



Fall Walk-in-the-Woods attracted a crowd of Pyrs and their people.

What Happened to the Rescue Issue?

by David Kintsfather

The short answer is that it is spread all over my hard drive. I believe, however, that the many Penn-Dutchies who submitted touching Rescue stories, and those who enjoy reading them, deserve a more detailed explanation.

Even with the best of intentions, life sometimes throws you a curve. In September I was diagnosed with early-stage prostate cancer. In November I began a course of 44 radiation treatments which I have just completed, with the expectation that I will make a full recovery.

The daily trips to and from the Lehigh Valley Hospital and some treatment side effects, however, sapped my strength to the point that I just couldn't focus on the *Pyr-A-Scoop*. So this issue contains essential information about the Annual Meeting along with some tributes to Rescue, and will be followed shortly by the very belated Rescue issue. Please accept my apologies for the delay.

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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)-
Director (2002, 2008)-

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Committee Chairs:

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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vacant
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President's Message

by Barb Bowes

Happy 2008, everyone! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. We had a very busy year as a Club. We had the return of the Fun Match and even added a new event!

In January the Club hosted an information booth at the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club's Canine Learning Experience in Allentown, PA. Fred Unger did a great job coordinating this event and we kept the booth staffed with members and lots of fuzzy ambassadors for our breed.

The Fall Walk-in-the-Woods was a great success! We enjoyed the company of at least 35 people and their dogs. Chic Gottesman has come up with a wonderful idea. Thanks to him, next year this event will be renamed Pyrtoberfest!

The Holiday Party was a blast! We had an excellent turnout and everyone had a Pyrfect time. A big Pyr Paw pat to Bea and Chic Gottesman, their granddaughter Casey and Gail Hillard for doing a bang-up job of getting it put together. And thanks to the Boy Scouts for coming and setting up the tables! We think there were at least 40 members in attendance and we're hoping for 50 or more in 2008!

This has traditionally been the Rescue issue of the *Pyr-A-Scoop*, although many of the Rescue articles planned for this issue have been postponed until the next issue. Even though PDGPC no longer actively participates in the actual rescuing of dogs, we are still a major component in the success of East Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. There is a Rescue report and some tributes contained in this issue and the next issue will be filled with stories of dogs that have been adopted. We hope you enjoy reading them and East

Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. thanks you for your continued support of their efforts.

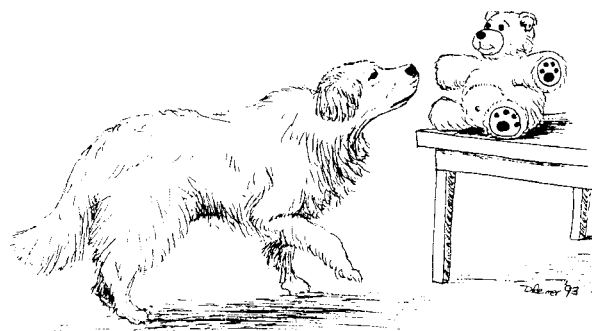
Our Annual Meeting is fast approaching on March 15th. We will have the elections and set up the calendar for the coming year. Please come out and help us pick dates for the events for 2008. More info on the meeting is contained elsewhere in this issue. Please note, this is a rare **PEOPLE ONLY** event.

Our beloved Editor-in-Chief, David, is facing some serious health issues and I ask that you join me in sending prayers and good thoughts his way for successful treatment and a full recovery.

As many of you know, I lost my Pyr Chelsea back in September. She was 13 years of age. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your condolences and for your donations in her name to East Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. She is sorely missed.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting. We need your input to put together a calendar of events that will give everyone a chance to participate and enjoy themselves.

Barb



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: April 15, 2008.

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

Annual Meeting Info.

by Judy Skorup

The 2008 Annual Membership Meeting of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club will be held on Saturday, March 15th at the home of Judy and Dianne Skorup in Telford, PA. The snow date will be March 29th.

At the Annual Meeting we elect officers, plan activities for the entire Club year and get to know one another.

The agenda will include:

11:00 am: Board Meeting

Noon: Membership Meeting

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Pot-luck and socializing

Please bring a covered dish to share and note that this is a **PEOPLE-ONLY** event.

Directions to the Skorup Residence, 237 N. Hamilton Street, Telford, PA (215-721-8521).

From the North:

Take I 78 East/West to Rt. 309 South. Stay on Rt. 309 South through Allentown, Coopersburg (watch your speed!), and Quakertown. Pass Perkasio Exit on Rt. 309. Get off Rt. 309 at Telford Exit. At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Church Rd.

Go 1.4 miles on Church Rd. (Pass trailer park and construction of small ranch homes and apartment complex on right.) Slow down to 25 mph. Look for Indian Valley Public Library on right and prepare to turn left. Turn left onto North Hamilton Street/Avenue. Go 1¾ blocks. The house is a tan colonial with dark green shutters on the left. #237 is on the white storm door.

From the South (three options):

1) Take Rt. 309 North through Montgomeryville, Colmar, Line Lexington, past Hilltown Shopping Center on right, past Peruzzi Toyota on right and Souderton Exit. Get off Rt. 309 at the Telford Exit. At end of exit ramp, turn left onto Church Rd. (Follow directions in *italics* under "From the North" to the house.)

2) Or, take Rt. 202 North to the PA Turnpike at King of Prussia Exit. Get on Turnpike and go East. Take the Northeast Extension (formerly Rt. 9, now Rt. 476) North to the Lansdale Exit and get off. At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Rt. 63. (Follow directions at #4 to the house.)

3) Or, take the Blue Route/Rt. 476 to the PA Turnpike at Norristown Exit and get on Turnpike. Go East and take the Northeast Extension (formerly Rt. 9, now Rt. 476) North to the Lansdale Exit and get off. At end of exit ramp, turn right onto Rt. 63. (Follow directions at #4 to the house.)

4) Stay on Rt. 63 for 4 miles, passing through Mainland and Harleysville. At intersection of Rt. 63 and Rt. 113 (Exxon Gas on left), turn right. Go through traffic lights at Schoolhouse Lane, Allentown Rd. and Godshall Rd. Look for Getty Gas on left. Bear left at Getty Gas and stay on this road until it ends at the "Bier Garten" Bar. Turn left onto Broad/Main St., then quickly turn right onto Fulton Avenue. Go one block, then turn left onto North Hamilton Street. #237 is the second tan house with dark green shutters on your right. There is a silver fire hydrant at the curb.

From the East or West:

Take the PA Turnpike East/West to the Northeast Extension (formerly Rt. 9, now Rt. 476). Go north on the Northeast Extension to the Lansdale Exit. Get off at the Lansdale Exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Rt. 63.

(Follow the instructions in #4 of the "From the South instructions" to get to our house.)

Report of the Nominating Committee

by Judy Skorup

The following members have agreed to run for the offices indicated and are nominated by the Nominating Committee:

For President– Barbara Bowes
For Treasurer– Charlotte Powell
For Director (2 open positions)–
David Fridling
Gail Hillard
Jeanne-Anne Polichetti

Nominations for any office may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting, however, nominees must either be present, or have agreed in writing to be nominated for the specific position.

2007 Membership Report

by David Kintsfather

As of December 31, 2007 the Club's membership was as follows:

Full Members	83
Associate Members	28
Honorary Members	4
Junior Associate Members	2
	—
TOTAL MEMBERS	117

Special Board Meeting Minutes, 10/20/07

Meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm. Presiding was President, Barb Bowes.

ATTENDING: Barb Bowes, President; Lorraine Garaguso, Vice President; Charlotte Powell, Treasurer; Fred Unger, Director; Jon Wenrich, Director

ABSENT: Marci Port, Secretary; Gail Hillard, Director; Judy Skorup, Director

Due to the absence of the Secretary Marci Port, minutes of this meeting were taken by both Bea Gottesman and Lorraine Garaguso.

The only business able to be transacted at this meeting was discussion and voting on the Financial Policy and Procedure of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club and Membership.

Barb Bowes put forth the following motions:

Motion 1: I move that we immediately adopt to institute a formal, written Financial Policy and Procedure to govern all of the financial transactions of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club.

This Written Policy and Procedure can and will be updated as need arises and voted on by the Board of Directors and Officers of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club. Voting will be allowed by email or phone, but must be followed up by each Board Member's or Officer's written vote mailed to the Secretary to be kept in the permanent record.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion 1 was seconded by Charlotte Powell and passed unanimously.

Motion 2: Due to recently discovered misuse of Club funds and both seriously lacking, or complete lack of, financial audits for the years 2002 - 2006, I move that we immediately adopt the Audit Policy and Procedure including the forms presented in the packets that were sent to each Board Member. This can and will be updated as needed with changes to the forms and/or Policy and Procedure as need arises and is to be voted on by the Board of Directors of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club. Voting will be allowed by email or phone, but must be followed up by each Board Member's or Officer's written vote mailed to the Secretary to be kept in the permanent record.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion 2 was seconded by Fred Unger and passed unanimously.

Motion 3: I move that the written Financial Policy and

Procedure will also govern Committees and general forms must be instituted for use by any standing or special committees that have financial dealings using Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club Funds. These forms can either be kept general and generic or be customized as needed and voted on by the Board of Directors and Officers of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club. I move we adopt the draft forms sent in the packet to each Board Member until such time as the forms are finalized.

Voting will be allowed by email or phone, but must be followed up by each Board Member's or Officer's written vote mailed to the Secretary to be kept in the permanent record.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion 3 was seconded by Charlotte Powell and passed unanimously.

Motion 4: I move that we include in the By-Laws of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club that there is and will remain a written Financial Policy and Procedure for all committees, that the Audit Committee will be listed specifically in the By-Laws and that Audits will be performed annually. Any By-Laws changes must be voted on by the General Membership. However, since we already have a committee working on changes to the By-Laws, I move that this change be included in their revision.

Director Wenrich suggested better definition of offices and duties in By-Laws. President Bowes responded that only those items on the agenda may be discussed at this meeting, but would discuss this point informally after the meeting adjourned.

Motion 4 was seconded by John Wenrich and passed unanimously.

Motion 5: I move that Nancy and Whitney Coombs be made Honorary Members of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion 5 was seconded by Lorraine Garaguso and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Bea Gottesman and Lorraine Garaguso for Marci Port, Secretary.



We are proud to present our litter of 11 AKC Pyr puppies!

Born 12/13/2007- available after 2/11/2008
Ch. Cherlyns Ajax T-Greatest Glory (Ajax) - OFA Excellent
x
Edgewood's Oh My Darling (Clementine) - Penn Hip



7 weeks old in pictures

Home raised, very friendly temperaments, up-to-date on vaccines and wormings
Vet checked and approved, references available



Sire Ajax- OFA Excellent

Edgewood's Great Pyrenees

Brice Wonders, Oxford, PA

Visit the website for more pictures, pedigrees and information

www.wonderswaterfowl.com

484-319-7709 Wonderswaterfowl@aol.com



All dressed up for the Holiday Party.

Editors' Note: Penny got tired of waiting on the humans and went off to vacation on the Cote d'Azure. The painting below entitled "Chez Penny" by Kim Salerno will give you some idea of Penny's preferred winter lifestyle.



4-H members put Pyrs through their paces at the Fun Match held after the 2007 Regional.

Penny also left a few photos she hopes you will enjoy and encourages all Penn-Dutchies, fuzzy and otherwise, to "make the scene" at the Ohio National Specialty. Remember, "What happens in Cleveland, stays in Cleveland!"



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

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EPPR Rescue Report

by Barb Bowes

Last Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. had a very active year last year in 2006. With the help and support of Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club we placed over 50 Pyrs in new homes! Thankfully, 2007 has not been as active. After a few months of no adoptions things have picked up once again and dogs are moving out into new homes.

While 2006 turned out to be the "Year of Puppies", 2007 seems to be the "Year of Middle Aged Males". This is partly responsible for the slow down in adoptions for those few months as well as many, many Pyrs being moved up from the South and adopted out here in the Northeast.

I expect there will be many more dogs in need of Rescue in the coming months and years. The lack of organized Great Pyrenees Rescue in NJ is part of the problem and unfortunately the Rescue Chair in Western PA, Jane Leistner, has had to retire from doing Rescue. We wish Jane and her husband all the best. Pyr Rescue in Western PA has few foster homes and we expect to see an increase in the number of people and shelters in that area requesting help with dogs. The logistics of this are daunting. Many of these dogs will be several hours away at the very least and we do only have so much room for dogs. We will help where we can but there's no way we can help all the dogs in need in both NJ and Western PA.

If any of you would like to help Rescue in any way, please contact Lorraine Garaguso (raineday@verizon.net or 856-662-2171). She is our volunteer coordinator. There are many ways to help Rescue and the dogs, of which fostering is just one. We are hoping to be much more active in Rescue fairs and events in the future as well as in education on the breed. Remember, every person who learns about the breed and knows that Great Pyrenees is not the breed to fit into their home, is one less dog that needs Rescuing. This is preventative Rescue and is just as important as the actual physical rescuing of dogs in need!

And last, but certainly not least, I thank all of you that have fielded calls for Rescue, done home checks and helped move dogs and have donated money and/or items to the dogs and EPPR. We could not continue without you! A special thanks goes out to Delaware Valley Siberian Husky Rescue whose volunteers have been instrumental in performing home checks in areas where we have no members, and to those involved in Great Pyrenees as well as other breeds that have done the same.

Thank you all!

Penn-Dutch Helps Youngsters Learn about Breed and Showing

by Donna Mercado

To coincide with the AKC's Responsible Pet Ownership Day, Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club invited several groups of 4-H kids to visit our Sept. 15th Regional Specialty show in Macungie, PA. The response was overwhelming, and numbers had to be eventually capped at 30 kids from four different groups. The purpose of the exercise was to introduce them to the world of dog shows and provide information about the Great Pyrenees.

To this end, a week before the show they gathered and were given a talk about the structure and purpose of a dog show. This covered in broad outline everything from the class structures to the relevance of stacking to the judging of the breed standard. They also got to meet the breed and learn a little of its history.

On the day of the show, Dianne Migas, the Specialty Chair, greeted a busload of eager, interested 4-H kids and directed them to a brief grooming demonstration. They then took their places to watch the judging. Barb Bowes of Penn-Dutch and Joanne Krausman of Garden State GPC provided a running commentary of the judging to help the kids and some adults understand. After the obligatory face-stuffing lunch, the real fun started. It was time for the 4-H kids to run off the cake and demonstrate what they had learned. Dogs were borrowed from the exhibitors, and a fun match was held. Dr. Valerie Seeley was prevailed upon to extend her judging duties from sweeps to cover the event. Three rounds of close competition forced Valerie to reluctantly, and with considerable difficulty, identify six individual winners.

(Reprinted from the *GPCA Bulletin*, 3rd Quarter, 2007)



Valerie Seeley congratulates two lucky winners.



Let the Music Play

Written & Illustrated by Ron Hevener

Funny, how we never seem to know what's just around the corner. We go about our lives: working, laughing, loving . . . and we never know how our life is going to turn out. I know this doesn't sound like the goal-oriented thinkers that I encourage people to be. I encourage animal lovers to be their best and to reach as high as they possibly can. After all, if we don't reach for the stars, how can we ever touch them? Yes, I know ... Childish words ...

Maybe it's the moody weather outside as I'm writing this, here in Michigan, on a horse farm that has seen better days and certainly has its woes ... maybe, for just a while, as I look at broken fences and barns begging for paint, I know how much we need those hopes and dreams I'm always talking about. That's when I turn on the radio.

I let the music play as we're getting ready for a show. Not just any show, but a show that's become important to everybody around here. What's so important about it this time? This time, it's important just to be there. It's important to let everyone see that we're still in the game. It's important for us, ourselves, to know we're still in the game, I think to myself, as the music plays.

Animal lovers are very different from other people. When life throws road blocks at us, we can't stop and pity ourselves if it's taking longer now to get where we want to go. Unlike our friends, we don't have that luxury. Yes, of course, we can pull over and pity ourselves for a while. But, we can't do it for long. We can't pity ourselves for long because we've got other lives depending on us.

Maybe it's just a puppy or a kitten. Maybe it's a horse. Maybe it's a whole kennel or a cattery or an aviary or a farm. The point is: The show can only go on if we get out

of bed in the morning, put one foot in front of the other, and do whatever we have to do to keep the bills paid and the animals fed.

Animal lovers are people with big hearts. Sometimes, those hearts are too big for our own good. It doesn't matter how late we stayed up last night, reading or watching TV or talking on the phone until we fell asleep ... it doesn't matter how long we stayed out ... it doesn't matter what we thought, or said, or dreamed last night.

Do you hear the rooster crowing? It's time to get up again ... time to make eggs and pancakes ... time to pour some coffee. What matters is that we get up, feed our pets and all the rest of the animals that depend on us. What matters is that we sing to the radio and fill the place with music—all the way from the floor to the rafters and out every window into the world around us.

Animals like music. They like the sound and the feeling of it. They like the way music goes through their skin and all the way into their soul and they are very true about what they like to hear. Sometimes, they like soft music; other times, they like a great symphony. As a singer, I know the best songs are ones that animals like to hear. I've heard of singers letting their animals pick the songs they record in the studio. I'm one of those singers. Of the many songs I've recorded over the years, the most successful were the ones my animals liked best. "I Wish You Love" was one of those songs.

Funny, how music fills us with emotion ... Funny, how our animals do the same thing ... Why is that?

I don't know. I don't know the answer to that any more than I know the answer to the mystery that brings new life into the world, keeps it going for a while, and then takes it away ... I just don't know.

What I do know (and I know it no matter what happens) is that, as long as I have animals, I will have something to do. I will never wonder what is happening today, or tomorrow. I know my animals will need fed, watered, groomed and cared for. I know I'll do my best for them ... and I'll let the music play.



Upcoming Events

***Mar. 15-** Penn-Dutch Annual Meeting, 11 am – 4 pm at the home of Judy and Dianne Skorup (details on p. 4).

***Apr. 30-May 3-** GPCA National Specialty, Westlake, OH (details on p. 15).



Balibasque Lesarc de Triumph (Chelsea)
9/1/94 - 9/6/07

I remember like it was yesterday, Chelsea playing tag with our pet chicken. She would run after the chicken, tag her with her nose, turn and run in the opposite direction and the chicken would chase her, tag her with her beak and the whole thing would start over again. I remember the gangly 7 month-old puppy playing in the rain and the puddles in the yard. Covered in mud! Splashing and playing and rolling and running and smiling. That gangly girl with the angular head that turned into such a lovely smooth head. I remember the adult female that hated other bitches. I remember the gentle girl who climbed into bed or in the crate with my kids and napped with them. The older female who loved "upsidedownickers." Upsidedownickers was when my son would come home, lie down on the couch, call Chel to him and say, "Let's do upsidedownickers, Chilly Willy!" She would sidle up to the couch and he would pick her up, flip her over and she would lie upside down (on her back) on the length of his body. He would be sound asleep in less than 5 minutes. She would then very carefully get down and lay alongside the couch on the floor. I remember the senior Pyr who would come up on the bed with me to say goodnight, as this was our special time together. It was just the two of us talking together for a few minutes before I drifted off to sleep. I would stroke the side of her muzzle which was exceptionally soft and tell her how much I loved her. As soon as I turned on my side to go to sleep she would get off the bed and either go lie in her crate or alongside the bed. I remember the really old lady who had to be helped up onto the bed for our few minutes together, then helped down again. The old lady who watched over all the Rescues here. Who would lie in front of the crate of any dog who was stressed from coming in to Rescue. And there are so many more memories. Far too many to mention. But these few I've written here are my tribute to her, my "Chilibinickers." (She had many nicknames.) Sleep well my love, until we meet again.

Barb Bowes

**Penn Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
Profit & Loss Standard
January through October 2007**

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions and Support	281.00
Fun Day Sales	486.83
Membership Dues ASSOC	280.00
Membership Dues FULL	1,349.00
Membership Dues NEW	123.00
Membership late fees	45.00
Merchandise Sold	172.50
Mmbership Dues JR	4.00
PREVIOUS Penn Dutch	85.00
Regional Income	517.00
Rescue	4.00
Total Income	<u>3,347.33</u>
Expense	
Advertising	25.00
Equipment purchase	357.70
Fun Day Expenses	128.52
Fund Raiser Expenses	514.03
Insurance - nonemployee	525.00
memberships	275.33
Newsletter	123.75
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	30.00
PDGP Fun Days & Holiday Party	387.88
Postage and Delivery	184.59
Reconciliation Discrepancies	546.13
Reginal Expense gifts	397.54
Regional Exp Misc	65.00
Regional Expense Food	74.18
Regional expense fund raisers	277.50
sunshine	58.27
Supplies and Materials	93.63
Total Expense	<u>4,064.05</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-716.72</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-716.72</u></u>

**Penn Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
Balance Sheet Summary
As of October 31, 2007**

	<u>Oct 31, 07</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	6,843.76
Other Current Assets	0.00
Total Current Assets	<u>6,843.76</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>6,843.76</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	6,843.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>6,843.76</u>

Rescue Angels

by David Kintsfather

We are pleased to recognize the many Penn-Dutch members and friends who made monetary contributions to East Penn Pyr Rescue, Inc. during 2007. Thank you for helping Pyrs in need.

Joseph Bezotsky, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Robertson Blackwell
William Blickensderfer
Basil Borota
Jane & Jim Boyle
Joanne Boyle
Julia Bridgman
Lori Hykes Brunner
Bart Buckwalter
Janet Bumb
Kathleen Burger, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
James Cattron
Mike Connor
Glen Cook
F. McKee Cox, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Jennie Daws
Jack Dedecko
Pamela Demerice
Marie DeSaules, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Carol Dimino
Suzanne Dimitry
Desiree Easterday
Doug & Kathy Edwards
Andy Ellis & Christie Dowda, in memory of Chelsea
S. A. Evans, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Shelley Evans
Jeanette Fink
Ruthann Fisher, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Rose Marie & Gary Frey, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
David & Ilene Fridling, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Lorraine Garaguso, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Peter & Patricia Gettings, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Deborah Gettle, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Bea Gottesman, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Greentree Nurseries

Ben & Kathy Gress
David & Judy Heffelfinger, in memory of Chelsea
Charley & Nancy Huggard
David & Nancy Kintsfather, in memory of Chelsea
Arthur, Debra & Erik Klotz
Market Day Gourmet
Jeffrey Marlow, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Marybelle Sales
Daphne Mays
Joy McCarron
Peter McCarron, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Jean Nick
Harry Nordstrom
Pamela O'Connor
Marcia Port, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Charlotte Powell
Helen & Steven Price, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Quinlaintown Hunting Club
Therese Rinaldi, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Joyce Ross
Jim Sandford, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Nancy Sargent, in memory of Chelsea Bowes
Robert Snell
Patricia Stevens
Erica Taylor
Henriette Taylor
Steven Thompson
Rick Toler
Brian Warter
Elizabeth Way
Stephanie Whitney
Denise Wise
Kerry Kern Woods
Edward Wysocki



Image © Cecile Baird



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)

BACON, Tim (F) E-Mail: tim.bacon@timbacon.com	612 Kings Rd., Yardley, PA 19067 Pyr: Sheba-B, Sophie-B	215-783-4273
FRYE, Roberta (F)	317 Westview Ave., Bristol, PA 19007 Pyr: Pocono-B, El Toro-D	215-584-3171
KENESKY, Aimee (F) E-Mail: mkenesky@aol.com	1062 Union Meeting Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422 Pyr: Gabriel-D	215-313-2908
RIEVAULX, Emily (F)	420 Mohns Hill Rd., Reinholds, PA 17569 Pyr: Fifi-B, Gigi-B	717-484-0909
WONDERS, Brice (F) E-Mail: sk8ndrake85@aol.com	P.O. Box 19, Kirkwood, PA 17536 Pyr: Clementine-B, Bon Bon-B, Stormy-B	484-319-7709

Membership List Additions & Updates

FRIDLING, Ilene (F) E-Mail: infrid@aol.com	1633 Hancock Rd., N. Wales, PA 19454 Pyr: Colby-D	215-616-0575
GRESS, Ben (F) & Kathy (F) E-Mail: bgress@enter.net	3264 Highland Rd., Orefield, PA 18069 Pyr: Rocky-D, Kayla-B	610-398-1363
KERRIGAN, Casey (J) E-Mail: luvapyr@aol.com	2400 Edge Hill Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 Pyr: Kane-D	215-659-1347
MEEHAN, Francis (F) E-Mail: pigdog40@msn.com	5 Chase Ct., Westhampton, NJ 08060 Pyr: Ozzie-D	609-288-6232
MERCADO, Donna (A) E-Mail: donna@pyrmania.com	120 Hazelton Dr., Greentown, PA 18426 Pyr: Danny Boy-D, Misty-B, Heidi-B	610-621-1697
RYESKY, Linda (A) & Matthew (A) E-Mail: scarlitfyr@aol.com	685 Garfield Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446 Pyr: Lilah-B	215-378-9860
SCARBOROUGH, Dolly (F) E-Mail: tscar1712@yahoo.com	1400 Forrest Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810 Pyr: Winnie-B	302-529-7464
WARD, Carol (F) E-Mail: sweetie3@ptd.net	224 Poplar Creek Ln., Effort, PA 18330 Pyr: Chevy-D, Tala-B	570-629-0690
WARMUTH, Valerie (F) E-Mail: winhq@aol.com	6065 NW 55th Ave., Ocala, FL 34482	352-732-0422

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



Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) in the Great Pyrenees - 2007

GPCA Health Committee

Overview:

Canine degenerative myelopathy (also known as chronic degenerative radiculomyelopathy) is a neurological disease occurring with increasing frequency in several breeds, including the Great Pyrenees. The disease is chronic and progressive and is caused by the degeneration of the myelin sheath which insulates the neurons in the spinal cord. This results in a loss of communication between the nerves in the lower body of the dog and the brain and, as a consequence, the dog loses both sensation and control.

Although the cause of DM is unknown, a genetic component has been suggested due to the high occurrence rates in certain breeds (German Shepherd, Welsh Corgi, Irish Setters, Collies, Siberian Huskies, Labrador Retrievers, Belgian Shepherds, Kerry Blue Terriers and Chesapeake Bay Retrievers). A proposed cause is that the immune system attacks this sheath, breaking it down, and has been compared to Multiple Sclerosis in humans.

Symptoms:

The disease usually manifests itself (depending upon the breed) after the age of 5 years. Initially, the back legs are affected causing muscle weakness and loss/lack of coordination. These cause a staggering effect that may appear to be arthritis. This can be apparent on one side (unilateral) or affect both sides. The dog may scuff one or both rear paws when it walks, wobble when walking, knuckle over or drag its feet, and may cross the feet. This scuffing can cause the nails of one foot to be worn down. As the disease progresses, the limbs become weak and the dog begins to buckle at the knees and have difficulty standing. The dog begins to have considerable difficulties walking, and may ultimately lose control of elimination and front limb function. Eventually the back legs become useless, at which point euthanasia may be the only option. Progress of the disease is generally slow but highly variable.

Diagnosis:

DM is a diagnosis of elimination. After the other possible causes for the weakness have been ruled out (e.g., slipped discs, spinal cord infection, tumors, cysts, injuries, stroke), we end up with a tentative diagnosis of DM. The combination of x-rays, myelogram, spinal tap, and a CT-Scan or MRI will allow a diagnosis of most of the aforementioned diseases. Since there is no genetic test available at the present time, other possible diagnoses must be ruled out. The process of diagnosing DM can become time-consuming and costly for the owner. You may wish to consult a certified veterinary neurologist (a specialist in diseases of the nervous system). The only way to confirm a diagnosis of DM is to examine the spinal cord under the microscope at necropsy (post-mortem).

Treatment:

There are no treatments or medications which have clearly been shown to stop or slow down the progression of the disease. Things that can improve the quality of life for the dog include good nursing care, physical therapy, pressure sore prevention, aggres-

sive treatment of urinary infections, and sometimes carts or harnesses to improve mobility. Exercise has been recommended to maintain the dog's ability to walk. Physiotherapy and hydrotherapy (swimming) may be helpful in maintaining muscle tone. The outlook for a dog with DM is still grave.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation, in cooperation with Scott's House (a rehabilitation facility located in Menlo Park, California), has recently released a FREE instructional video on caring for affected dogs. The video shows how owners can modify their homes to make it easier to live with a DM dog, reviews products that can help such dogs live more comfortable and functional lives, and explains how physical rehabilitation therapy may help slow the progression of the disease. The video can be downloaded from the CHF website at: <http://www.akcchf.org/video/>. There is also a DVD providing DM care information available through the Canine Health Foundation by calling toll free (888) 682-9696.

Studies and Grants:

Texas A & M Study, funded by CHF: Researchers - Drs. Leigh Anne Clark and Kate Tsai. To define the genetic contribution to DM. Identification of a marker or markers would help breeders as they attempt to breed out this adult-onset condition. Supported, but not funded, by the GPCA Health Committee.

U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, funded by CHF: Researcher - Dr. Richard Vulliet. To conduct safety trials of adult stem-cell treatment of DM and other diseases. Supported, but not funded, by the GPCA Health Committee.

GPCA Health Committee:

The occurrence rate of DM in the Great Pyrenees is unclear, but it is suspected that the rate is much higher than previously thought. If one takes into consideration the symptoms of DM and compares them to the GPCA Health Survey analysis since 1999, which includes the health status of a total of 2187 Great Pyrenees, 249 have reported spinal problems, spinal myelopathy, gait problems, weak pasterns, loss of rear function, age related-down in rear, spondylosis, or arthritis affecting both the front and rear. As the only means of definitive diagnosis for DM is necropsy, few have had this done after losing their companion.

Please complete and submit the GPCA Health Survey if you have, or have had a dog with this health problem. Sufficient data is required to verify the need for participation and funding by the GPCA for the aforementioned studies. The survey can be downloaded from our website www.gpcahealth.org.

References:

- Degenerative disease, *Merck Veterinary Manual* (9th ed.)
- Listing of Inherited Disorders in Animals* -University of Sydney
- Degenerative Myelopathy in German Shepherd Dogs*, University of Florida
- www.vetmedicine.about.com
- AKC Gazette*: Sept., 2007; p.30

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