



Established in 2003

NEPR QUARTERLY

Providing compassionate, coordinated and comprehensive rescue services and care for Great Pyrenees dogs in New England and New York

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Northeast Pyr Rescue

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What We Are Up To

We value your comments!

We are interested in your views, comments, ideas, stories, anything you feel will make this and our Facebook page a success.

This recent post on our Facebook page, I asked for your help . . . 224 people saw it and yet, not one comment. What would you like to see?



Message from the President

Volunteers and Pyrenees Lovers.

We are planning more events for the coming year. There are group recreational walks, Whisker's Walk, Paws in the Park, Pet Rock Festival and Animal Advocacy Day in Albany, NY. We want to reach out to more people. Letting them know we are here and introducing new people to this wonderful breed. Let us know of an event coming to your area or a walk you would like to host.

We are working on our online Store. We have some inventory to start and are adding new items. There was a glitch with the shipping charges originally but that has been corrected with PayPal. All funds go to the dogs.

This is a totally volunteer organization. We appreciate every minute and every

For Upcoming Issues: I would like to hear from you. Please send in any or all of the following and I will include them in upcoming issues.

1. My Funniest Pyr Story
2. Funny Pyr Pictures
3. Funny Dog Jokes
4. Favorite Dog Treat Recipes
5. Best Dog Toys

Please send all submissions to Angela at pymom2@gmail.com, and in the subject line, put which item you are submitting... thank you!

penny donated. A big thanks go to the volunteers. You each play an important part in getting these dogs to their forever homes. It starts with the volunteers who evaluate dogs for potential homes. Then there are those who open their homes and lives to foster dogs until the right home is found. Thank you all.

Our group is spread out over many states. We would like to connect with more of you. We are bringing Pyralooza back in September. It will be on Saturday, September 13 at Wheelock Park in Keene, NH. It is a get together with fun and games. We hope this will be more central, so that more of you will attend the event.

Please let us hear from you and come join your fellow Pyr lovers. 🐾

Sincerely,
Sharon Wheeler

A Spinning We Will Go

Do you have a potential “sheep” right in your living room?

Chiengora (*pronounced she-an-gora*), or dog yarn, is up to 80% warmer than wool, very soft, similar in appearance to Angora, and sheds water well.

To collect, simply save the brushings from your dog!

There are many professional spinners out there that can turn your dog hair into yarn for you, and then, the skies the limit of what you can make.

Here are some wonderful ideas.



Italian Greyhound, Looter, decided to model this Grey Pyr sweater. We added a small amount of lavender mohair yarn and as you can see the sweater turned out GORGEOUS!!!!



According to Gracie, there is **NOTHING** like a sweater made from the fur of a **BIGGIE** that really toasts an **IGGIE**.



Upcoming Events

PYRAPALOOZA

HERE IT IS!!

Mark your calendars. We have confirmed a date and place for this year's Pyrapalooza.

Saturday, September 13, 2014
at Wheelock Park in Keene, New Hampshire

There are stipulations that we keep the dogs on leash and we do not allow the dogs into the horseshoe pits.

More details to follow regarding events such as "Fun and Games", and Vendors.

There is a campground in the area and we will find out about hotels if you wish to stay over. Hope to see you all there for a gathering of the Pyrs and their families! 🐾

Thank you to everyone who made a purchase in the Fun Pasta Fundraiser. We raised a total of \$438.80 for Northeast Pyr Rescue. Every little bit helps.



Tempting Treats

ITALIAN DOG TREATS

INGREDIENTS

- One small can of tomato paste
- 1/2 cup of water
- About a tablespoon of oregano
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 tablespoon virgin olive oil
- 3 or 4 tablespoons of Parmesan Cheese



DIRECTIONS

Here is a recipe that my Italian mom liked to make for her Pyr grandchildren.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Stir together tomato paste, water and the oil. Sprinkle parmesan cheese and oregano evenly over the top of the mixture. Slowly add the flour and knead it together well. Then flatten the dough with your hands until it is about 1/4 thick or if you prefer, use a rolling pin. You can use a knife to cut them into square pieces (about the length of 2 Oreos) or use cookie cutters. Lower heat to 350 degrees and bake for approximately 25 minutes. If you cut the pieces smaller, less baking time may be needed.

My Pyrs love cheese so they always preferred more cheese in their treats. 🐾

Enjoy!

Upcoming Events

LENOX WALK 2

Come one, come all to Lenox Walk 2.

Where: Bullard Wood, Hawthorne Street (By Tanglewood) Lenox/Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Date: May 18th, Rain Date of May 25th

Time: 1:00pm, we plan to hike from 1:00-2:00pm

Bullard Woods is across the street from Tanglewood. Take Route 183 from Lenox center(Main Street, Lenox),drive about 1 mile, then left onto Hawthorne Street. Bullard Wood is a sharp right about 1/2 mile down Hawthorne Street.

To find on GPS - Bullard Wood, Hawthorne Street, Lenox, MA. Or Tanglewood, West Street, Route 183, Lenox, MA.

Bullard Wood is a lovely nature preserve bordering Tanglewood and Stockbridge Bowl on the border of Lenox and Stockbridge in Massachusetts. The walk is about 20 minutes from the park entrance to Stockbridge Bowl. At the Bowl there are picnic tables and seating where we can stop and enjoy the view of the lake. Bullard Wood has only one entrance, but is easy to miss if people are not familiar with the area. NEPR will put balloons at the turn off 183 to Hawthorne Street, and at the entrance to Bullard Wood. 🐾

Please RSVP to Sally Filkins,
sfilkins1@nycap.rr.com

TRACTOR SUPPLY DAY

Tractor Supply Company will be hosting its Purina Days event at all Tractor Supply and Del's stores May 26 - June 1, culminating on Saturday, May 31 with events at every store. This event will feature free activities to celebrate your animals, adoptions, demos, and fun giveaways!

Petfinder is partnering with Tractor Supply to help match our shelter and rescue group members and their adoptable pets to each Tractor Supply location. Bringing your adoptable pets to Tractor Supply on 5/31 gives you another outlet for showcasing your animals to potential adopters.

We are looking for volunteers that would be interested in representing NEPR on the 31st.

We do not have a rescue dog to bring, but you can bring your own and explain how you rescued them. Explain about the breed, share your wealth of information on pets and LGDs. Or, just come by one of the locations below and show your support for your fellow volunteers and their dogs.

If you are interested please let Sharon Wheeler know and she will register you for a store in your area.

CONNECTICUT

404 Talcottville Rd., Vernon • 10:00am-12:00pm
Leslie Capozza
361 Scott Swamp Road, Farmington • 10:00am-2:00pm
Ann Mozeliak

MASSACHUSETTS

898 Crane Ave., Pittsfield • 10:00am-4:00pm
Sally Filkins and Tracy Crosby

NEW HAMPSHIRE

55 Crystal Ave., Derry • 10:00am-2:00pm
Edie Mozer and Angela Kisiel

NEW YORK

1649 Columbia Turnpike, Schodack • 11:00am-3:00pm
Sharon Wheeler and Gail Heinsohn

VERMONT

2636 Highgate Rdst., Albans • 8:00am-11:00am
Kenny Masden

Please Stop By and Show Your Support!

ANIMAL ADVOCACY DAY

New York State is having an **Animal Advocacy Day** on **May 28th** in **Albany, NY**

Thanks to NEPR volunteer, Kerry Hennessey we are working on having a booth for this event.

If you are interested in participating that day, contact Sharon at:

northeast_pyr-volunteers@hotmail.com

and she will add you to the list to be contacted with further details. 🐾

Upcoming Events



Dog Orphans, Inc.

90 Webster Street, Douglas Ma 01516
508-476-1855 • www.dogorphans.com

16 Annual Dog Walk • MAY 4th

Dog Orphans, Inc. will hold its 16th Annual Walk for Paws on Sunday, May 4th beginning at 12:00 Noon at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA.

This anxiously anticipated spring event serves as a key fundraiser for our non-profit, no-kill shelter which relies on donations for its day-to-day operations. This event is being sponsored by: 146 Supply Center, Sutton Animal Hospital, TLC Pet Haven, PawSteps Veterinary Center, Animal Arts, Eaglestar Security, VCA Blackstone Valley, Sturbridge Veterinary Hospital, and Uxbridge Animal Hospital

Dog Lovers and their owners are encouraged to start soliciting supporters early for the walk, which takes place along the Blackstone River and Canal. Sponsor sheets can be printed by clicking here or call us at 508-476-1855 & we would be happy to mail to you!

Many family oriented activities are scheduled for the day. These include musical entertainment, a Blessing of the Pets, and face painting for the kids, petting zoo, agility demos, nail clippings & painting, doggie massage, costume contest and much more!

Many vendors from the local area and rescues will be attending with handouts and information including: Animal Arts Grooming in Blackstone, MA, Community Cat Connection, The Boxer Rescue, Baystate Dogs, MA Vest-A-Dog, Michelle Payson of "That's my Dog Training", Uxbridge Animal Hospital, Sutton Animal Hospital, PawSteps Vet Center, Blackstone Valley Vet Hospital, Best Friends Pet Care, Shine's Foreign Car Care, Suzanne Gagnon of Ten Talent

Artistry, Whitinsville Wellness Center, Juno's Place, Skiplicity Aesthetics, Lisa Finkel of Scentsy Candle, S.N.O.R.T Rescue, TLC Pet Haven, Gibson Kennels, Southern NE Vet Care Inc & Pet Portraits by Phil Smith Photography.

Senator Richard Moore will announce the launch of our memorial balloon release which will be held before the start of the walk at 1:00pm. Beautiful, earth friendly balloons will be released to honor loved ones & beloved pets. Visitors are encouraged to make a donation of \$1 and write out who they are honoring so each can be forever remembered on our memorial page at www.dogorphans.com.

Come meet the new K-9 addition to the Douglas Police Department. NEW this year; Ironshoe Farms is sponsoring a Petting Zoo for great fun for kids and adults. Also help us celebrate Cinco de Mayo by dressing your dog in costume with prizes for the best outfit!

The Grand Prizes for the top three fundraisers this year are as follows: First Place is an iPad Mini donated by 146 Supply Center; Second Place is a \$300 American Express Gift Card, donated by Peter Marion; and Third Place is a \$100 Pet Smart Gift Certificate donated by Sutton Animal Hospital.

You can help us make this year's walk the most successful yet! Please call us at 508-476-1855 if you have any questions about the walk and everyone is invited, no minimum sponsorship is required. 🐾

All dogs must be leashed & **no retractable leashes please!**

WHISKER WALK

Where: Lancaster, MA

Date: June 8th

Info: www.whiskerwalk.org

We are looking into having a booth here.
If you are interested in helping with this event
please contact Sharon at
northeast_Pyr-volunteers@hotmail.com

MELLOW WOODED TRAIL WALK

When: June 14th at 1:00pm; Rain date June 21st.

Where: Nevers Road Park, South Windsor, CT

Ability level: Good for all ages and ability levels

What is Needed: bring water, and bags for clean up

There is also a dog park located within Nevers Road Park that you might like to use after our walk. Please meet in the parking lot across from the South Windsor Police Department.

Any questions, please email nepyrresq@gmail.com



Dos, our wonderful, gentle giant

Joan Buddecke recently made a donation to the NEPR Remy fund in memory of her beloved Dos.

Joan describes her Dos.

He would protect me the way no other breed that we have had in our family would do . . . when he was younger, we would walk through our neighborhood. Various dogs in yards would bark aggressively . . . he knew they were there but paid little attention to those behind fences. On one walk, an aggressive black lab charged us from his

In Memoriam

driveway, after we had walked past it. Dos jumped between me and the charging Lab, drew himself up to full size, never growled or barked and stared at the lab . . . the lab locked eyes with him and showed submission! The lab turned and returned to his driveway . . . the Lab was in the driveway on successive walks but never left his own yard as long as Dos was with me.

When we adopted Dos, as a 6 year old, we had a Chow/ Shepherd/Heeler cross, a 75 pound alpha female. In the most magnificent way, he let the barking, snarling female know who was Alpha . . . he took his front legs and pressed her to the ground . . . he never growled or showed his teeth . . . he held her until she stopped struggling and then let her up . . . she got up and from that point onward, they were bonded as buddies!

In my heart, I can't picture a less conflict way to use strength and determination to deter potential violence. People have so much to learn from Pyrs! 🐾

In loving memory,

Joan



LEXI AND MAGGIE

I really have Sue Smith to thank for these magnificent dogs. She tipped me off to Eva Seals and she in turn to Sally Sapp.

Always thought of most volunteers as members of the golf set, tea parties and bridge clubs, and now I learn they are a P.I. packing heat . . . so much for assumptions. I'm addicted to mysteries and thrillers so I can sure embellish that image. Hope I can stay in touch with you . . . not to hound, but for info and tips, etc. Would love to know how you deal with nine Pyrs.

You once wrote, maybe I couldn't afford a Pyr . . . perhaps not . . . but I'm rich now! 🐾

Always, *Pat*

Transfer Complete



Noreen Maurno (R) and Sue Smith (L) at the girls stop in Portsmouth, NH. Noreen took the girls the rest of the way to meet their new mom Pat. Thanks also to Liz who met the ladies in CT and drove to meet Sue at the mid-point leg in Mass.



Great photo of the girls with their new parents at the last leg of the trip. Thanks for sharing Pat!!!

With Tail a Waggin'

JETHRO

I adopted "Jethro" AKA Henry from NEPR a few years ago. Nicole was his caretaker and I couldn't have asked for a woman that had more knowledge or complete understanding of the breed! When he first arrived he was very, very matted and hadn't been neutered, and he also had lime disease. Nicole immediately took her tender hands and got to work to nurture this boy and bring him back to good health. I had husky's previously and although they are big, the Great Pyr seemed much bigger to me, and not knowing the breed, I was kind of leery of getting the knots out of the dog at first. What I discovered, is that he was a gentle giant. Over the next few weeks, I became more familiar with him. Nicole told me exactly what I could expect from him, and she was right every time!

He was 1 1/2 when I took him home after he had been treated and neutered. I was very challenged at first. His disposition was always very sweet, and he was never aggressive, but he would do things like go under the deck and not come out when called, and lift his leg and urinate in the house. A few times I felt like giving him back because urine in the house drives me wild!!! Nicole taught me many tricks, and to be consistent. Over the next few weeks, he began to do as requested, and listened to each command. Since he was also crated, he also didn't urinate in my home anymore. At first I didn't want to put him in there, as he had never got into the garbage or chewed anything at all. But I knew that I had to stop him from his behavior. To this day, several years later, he HATES being in a crate. But, he knows he has to go in there and he does not give me a hard time. (Also because Nicole taught me a trick about that). I just don't like it when he gets upset, but I realize it has to be done. Since then, I have tried to leave him out of the crate since he doesn't harm anything, and I want him to be happy in his home, but . . . you guessed it, he goes in the house when I am not home. Yes, in case you are wondering he is taken out prior to leaving. It doesn't matter how long I'm gone, he still does it.

I love him! He is very smart! He doesn't chase balls or sticks, I think he finds that a waste of time. What he



does do is guard my yard, and all the neighbors yards that he can see. He doesn't want birds to fly near the yard, he doesn't want squirrels to visit and he has also been known to bark at a plane or two! And boy does he bark! 6 days a week he flips out when he sees the mail lady! Goes absolutely wild. This breed isn't the best for city folk! The barking is obsessive at times. I thank him, and tell him he did a good job but now he needs to stop. He listens to me sometimes. If I didn't live in the city I would have as many as my budget could handle!

He is so loving, and he gives me his paw 1,000 times a day, EVERY day! I always give him many kisses and he soaks up the attention. He gets lots of walks and we usually stop in the summer and see the kids at the park. They think I should have named him Snowball and he loves to visit them. Sometimes when our visit is over, and I'm ready to go home, he isn't and he tries to pull me back so he can stay with the kids. Everybody loves him. He is also very nice to other dogs and cats. He tries to play with them too.

I'm glad I have him. I love my sweet boy and enjoy our long walks, and rides in the car. He has been to parades, parks, and a variety of other events with me. He doesn't mind me brushing him either, which is a good thing because as you Pyr people know, he's got plenty to remove! 🐾

Mary

With Tail a Waggin'

GOLIATH



I have an 11 year old rescue, Goliath, who is showing his age at present. He is a loveable couch potato but has lost most of his hind end muscles and now has a pronounced limp on a right front paw. He is still game to be outside as much as possible, especially with the snow, and

to be in the car to go anywhere. Hates to go to the vet though. He has been a great companion and has lived longer than any other Pyr I have owed over the last 45+ years. 🐾

Martha



This is my favorite photo of Goliath and Bella after I got him permanently from his owner. I had boarded him for some months for the owner and when he returned to her he was not happy and became destructive. She surrendered him to Sue Smith and I got him back thankfully.



SHADOW

Just a quick update on Shadow. He is adjusting very well into his new home. We make an effort to include him on the majority our trips and travels. As a result, he is becoming very well socialized despite the short amount of time that he's been with us. He already has a girlfriend and several other k-9 playmates that he sees on a somewhat regular basis.

When he's not trailing our 3 year old cheerio dispenser around the house . . . his new found love is playing fetch, going for walks and basking in the bay window. He even caught a mouse the other day! We have been absolutely thrilled with his gentle, fun loving temperament. It's really funny to watch people's reaction when they come to the house for the first time and ring the doorbell. He is tall enough that he can look through the door window and stare down the visitor at eye level.

Among his recent accomplishments, he has learned to traverse stairs, play fetch, come when called, sit, lay down and bark softly (when requesting to come inside). In fact I just received a compliment from the neighbors

yesterday for the last one. They think it's hilarious that he asks so politely.

The goals we're currently working on include: use of a bell when requesting to be let outside and heel/stay commands.

Overall as a family, we have been very thankful to welcome him into the family and look forward to future adventures together. 🐾



Sincerely,

The Norcross Family

Shadow was the dog that was kept in a room because he was not house broken. He was shy because he had not been socialized. He didn't even have his own collar or leash. He must think he died and went to heaven.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH PUPPY VS ADULT

When many people think about adopting, they automatically think about a puppy. Puppies are cute and funny, but they need a lot of care. Why not adopt an adult? It is a difficult decision for many who have always thought that they could only develop a bond with a puppy. A rescued older dog may be your dream come true!

My husband and I have been in both positions. First, we adopted a puppy. Our parents had cared for our dogs as children so we were a bit clueless. We named her Petunia. She was the only female in a litter of five. Her fur was all white and she had back dew claws but, she had a blue tongue, so we learned that her mom was a Pyr and her dad was a visitor. Being ignorant dog owners, we immediately went out and bought an expensive dog bed. She destroyed it in an hour. Worried about our baby, we bought another one that we thought was made out of tougher material. She shredded that one overnight. Our final game plan involved using towels as a bed. She adored cuddling up in a nice pile of old towels.

We soon discovered that puppies involved an enormous amount of work. She explored our house. We would “ooh” and “ahh” about how cute it was that she was making herself at home. She had a wide selection of chew toys, so we thought we had everything covered. To our surprise, we discovered that she would chew up anything she could get her teeth into. Our dining room chairs had a new intricate pattern on the rungs. Potty accidents occurred even though we had her on a regular schedule. The crate ended up being our savior.

Petunia was crated when we were at work. We were fortunate, she was potty trained in a week. Her energy would come in bursts. It was like having a toddler in the house! Our days and nights became filled with attending dog obedience classes as well as practicing all of her new skills. She was a delightful puppy, but was a handful. As Petunia grew older, her personality changed. She became aggressive at times with other dogs and extremely protective. Dogs normally reach maturity at around eighteen months. We thought her personality was set as a puppy, but we soon learned some dogs change after they reach maturity. With a lot of patience and training classes, Petunia was able to be taken out in public again. Even after her rough puppy year, we grew to love her and her crazy puppy antics. We were blessed to have Petunia in our lives until she was eight years old.



Our other dog was adopted as an adult. The vet estimated that he was about three years old. He was only 48 pounds when we adopted him. A dog warden captured him in the middle of the woods with no collar or microchip. He has continued to melt my heart every time he looks at me. We named him Rufus. He is a beautiful Great Pyrenees. As an adult, he was potty trained already. He liked to bump his nose on our door handle to notify us that he wanted to go outside. After he continued to knock on it, he loosed it so much the door handle was useless. We adapted and put a bell on the door for him to ring. He was a quick learner and started to use it immediately. Rufus enjoyed running around our fenced yard and demonstrated his knowledge of commands. The “come” command is still a challenge for him when he sees something to stare at, such as a squirrel, a blade of grass or a leaf. Luckily, we didn’t need to worry about him teething. Our new dining room chairs were safe. He learned swiftly that he was not allowed on the couch or the beds. It was so nice to have a dog that adored our children and showed his gentle personality to us right away. People told me I was crazy to bring in a huge adult dog instead of a puppy. Wouldn’t a huge dog hurt children? I found that it was just the opposite. He guarded them like they were his sheep. When a snake approached my children, he used his head to kill it! With the lack of teething and obtaining a potty trained adult dog, it made my life easier than all of the work with a puppy. Rufus has continued to blossom in our home. He always gives me gentle snuggles throughout the day. I was concerned that an adult dog might not bond with me but it has been just the opposite. He is my beloved Rufus. Did he have a little baggage with him? Yes. He lifted his leg to mark our couch two times during his first week with us but he learned hastily that it wasn’t allowed. Adopting an adult dog has been a rewarding experience for me. He had an established gentle personality, learned quickly and deserved a second chance. I may never learn what his puppyhood was like but I do know that he shows us how grateful he is everyday of his life that we made him a part of our family.

I plan on rescuing more adult Pyrs in my future. Raising a puppy was fun, but a lot of work. Both experiences touched my heart. I hope you can give a needy Pyr a home too! 🐾

By Kat Scimone

DESIGNERS' SPOTLIGHT

The business in my Spotlight has truly touched my heart. Such giving, caring people. If you ever find yourself in a tough situation with your pet, contact Companion Bridge, Alice and Gina are always there to lend a helping hand, and amazing comfort and support. They are very deserving of the *SPOTLIGHT!!!* 🐾

COMPANION BRIDGE



Six years ago I adopted the greatest little blind puppy. He was born with detached retinas, which in and of itself is no big deal. The problem came later when he developed secondary glaucoma, necessitating surgery on one eye. As he grew into adulthood it was discovered

he had a heart problem, and he underwent yet another surgery to repair that. A year later he developed a neurological problem and slowly became unable to use his back legs to walk. Fast forward to 2013 when he underwent surgery again to address some gastrointestinal tumors that turned out to be cancerous. Within months he developed a cancerous nasal tumor that ended up stealing him away from me much too early.

This was my four-legged son's medical journey, which I was fortunate enough to be able to fund. But even with pet insurance, the cost of diagnostic tests, surgeries and rehabilitation therapy was considerable. I didn't have to make the decision to refuse Tonka treatment because of financial constraints, but the reality is that a great many people have to do just that every day.

During the last year I also lost a dear friend to cancer, and she had been using a website to keep friends and family informed as well as ask for help and support. At the same time another friend reached out to me and offered to hold a fundraiser to help offset some of Tonka's medical bills. All of this combined sparked the idea that has become Companion Bridge.

Companion bridge is a place where people with special-needs animals or animals with major medical problems can come to post their story to friends and family and ask for help. It's a place with resources and information that also can serve as a perpetual fundraising mechanism to help

with medical costs. A place that is a legacy to my amazing friend Denise and my Tonka Dog, both of whom could always make your day better - and both of whom I miss terribly.

Along the way I have met some of the most supportive people who have inspired me to give back and use the knowledge I have gained about special-needs animals to help others. So I created Companion Bridge with my friend Gina, who is definitely one of those people. I am blessed to have great people that comprise the board, all of whom are in the veterinary field or active in rescue.



Companion Bridge can only work if people open their hearts and give a little. Those who use the site can post that they need help with transportation or someone to

watch the kids while they take their animal to an appointment. Friends can then reach out and give a little time or a ride. People can donate a little money to either an animal's page or the general donation page; no amount is too small or too large.

Some of our recent heart-warming successes with Companion Bridge have been a Great Pyrenees with successful TPLO surgery, and a Basset Hound with an amputated leg receiving wheels to become mobile again.

"I can't think of a better legacy to Tonka or Denise."

Alice

companionbridge.org

FOUNDERS
Alice & Gina

DESIGNERS' SPOTLIGHT

The second business in my Spotlight is one that is near and dear to me. I have seen this all firsthand. Having trained 2 exceptional Therapy Dogs myself, I have seen their remarkable instincts up close. The power an animal has over a needy heart is nothing short of a miracle. Please check them out on Facebook and give them a Like! 🐾

TRAILSONG OUTREACH

THE HEALING POWER OF ANIMALS

September 20, 2005 was the worst day of my life. My husband of nearly 25 years died very unexpectedly with a massive heart attack. One moment I was a happily married woman, the next moment, I was a widow. Grief, when compounded with shock, is even more difficult and the road to recovery often takes longer. I was thrust onto the widow's journey, cruelly and without warning, and had no idea how to navigate. The widow's journey is made all the more complex by virtue of the fact it is a journey no one wants to take. My faith in God and the love of my children sustained me. And there was one more thing that God revealed to me - the healing power of animals.

I share my life with a variety of animals - dogs, cats, llamas, chickens, and even a parrot. No matter how much I wanted to crawl into a cave and stay there, those animals still needed their daily care. That need demanded that I stay on course in terms of every day chores, even when I would rather have screamed like a banshee because my world had shattered.

There was something very peaceful about listening to the contented sounds of llamas munching on their hay and grains. While I sat gazing and listening, a big white dog would quietly come to my side and sit with me. His name was Bear, and he was a Great Pyrenees. He would look deeply into my eyes, and in his eyes I saw such love and concern. He knew I was hurting, and did everything he could to ease my pain. Bear would sit with me day or night, and he would place his beautiful head in my lap. When I would take long walks, Bear walked with me and never left my side. And when I needed to cry, which was often, he would let me lean on him and cry for however long I needed and he didn't care that my tears made his fur soggy. He just knew I needed him, and that dog never failed me. Not once. Bear did much to help me get through my grief journey, and so did the other animals. My love for Bear, and his for me, was powerful medicine.

My own grief journey and the strong role Bear played, along with help from other animals, revealed to me how truly beneficial animals can be to someone who is hurting in some way. Whether it is grief, PTSD, or an injury that has led to a physical impairment, animals can help from

soothing emotional pain to assisting with physical needs. A powerful desire to help others as I had been helped began to grow in me, and the dream for TrailSong was born.

TrailSong is an outreach program for veterans, autistic children, and others who suffer an emotional or physical issue and can benefit from animal support and therapy. In addition to on-site therapy sessions with llamas and dogs, TrailSong will provide trained support dogs - chiefly Great Pyrenees and German Shepherds - to veterans and autistic children at no cost to the veteran or the child's family. We will work with GP and GSD rescue groups, always on the lookout for a dog suitable for training for this work. It's a wonderful and loving win-win for all, as humans with varying needs will get a four-legged best friend and lonely dogs in shelters will get a new and rewarding life. Love truly does conquer all!

If you would like to help TrailSong: <http://www.gofundme.com/83vsjc>, and we thank you in advance for your help, prayers, and love.

Debbie Harmon
Founder, TrailSong Outreach
Palisade, CO



Pyr JD plays a huge role in the healing journey of this young boy. Photo used by permission of his father.

FOUNDERS
Debbie
& Kimberly

Volunteer's Corner



Duffy and Kennedy in their St. Patrick's Day outfits. Ooooo, la, la! - sent in by Volunteer Mickey Pescatore, MA



"What's Up Doc?" says Taylor. Sent in by Volunteer Angela Kisiel, NH



Awesome sign I say on a Facebook post. Sent in by Angela Kisiel, NH



Maggie and Clavin. Maggie has really settled down, we're so proud. And Clavin has grown up really nice. They really love nap time!

ATTENTION ALL!!!

Please send me your funny pictures, signs, or quotes and I will publish them in our next newsletter. Please put a caption, dogs names, your name and state.



Volunteer's Corner

LENOX WALK FEBRUARY 2, 2014

Thank you to all who turned out and for the new friends we are making. All Pyrs and Pyr families are welcome at our walks. Even non-Pyr siblings are welcome.

Maya's foster mom just loved being included as part of the group. She is new to the breed. She was amazed that when she started to slip Sally's Remy came right under her hand and steadied her. Then as Remy moved on Duncan did the same thing for her when next she needed help. 🐾



Tracy Crosby and Chloe (foster dog)



In this photo we have (L to R) Jane Nugent, Annette Phillips, Jeanne Larkin, George Larkin, Liz Furlano, Sharon Wheeler, John (Liz Furlano's friend), Tracy Crosby. Sally Filkins, (standing in front in a magenta coat).



Gail Heinsohn with 11-year-old Maya



Sharon Wheeler with Snow and Bear



Annette, Jane Nugent (red sweater), Tracy Crosby, Liz Furlano, John, Ali Winston, Jeanne Larkin, George Larkin



Remy (only Pyr off leash)

Collaring a Tragedy

SWEET ORION

by Rebekah D. Jacobus

My heart is as heavy as my Great Pyrenees. My sweet, sweet boy left us today. He was only 7 months old and almost 100 lbs of pure love and joy. My life won't be the same without him. He was my first dog as a real adult, my velcro baby . . . stuck to me always.

In all the research I did before getting him about crate training, I never ONCE read that you shouldn't leave a collar on your dog in the crate. Orion figured out today how to get the top of the crate to open a little. In doing so, he caught his collar on a latch and suffocated himself sometime while we were at work today. My dear husband came home to find him there. We are both in shock and disbelief. We are so good and loving to all of our animals and Orion was my shadow. He could be in a deep sleep and still know when I left a room and he'd get up to follow me. I can't imagine life without my gentle giant, this is the hardest thing to

live with.

PS: If you crate your dogs please, please, please, DO NOT LEAVE THEIR COLLARS ON. Information I wish I had when we got our sweet boy.



A very special Thank You goes out to Rebekah Jacobus for allowing me to share her story. He will live on forever in her heart.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

by Christine Linne



In honor of Orion, I would like to tell you my story about dog collars. Two of my dogs adored playing with each other. They would play every chance they could get. One day something happened that I never would have predicted. They were wrestling and one dog's jaw became wrapped in the other dog's collar to the extent that it cut off the airway. FORTUNATELY, I happened to be right there OR this would have ended tragically. Accidents happen. I learned the hard way to use break-away collars and change things up a bit. I had not ever thought this could happen. I hope my story helps someone. You just can't predict everything in life, as much as we would like that. 🐾

TO COLLAR OR NOT!

Our beloved Pyrs are a wandering breed. Many owners greatest fear is for their Pyr to escape and never to be seen again. It is suggested that every Pyr should have a microchip, an inexpensive way to mark your dog permanently with your contact information.

Collars do hold identification tags, as well as rabies information. Many stores and dog parks require that these tags should be attached to the dog when visiting. Some towns also state on their dog license certificate that the tag should be worn by the dog at all times.

So, what is a Pyr owner to do? Some people only put collars on their dogs when they bring them for a walk, other owners are afraid to leave collars off just in case their Pyr slips out the door. This is a hot topic that every dog owner needs to educate themselves about and make their own decisions.

<http://pets.webmd.com/features/microchipping-your-dog-or-cat>

YOUR AD HERE!

Advertise and Support NEPR

TYPE	AD SIZE	RATE
BC Ad	3.75x2.25	\$25.00
1/4 Pg.	3.75x4.75	\$50.00
1/2 Pg.	7.75x4.75	\$75.00
Full Pg.	7.75x9.625	\$100.00

If you are interested in advertising in our Quarterly Newsletter, please contact Angela Kisiel at pymom2@gmail.com.

We accept high resolution pdfs or we can create your ad for you.

Just think of the reach your ad will have!

All ads will also be posted to the NEPR Facebook page!

Please make checks payable to NEPR and send to:

Jeanne Larkin

PO Box 704, Lee, MA 01238

Collaring a Tragedy

TRY TO COLLAR A TRAGEDY

By Pat Loughery

In 2011 I was the proud owner of a two-year-old Great Pyrenees I had rescued in 2009. River dance was all one could want in a livestock guardian dog.

Was this the clue. He was gentle and courageous, forgiving of his abusers and devoted to his fowl flocks and wether goats. But he was wearing a collar with my phone number embroidered on it. Yes, Pyrs can be stubborn and hear a different drummer. And they can travel far and wide if given the opportunity. Hence the collar.

On Feb. 16 2011 I saw River glancing up a tree. Was it a squirrel or perhaps some other enticing diversion? When I returned a few minutes later he was frozen in time. I knew instantly that something was terribly wrong. With an adrenalin rush I raced through ice and snow while fearing the worst. Was I running to a dead dog?

The collar I had taken so much pain with was snagged on a one-inch branch. My beloved River was dead. I cut him free while sobbing my heart away. With a sled, I got him to my Subaru wagon and took him to the vet to be cremated. The vet on call had no sympathy or just didn't know how to handle the situation. He stood arms akimbo glaring at me. I drowned in his guilty stare.

Branches, fences and bushes are not the only potential killers. Tags can get caught in decks and cages. In an instant a pet is gone. Collars are only safe when the owner has it attached to a leash for walks or appointments.

River's ashes will be buried with me someday, hopefully not too soon. If River's death could serve as a learning curve, someone out there will remove all collars now and his gruesome demise will not have been in vain. 🐾



DONATIONS NEEDED!!!

Something you should know about!

The Remy Fund - NEPR is committed to assuring that no worthy Great Pyrenees will ever be euthanized for a medical or surgical problem if that treatment allows for a return to a full, high quality and pain-free life. These specially designated monies assist Pyrs with extenuating medical or surgical issues to receive proper treatment. Most rescue organizations do not share this commitment. Therefore, dogs with medical/surgical needs greater than \$200-\$300 are euthanized.



Abby, Maggie and Maya are all dogs that have benefited recently from the **Remy Fund**:

Maggie came to us after being dumped in a junk yard. We found she was heartworm positive which is costly to treat. She also had complications during her spaying. She has recovered very well.

Abby came to us with bladder stones and an abscessed tooth. Abby has recovered nicely from her surgery.

Maya came to us just about hairless. A grain-free diet took care of that but she developed a tumor and is currently recovering nicely from the surgery. (See full story on Page 4)

All these dogs are here because of the **Remy Fund**. What I would like to ask now is for help replenishing some of the funds so we can help other dogs in the future.

No donation is too small, even \$5 would help.

You can donate at:
www.nepresq.org/page/donations-26.html

or send a check to:

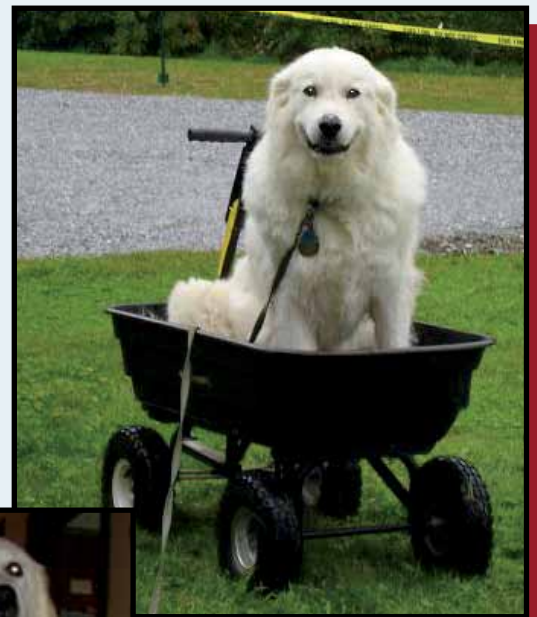
NEPR
P. O. Box 704
Lee, MA 01238.

All donations are tax deductible.

A request was also posted on facebook to reach friends and supporters beyond our area.

Thank You,

Sharon Wheeler, *President*



Abby (first column);
Maggie (above); Maya (left)

**PLEASE
DONATE
TODAY!**

We're Looking For A Few Good Pyr Volunteers



Do you own a Great Pyrenees or just love the breed? Northeast Pyr Rescue needs your help. Volunteers are needed to do many things and you can select those that best match your interests and lifestyle. Please go to our website and fill out an application today!

THERE IS SO MUCH YOU CAN DO!

- 🐾 Help with Home Visits
- 🐾 Evaluation or Transportation
- 🐾 Provide a Foster Home
- 🐾 Donate a Service or Product

UNABLE TO VOLUNTEER AT THIS TIME?

Make a donation so that others can continue to help!

(All donations are tax deductible.)

Mail checks to: Northeast Pyr Rescue
P.O. Box 704, Lee, MA 01238

Northeast Pyr Rescue
www.nepyresq.org/volunteer

www.nepyresq.org

PYRENEES WORD SEARCH

V L P A D T R H P C P B B D I
Z V R K B X A L H Y P A Y E D
G I O N K I A J R D Q D R L B
V O T J R Y C E U N Z G V I Z
K H E I O G N S T A F E B O U
F P C L H E N W K E R R T P B
I L T B E N A I D R A U G S F
A K O S A L E K N T T A E R G
Q H R C C R C T Z N D M I Q H
D U M W K D K M I G U E C P A
Q T E J C B L I N H N T D E I
N D R L B Y W R N D W Y S E R
V V C Y H Q M P C G E H L H Y
D E V O T E D S M I L E H S S
Q R T V W H G P Y D P W I S E

Here are 19 words that relate to Pyrs, can you find them all?
They can be left, right diagonal or backwards... ENJOY!

BADGER
DEWCLAW
GREAT
HAIRY
PROTECTOR
SMILE
WHITE

BARKING
FLOCK
GUARDIAN
LOYAL
PYRENEES
SPOILED
DEVOTED

FRIEND
HAIR
MUD
SHEEP
STUNNING

*Thank you to all of you that
helped with Pyr words.*



Northeast Pyr Rescue

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Lee, MA 01238

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Northeast Pyr Rescue

www.nepyrresq.org/volunteer

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