



# The Pyrenees Post...

spreading the word about the Southeast's best kept secret.



*Official E-Newsletter of the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Atlanta*

*July 2016*



## Gentle Giants in the Park 2016

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

### THE HEAT IS ON

Wow, what an event it was. It still feels like it was just yesterday. Everyone had a great time at our **6th Annual Gentle Giants in the Park** event. Supported by the weather gods we were able to bring over 300 people and 120 Pyrs together. This was quite a large amount of fur.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who make this event happen every year and to our chief organizer, Marla.

In the meantime the heat is on in Atlanta and temperatures are in the high 80's or even 90's. In order to stay cool during this ongoing hot weather we have included some tips. A big Thank You also to Dr. Bonny Willhite from VCA who contributed the "Summer with our Gentle Giants" section for this edition.

This year we already rescued quite a number of Gentle Giants. This included a number of really cute puppies which have already found their forever homes.

If you are interested in adopting or even just fostering one of our Pyrs from our website check in a couple of days before our listed adoption days on our [Facebook](#) page or our [Twitter](#) feed. We are trying to let everyone know ahead of time who of our Pyrs is present at the next adoption day so you can meet your favorite Gentle Giants and hopefully fall in love.

Thank you for all your continued support and we hope you

*Happy Birthday America*



*Have leash - will walk*



Hi there. I am looking for a partner, a walking partner that is. While me and the other Gentle Giants are waiting for our forever families we are always eager to poke our noses out into the world and get

enjoyed a great and safe July 4th weekend.

## DON'T FORGET ADOPTION DAY ON SATURDAY, JULY 16 TH SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 TH



As always, we thank you  
for your support!

*-Journey*

### Words of Wisdom from Dr Bonny



Summer with our  
Gentle Giants :-)

As we all are feeling  
the effects of the  
summer heat we need  
to be extra sensitive  
about our Great  
Pyrenees.

Just a few important  
tips from Dr Bonny to remember this summer.

Though Great Pyrenees have thick fluffy coats, their natural coat helps to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter, much like a polar bear. We do not recommend shaving them down in the summer or the winter.

Great Pyrenees also shed their under coats this time of the year and they are prone to matting. Please use an appropriate brush to brush out their undercoats several times a week.

All large breed dogs take a lot longer to cool down after they get hot as well. I do not recommend exercising them after 10 o'clock in the morning or before 8 o'clock at night because it takes them so long to cool down. I would not feed them as well for at least an hour before or after exercise because the heat will cause them to pant heavily and swallow air and this can make them at greater risk of bloat. Saturating their coats with cool water helps because you're adding an additional level of evaporative heat loss to help keep them cool.

Placing your hand on the asphalt and holding it there for five seconds is also helpful to determine if it's too hot to walk on the asphalt with your dog. Often times the temperature of asphalt can be 20 to 30° above the air

a sniff of what is going on around us.

If you are in the Alpharetta and Roswell area and would like to exchange some hugs and kisses for a walk on the surrounding nature trails just let us know via [email](#). And if you have a little extra time we also enjoy some brushing and socialization. Really, we do.

### Pyr's in the Media

We came across some Pyr-worthy media coverage staring our Gentle Giants that we just need to share with you.



This is  
a [11Alive report](#)  
from six  
years ago  
just after  
GPRA was  
founded.

At this time GPRA had rescued the first 10 Pyrs and just saved some puppies from an Alabama shelter. The idea was to rescue about 100 Gentle Giants this year and six years later we are at over 1050.



You might have already seen this one. It's a [commercial](#) about Purina Dog Chow. Thanks Purina for not just showing a Pyr in the commercial for a couple of seconds. No, this is serious airtime. Take a look.



temperature and dogs have burned her pads during the summer when out walking on asphalt.

Summer also means flea and tick season. Please use your flea and tick products religiously to prevent flea and tick infestations. Not only are these bloodsucking creatures annoying they also carry diseases that can be very harmful or even fatal to our beloved pets. If you don't like the topical products there are lines of oral flea and tick products that have been very safe and efficacious.

Hope you find these tips helpful and have a great summer with your Gentle Giants.

Dr Bonny Willhite

### Welcome to the Team



Patrick Kirksey is our new Adoption Director. Patrick started volunteering with GPRA after the loss of his own Gentle Giant. He had adopted a Great Pyrenees male from another organization prior to the creation of GPRA. A gaunt ninety pounds at adoption, Patrick and his wife nursed their beautiful male to a healthy 130 pounds. Their Pyr crossed over the Rainbow Bridge in November 2014 and inspired Patrick to help better the lives of other Gentle Giants in need.

Patrick's commitment to this breed is evident when he shares, "I absolutely love Pyrs, so I get my Pyr fix by being the Adoption Director, helping with transport, and attending every Adoption Day (AD) I can. You will always see me hugging and kissing and loving on the Pyrs at AD."

Patrick has worn many hats with GPRA. He started out as a foster, but quickly added Adoption Day transport to his fostering duties. Next he joined the AD team full time and finally became Director of the Adoption team in January 2016 when long-time Director, Renee Whelan, decided to take a much-deserved break.



And last but not least we found a Gentle Giant in a fairly well known TV show - The Mindy Project. You can now follow the show on

Hulu and the screen shot is from episode 15 of season 4. I am positive the Pyr was just thinking "You need a hug Mindy".

### Great Pyrenees Security LLC



### ADOPTIONS



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

#### April

Tiger, Cinnamon, Clove  
Dixie Lewis, Cotton, Farrah, Ellie  
Saffron, Ariel, Tarragon, Sage



Please [contact GPRA](#) today to find more out about fostering or adopting me.

## DEAR JOURNEY . . .

*An advice column for, by and about Great Pyrenees*

[DearJourney@greatpyratlanta.com](mailto:DearJourney@greatpyratlanta.com)

### **Tips to keep your Gentle Giant cool during the hot summer**

Summer has started early this year and temperatures have been in the 80's and 90's now for a while. While it is important to walk our dogs the high outside temperatures can also be a bit tough on a Pyr's body. Canines can easily get overheated. The way of releasing heat is by panting or a limited number of sweat glands between their toes.

Check out the following tips to keep your pup cool on your daily walks or outdoor excursions.

#### **Avoid walking on hot surfaces like asphalt**

Your pup's paws can be as sensitive as the soles of your feet. So when you go outside check the temperature of the street or walkway with your palm. If it is too hot for you chances are that it is too hot for your dog. While on your walk try to alternate surfaces between asphalt, sidewalk and grass.

#### **Supply lots of fresh water**

During the day keep a close eye on the water bowl of your dog. They also drink more during the summer especially if the water is fresh, clean and cold.

When going outside, take some water with you on your walks. Depending on your dog you might have to bring a water dish (collapsible dishes or special water bottles are available online for a couple of bucks). Take regular breaks and give your dog the opportunity for a "drink".

#### **Walk during cooler times of the day**

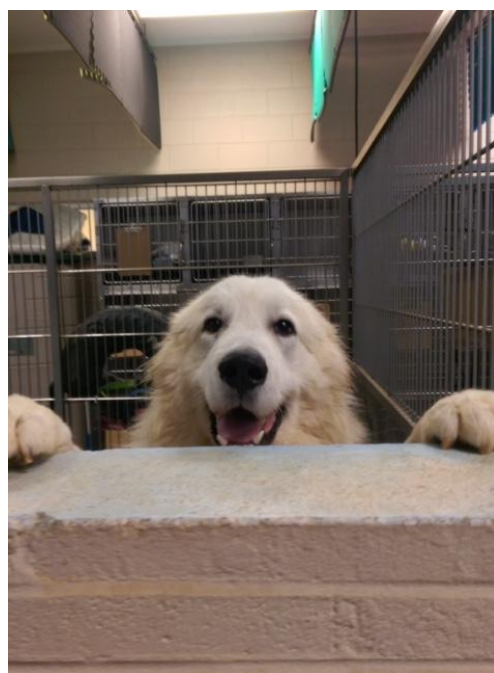
Try to adjust your daily routine to walk during the cooler times of the day. You could take a longer walk in the morning (and for example take a break at a coffee place :D) and reduce the walk in the afternoon when it is hot. Also, try to find walking routes that have more shade and the sun is not burning down on you. You could alternatively move the evening walk out to a later time like 8 pm when the sun is setting and the temperatures are on the way down.

#### **Know the signs of dehydration**

Take a look at the indicators of dehydration in a dog and keep them in mind while being outside during the summer



**Come fly with me**



**Hello Neighbor!**



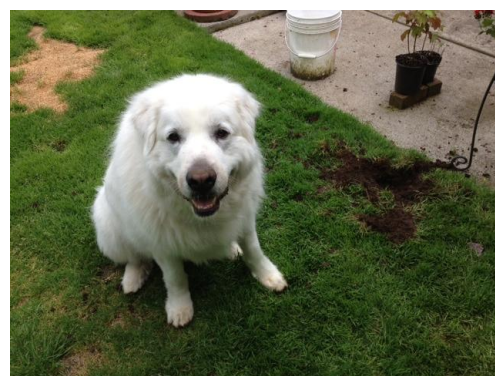
**Hey, where is my water bowl?**



months.



**Smile! Pawpawrazzi**



**Who you're gonna call? Molebusters.**

### Be cool in the pool



Well, as you can see from the picture a nice dip in a cool water kiddie pool helps also to keep your Pyrs cooler.

Just fill the pool up with water from your garden hose and let your Pyr take it over from there. Enjoy.

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](mailto: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.



**Pony? No you are the pony.**

**GPRA Information & Links . . .**



[Volunteer - Donate](#)  
[Foster - Dog Walking](#)  
[Intake Team - Store](#)  
[Available Dogs](#)  
[Apply to Adopt](#)

*CONNECT WITH GPRA*

