



# The Pyrenees Post...

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



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

*September 2016*

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

### **100 PYRS AND COUNTING**

For this year we have already reached the milestone of 100 rescues and we are on track to reach potentially 200 by the end of 2016. It has been quite a busy summer and it was hard to keep up. Our intake team had a number of surprise calls. Also our taxi team did their best to keep up and organize the transportation for our new GPRA members in order to get them checked out by our vet and settled with a foster.

It is such a joy to see our Gentle Giants transforming into beautiful Pyrs after they have been pampered by our fosters. You can experience this first hand at one of our adoptions days.

After our last newsletter we had some new interest in fostering one of our Pyr's. If you are still thinking about fostering or even potentially adopting one of our dogs please don't hesitate and contact us. You can fill out a volunteer or adoption application on our website or email us at [info@greatpyratlanta.com](mailto:info@greatpyratlanta.com).

Of course you can also support us in other ways. If you shop at Kroger on a regular basis please register GPRA with your Kroger card. GPRA receives donations from Kroger based on your purchases. However, the Kroger Community Rewards expires every year at the beginning of September. So please be sure to sign-up or renew your community rewards with GPRA.

Amazon offers a similar donation program. If you sign-up and shop at Amazon Smile GPRA also receives a percentage of your purchases as donation at the end of a quarter. Detailed instructions in registering for both programs are included in this newsletter.

We really do appreciate the efforts from all of our volunteers and supporters. Without them we would not be able to accomplish what GPRA has achieved so far.

If you just want to learn more about GPRA, the Great Pyrenees breed or our volunteer work, just stop by at one of our upcoming adoption days. It's usually a lot of fun to chat with one of our many volunteers or meet our Gentle Giants. I have heard about love at first sight more than once.

## *Gladiator Volunteers Needed*



GPRA is once again attending an Atlanta Gladiators game on

**Saturday November 5th, 2016** at the Infinity Energy Arena (formerly Gwinnett Civic Center). Join us to help promote GPRA and help raise some money for our Gentle Giants.

Well behaved Great Pyrenees are very welcome to attend. Volunteers are needed from **5:30 PM to 8:00 PM**.

For more information or to volunteer please email Lori at [rlaimhof@yahoo.com](mailto:rlaimhof@yahoo.com).

## *Congratulations*



**DON'T FORGET ADOPTION DAY ON  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 TH  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 ST**



As always, we thank you  
for your support!

*-Journey*

*Paging Dr Clarice*



We have heard that Clarice (aka Licorice) has been training quite successfully as a therapy dog and is now visiting little patients in the Pediatric section of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston hospital on the Emory campus. Clarice is now officially registered as a service dog and together with her badge (which shows DOCTOR in big green letters) is making her rounds. She makes quite an impression on the little patients and gets asked if she can stop by and visit them. Clarice even got a special call the other day to attend a little patient who loved dogs but was really scared. With her very calm nature Clarice is a welcome guest at the hospital.

Congratulations on this pawsome achievement. Keep up the smile and make us Pyr's proud.

*Why I Can (not) Foster A Great Pyrenees*

Gidget has recently earned her AKC Canine Good Citizens award. She is now working on qualifying with a therapy dog group so she can go into a nearby nursing home for visits. She loves, loves, loves to be petted and is a very calm soul.

During the photo session Gidget mentioned: "I would love to visit some older folks a couple of times a month to provide them company and cheer them up."

Congratulations on your achievement Gidget. I hope there was an extra special treat for that.

Do I perhaps see a special GPRA therapy dog group on the horizon?

*A Pyrs Poem*



*To Pee,  
or not to Pee.  
That, is the question.*  
Shakespyr

*Mayor Duke Reelected*



You might remember the breaking news



# WHY I CAN'T FOSTER... ALSO KNOWN AS "I WISH I COULD, BUT"...

## FOSTERING IS EXPENSIVE...

**False!** Rescues and shelters provide you with most of what you need to foster: It may vary from rescue to rescue, but for most groups food, vetting, even crates and toys can be provided by the group you are fostering for.

## IT HURTS TOO MUCH TO LET THEM GO...

**Yeah, it hurts.** But the only way we can save others is to let our current fosters go. How do we do it? We wait until the family and home that is better than what we can give arrives. It sometimes takes a while, but we always remember that we are preparing our fosters for their forever homes. And we stay in touch as much as possible after they are adopted, to see how happy they are with their new families.

## IT ALL SEEMS SO OVERWHELMING...

**It can be.** And without help, volunteers get burned out, and that helps no one. Rescues and shelters have support networks, and you can always take a break. We want you to be successful, so you'll foster again.

## RESCUE DOGS NEED SO MUCH WORK...

**False!** You might be surprised how many rescue and shelter dogs are owner surrenders who wound up there by no fault of their own. Many older dogs are turned in who are house trained, obedience trained, and simply can't stay in their permanent homes. And the trend of surrendered SENIOR dogs is frightening. These dogs only need a safe place to land, and often don't even require much exercise. Prefer puppies? There is NEVER a shortage of puppies coming into rescues and shelters, and they need a safe place to stay and learn some basics.

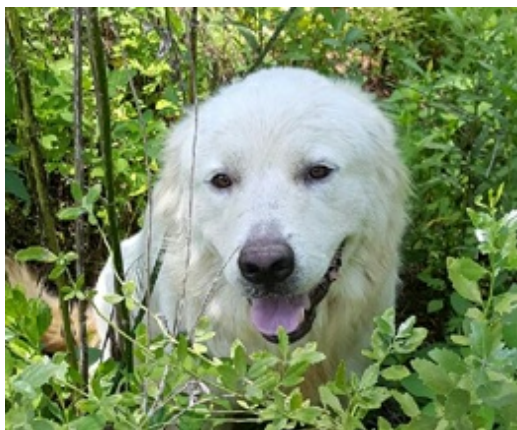
## YES, YOU CAN HELP!

**TRUE!** Fostering helps save two lives. The one that gets pulled out of the shelter, and the one that can fill that open spot. Fostering is the best way to make adoptions successful. You help the dog remain in a home, and ready for its forever family. We know some people truly can't foster. But you can still help. Rescues and shelters ALWAYS need other volunteers, donations, fundraisers, event help, coordinators, transport drivers... the list never ends. Even an hour or two a month helps. And don't forget: CATS AND KITTENS NEED FOSTERS TOO!

And there are certainly more reasons why you can (not) foster a Gentle Giant like you might have a wet nose everyday when you come home from all the sweet kisses or that you are feeling hot because your Gentle Giant snuggles up with you on the couch.

If this persuaded you to foster one of our Gentle Giants please visit the GPRA website and fill out a [foster application](#). And please remember, that GPRA is supporting you every step of the way especially if you are a first-time foster.

## Pyr of the Month



attention. GPRA had made a promise to me that they would find me a wonderful and forever home. I love spending my

Hi, my name is Clyde, and I am a 2 year old boy who came to GPRA because my family has some major health issues they have to deal with and knew they could not give me the time and

from two years ago. No? Who can forget Duke. He was elected mayor with 12 votes in the 2014 election.

You guessed it. Duke was just reelected for his third year-long term. At this time Duke the Gentle Giant is the only dog that has ever been elected mayor in America. He proudly serves the people in Cormorant, a tiny town in Western Minnesota with about 1,000 residents.

We have no idea what his campaign promises were but who can resist such a sweet face. Congratulations are in order.

You can read the [full story](#) from WDAY 6 right here.

## Support GPRA while Shopping



Kroger donates a portion of shopper's purchases quarterly. In case you have not already registered please go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com). Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy. GPRA's NPO number is 55285.

This program expires every year on **September 1st**. So please re-register right away. Otherwise GPRA might not receive donations from Kroger.



Who does not love to shop online at Amazon? They even deliver your Pyr's favorite food and snacks right to your door. Just Pawsome. And Amazon donates a portion of your purchases to your charity of choice.

Signing-up is as easy as 1-2-3. Just go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

1. Login with your Amazon email and



If you are interested in adopting me, please [contact GPRAs](#) today.


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

## Dog Safety Tips

TREAT VS POISON

## FURRY FACTS

6x 

**37**                                                                                                                                              

**10%**

Treats should only make up one tenth of your dog's calorie intake.

May have beneficial effects on fat metabolism, immune function and anti-tumour response.

Contains: Protein, Fibre,  
Iron, Vitamins **A C**

Low-calorie and naturally sweet, this crunchy treat will satisfy your dogs need to chew, and aid in blood clotting and energy production.

Contains: Fibre,  
Potassium, Magnesium,  
Manganese, Phosphorus,  
Vitamins **B6 B12 C K**

SEAWEEED (NORI)



CARROTS



Although long associated with cheeky dogs, preservatives in sausages can cause thiamine deficiency, which can be fatal.

**Contains: Sulphites**



COOKED BONES

Once cooked, bones splinter more easily. Ignore your dog's imploring look.

**Dangers: Sharp bits**

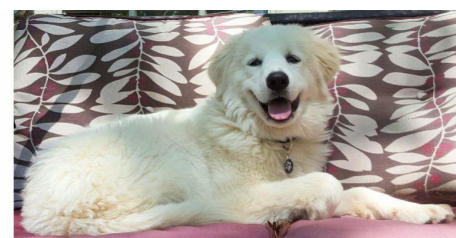
3. All done here.

## GPRA Special Ops



Hey neighbor. What's cooking?  
Oh, my steak is ready? I'll hop right over.

## ADOPTIONS



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

## July

Jethro, Nellie A, Hershel, Sienna  
Gandalf, Cleopatra, Garbo  
Zoey C, Contessa, Peach  
Vixen, Indigo

**TOTAL RESCUED: 1085+**

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

## Mark Your Calendars



## Adoption Day





Lactose free, so it won't give your dog any stomach problems.

Contains: Calcium, Vitamin B



**SOY MILK**



After weaning, most dogs become lactose intolerant. Some dogs may still enjoy small quantities.

Contains: Lactose

**COW'S MILK**



Resist the urge to spice up your dog's regular chow. Vegetables from this family can cause Heinz body anaemia.

Contains: Disulphide

Packed with nutrition, sweet potatoes are a great source of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory nutrients.

Contains: Vitamins A, C and vitamins B5 and B6, fibre, potassium, and magnesium.



**SWEET POTATO**

Great for improving a dog's overall health, apples satisfy a dog's desire to chew, while also providing pectin. This can help remove toxins from the intestinal tract, strengthen intestinal muscles and remove harmful bacteria.

Contains: Vitamins A and C, pectin.



**APPLES**

Carob helps eliminate toxins, improve digestion, lower cholesterol and treat coughs, anaemia and osteoporosis. But ensure you reduce the size of their regular meal accordingly.

Contains: Calcium, Fibre, Pectin, Vitamin E



**DOGGY CHOCOLATE**

**CAKES, SWEETS AND MINTS**



Artificial sweeteners can cause a dog's blood sugar levels to drop dangerously low, causing vomiting, seizures, liver failure and coma.

Contains: Xylitol

**HUMAN CHOCOLATE**



Acts as a stimulant on dogs, causing diarrhoea, high heart rate, muscle tremors and seizures.

Contains: Methylxanthines, Theobromine, Caffeine

This superfood is packed with goodness but introduce them slowly into their diet, or you'll have problems at the other end.

Contains: Antioxidants, Manganese, Fibre, Vitamins C E



**BLUEBERRIES**

**GRAPES AND RAISINS**



Toxicities can cause the sudden development of kidney failure within 48 hours of snacking – and researchers still don't know exactly why.

Contains: Mycotoxin

They can probably help themselves to this one – but make sure they keep clear of chemically treated lawns.

Contains: Micronutrients



**GRASS**

**ANTI-FREEZE**



If it drips from your car to the ground, it's liable to be licked up – resulting in vomiting, diarrhoea and breathing difficulties.

Contains: Ethylene glycol

! If you suspect your dog has consumed this item, you should contact a vet immediately.

## RAWHIDE?

Rawhide chews are a popular treat made from the inner layer of cow or horse hides. However, opinion is divided on whether it's a suitable treat for pooch.

### PROS

- Mouth** Keeps jaws strong, teeth clean and breath fresh.
- Mind** Relieves dog anxiety.
- Shoes** Draws attention from other chewable items – like your favourite slippers.



### CONS

- Contamination** May contain toxic chemicals, E-coli or Salmonella.
- Irritation** Some dogs digestive systems can't handle it.
- Choking** Take the chew away when it gets too small.



## RULE OF THUMBNAIL

Hard treats such as bones, can damage teeth. If you can push your thumbnail into a treat and it leaves a mark, it's probably safe. The same rule applies for chew toys.



Some dogs will eat pretty much anything, whether you give it to them or they sniff it out themselves.

No food is right for every dog – so watch what they eat, and make sure that you're the one setting the menu.



VET MEDIA

Saturday, September 17th

Saturday, October 1st

11:00am - 1:00pm

[PetSmart](#) in Dunwoody

If you are looking meet a specific dog during adoption day, please contact us at [info@greatpyratlanta.com](mailto:info@greatpyratlanta.com) ahead of time to ensure that the Gentle Giant is present.

PYRs are PAWSOME . . .



What sign?



Let go, come on.



Wow, back up. The boss needs his beauty sleep.



As you can see the listing also shows rawhide treats. In general it is best to observe your dog while eating rawhide treats. Some of our furry friends sometimes forget to chew thoroughly and a rawhide treat could end up as a choking hazard.

If you are concerned about rawhide treats for your Pyr take a look at these 28 possible alternatives.



## 28 SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO

# RAWHIDE CHEWS

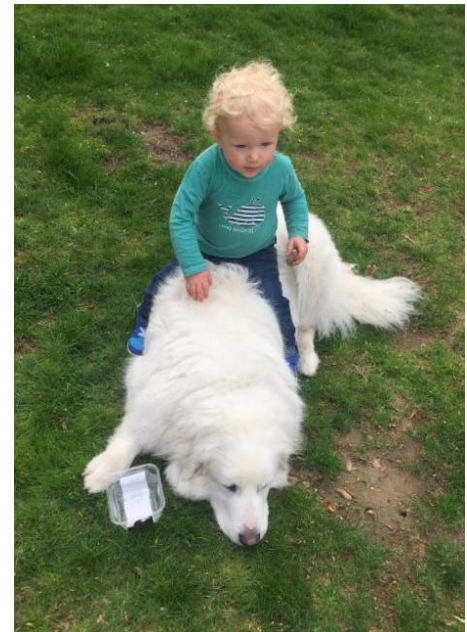
By Kimberly Gauthier  
Dog Nutrition Blogger

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Traditional Bully Sticks    | Pork Ears                    |
| Braided Bully Sticks        | Lamb Ears                    |
| Bully Stick Rings           | Cow Ears                     |
| Bully Stick Springs         | Duck Feet                    |
| Bully Sticks Pretzels       | Turkey Feet                  |
| Bully Sticks Barbells       | Beef Trachea                 |
| Beef Gullet                 | Dehydrated Turkey Necks,     |
| Beef Tendon                 | Vital Essentials Raw         |
| Raw Meaty Bones - Duck      | Lamb Tail, Barkworthies      |
| Necks                       | Kangaroo Tail,               |
| Raw Meaty Bones - Lamb      | Barkworthies                 |
| Necks                       | No Hide Chews                |
| Recreational Bones - Beef   | Frozen Carrots               |
| Knuckle Bones               | Frozen Apples                |
| Recreational Bones - Beef   | Frozen Sweet Potatoes        |
| Knee Caps                   | Frozen Green Beans           |
| Beams by The Honest Kitchen |                              |
| Alaskan Salmon Skin by      | <b>Always Supervise Your</b> |
| Barkworthies                | <b>Dog - Give Chews in</b>   |
|                             | <b>Moderation</b>            |

KEEPTHETAILWAGGING.COM



Give me a smooch



Mommy, I broke the pony.



Stay safe and enjoy the rest of your summer and the upcoming fall season.

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.

**Yummi. Pre-dinner snack.**

## CONNECT WITH GPRA



## GPRA Information & Links . . .



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[Apply to Adopt](#)