

Official E-Newsletter of the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Atlanta April 2016

All the News that's fit to Bark...

LET'S CELEBRATE

We are now just a little over one week away from our **6th Annual Gentle Giants in the Park** event. And if you have not yet signed up, there is still time. Just **email us** with your names and number of Gentle Giants and humans attending. Don't miss out - this should be the best yet!

We are planning on having over 120 Gentle Giants and 300 humans in attendance. Besides, we have some local celebrities lined up like no, sorry this will be a surprise. Also there will be photo opportunities to capture all the fun moments for you and your furball.

And like last year, one lucky winner will take home the \$10,000 grand prize in our **GPRA raffle**. You can purchase tickets online or at the event.

The proceeds from the raffle will all go to the medical costs of rescuing our Pyrs.

We also need your help. As you probably know, GPRA is a non-profit organization and all of our funds are 100% designated to medical costs for our Gentle Giants. As an allvolunteer rescue organization, we rely many volunteers to generously donate their time to help use with everything from taxi services, helping with vet visits, getting our Pyrs to our regular Saturday adoptions days, fostering and more. As a part of the GPRA family, you your help is so appreciated, you will have the joy of working with our other volunteers, and the satisfaction of knowing you are working for a good cause. Interested in helping? please email us for more details at volunteer@greatpyratlanta.com.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday after next and please sign up with GRPA as a volunteer or foster.

DON'T FORGET ADOPTION DAY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30 TH SATURDAY, MAY 21 ST

In case you missed it

End of March was Easter weekend and we were able to get some pictures of the Easter Bunny. Enjoy.





Dog friendly locations

In a recent newsletter we reported about a change in city ordinance allowing to bring dogs to outside areas in restaurants. As a follow up we wanted to share with you those stores and



As always, we thank you for your support!

-Journey

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Volunteers and Fosters urgently needed

Great Pyrenees Rescue Atlanta (GPRA) urgently needs



Can I crash on your couch for a while

1

fosters to provide shortterm in-home care for our Gentle Giants. All veterinary care is paid by GPRA.

Fostering can last from a few

days to several months. We work to match your needs as a foster with the specific needs of our Pyrs, to ensure the best possible experience for all. Fostering a Pyr can be a lot of work, but is also one of the most rewarding experiences possible. But keep in mind that all too often, fosters fall in love with their Pyrs and frequently adopt them permanently to date we have over 100 families whom we count in our "Failed Fosters" club.

To learn more about fostering one of our wonderful Gentle Giants visit www.greatpyratlanta.com/foster_app.html or call 404.829.2609.

In addition, we are urgently looking for **volunteers** in these areas:

- Dog walking If you have an hour or two available during the week and want to have some fun (and perhaps loose a pound or two) this is for you
- Taxi service If you have this big SUV and it's barely getting used why not help us to transport our Pyrs? You could be the first one to meet a new Gentle Giant for intake (and did I mention puppies), help with vet or feature a dog on adoption day.
- Home check team You are mobile and can assist on follow-up visits for our recent adopted furballs then let's get together.
- Admin help If you are good in organizing and want to help us stay on track with things then we need you.

If you are interested in one of the areas above or even in

restaurants that allow bringing your (of course well behaved) Gentle Giant.

Retail Stores





Perhaps most of you already are aware of this but in case you are not, Home Depot and Lowes allow leashed dogs in their stores.

In case you are looking for some opportunity to socialize your dog more this is a great start. They have wide aisle and your dog will get plenty of attention. Just to be sure call your local store to confirm.

If you have a favorite location you want to share with us please send us a quick **email**. And of course, please send pictures.

ADOPTIONS

Congratulations to all the lucky pups who found their furever homes in

February

Conan, Rebus, Queen Guinevere Garbo, Tank, Tiny, Tucker, Blu Basil, Dasher, Deuce, Rhea Bacon and Eggs, Nutmeg McDreamy, Gulliver, Lola, Kira

March

T-Bone, Boris, Hank, Dottie, Eli Grand, Remi, Big Al, Ford/Fjord Mickey, Cletus, Opal

TOTAL RESCUED: 1029+

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Mark Your Calendars

other areas please **contact us** and fill out a volunteer application online or call us at **404.829.2609**.

Before and After

We wanted to share an update on one of our Gentle Giants from 2015 - Romeo, formerly named Austin. GPRA was contacted by Dekalb County Animal Control and he was found wandering around in July 2015 in bad condition as you



can see.

At this time he was around 8 to 10 weeks, about 40% underweight at 13 pounds and very fragile.

You can see Romeo's ribs through his fur

after he has been all cleaned up. His legs were bowed and in addition he was completely covered in flees all over his body. He was a really frail creature.

Romeo was assigned to one of our fosters who took great care of him. Romeo was fed several times a day in small portions with a special food to get him used to eating and gain some needed weight. Thanks to GRPA's foster program and extra TLC, he has fully recovered and became a handsome Gentle Giant. Romeo was adopted and lives now in Florida in his furever home. And thanks to a loving family and proper nutrition his legs have straightened on their own.



"Oh Romeo, my Romeo."

Let's join the fun Gentle Giants in the Park 2016



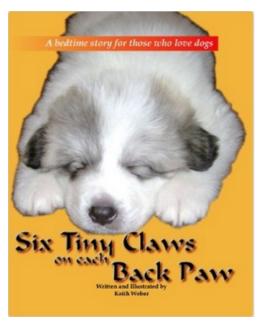
Saturday, April 30th Saturday, May 21st

11:00am - 1:00pm
PetSmart in Dunwoody

Book Review

We recently spotted a number of books about our favorite breed: the Great Pyrenees.

The first book review today is for the childrens book *Six Tiny Claws on each Back Paw: a bedtime story for those who love dogs* by Keith Weber.



This is a little book - just 24 pages - with hand drawn illustrations telling the tale of how the Great Pyrenees became a breed with double-dew claws.

There are some wolves in the story and some sheep that are protected by Great Pyrenees. We think this is a lovely story for all dog lovers, and also a story about how being different might be a strength rather than a weakness.

Also see our *Dear Journey* section which provides some more facts on dewclaws.

PYRs are PAWSOME . . .

Celebrating the rescue of over 1000 PYRS!

Sunday, April 24, 2016 2:30 - 5:00 PM



Join our annual fun event.

RSVP at gentlegiants@greatpyratlanta.com



If you have not returned your raffle tickets to GPRA yet, please mail them <u>not later than this Saturday</u>. The address is listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

Otherwise, please bring your tickets to the Gentle Giants in the Park event next Sunday so you can participate in winning the BIG prize.

Pyr of the Month



Hello everyone, my name is **Vixen.**

I am a 1 year old female Pyr who loves life. I love being the center of attention and really enjoy living life to the fullest. I am a ray of sunshine and will provide you with hours entertainment. I am with other good dogs that have the same energy. I will get along with cats as long as they like

to play chase. I will require a yard with a fence to ensure that I get plenty of exercise. I do need help in learning how to walk on a leash. I have not perfected this yet, but with your help, I am sure we will be taking walks around the block so you can show me off. I am quite a sight to behold!

If you think I would be the perfect addition to your home, please **contact GPRA** today to find out more about me.



A Pyr's Heaven



Two cuties

Please also <u>contact GPRA</u> if you are able to foster Vixen - she will be happy to brighten your day with happiness.

DEAR JOURNEY...

An advice column for, by and about Great Pyrenees

DearJourney@greatpyratlanta.com

DID YOU KNOW ... about dewclaws?

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u> that almost all dogs have dewclaws on their front legs?

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u> that only some dogs have any dewclaws on their hind legs?

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u> that Great Pyrenees use their double dewclaws for turning, climbing, descending, and jumping?

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u> that dew claws should **not be removed** for Great Pyrenees?

For some other breeds, dewclaw removal might be necessary. Many countries (e.g. Australia) have made dewclaw removal illegal for all dogs (and cats). While in many other breeds, the dewclaws on the hind legs are only attached by skin, dewclaws in the Great Pyrenees are attached to the bony structure of the leg.

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u> that the breed standard for Great Pyrenees is single dewclaws on front legs and double dewclaws on hind legs? Read more about breed standards here from the Great Pyrenees Club of America:

http://gpcaonline.org/jeillustrated.htm

<u>DID YOU KNOW</u> that the breed standards for Briards and Beaucerons also require double dewclaws on each hind leg?

Harness Follow-Up

I wanted to share some feedback on our article from our March newsletter on harnesses and leashes. One of our readers recommended one additional harness, the Gentle Leader. She



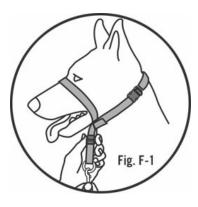
Got you covered



How about a real chicken?

had great success with it after using while participating in a dog obedience class. It completely stopped the pulling from her strong PYR.





The difference for the Gentle Leader harness is that is attached to your PYR's head and allows a much different control when your dog is pulling.

Give yourself and your dog time to get used to the new harness. It will take some patience to get your dog to walk on a loose leash without pulling. But it is definitely worth the effort. You can also check out the article on itsdogornothing.com for a real life example with a Pyp.

Writing this column for the Pyr-nation and trying to give some advice and information and share experiences of our brother and sister giants is a lot of fun and very rewarding. So, keep the questions coming!

--Journey



E-mail your most pressing questions and concerns to Journey at DearJourney@greatpyratlanta.com. Journey's advice is not intended to take the place of the expert care of your veterinarian nor of an experienced professional dog trainer. When in doubt, always consult a trained professional.



Watcha mean by St. Patricks Day is over?

GPRA Information & Links . . .



Volunteer - Donate
Foster - Dog Walking
Intake Team - Store
Available Dogs
Apply to Adopt

CONNECT WITH GPRA





