



Pyrenean Fun Day, 2008 at Gress Mountain Ranch provided lots of fun, food & fellowship for Pysr and people.

Penn-Dutch at 20

by David Kintsfather

With this issue we celebrate Penn-Dutch GPC's 20th Anniversary! Having joined in 1989, Nancy and I are considered "Founding Members," but the real "founding" took place before we joined and we have only a fuzzy idea of the process.

Unfortunately all of our "Founding Pysr" are gone now, but under their capable supervision, the people have built a regional club which remains true to its original goal, to prove that a dog club does not have to be "stuffy." We are very unusual in having only two regularly scheduled meetings a year, and in making all our events except the Annual Meeting Pyr-inclusive!

So please come out to our Regional Specialty on September 13th and join the party! While Penn-Dutch is about fun, it takes a lot of help to organize events and then it takes members' participation to continue the Penn-Dutch tradition of food, fun and fellowship. May the next 20 years be even better!

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Penn-Dutch

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President's Message

by Barb Bowes

This year has started out a bit slow as far as events go. We had to cancel the Spring Walk-in-the-Woods due to weather. I was certainly looking forward to it and I'm disappointed. But we had a very successful Obedience event on June 22nd at Evansburg State Park.

I know the price of gas has had us all curtail some of our activities. The state of the economy is another factor in attending events. I do hope things improve soon or we may have to host fewer events each year. I certainly hope it does not come to that. But we do all understand that everyone is having a difficult time making ends meet.

This is our 20th Anniversary Year and we want to CELEBRATE! The new tee-shirts commemorating this milestone are done and ready for you to see and purchase. They are quite nice and different from what we've had in the past. They debuted at the June 22nd obedience event and will be available at each future event. We hope you like them.

July brought our Pyrenean Fun Day and Fun Match at the Gress Mountain Ranch. Thank you, Kathy and Ben, for hosting this event! The weather didn't cooperate and was too hot for many of our older Pyrs, but the people and younger Pyrs had a great time with lots of food and fellowship, along with the same conformation and fun classes that we had last year.

We are still without a Fun Events Chairperson. I'm hoping that someone will step up to fill this spot. We really need someone to coordinate these events to make them even more special!

September brings our 20th Anniversary Penn-Dutch sponsored Great Pyrenees Club of America Regional Spe-

cialty on Saturday, the 13th in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club Show. The location is Macungie Memorial Park, located right on Rt. 100 about 7 miles south of Trexlertown (which is just west of Allentown).

We usually request an early ring time, but these aren't officially set until the week before the show. Check out the informational banner at the top of the Club web page (www.pyrbred.org/pdgpc.html) that week.

I realize that Penn-Dutch has many more companion Pyr owners than those who show, however, we encourage everyone to come out and cheer on our show Pyrs, and then stick around to participate in our traditional tailgate picnic at one of the Park pavilions. This year we will have a special presentation honoring our Founding Members.

While dogs not entered in the show are banned from AKC show venues, the pavilion area of Macungie Park is not considered part of the show grounds, and well-behaved companion Pyrs on leashes (6 ft. maximum) are welcome at the Tailgate. In recognition of the AKC's Responsible Pet Ownership Month, we will have an educational booth set up in the Tailgate area with lots of great information. Everyone should also check out the wide variety of vendors set up around the edge of the show grounds.

Later that evening Penn-Dutch will host a "Mixer" at the show hotel (Days Inn, off Rt. 309, just north of Rt. 22) with great food and drinks, and I want to encourage all our members to come out and help entertain our out-of-town guests. Pyrs are welcome as well.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again soon.



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.

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Ohio Bound, a National Report

by Dianne Migas

Well, another GPCA National has come and gone! It feels as though it takes forever to get prepared, packed and on the road only to have the week go by so fast!

It was a 17-hour round trip ride for me, but well worth it. The Heart of Ohio Club always puts on a well balanced, fine tuned and perfectly operated show. This makes my third National in Ohio and each time gets better than the last. Big congrats to them and a huge "thank you" for a great time! They are also one of the friendliest groups of folks you will run into, which makes it all the better.

I rolled in to the Holiday Inn with my Madison around 7:30 pm on Wednesday, so I missed Judy and Jeanne-Anne and their awesome Pyrs attain their ribbons in Obedience and Brace. From what I was told by many, they were amazing and Penn-Dutch members should be proud of the representation of our Club! A list of winners and acknowledgements are listed elsewhere in the *Scoop*.

I did not see Judy, Dianne or Jeanne much....passing through the halls, coming and going off and on the elevator or catching a glimpse of each other around ringside. As I said, it goes by so fast!

It was a busy, busy time for many and I was happy to have a few of my friends from Canada come in and spend time with me. I got to see my Zoey (Madison's sister), who lives and is co-owned with my dear friend, Sariena and her family. I also got to see one of Zoey's babies, Summer <sniff sniff>. So, I spent a lot of time smooching and cuddling!

There were not a lot of vendors, but those that were there had gorgeous items! There were exceptional stained glass items, wonderful one-of-a-kind ceramics and jewelry, and clothing as well, but one item really stood out amongst the rest. It was from the Heart of Ohio Rescue Group and it was a large (not too large) stained glass heart in a beautiful shade of red with a lovely white Pyrenees head. The heart was perfectly shaped and the Pyr was just perfect. Pat Wallace of Ohio is famous for her stained glass art and if she wasn't from her past items, this item would have made sure she would be.

They raffled it for Rescue and naturally, the loser that I am did not win. Nicole Sharpe of NEPR won—congrats to her!

There were many meetings and I missed the Regional Representative Meeting, but thanks to my friend and co-

Health Committee member, Joan Stewart-Ruiz, I have the news.

There was much discussion on encouraging and supporting education on the breed by the Regional Clubs and their members. The GPCA Education Committee, along with National Rescue and Health Committees, put together an order form with a variety of information for Regional Clubs to use for their educational events such as "Meet the Breeds." There is quite an amount of information that I personally feel will be an ideal tool for us to utilize.

In addition, every year the list of judges is updated and there was the usual request of the Regional Clubs if they had anyone in the breed who was interested in judging Futurity and/or Sweepstakes for future Nationals and Regionals. Penn-Dutch had no one to add to the list at this time.

Judy Brown, the GPCA Affiliated Regional Club Coordinator, requested that all the Regional Reps be sure to respond and communicate via emails. This is the best way to keep updated and to keep our members updated.

The Health Committee Meeting discussed the addition of two new studies for osteosarcoma. Karen Conley, who is responsible for sending us the health information updates that we print in the *Pyr-A-Scoop*, will be sending detailed information to us in her next installment. In the meantime, information can be found on the GPCA Health Website at www.gpcahealth.org

This year also launched a new program that we support from the Orthopedic Foundation For Animals (OFA). It is called the Champions for Health Program. Each year the national Parent Club (in our case the GPCA) nominates Pyrs who have accomplishments in various forums, such as Obedience/Performance, Service, Livestock Guardian, Conformation and Top Producer. Naturally, they must have health testing as well!

This year, Ch. Rivergroves Kendall Jackson, who holds the Title for Hall Of Fame Top Producing Sire for four years in a row, was the FIRST Pyrenees to receive the Award! Kendall also holds a Title for Hall of Fame Conformation Wins.

This is important because Top Producing Sire means that he has quite a number of offspring who have become Champions and/or have additional Titles. To have a sire and his offspring health testing is very, very important to the future of our breed.

In addition, his offspring have gone on to become Best In Show, GPCA National & Regional Specialty winners and Award of Merit recipients. Many have their Therapy

Certifications and compete in obedience and performance. GPCA Versatility Titles and GPCA Health Awards are also some of the accomplishments of his "kids and grandkids."

We congratulate Jean and Wayne Boyd and Kendall for such a prestigious and profound accomplishment.

The Health Committee also concluded the "Fire Screen Raffle—Monarch a Rescue Dog" and Jean Boyd won that!

Jean and Wayne had a very good week at the National. Their dogs won Best in Futurity, Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex to Breed, Winners Dog and Best of Winners (who is a Kendall kid). This was quite the whirlwind of wins! Big congrats to them!

McKee Cox, who is one of our members, co-bred many of the dogs with Jean Boyd. McKee whelps many of the litters and she just LOVES THOSE PUPPIES! She helps bring them into this world and more importantly gives them the best start any puppy could get. So, though Jean shows them...McKee, a BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU!

There was much talk about "2 Dogs, 2000 Miles" as well. NEPR set up a Booth for Luke and the Boys. For those of you who do not know the story, Luke lost his Rescue Pyr Malcolm to osteosarcoma and made him a promise that his passing would not be in vain. Luke and his two Pyrs, Murphy and Hudson, are raising awareness and funds for Canine Cancer Research. They are walking from "Austin to Boston" and are educating people along the way. They are partnered with the Animal Cancer Foundation which is conducting a study on the causes of cancer. The GPCA announced that it will become a financial contributor to their endeavor which is great news for all of us. Their site is www.2dogs2000miles.com

There was also a Health Seminar with Dr. Hutchinson on Neonatal Care. He covered healthy dogs, good nutrition, and certain precautions that one needs to take prior to breeding dogs. He spoke about the advanced technologies. I did not attend but heard it was a good Seminar.

The Conformation Judge for the 2011 GPCA National was announced and it will be Jean Fournier, an All Breed Judge. The Milwaukee Club has the honor of hosting the show.

The National wound down with the Banquet—I was exhausted and not feeling 100%, so I did not attend. I did hear, however, that the food was very good. The Banquet is also where all the Awards are presented and the BIG Auction is held. Maybe it was a good thing I did not go.

Parties...GREAT TIME! Each night was great! Wonderful food, conversation and yes, drinks!

Lots of great Silent Auction items and each Regional Club sent an auction gift. We sent a cooler on wheels with items from our area. It did quite well for the Ohio Club. Thank you, Lorraine Garaguso, for getting the cooler.

Speaking of Lorraine Garaguso—her Po won a Therapy Service Award!!! Lorraine and Po enjoy going to nursing homes and visiting with patients. It is so important and rewarding for all involved. Many patients once owned dogs and/or pets and this gives them an opportunity to still feel that wonderful connection and wonderful feeling it is to own one. Lorraine says Po enjoys it and gives lots of kisses. She as his owner couldn't be prouder. Well, Lorraine and Po—we are equally as proud of you two! Congrats again!

It was great to see some of our members and to meet old friends and make some new ones, too. It was also the first time I have ever tried "jello shots." Warning, they are tasty little buggers!

The California Club held their "kick off" party on Friday night and they did it very well. Upon arriving, you were greeted by many and the "Beach Boys" were playing on the stereo. The tables were decorated with beach towels, sand pails and shovels. There were a few beach balls floating around, too. The food was excellent and the chocolate covered strawberries went quickly! They were also responsible for those "jello shots." They had great T-shirts to raise funds for their National: a van with Pyrs and their surf boards! "Pyr a Bunga" is written on them and they sold out. I got one prior to the jello shots. They also had beautiful T-Shirts that had jewel embellishments that outlined a Pyr head....very, very nice!

I had a great time and from where I stood so did everyone else! Thanks again to the Ohio group and we'll see if we can make it out to California in 2009!

(Editor's Note: If you missed the show, or want to re-live it, consider ordering the CD advertised below. We thank Debra for permission to use some of her photos.)

Laugh & Smile! '08 National Specialty CANDID PHOTOS

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"I can't say enough good things about the Photo CD. It is wonderful. Not only is it beautiful photography, they are such poignant pictures. They made me laugh, go "aww", & brought tears to my eyes. A pure delight."

Judy Brown

Around Dutchland



by Penny Pyrbred

It has been quite a long time since the humans managed to get out the last issue of the *Scoop* and Penny is back from the Cote d'Azur, ready to resume her role dishing on Club activities.

The social event of the year was the GPCA National Specialty hosted by those party animals (fuzzy and not so fuzzy) of the Heart of Ohio GPC. Dianne Migas has described this event elsewhere in this issue, but she left it to Penny to describe the success of our Penn-Dutch Pyrs and their people. We will get to the conformation (beauty contest) shortly, but first Penny has to tell you that when it comes to obedience in the Pyr world, Penn-Dutch ROCKS!

Lacey Polichetti (accompanied by Jeanne-Anne) managed to take High in Trial with a 1st Place win in Novice B Obedience. Jeanne-Anne also bravely entered Brace Obedience with Lacey and Blitz and took another 1st Place, with Judy Skorup right behind in 2nd Place with Merlin and Bonnie. In Rally Obedience, Betsy Gartland took 1st Place with Jill in the Excellent class, and Judy Skorup took 1st Place with Merlin in the Advanced class. To round out the obedience successes, Merlin Skorup was inducted into the GPCA Obedience Hall of Fame.



Betsy Gartland with Jill.



Jeanne-Anne Polichetti
with Lacey



Judy Skorup with Merlin

photos by Debra Fisher Goldstein

Before moving on from obedience successes, Penny must congratulate Bonnie Skorup on earning her CD title shortly before this issue went to print.

There was also a conformation competition, the results of which are detailed following this column. It is noteworthy that the Best of Breed winner, CH Rivergroves Trump This, was co-bred by Penn-Dutchie McKee Cox. Our congratulations to her, and all the winners.

Unfortunately the Spring Walk had to be cancelled due to bad weather, but June brought our first-ever "Performing Pyrs" workshop organized by obedience gurus Judy Skorup and Jeanne-Anne Polichetti, who brought their obedience Pyrs. It was attended by the Gottesmans with Kane, the Ports with Cloud, the Garagusos with Po, Emily Rievaulx with Fifi and Gigi, the Ryeskys with Lilah, Dorene Choffel and a new couple with a 10-month old puppy named Gabriel. Jeanne-Anne set up a rally obedience course in the shade and all of the Pyrs in attendance went through it at least once. Judy followed this with a mini-grooming session, and Chic Gottesman worked his magic on the grill. There was also time for Pyr play as seen below.



Po Garaguso and Gabriel at play.

July brought the Pyrenean Fun Day, hosted by Ben and Kathy Gress at their beautiful Gress Mountain Ranch. The weather was a bit hot for those of us with permanent fur coats, and some of our older Pyrs chose to stay home in the central air, but the event was well attended and great fun.

For the adventurous Pyrs there was an agility course. There was a vast selection of delicious food for people (and Pyrs), and Dianne Migas conducted a Fun Match to introduce the concept of showing.

The results were:

Best in Match- Cecily Stabinski-Heckman

Best of Opposite in Match- Cloud Port

Best Puppy- Misty Mercado

Awards of Merit were presented to:

Blitz Polichetti

Bonnie Skorup



Fun Match winners.

Unfortunately we must say good-bye to two Penn-Dutch Pyrs. The Choffels lost Teddy just as we were getting to know this handsome and funny young guy, and the Matolicz family lost the ever-stylish Gracie. These Pyrs will be missed by people and Pyrs alike and we extend our sympathies to their families.

Looking ahead, Penny hopes to see lots of Penn-Dutchies at the Regional Specialty and associated parties. Let's maintain our 20 year tradition of hospitality and FUN!

The Fall Walk-in-the-Woods, now dubbed the "Pyrtoberfest," is coming up on October 18th at Beltzville State Park, and should provide lots of scenic walks and the traditional food and fellowship.

Penn-Dutch has also been invited to participate in the 48th Annual Hatboro Holiday Parade on Sunday, Nov. 23rd. This is Bucks and Montgomery Counties' oldest and largest holiday parade, with some 45,000 spectators. If interested in participating, please contact Bea or Chic Gottesman at Luvapyr@aol.com or 215-659-1347.

See you soon.

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

National Specialty Results

Conformation Judge - Keith Savage

Puppy Sweeps Judge - Michael Floyd

Veteran Sweeps Judge - Betty Wade-Warmack

Futurity Judge - Valerie Seeley

Jr Showmanship Judge - Carrie Stuart-Parks

Obedience & Rally Judge - Linda McDonald

Draft Dog Judges - Steve Likevich & Sue Sanvido

Best of Breed: CH Rivergroves Trump This (McKee Cox co-breeder)

Best of Winners: Pyrview Solan Warrior King

Best of Opposite: CH Rivergroves She's All That

Award of Merit :

CH Impyrial's Love, American Style

CH Rivergroves Goode-Deal (McKee Cox co-breeder/co-owner)

CH PyrCountry's Big Time

Oneida's Moonlight Warrior

CH Tip'N Chip's Epic of Romanesca

Winners Dog : Pyrview Solan Warrior King

Reserve Winners Dog: Patorama Tug of War

Winners Bitch : Pyrview's Mama Mia

Reserve Winners Bitch: Framboise Summer Storm

Stud Dog: CH Tip'N Chip's Spirit of Thornhill, CDX, RAE

Brood Bitch: CH Rivergroves Nautika Fleurdunor

Brace Class - La Brise Sophia Mia & La Brise Fleur de Lys

Bred By Exhibitor Bitch - Navare's Fanning the Flames

Best Jr. Handler - Stephanie VanLanen

Highest Scoring in Reg. Obedience Classes - China Lace (shown by **Jeanne-Anne Polichetti**)

Best in Futurity - PyrCountry's Because He Can of PyrPlay

BOS in Futurity - PyrCountry's All-American Girl of PyrPlay

Best in (Puppy) Sweepstakes - Rivergrove Spyglass Ridge of Eventide

BOS in (Puppy) Sweepstakes - Impyrial's Power of Two

Best in Veteran Sweepstakes - CH Pyrfection Honore Daumier

Reserve to Best in Veteran Sweepstakes - Rivergroves Portrait of Pyrview



Teddy Choffel, 2006 – 2008

The Choffel household is in mourning for their Pyr-Son, the curly-haired, sandy-colored pup with the smiling Irish eyes who went loping to the Rainbow Bridge on Monday, June 16th. After the many times of following his brother lab, Marley, out the door, this time he gets to lead the way and find all the new smells and special doggie places on the other side.

Born on Labor Day, 2006, he leaves behind his loving mother, Ali, eight beautiful sisters and one rowdy brother. His adopted family will miss his wet kisses and his baby-like whining. He was always a very good boy and loved everyone. He will be sadly missed by all his brothers, sisters, kitty friends, his adopted family and his Grammy Weaver.



Upcoming Events

***September 13-** Penn-Dutch sponsored GPCA Regional Specialty held in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley KC Show, Macungie (PA) Park. Breed Judge: Whit Coombs. Sweeps Judge: Rhonda Dalton. FMI visit: www.pdgpcregional.org or call Dianne Migas at 732-477-8097.

September 14- Berks County KC Show, Kutztown, PA.

***September 20-** Garden State GPC Extravaganza.

***October 18-** Penn-Dutch "Pyrtoberfest" (formerly Fall Walk-in-the-Woods), 11 am – 5 pm, Beltzville (PA) State Park. FMI call Barb Bowes at 570-386-3017 or e-mail her at greatpyr@enter.net.

***December 6-** Penn-Dutch Holiday Party, Noon-5 pm, Kiwanis Lodge, Lancaster (PA) Central Park. FMI call Bea Gottesman at 215-659-1347 or e-mail her at luvapyr@aol.com.

December 12-14- Delaware Water Gap & Lehigh Valley KC Shows, Stabler Field House, Bethlehem, PA.

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

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

Membership Directories

by David Kintsfather

Members renewing for the 2008/2009 year will have received a new Directory recently. While every effort was made to report membership information accurately, please proof your entry closely and report any corrections or updates either by e-mail to david@pyrbred.org, or by leaving a message on our answering machine at 610-682-2419.

Thank you.

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photo by John Wenrich

Roz Wenrich with Mellow and family at Dog Chapel in VT.

Mel in Vermont

by Mellow Wenrich

Last summer my family and I went on a wonderful vacation to Vermont. My Mom and Dad couldn't bear to leave me, Mellow, and my 3 sighthound brothers and sister (Chundo, Harley and Mishka), so they bought a motorhome to take us with them. Now, not only do we get to go along, but we get to take long walks on trails several times a day. I learned that all you have to do is pace back and forth and whine and they think you have to go potty and they will RUSH to take you for a nice walk. My Mom and Dad are pretty smart, but this works over and over. No matter how many times you fool them, they never learn!

During the day we dogs got to sleep on the beds, something we never get to do at home while my parents are away, and in the evening we got to sit around a campfire and eat smores, minus the chocolate.

One day we went to a waterfall in Quechee Gorge and we encountered a bear! I knew at once it was made of trees (wood, I think people call it), but I didn't think my Mom could tell, so I dragged her right up to that bear, barking and acted very brave. She hugged me and was so happy with me and so were all the other people around there. They came up to me and petted me and lots of them took pictures. Pyrs and bears have a long history, you know! Wood, shmood, a hero is a hero. I knew I was a hero in everyone's eyes at that point.

Then we camped in Brandon, Vermont, where the town is decorated in dog art statues like New York has cow statues. We all went for walks to look at the statues and take pictures, but I wound up having to stop and

make so many friends along the way that it became an "explain-a-Pyr" walk. You know what I mean. I'm sure it's happened to you, too. Later the lady at the ice cream parlor said I was the best dog in town and gave me free ice cream, so it was worth it.

Another day we went to artist Stephen Huneck's dog chapel in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, where dogs are encouraged to come inside, have a drink and relax. This man made an actual chapel dedicated to dogs where the pews are in the shape of dogs and there are wolf sounds softly playing in the background. The walls are covered with pictures, prayers and tributes to dogs loved and lost and all the stained glass windows and artwork in the chapel are dog angels and dog pictures. There is also a protective dog angel weathervane overhead. The grounds have a dog agility area so dogs can play, a picnic area, water bowls for us, a contemplation pond where dogs could swim if they wanted to, and a dog gallery with amazing dog art. Best of all there was no charge at all for anything except the art if you wanted to buy something. It was a very spiritual and fun day for all of us!

At the end of the trip we came home with lots of new friends, great memories and wonderful pictures to help us remember.



photo by Roz Wenrich

John Wenrich with Mellow and family inside the Dog Chapel in VT.

(Editor's Note: The story of the Dog Chapel's construction and purpose is documented in a delightful and well-illustrated book entitled *The Dog Chapel* by Stephen Huneck and published by Harry N. Adams, Inc, NY, in 2002 [ISBN 0-8109-3488-4]. I found this book very comforting following Clondike's passing and am envious of Mellow and his family for actually having visited this very special and spiritual place.)

Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez

by Roz Wenrich

The title translates "Let the Good Times Roll" and describes our family's trip to New Orleans. When a Pyr enters a neighborhood everyone notices. When a Pyr travels 1,200 miles and appears in the French Quarter in New Orleans, everyone REALLY notices. People just aren't used to seeing such big, hairy dogs in such a warm climate, I guess.

Well, Mellow descended on New Orleans this summer and made himself quite at home. We were lucky enough to vacation there for almost a month and bring our dog family with us, so they got to savor the sights and sounds of the Vieux Carre, the "old square," as the Quarter is also called. Mellow went everywhere we could take him and made friends as he went. When we took a tour of the Quarter on a mule-drawn carriage, Mellow climbed the 2 narrow carriage steps and settled in to listen to the tour guide explain about the 300 year history of the Quarter, as we rode around and enjoyed the lesson. However, it became obvious that people were more interested in seeing Mellow riding in the carriage than he was in seeing the sights, and they were pointing and taking their own pictures of HIM as we took pictures of notable buildings and unusual architecture.

photo by Roz Wenrich



Mellow tours the streets of New Orleans in style!

In the early, cooler mornings we visited the street performers and artists at Jackson Square, the Saint Louis Cathedral, and walked along the banks of the Mississippi where the Riverboat Natchez is docked. Then we took Mellow to sample a beignet, a heavenly powdered sugar covered pastry typically eaten with chicory coffee at the famous Café Du Monde. We gathered quite a crowd under the green and white awnings as we sat to delight in

our confection. Lest you think it was all calm and relaxing, we also took Mel to hear the rhythm of the famous New Orleans jazz music at Maison Bourbon and Preservation Hall, which was created as a sanctuary to protect jazz music from decline due to the encroachment of rock in 1961. In the evenings when it got cooler, Mellow walked down the raucous Bourbon Street wearing strands of colorful beads, loving the attention of onlookers and the music which drifts from every open doorway, each with its own band or pulse. He paused to hear karaoke at Cat's Meow, music at Krazy Korner, and at the home of the monster alcoholic beverage concocted at the Tropical Isle, the Hurricane. On Royal Street Mel paused to look in gallery windows (and to enjoy a bit of air conditioning as it wafted through the open doors). We met several little dogs for him to say hi to, but none quite Pyr-sized. As always, a Great Pyrenees is noticeable wherever you go.

Mellow even got to experience time with our granddaughter Sidney and to demonstrate how amazing Pyrs are with small children, even when they aren't raised with them. As I watched 6 month-old Sidney with Mel, it brought back memories of my son as a baby, drinking his bottle lying on my beloved Pyr Mega who has long since passed. Different generation, but some things never change, and it's comforting to know that temperament in a breed can be counted on to be one of those enduring things.

photo by John Wenrich



Mellow and Sidney.

Sadly we had to say good-bye to New Orleans and our newfound friends. We are home now. Mellow is asleep as I write this, feet twitching repeatedly, but I wonder if he is dream-walking the streets of the Vieux Carre, stopping only long enough to listen to a jazz tune before he moves on with a long sigh.



GPCA Health Committee



Canine Cancer Update 2008

This article is a summary of cancer-related presentations from the Canine Health Conference which provided information on current, accepted and proposed treatments; future funded research (human & canine); and new specimen collection & storage. Many of these researchers work with the Canine Health Foundation as well as the National Institute of Health, as many accepted means of treatment are used for both human and canine cancers. This article is simply an information-extract of their presentations and, therefore, non-thematic.

Cancer Overview: Cancer is a genetic disease, but not necessarily inherited. This is because genes are found in two kinds of cells: germ (i.e., both sperm and egg cells), which affect the next generation, and somatic cells, which do not affect the next generation. Cancer is caused by mutations, or errors, in genes. Mutations can be found in either germ or somatic cells. Most cancer in dogs is at least partially inherited. A cell must go through many stages before it becomes cancerous, puppies may be predisposed, but there are more factors that affect their chances of developing the disease.

Environmental risk factors, which can be random mutations, advance the dog a few more steps along the pathway to cancer. However, age appears to be the single, greatest risk factor for the disease. This is why cancer is rare in young animals. Immune-mediated diseases such as hypothyroidism and allergies are on the rise and since cancer rates tend to increase when the immune system is compromised, immune-mediated diseases could signal increased cancer risk.

In the meantime, modifying a dog's lifestyle, including keeping puppies and dogs lean and fit, can mitigate risk. Supporting research indicates that feeding dietary supplements, including raw vegetables and fish oil, may reduce cancer risk. Limiting exposure to environmental factors linked to increased incidence of cancer, such as paints and solvents, asbestos, second-hand smoke, and certain herbicides is also helpful.

"Cancer is not a single disease, but many diseases that share certain characteristics," according to Rhonda Hovan, Research Facilitator of the Golden Retriever Club of America. Gathering accurate statistics on the disease is

complicated, because many owners report cancer by the location the tumor is found. Hemangiosarcoma (HAS) tumors, for example, can be found anywhere in the body because cancer cells can circulate throughout the bloodstream to other organs. No matter where the tumor is found, however, if the tumor cells are epithelial cells, then it can be accurately reported as HAS. It is recommended that breeders request pathology to obtain an accurate diagnosis and consider necropsy to determine the cause of death.

Cancer Stem Cells: Dr. Modiano, DVM, PhD of the University of Minnesota called cancer stem cells the "evil twin sister" of therapeutic stem cells. Cancer is a conglomerate of conditions that represents a huge public health problem. It is the primary cause of death for adults under the age of 85, and the secondary cause for adults over 85 and for children.

Dr. Modiano has been told by many people that cancer is caused by walking under power lines, using cell phones, or eating commercial dog food; however, the actual cause of cancer is life. "Cancer is an inevitable consequence of mammalian evolution. A long life exponentially increases the risk of cancer. The lifetime risk for cancer in both dogs and people is between 30% and 50%, and cancer represents the leading cause of death for 50% of dogs aged 7 and up. While most cancer is treatable, the majority of cancers are not preventable with current strategies."

Cancer is described as the uncontrolled proliferation of cell growth, starting with a single cell. Cancer cells continue to divide at the expense of normal cells around them. They grow and then recruit blood vessels, and in the final stage, called metastasis, the tumor cells invade the bloodstream and travel along vessels to infect other tissues.

While the existence of cancer stem cells is supported by compelling information, how they are formed is still unknown. If cancer stem cells really are like stem cells, they should be able to self-renew and give rise to heterogeneous reproduction. Studies of human chronic myelogenous leukemia done in Denmark & Texas have shown that cancer stem cells do share these properties. One hypothesis is

that if treatments introduce mutations in cancer stem cells, they may become resistant to therapy, then return, and then metastasize. It has been recommended that researchers should try to develop treatments that specifically target cancer stem cells.

Cancer Treatments—Current and Future Trends: One third to half of all dogs will develop cancer in their lifetime, according to Douglas Thamm, VMD, DACVM from Colorado State University. This does not mean the disease is more prevalent than in the past, but rather that dogs are living longer because they receive better care, including vaccinations, nutrition, and supervision.

Even if it cannot always be cured, cancer is treatable or at least manageable. Some statistics suggest that more than half of all tumors can be cured with surgery alone if the surgery is performed correctly. Furthermore, in those situations where a cure is not possible, our real goal is to extend an excellent quality life for whatever time is left. A “wait and see” attitude regarding a dog’s cancer is discouraged. Early diagnosis is critical. The larger the tumor, generally, the harder it is to remove and more likely to spread.

Contrary to popular belief, neither biopsy using fine needle aspiration nor removal of the tumor will cause the cancer to spread. Tumors that are removed completely are less likely to recur. Recurrent tumors are often more aggressive than first-time tumors and may be associated with a worse long-term outcome. A study of dogs with mast cell tumor illustrates this point: 70% of first-time tumors did not recur if treated immediately with surgery and chemotherapy. When allowed to recur, the death within one year increased to 90%. Tumors sometimes recur because all the cancer cells were not removed during the initial treatment. The most aggressive tumor cells reside at the edges of a mass, so taking tissue from around and under the tumor, or using radiation to kill the cells that may be left behind, is critical to a successful outcome. A study of mast cell tumors showed that survival was 54 months when the margins around and under the tumor were clean, compared to survival average of 11 months when they were not.

Although dogs receive the same chemotherapy drugs as humans, the dosing is lower in dogs, and fewer drugs are given at the same time, so the likelihood of adverse effects is considerably less. Less than one-third to one-fourth of patients experience significant unpleasant side effects such as nausea, diarrhea and other intestinal symptoms. Other side effects may include lower white cell count and hair loss in certain breeds. Owners and breeders need not be concerned about cross contamina-

tion, as few chemotherapy drugs are excreted longer than 48-72 hours after treatment. It is recommended that gloves should be worn when handling feces, and pills should not be opened or crushed as this increases the risk of human exposure. It is impossible to guarantee how long an animal will live after chemotherapy. In studies of dogs with standard lymphoma, patients who received no treatment lived one month. Those that followed the full protocol of 16 injections over a period of 6 months averaged one more year of life, and 20% lived 2 years or longer.

Radiation is a localized therapy used on sarcomas, mast cell tumor, and oral tumors, among others, to kill cancer cells left behind after incomplete removal of a tumor. It is used to shrink a tumor before surgery, as primary therapy for certain tumors, or to ease pain or swelling. Radiation rarely has systemic side effects. Treatment involves general anesthesia and a short hospital stay with costs ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,000.

Radioactive seed implant therapy is still in its infancy in veterinary oncology. The treatment is being used on equine tumors of the head and neck. Radioactive iodine therapy, used on cats for some time to treat hypothyroidism, is available at a few centers across the country. This therapy renders the pet radioactive and requires a long hospital stay. Some studies with dogs appear promising, although finding a facility that offers this treatment can be difficult.

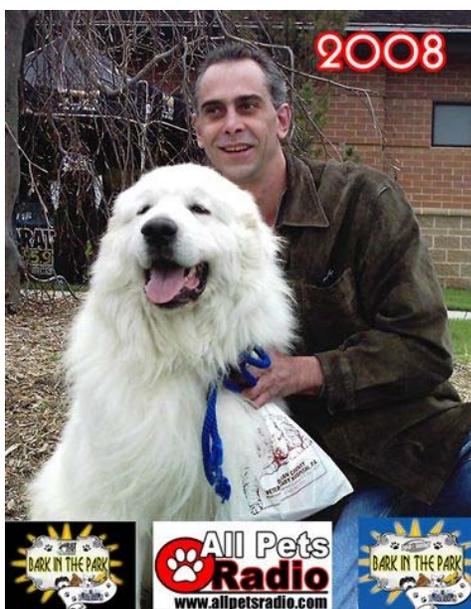
Age is not a factor during cancer treatment. The risks are not greater with older dogs, provided they are otherwise healthy. Treatment can vary from very conservative to very aggressive, depending upon a number of factors, including finances. More information about canine cancer can be found on the Colorado State University Animal Cancer Center website at www.csucancercenter.org or by calling the Center's free consultation line at (970) 297-4195.

National Canine Cancer Biospecimen Repository: Dr. Matthew Breen, PhD of North Carolina State University introduced the National Canine Cancer Biospecimen Repository: CCOGC by stating “in real estate it’s location, location, location—in research it’s samples, samples, samples.” With the sequencing of the canine genome, what we can do has been revolutionized. Researchers’ greatest need is a centrally based, well described repository of tissue samples. Many researchers collect their own samples; if those samples are not used, they are not used by anyone else either. The consolidation of sample repositories will mean more rapid advances in canine research. The cost to establish the CCOGC will be \$2.2 million over the

next 3 years. The Canine Health Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation have each supported this financially.

The initial focus will be osteosarcoma, lymphoma, and melanoma, all diseases which occur in both dogs and humans. Researchers who want access to samples from CCOGC must have their study's funding already in place.

The GPCA Health Committee: Currently sponsoring and funding the following Grants with a combination of Health Committee donation funds and the Donor Advised Fund (CHF): Canine Health Foundation Grant # 757 A 7 B: (\$10,000 over 2 years) Hereditary Mutations in Genes associated with Osteosarcoma in large dog breeds, and Canine Health Foundation Grant # 976: (\$5,000.00 over 2 years) Investigating the role of STAT3 activation in Canine Osteosarcoma FMI regarding these studies, please reference the GPCA Health Committee 2008 brochure, or visit our website at www.gpcahealth.org.



Benny goes to the Ball Game!

by Dianne Migas

On May 3, 2008, our minor league baseball team, the Lakewood Blue Claws, held their 5th Annual "Bark in the Park" day. This is a day when fans can bring their canine companions to the Ball Game.

My husband heard about it on the radio and decided he would take Benny to the game with him. I was at the 2008 GPCA National in Ohio with Benny's sister Madison, so I could not go. Joe said there were booths set up consisting of vendors, local veterinarians, shelters, and

rescue groups, along with grooming and boarding companies. It was more than just bring your dog to the game; it was an educational event as well.

Joe and Benny were swarmed with people asking the normal questions folks do when they see a Pyr. He said so many people asked if they could have their pictures taken with Benny, either with themselves or with their kids, or with their DOGS! Benny was more than happy to pose and probably received more kisses and hugs there than he has had all his life (well, maybe not). Joe said he even had people following him around with their video cameras! He said, "It was crazy and I should charge a fee next year!"

He was interviewed by WJRZ Radio on the breed and the DJ was so taken with Benny that she proclaimed the day on air as "Benny's Blue Claw Day." Joe said the crowd started to cheer and he looked around to see what they were cheering at. Then the DJ said "look at the Marquee." The Marquee was flashing "Benny's Blue Claws Day" along with a head shot of Benny. Joe was elated and proud.

Joe was also interviewed with Benny on WRAT Radio and All Pets Radio, which provided a complimentary photo of Joe and Benny. He talked with a couple of newspaper reporters, but has no clue who they were with because it was just so hectic. He said it felt like Benny was some kind of "celebrity" with all the cameras and people calling to him. Again, it was just crazy.

Joe took as many opportunities as he could to talk about the breed, Rescue and "2 Dogs, 2000 Miles." For those of you who may not have heard, "2 Dogs, 2000 Miles" is about a Pyr owner from the Boston area who is raising awareness for canine cancer. Luke and his two Pyrs, Hudson and Murphy, are walking from "Austin to Boston," to raise awareness and funds for a Canine Cancer Study being conducted by the Animal Cancer Foundation. You can read more about their journey by visiting www.2dogs2000miles.org. When Benny wasn't getting hugged or kissed, he laid there on his back and would "paw" at the folks as they passed by. Benny does not pass up an opportunity for a good belly rub and it worked.

There was a beauty contest too, but Benny did not win. One had to stay after the game for that and Joe wanted to get back home to the rest of the dogs who needed to go out. I was very proud of Benny when he attained his AKC Conformation Championship, but never as proud of him as I am now. He did what all of our Pyrs can do—be a wonderful representation of the breed, help educate those interested in the breed, and all while being a wonderful companion.

GPCA HEALTH COMMITTEE STORE - 2008

SALE

SALE

SALE



We are retiring the artwork used on fund raising items at the end of 2008. New artwork and items will be introduced at the beginning of 2009.

A limited number of items remain in our inventory (listed below): Don't miss this opportunity to own one of these unique items- which will not be available for purchase after 12/08!!

T-Shirts: NOW: \$12.00 each (was \$15.00)
In Stock: Blue: Med - 2: Lg-6: XL - 6
Rust: Med - 2: Lg- 6: XL - 7: 2X- 1



Sweat Shirts: NOW \$22.00 each (was \$ 27.00)
In Stock: Blue: Med - 1: Lg -2: XL - 4: 2X - 2
Rust: Med - 1: Lg -7: XL - 5: 2X - 3



Hooded Sweat Shirts: NOW \$30.00 (was \$35.00)
In Stock: Blue: Lg - 5: 2X - 2
Rust: Lg - 4: XL - 3: 2x - 2

Padfolio's: NOW \$25.00 (was \$28.00)
In Stock: Navy-1
Loden-13



Zippered Tote Bags: NOW \$12.00 (was \$15.00)
In Stock: Turquoise - 11: Khaki- 4: Rust - 9: Red - 2



Luggage Grippers: NOW \$3.00 each (was \$5.00) OR 3 for \$8.00

FREE SHIPPING FOR ORDERS OF \$100.00 OR MORE!!!

FMI: Jean Pero
2385 So. Miller Ct.
Lakewood, Co. 80227
Email: Reymaree@comcast.net



Perfect gift for your Veterinarian -Groomer- Dog Sitter- or fellow Pyrenees aficionado!!! Begin your Holiday Shopping Early!!! Support your Health Committee and give a "Great" gift at the same time!!!



Order on-line or Mail Order visit the

GPCA Health Committee Store:
www.gpcahealth.org

The Garden State Great Pyrenees Club

invites you to join us at our

Great Pyrenees Extravaganza! Saturday, September 20th, 2008

Rain or shine at the home of Rhonda Dalton

147 Deans Lane, Monmouth Junction, NJ

(Easy access from the NJ Turnpike (exit 8A or 9), Rte 1, Rte. 130 • FMI: 732-297-8937)

• Schedule of Events •

10:00 am – 10:30 am: Head to Tail Grooming Demonstration

10:30 am – 11:00 am: Show Handling Class

(for anyone who wants to show their dog for real or for fun, but doesn't know how.)

11:00 am

• GSGPC AKC Sanction B Match Show •

Judge: Eva Gordon, His Majesty's Mastiffs

(Eva was a Pyr owner before she had Mastiffs & soon will be an AKC Judge!)

• Entries are \$5.00 and will be taken from 10:00 to 11:00 •

Regular Classes

3-6 mos., 6-9 mos., 9-12 mos., 12-18 mos., Novice, Bred By Exhibitor, Open, Junior Showmanship (for children under 18)

Special Classes

For Spayed/Neutered Dogs: 3-6 mos., 6-9 mos., 9-12 mos., 12-18 mos., Novice, Bred By Exhibitor, Open, Veterans (7 years and older)

Parade of Rescue Dogs, Parade of Champions and Performance Dogs

Fun Classes

• Best Costume • Longest Tail • Darkest Eyes • Most Markings •
• Fastest Sit • Fastest Down • Fastest Recall •

• Lunch will follow all judging •

Sandwiches & soda will be provided by the
Garden State Great Pyrenees Club.

Please bring your favorite dessert or dish to share.

• Obedience Clinic •

Experienced pyr owners/trainers will offer you training advice

• Agility Clinic •

Come and see what agility is all about and test your dog's agility ability!

• Family Agility Obstacle Course Race •

• Have fun going through an obstacle course designed for you and your dog.
• Prizes will be awarded for those who make it through with the fastest times.

(The Family Agility Obstacle Course Race should begin around 1:00 pm, for anyone who can't join us earlier.)

Penn-Dutch 20th Anniversary Limited Edition T-Shirt

PDGPC is celebrating our 20th Anniversary and we are offering a Limited Edition T-Shirt! The artwork on the Photo comes from one of our "Founding Members," Mrs. Ruth Owen-Pook.

It is a beautiful rendition of a Great Pyrenees with a kitten. Ruth's work has been used for PDGPC Trophies and much of our beautiful artwork that we have offered in the past was provided by Ruth.



The T-Shirt is set with a navy background and her artwork is framed with white/tangerine border which brings out the fine lines in the art. It is available for \$15.00 each plus shipping and handling.

There are three ways you can order this T-Shirt:

1. Mail-in Form - Use the Order Form here in the *Pyr-A-Scoop* (downloadable as a separate document for electronic subscribers)
2. Go Online to our New Pyr Gift Shop (www.pdgpcregional.org/pyrshop.htm) and order securely via Pay Pal.
3. If available, T-Shirts will be at our Events for sale. This option not available Online.

For more information - please contact Dianne Migas at bluepyrs1@verizon.net

Remember this is a Limited Edition T-Shirt so be sure to get yours while quantities last!

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary!



2008 GPCA Regional Specialty

Hosted By Penn-Dutch GPC
In conjunction with the Lehigh valley
Kennel Club

**Don't Miss Pocono MTN on Thu & Fri
- Berks KC on Sun**



Date: Saturday, September 13th, 2008

Location: Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA (on Rt. 100 south of Trexlertown)

Show Hotel: Days Inn (on Rt. 309 north of Rt. 22), 610-395-3731, ask for Specialty rate

Trophies & Rosettes offered for Regular Classes:

Best of Breed, Best of Winners, Best Veteran, Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite, Reserve WD, Reserve WB, Best of Opposite Veteran, High Qualifying in Obedience

Trophies & Rosettes offered for Puppy and Veteran Sweeps/Entry Cash Prizes:

Best Puppy, BOS Puppy, Best Veteran, Best OS Veteran

*Puppy & Veteran Sweeps winners also receive Cash Prizes, based on entry.

Our Judges

We are proud to have our "Founding Members" who graciously accepted their Judges Assignments for this very Special Day.

Welcome our Sweepstakes Judge & Founding Member

Mrs. Rhonda Dalton

Mrs. Dalton will be Judging both Puppy & Veteran Sweeps

* *Veteran Sweeps - Spayed & Neutered Dogs are allowed*
and

Our Breed Judge & Founding Member

Mr. Whitney Coombs

Mr. Coombs will be Judging Breed Classes & Non-Regular
Classes

**Non-Regular Classes - Veterans.*

Immediately After Judging

PDGPC will begin the celebration at our Traditional Tailgate picnic and all our Exhibitors and Members are welcomed to join us. We will be having a special presentation for our current Founding Members to show our gratitude for all their efforts and hard work throughout the last **20 YEARS!**

Later That Evening....the Party Continues

We will continue the celebration back at the Hotel where we will be hosting a "Mixer" of great food and drink(s). You are all welcome to come and make this yet another memorable Specialty!

More Important Show Information

September marks the **AKC's Responsible Pet Ownership** Month and PDGPC will be participating with having an **Educational Booth** at the Tailgate area.

East Penn Pyr Rescue Inc. will also be there and will have their information available along with Fundraising Items for Rescue.

Additional Information

Show Chair - Dianne Migas 732 477-8097 or Email: bluepyrs1@verizon.net

Pyr-A-Scoop

Editorial Staff
239 E. Weiss St.
Topton, PA 19562

Pyrtoberfest at Beltzville State Park

by Barbara Bowes

This Fall's Walk-in-the-Woods, now dubbed "Pyrtoberfest," will be at Beltzville State Park in Carbon County on October 18th, starting at 11:00 am. The park is five miles east of Lehighton off US 209.

Beltzville has a number of great hiking trails that range in length from .5 to 2.5 miles. Of particular interest is the half mile Blue Falls Trail that has some very pretty waterfalls and rock formations that make great backdrops for Pyrenean photography! The trails are not a difficult hike, but you do want to wear appropriate gear for being in the woods for 5 miles.

So let's hope the weather is cool and sunny and you and your Pyrs are ready to hike out and enjoy a crisp fall day in the woods!

Rules

Beltzville is a State Park so a few rules apply:

1. No alcohol
2. Keep your Pyrs on a six foot lead.
3. As always, clean up after your Pyr. Let's only leave footprints and Pyr hair!

Directions

From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike take exit 74 and pay toll to go 209 South. Make left onto 209 **North**, then left again at Harrity Road, the first left after you get on 209 North.

Make the first right onto Pohopoco Drive to Park Entrance, or follow the signs to the Park. We will be at Pavilion One, right off Pohopoco Drive. Just look for the Penn-Dutch signs as you near the picnic area.

Food

The Club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert and beverages to share.

To coordinate the food items, please contact Bea Gottesman at luvapyr@aol.com or 215-659-1347.

FMI

Contact Barbara Bowes at greatpyr@enter.net or 570-386-3017.

