing free shipping of the samples. To insure that no one will be unable to submit samples because of cost, the GPCA Board has authorized reimbursement for costs beyond the \$15 allocated by UC Davis.

With our help, the researchers have taken an exciting first step toward a DNA test that would allow us to eliminate dwarfism from the Pyr gene pool. Let's continue to support the research by providing the much needed DNA samples. This will in turn allow the research team at UC Davis to bring the study to a successful conclusion, ultimately ensuring the health of our dogs.



by Penny Pyrbred

A lot has happened in Dutchland since our last issue. Of course this issue should have been out in April, but our editor was under the weather (MDs just aren't as good as vets).

Penny missed the Annual Meeting (supposedly a people-only event in any case), but she understands that the Board has planned a full calendar of fun and educational events for this Club year. The first one to take place was a day with animal communicator, Norma Ceaser, held at the Bowes Pyrenean Estate on Sat., May 12th.

Penny was able to attend this event, and while it was interesting, she feels most Pyrs are perfectly capable of communicating with their owners without mediation. While spoken English is beyond the capabilities of the Pyrenean voice box, we DO vocalize and use body language to express our desires to our people. As a journalist, Penny has developed special techniques, but most Pyrs can manage a word processor, and if you **really** want to know your Pyr's innermost feelings, just leave your computer on and unattended, and then check your "Sent Mail" folder. Penny gets most of her news from such clandestine correspondence!

The next weekend brought the Spring Walk-in-the-Woods at Lake Nockamixon on May 19th. Penny understands that some early arrivers actually walked, but by the time she arrived, the focus was on food and socializing. Thirty-six people and 26 Pyrs and other Canine Americans were in attendance, and the food was the typical Penn-Dutch spread. Much of it ended up in the Pyrs.

After lunch, Kane Gottesman did a little carting (what a hunky guy!) He circled the picnic area pulling the new kid, Lacey Polichetti.



Kane Gottesman gives Lacey Polichetti a ride.

In spite of a little rain at the end of the day, Pyrs and people had a wonderful time, and Penny went home and crashed. These youngsters can really tire her out.



Pocono Frye's little brother, Mongo.

The next event on the Club calendar is a Rally Obedience Demonstration to be held on June 2nd at Evansburg State Park. This event will have taken place by the time some Penn-Dutchies get this newsletter, but Penny expects it to be a fun introduction to a new, less formal form of competitive obedience, more suited to our Pyrenean temperament than classic obedience.

But don't tell that to Blitz Polichetti, who excels in both! This handsome gentlePyr has just been inducted into the Great Pyrenees Club of America's Obedience Hall of Fame and has been recognized for having the highest score of any Pyr earning a CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) title in 2006. He also has achieved his RAE (Rally Advanced Excellent) title by qualifying in his first 10 shows! Kudos to Blitz and his "coach," Jeanne-Anne!



Blitz and Jeanne-Anne Polichetti

The Rally Obedience Demonstration is being organized by Judy Skorup who, with sister Dianne, recently managed to sneak off to the Crufts dog show in England without taking Merlin or Bonnie along. Judy has promised us an article on this adventure which we will include in a future issue.

Photo by Judy Skorup



Benched Pyrs greet the public at Crufts.

July 14th brings Pyrenean Fun Day, the social highlight of the summer for many Pyrs. This year marks the return of the Fun Match, a chance for companion Pyrs to experience the thrills of showing without the stress. Penny encourages everyone to come out to Evansburg State Park for this exciting event. For those who may not be competition-minded, there is sure to be LOTS of food!

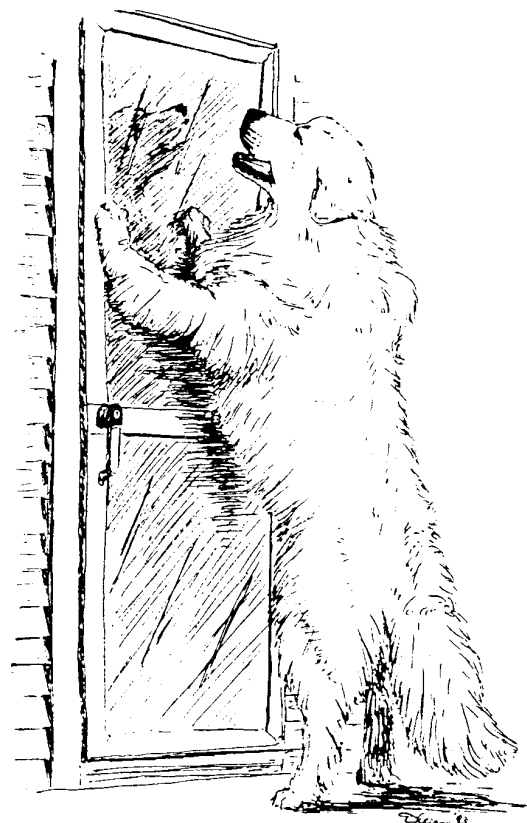
On September 15th Penn-Dutch hosts our friends from all over the East Coast for the GPCA Regional Specialty, held at Macungie Park in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club's all-breed show. Humans should come out to cheer on our Penn-Dutch show Pyrs, and then party with our guests at the tailgate picnic and evening mixer at the show hotel, the Allentown Days Inn.

October 20th brings another chance to get a little exercise at the Fall Walk-in-the-Woods to be held at Beltzville State Park. More food, more fun, more adventure—what more could a Pyr ask for?

Rounding out a year of great events is the famous Penn-Dutch Holiday Party held at the Kiwanis Lodge in Lancaster Central Park. Pyrs and other Canine Americans are welcome at this event, which features great food, beautiful decorations, a roaring fire in the fireplace, and a fiendishly clever version of the Chinese gift exchange.

Penny hopes to see lots of her friends, furry and otherwise, at these events. Come join the fun!

Visit Penny on the Web at <http://www.pyrbred.org>





Applicants for Membership

Key to abbreviations: A=Associate Member, F=Full Member, H=Honorary Member, J=Junior Associate Member. G=GPCA Member. B=Breeder. (After Pyr's call name: D=Dog and B=Bitch)

CORSON, Charles (A) E-Mail: chipcorson@yahoo.com	170 N. Main St., Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 Pyr: Bear-D	856-223-1646
MERKEL, Mark (F) & Sharon (F) E-Mail: skmerkel@verizon.net	32 Old Company Rd., Barto, PA 19504 Pyr: Tanzy-B	215-541-4353

Membership List Additions & Updates

ADAMCZYK, Charissa (A) E-Mail: charissa_adamczyk@merck.com	48 S. Lea St., Macungie, PA 18062 Pyr: Bruno-D	610-390-0861
MARLOW, Jeffrey (F) E-Mail: pony_wheels@yahoo.com	348 Bridge St., Collegetown, PA 19426 Pyr: Toby-D	484-552-8348
PILARSKI, Lynn (A) E-Mail: lapyr5@verizon.net	8 German Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 Pyr: Apache-D, Mac-D, Krypto-D, Remedy-B, Jackie-B	412-431-6732
SANDFORD, Jim (F, G) E-Mail: pobar@verizon.net	1304 Sonnet Ln., West Chester, PA 19380	610-436-0991
STABINSKI-HECKMAN, Mary Jo (F) E-Mail: redbrickbulldogs@comcast.net	4050 Eagleville Rd., Eagleville, PA 19403 Pyr: Cecily-B	610-539-2928

Please welcome our new members whose names appear in red. Updated information is printed in blue.



Upcoming Events

***June 2-** Penn-Dutch Rally Obedience Demonstration, Evansburg (PA) State Park. FMI contact Judy Skorup at jaskorup@hotmail.com.

***July 14-** Penn-Dutch Pyrenean Fun Day and Fun Match, 11 am, Evansburg (PA) State Park. FMI contact Dianne Migas at bluepyrs@comcast.net or 732-477-8097.

***Sept. 15-** Penn-Dutch sponsored GPCA Regional Specialty in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley KC show,

Macungie (PA) Park. FMI contact Dianne Migas at bluepyrs@comcast.net or 732-477-8097.

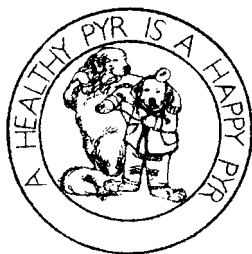
***Sept. 16-** Berks County KC show, Kutztown (PA) Fairgrounds.

***Oct. 20-** Penn-Dutch Fall Walk-in-the-Woods, Beltzville (PA) State Park. FMI contact Barb Bowes at 570-386-3017 or greatpyr@enter.net.

***Dec. 1-** Penn-Dutch Holiday Party, Lancaster Co. (PA) Central Park. FMI contact Barb Bowes at 570-386-3017 or greatpyr@enter.net.

***Red denotes Penn-Dutch events.**

***Blue denotes other Pyr-related events.**



GPCA Health Committee



Addison's Disease (Hypoadrenocorticism)

Overview:

The adrenal glands are known to everyone; they are hormone producing glands located adjacent to each kidney. Their hormone products are of such importance that, without them, neither human nor canine can survive. If the adrenals are damaged and not able to produce sufficient hormones, then the result is a life-threatening condition called Addison's disease. While this disease can show up spontaneously in any dog, there is also evidence that the disease is heritable in a number of breeds.

What causes the adrenals to fail? One reason is simply an autoimmune reaction; another reason is the result of a disease process. If you see the term immune-mediated destruction, that is adrenal failure due to an autoimmune reaction. A disease process would be something like cancer that attacks the adrenals as its primary site. Adrenal failures such as these are referred to as *Primary Addison's*.

Addison's can also occur as a result of another problem in the body. Sometimes the pituitary gland does not secrete enough of a hormone called ACTH, or sometimes the hypothalamus gland does not secrete enough of a hormone called CRF. Addison's can even occur as a result of damage from excess steroids being prescribed. Adrenal failures such as these, that are a result of another problem in the body, are referred to as *Secondary Addison's*. Whether primary or secondary, the disease must be treated.

Diagnosis:

The initial symptoms are frustratingly vague: a poor appetite, lethargy, occasional vomiting. Any of these symptoms are easy to overlook in their early stages, for they are the same symptoms of everything from a cold virus to worms. Addison's disease is easy to miss in its early stages. Your veterinarian may find an elevated potassium level during a routine blood test, or they may spot an abnormal ratio between potassium and sodium. In any event, specific lab tests are available once Addison's is suspected.

Treatment:

As with any disease, an early diagnosis provides better options than a later diagnosis. With an early diagnosis treatment can consist of replacing the missing hormones, either as daily pills or intermittent injection. The most common treatment regimens with early diagnosis include salting the food, and drugs, such as Flurinaf (fludrocortisone) or Prednisone (corticosteroids). A late stage diagnosis is more of a crisis situation and must be treated aggressively, usually with intravenous fluids (such as glucocorticoids) to correct the acid/base balances in the blood stream.

Studies/Grants:

An ongoing study at the University of California, Davis (Department of Animal Science) is open only to the following breeds: Bearded Collie, Great Dane, Leonberger, Portuguese Water Dog, Standard Poodle, and West Highland White Terriers. Preliminary studies have shown that Addison's disease in the Leonberger is heritable and suggests genes from both parents may be required. This study has not been funded or supported by the GPCA.

A recently concluded study at Michigan State University (Department of Endocrinology, Grant #2273; Dr. Markus Ricks; report summary pending). At the 2005 GPCA National Specialty, Dr. Ricks spoke regarding Addison's disease. 30 Great Pyrenees at the National participated in specimen collection for the study at MSU. The focus of this study (refer to

published abstract) was to measure telltale antibodies released by an immune reaction in which the body's own defense mechanism destroys the adrenals. Currently, an average prevalence of 0.3% has been reported for dogs. Numerous breeds including Bearded Collie, West Highland White Terrier, Standard Poodle, Portuguese Water Dog, Leonberger, Great Dane, Airedale Terrier, Basset Hound, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, and Rottweiler are reported to be at higher risk. This study was supported but not funded by the GPCA.

Although the final report summary has not been published the following information has been made available: The Addison's project has not been able to find a genetic component to Addison's disease in Great Pyrenees at this point. There is a possibility that Addison's MAY be an autoimmune reaction to challenges to the immune system introduced by repeated and multiple yearly immunizations. In other words, the practice of giving annual boosters of combined vaccines MAY cause the immune system to deteriorate and leave the dog susceptible to autoimmune diseases, Addison's disease being one. The researcher continues to collect DNA and pedigrees from affected dogs and plans to continue to study the problem. If you have a Great Pyrenees diagnosed with Addison's disease, please forward DNA samples and pedigree to Dr. Ricks. All information, samples, and pedigrees are treated with absolute confidentiality.

The GPCA Health Committee contact person for Addison's disease, Brigitte Doxtator, has DNA kits and address information; you may contact her directly to obtain the kits. E-mail oneidaacres@vovaaer.net or telephone (517) 521-4289. She also has a great deal of information about the disease and is willing to share this with any Great Pyrenees owner who has an affected animal. Again, all information, samples and pedigrees collected are strictly confidential. Brigitte continues to work closely with the university staff at MSU regarding this health issue.

GPCA Health Committee:

Addison's disease has been reported as occurring in the Great Pyrenees. The results from the GPCA Health Survey: 416 surveys received from 9/02 to 12/04. Of this number, 7 dogs were diagnosed by veterinarians with Addison's (all were from GPCA breeders). In the 1999 survey report (complete report located on our website www.gpcahealth.org) 5 dogs were listed with a conclusive diagnosis of Addison's disease. If you own an affected Great Pyrenees, please complete a health survey (found on our website) so we are able to determine the actual prevalence of Addison's disease in our breed.

Information sources:

Leonberger Club of America "Leo Watch"

Encyclopedia of Canine Veterinarian Medical Information

WSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Susan Ellam (copyright 1998-2002)

Abstract - MSU Completed Grant # 2273

Brigitte Doxtator - GPCA Health committee contact for Addison's disease

GPCA Health Committee, 2006



Photo by Judy Skorup

Pyrs prepare to show at Crufts, 2007.

Fun – Food – Match – Pyrs – Fun

Date: Saturday, July 14th, 11 am until ??

Rain or Shine: Check Club website if in doubt

Place: Evansburg (PA) State Park

Pot Luck Lunch: The Club will provide cold cuts. Bring your favorite side dish, dip, salad or dessert to share. Please coordinate food with Bea Gottesman, luvapyr@aol.com, 215-659-1347.

Shots: Make sure canines are current on shots.

Schedule of Events

10:00 am- Board Meeting

11:00-11:45 am- Entries taken for Match

Noon-1:30- Lunch & Membership Meeting

1:30 pm- Match Info. and Run-through

2:00 pm- Fun Match

After Fun Match- “You be the Judge”

Contests: Longest Tail, Biggest Nose, etc.

The Penn-Dutch Fun Match is BACK!

In response to those who expressed an interest in Penn-Dutch holding a Match we will be doing just that! On July 14th, during our Pyrenean Fun Day, part of the day’s activities will be a FUN MATCH!

For those of you who are new to that term it basically is a “mock dog show.” This is a place where **ALL Pyrs** can be **show dogs for a day**.

For this event, we will have informational handouts on “how to begin” in the world of dog showing. We will take you from where to find the shows, how to enter, groom and going in the ring with your dog. A handling demonstration will be part of the festivities! **This is for FUN!** In addition, **you will get a turn at Judging!**

We will have puppy classes starting at age 3 months (all vaccinations), and Veteran classes as well. We will break up the fun with “spay and neutered” and “intact” showing at different times. There will be some more fun when we do “longest tail,” “biggest ears” and a few more surprises. There will be prizes for all entrants!

Contacts for the Match are: Annette Manwiller (pyrjam@zodial.com) and Dianne Migas (bluepyrs@comcast.net)

Directions to Evansburg State Park

1. From Allentown and North: Take Northeast Extension of PA Turnpike (Rt. 476) south to Lansdale exit #31. Take Route 63 (Sumneytown Pike) east approx. 2 miles to Route 363 (Valley Forge Road). Turn right on Rt. 363 and proceed about 4.5 miles to Germantown Pike. Turn right on Germantown Pike for about 2.5 miles to Skippack Creek Road on your right. Turn right and follow Skippack Creek Road into park to Mill road. Turn left on Mill Rd. then right onto Mayhall Road. Go about .3 miles to Picnic Pavilion on right.

2. From West (Reading/Collegeville): Take Rt. #422 east to Rt. 29. Take Rt. 29 north (about 3 miles) to Col-

legeville. From Collegeville take Germantown Pike east for approx. 1.3 miles to Skippack Creek Road on left. Turn left on Skippack Creek Road into park and follow directions in #1 above.

3. From NJ and East: Take PA Turnpike to Norristown Exit #333. Exit onto Germantown Pike west. Take Germantown Pike west for about 9 miles (crossing Rt. #363) to Skippack Creek Road on the right. Turn right on Skippack Creek Road and follow directions in #1 above.

4. From Harrisburg and West: Take PA Turnpike to Exit #326 (King of Prussia). Follow signs and take Route #422 west (approx. 7 miles) to Route #29 north. Then follow directions in #2 above.

Pyrenean Fun Day, July 14, 2007

2007 GPCA Regional Specialty

This Regional is dedicated in loving memory of fellow
Penn-Dutch Member & dear friend

Karl Edinger

Hosted by Penn-Dutch GPC in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley KC

Date: September 15th, 2007

Location: Macungie Memorial Park—Macungie, PA

Closes: Wednesday—August 29th, 2007—12:00 Noon

Superintendent: Jim Rau Dog Shows, www.raudogshows.com

Hotel Accommodations: Days Inn — 610 395-3731 <http://www.daysinnallentown.com/>

**We are proud to welcome our
Puppy & Vet. Sweepstakes Judge
(Spayed/Neutered allowed in Veteran Sweeps!)**

Dr. Valerie Seeley

and

Breed Judge

Mr. Steven Gladstone



Make it a weekend of showing (history of Majors)

Pocono Mountain Kennel Club on Friday

Berks County Kennel Club on Sunday



Penn-Dutch will be holding a DNA Collection Clinic for the very important

CHIC DNA Repository Program

Please contact Dianne Migas @ bluepyrs@comcast.net FMI or visit

www.PDGPCRegional.org

Don't miss our traditional **"Tailgate Party"** immediately after Breed Judging.

Be sure to join us later that **evening for a "mixer" back at the Hotel!**

There will be raffles and items up for auction and **FOOD** at both parties.

FMI—CONTACT SHOW CHAIR—Dianne Migas bluepyrs@comcast.net

Pyr-A-Scoop

Editorial Staff

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