## Official E-Newsletter of the Great Pyrenees Rescue of Atlanta March 2016

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

#### **LET'S DO IT TOGETHER**

We have taken the hurdle on our first 1,000 rescues and are now focusing on the next 1,000. The year has started strong and we already rescued more than 30 Gentle Giants in January and February. And we have more PYRS lined up waiting to come in.

However, we have currently run out of boarding space and are urgently looking for foster volunteers for several of our Giants. One of them is Leandra. She had the beautiful mixed of puppies that were all already adopted. For her we are looking for a foster who is home most of the time and can help her getting over her separation anxiety. She is a sweet girl who loves playing with children and is very good with people. Leandra needs someone who can provide her with affection, exercise, and socialization.

This is just one case where we are looking for a foster. You can find our other Gentle Giants in need of a foster on our website under the section available dogs.

Any assistance helps even if you are only able to foster for a short period of time. Our Gentle Giants will be most thankful.

Let's do this together. With your support we are able to continue our mission and work towards the next big goal of 2.000 rescues.

## DON'T FORGET ADOPTION DAY ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19 TH SATURDAY, APRIL 9 TH



As always, we thank you for your support!

-Journey

#### **Fosters Needed**

## **Volunteer of the Month**

As most of you know GPRA is relying on volunteers and fosters in order to take care of all the different tasks that need to be handled for our Gentle Giants. This month we want to say a special Thank You to one of our hardworking volunteers - **Jenny Veal**.

Jenny began as a volunteer with GPRA in June of 2015. She started as a foster but immediately began volunteering for other areas as needed. Jenny is on the Home Inspection and Transport Team and works with our Intake Director, to keep our dogs, their pictures and descriptions up to date and engaging on our website.

She and her family recently received their membership in GPRA's PREMIER FOSTER FAILURE CLUB when they succumbed to the love and charm of Athena, one of GPRA's sweetest tri paws!



Jenny also gets backup support from her husband Todd and son Nolan. GPRA could not ask for a better volunteer.

Thanks a lot Jenny, Todd and Nolan.



# Can I crash on your couch for a while?

Great Pyrenees Rescue Atlanta (GPRA) urgently needs foster volunteers to provide short-term in-home care for our Gentle Giants. All veterinary care is paid by GPRA. Fostering can last from a few days to several months and is one of our key characteristics from other rescue organizations. You are not just taking care medically of our rescues but also emotionally. Many of our rescues show their gentle and caring side while with their fosters. And this makes it easier to place them later on.

To learn more about fostering one of our sweet giants visit <a href="https://www.greatpyratlanta.com/foster-app.html">www.greatpyratlanta.com/foster-app.html</a>

or call 404.829.2609.

## Don't Forget to RSVP!

#### **Gentle Giants in the Park**

Celebrating the rescue of over 1000 Pyrs! Sunday, April 24, 2016



2:30-5:00PM

This will be the Best Gentle Giants event yet!

RSVP at <a href="mailto:gentlegiants@greatpyratlanta.com">gentlegiants@greatpyratlanta.com</a>

More information to come soon.

## The Top 5

Well, since David Letterman retired, we thought we would publish our own **Top 5** of questions that we hearing on a regular basis from other people while we are on our daily Pyrade with our Gentle Giants.

And of course, we are trying show our funny side. So we hope you get a good laugh out of it.

#### Questions No. 5

## Don't forget...



**Happy Easter** 

Don't forget - Easter Sunday is on **March 27th.** Just in case you are hiding some chocolate eggs be sure your PYR is not finding the treats your family missed.

## **Volunteers Wanted**



Snowflake: Hey Journey. How are

you?

Journey: Just peachy Snowflake.

Snowflake: Listen, I heard we are

looking for volunteers for GPRA.

**Journey:** Yes, that's true. We are looking for some brave souls who are not afraid of wet dog kisses and getting hair on their clothes.

Snowflake: Any specific tasks for

which we need volunteers?

**Journey:** You mean besides giving us a belly rub or scratch behind the ear?

Snowflake: Ha ha. Yes.

**Journey:** We need help in all areas. And it is totally fine if you are only able to help out as your schedule allows. "Does your dog shed a lot?"

Naah, after two months you hardly see the hair in your house anymore.

This was one of the fine print items when you adopted your Gentle Giant. Hair, or lots of hair. But look at their smiles. Who could take this personally. And a good brushing of the coat once a week takes most of the loose hair out.

#### Questions No. 4

"Isn't your dog hot?"

Of course my dog looks hot. I almost applied to the Westminster dog show this year since she is so photogenic.

Well, most of us do live in the Hotlanta area. So if you are walking your dog in summer and you feel hot, your dog certainly is too. But since we are not turning up the heat right away our Gentle Giants get used to the warmer weather during Spring and early summer. Just be sure you have plenty of cold water with you during longer walks. And if they have too much, they will take a break. Trust me.

#### Questions No. 3

"Does your dog eat a lot?"

About 4 filet mignon's medium well for breakfast and dinner each day and a couple of pork chops as snacks in between.

Please, people. We are Gentle Giants and are not meat eating machines. Besides we are not that active and like to get our energy from a well balanced diet. And we also enjoy a piece of apple (but only Fuji please ) as snack.

#### Questions No. 2

"How do you keep your dog so clean?"

I installed an automated dog washing system in my back yard. The dog walks through it every time we come back from a walk and voila, the fluffball comes out sparkling white and looks like new again.

Yeah right. This might actually be an idea for Shark Tank. You might have realized we Gentle Giants are not the smelly kind of dog. But in the meantime play in the dirt. shake, brush and repeat does the trick for most of the time. But once in a while a bath is a welcome add-on.

And drum roll please. Here is the <u>number 1 question</u> by far that is asked to all Gentle Giants owners.

#### Questions No. 1

"What kind of dog is this?"

GPRA is always looking for help in the taxi department, for dog walking, or assisting with intake or even adoption day help.

**Snowflake:** We have a whole taxi department? Wow.

**Journey:** Not quite. It's more a transportation team. See, we need help in picking up new rescues, transporting them to and from our vet or boarding, and of course to our adoption days so people can fall in love with them and adopt them.

**Snowflake:** So what do I need to do if I want to volunteer?

Journey: If you are interested please go to the GPRA website under the Volunteer section to complete a volunteer application or email us at volunteer@greatpyratlanta.com.

#### **ADOPTIONS**

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

#### <u>January</u>

Davos, Alaska (fka Blitzen), Molly 3 Athena, Denali, Macy, Maize, Jesse Jonna, Birch, Sugar Plum, Chestnut Porche, Peppermint Patty, Comet, Meg Jordan, Roxanne, Molly, Omar, Angel

TOTAL RESCUED: 1010+

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**Mark Your Calendars** 



Saturday, March 19th Saturday, April 9th

11:00am - 1:00pm

PetSmart in Dunwoody

It's a full grown Pomeranian.

Just kidding of course. Only Great Pyrenees can be so gentle, loving and sometime stubborn at the same time.

I hope you enjoyed this and if you have other questions that you are getting asked on your daily walks, please share them with us.

## **Rescue of the Month**



Hello, I am Cotton. I am believed to be around 2 to 3 years old. I am really sad because I was picked up by a county shelter worker recently and was given a lot of attention. I was lucky to get adopted by a wonderful family, however it did not work out in my favor. Like most young kids, I like to see how far I can push my parents.

I am an escape artist! I have crafted my skills and can leap over a 4ft fence with little to no effort. My next home will need at least a 6 foot fence. My current foster family has a fur sibling that I really enjoy playing with. Like most, in new situations and new surroundings, I am a little bit more reserved. Once I feel comfortable, I am super sweet and house trained. I will thrive in a home with structure and become a wonderful member of your family.

Please **contact GPRA** today to find out more about me.

#### **DEAR JOURNEY...**

An advice column for, by and about Great Pyrenees

DearJourney@greatpyratlanta.com

#### Walking Accessories

Today I want to share with you some information that could make your life a lot easier when walking your Gentle Giant. When it is time to go outside and smell freedom and squirrels our beloved fluffballs are sometimes not that gentle anymore. They like to show their strength and try to walk you. And this might really stretch your arm.

I can recommend two products that really worked for us in

## **Thank You**

Thanks to Isabel and Rania GPRA is now the proud owner of handcrafted, wooden donation boxes. Don't they look just pawsome?



And as you can see the the picture was taken with Isabel's sign which counts our Gentle Giant rescues.

So stop by at one of our next adoption days and see the new donation boxes live in action.

#### PYRs are PAWSOME . . .



King of the Hill

getting the pulling under control. And rather quickly.

First, try a harness instead of a simple collar. A harness sits more around the chest of your dog and therefore allows better control. Here I tried two options; a harness where the leash connects at the back or where the leash connects in the front. The harness where the leash connects in the back is more padded and usually comes in more options. Like your favorite NFL team (there are also other NFL teams or neutral colors available).







**Front View** 

**Top View** 



The second harness that hooks up in the front is the Easy Walk harness.

As you can see there are two loops around the chest and back of your dog. It comes in different sizes and is easily adjustable.

The advantage is the front hook

up. As soon as your dog decides to pull away the harness forces him to turn sideways. And that takes care of the pulling.

If you want to take it one step further you can also get a European walking lead. What is so special about it?



Faster, faster



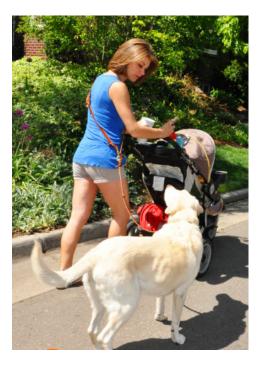
One day this is all yours, son



**Pyrsitter** 



8-Way Lead<sup>TM</sup> by Bold Lead Designs



As you can see from the top diagram the foot leash can be adjusted to different positions. From different lengths to an over-theshoulder loop. And that is my favorite. From the picture you can see that you have your hands free or need only one hand control the length

of the leash. That allows you to pick up your dogs business easily or do other things. You can get the more durable leather or a cheaper nylon version.

And if any of our readers have suggestions that have worked for them please **do share** them with us.

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





Big bear and Little Bear

## **GPRA Information & Links...**



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

## **CONNECT WITH GPRA**





trained professional.			