

Carolina Pyranews

C A R O L I N A G R E A T P Y R A N E E S R E S C U E , I N C .

- THE CAROLINA PYRANEWS IS THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLINA GREAT PYRANEES RESCUE, INC.

- WE PUBLISH QUARTERLY & DISTRIBUTE VIA EMAIL.

CGPR STATS

PYRS SAVED IN 2008 127

PYRS SAVED IN 2009, TO DATE 14

PYRS WAITING FOR FOREVER HOMES 20

HUMANS PYRS ARE DEPENDING ON US



SOUTHERN PYRS GIVEN WARM NEW ENGLAND WELCOME

BY MARTHA REHMEYER

The morning of December 10, 2008 started unusually early for three of the Carolinas Great Pyrenees Rescue, Inc (CGPR) volunteers as well as two volunteers from another Great Pyrenees rescue farther north. Planning for this special day actually started weeks in advance as the two organizations joined forces to find forever homes for needy Great Pyrenees. While the Northeast Pyr Rescue (NEPR) had an over-abundance of applications for families wanting a Great Pyrenees, they had



Titan, a CGPR adopted in partnership with CGPR's northern affiliate, NEPR, adjusting to the New England weather.

See "Southern Pyrs," page 4

THE TALE OF WILLA, BRIE & TRISTAN, AS TOLD TO FOSTER MOM CINDY CLARK

Martha asked me to write an article about why I am a foster parent. It is because I have many stories like this one. People ask me if it is hard to give up my foster dogs, and I tell them there are two reasons why I can. First, I know that all of my dogs have gone to homes where people will love them. Second, if I adopted them, there would be no spot for another dog like them in dire need, and so I

kiss them and hug them and send them on to beautiful lives with beautiful families, and save the next ones like Willa, Brie and Tristan. Here is their story, told from Willa's perspective (she was the boss):
We arrived at a place of unfathomable noise. We had not eaten in weeks, other than the food we scrounged from the animals we were sworn to guard. We worked hard and were proud of our

jobs. We took care of the flock, and our master took care of us. But then one day, something changed.



See "Willa's Tail," page 3

ALIENS LAND IN PYR'S YARD - PYR PROMPTLY EATS THEIR UFO

If there is intelligent life out there, certainly it would love Pyrs as much as we do. No, our Pyr did not eat visitors from another planet, but he is modeling the toy that you can win for your Pyr by submitting to the next issue of the *Carolina Pyra-news*.

Each issue, a company that makes a Pyr-approved product sponsors our newsletter by offering prizes to be raffled to those who make this newsletter possible by submitting their photos, stories, and articles.

Premier Pet has donated three Twist-n-Treats, which we call the

"alien" in our household. The "alien" is a treat dispenser—the top and bottom twist apart, and then you fill it with snacks before closing it up and rewarding your Pyr for being wonderful.

We've found that something sticky topped with something bite-sized and crunchy works best. Leonidas-approved fillings include peanut butter, apple butter, packed pumpkin, honey, cream cheese, and hummus. Favorite crunchies beside kibble include breakfast cereals like Cheerios and small bits of pretzels, crackers, meat, cheese, or flaked tuna.

Twist-N-Treats are washable, but your Pyr will do most of the washing for you.

Thanks to Michelle at Premier Pet for their generous donation. To patronize this company and purchase one of their great toys, see <http://www.premier.com>. Premier also donated three Waggle chew toys and treat dispensers (see picture on page 3).

Is there a product that your Pyr loves? Recommend it for a future giveaway at carolinapyra-news@gmail.com. And don't forget to submit your photos, anecdotes, ideas for stories, and articles!



Leonidas modeling his Twist-n-Treat, or "alien." This toy is versatile, durable, and washable, and it could be your Pyr's if you submit!

MAKE A DATE WITH YOUR PYR- ANNUAL PYR-NIC APRIL 25, 2009 AT 11:00 AM !

Martha Rehmeyer invites all Pyr-parents and lovers to the annual Pyr-Nic at her home in Winston-Salem. The celebration of all things Pyr will take place on April 25th beginning at 11 a.m.

All humans are asked to bring a dish, desert,

or beverage to share. Martha will provide the plates and utensils.

All Pyrs are asked to be on leashes and be on their best behavior.

For directions, contact Martha at **336-768-4142** or vmypyr@triad.rr.com.



Pyrs & their humans at the 2005 Pyr-Nic

CGPR is low on the following supplies:

- old towels
- rugs for the kennels
- large kennels
- biscuits
- leashes
- collars (all sizes welcome—puppies need collars, too!)
- blankets or comforters (no wool, please)

To donate, contact Martha at **336-768-4142** or luvmypyr@triad.rr.com.

PERSONALITIES: A COLUMN DEVOTED TO THE ANTIQS AND ADVENTURES OF OUR PYRS



Smokey and Trixie sharing a laugh (probably at the expense of humans).

Share your dog's Pyronality!

Do you have a funny story or a great picture of your Pyr? We want you to brag about the breed we love. Submit your jpg or word file to carolinapyra-news@gmail.com by June 1 for inclusion in the summer edition.

You may just win your Pyr a Twist-n-Treat!

PYR DICTIONARY



Winner of this month's raffle of Premier's Waggle chew toy and treat dispenser: Cindy Clark! Thanks for contributing to the *Pyranews!*

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

DOG BED: any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their lap.

LEAN: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black tie events.

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

SOFAS: Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.

LOVE: Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

WILLA'S TALE, CONTINUED

The food that we so desperately needed to fuel our bodies did not come. We did not know why. Days and nights passed with no food. We lost strength fast. The youngest of our team couldn't keep up. She was skin and bones. But I wonder if that was better than where we are now. A stranger brought us to this place that smells of death. There were so many dogs, and they all were cry-

ing. We were desperate to understand what was happening. We wanted to see the sun and roam out of these 4 x 6 cells. At least we had food, but it seemed that death was around the corner. The humans were kind, but they looked at us like we were not long for this world. And then, a smiling lady came. She sat with us, looked us in the eyes, and told us were safe. She

hugged us and made a promise—that we would be happy again. She promised a forever home, if we went with her. We did. As she drove us away in her car, she talked to us in soothing tones and tried to call to us. She wanted to call us something. She did not know our names from our master, and we couldn't tell her. And so, I chose Willa, which suits me fine. I am tall and lithe like a willow tree. Willa it is, and I smiled at her. The other two of my team looked at me in confusion. They are so much younger, barely teenagers, and I always have to show them what to do. The male chose Tristan. The little female who was so sick chose Brie. With our names chosen, we felt optimistic about starting new lives with our new names. We arrived at the lady's house. There were dogs like us there! Leo was smiling and welcoming. Tess, too, was happy to see us. They were both majestic. We

How do you help your Pyr beat the heat? Send your tips to carolinapyranews@gmail.com by June 1. All submissions qualify for next issue's raffle.

were embarrassed by our lack of muscle and coat. But they didn't care. They told us that this lady has wonderful food—all we can eat! We would sleep in a warm, safe room and play outside in the yard, they said. We didn't even have to work! There was also Diana, a wise and very old dog who cannot play with us, but who wags her tail and reassures us that this is a good place. The lady covered us with water and soap. We had never had a bath before, and after, we smelled strange. But the lady was gentle. We began to trust her.



Tristan

See "Willa's Tail," page 5

SOUTHERN PYRS, CONTINUED

no dogs available. In contrast, the CGPR had more dogs in rescue than applications. The partnership began as the two organizations discussed the possibility of "shipping" dogs to what Southerners would consider the Frozen Tundra.

Martha, the CGPR president chose five suitable dogs to make the trip and e-mailed biographies of each to the northern rescue representative who in turn, hand-picked applicants for each dog. Kevin and David, CGPR fosters, graciously volunteered their time to make the long journey to Pennsylvania. Martha rented a cargo van, loaded it with kennels, and prepared the information packets for each dog while David and Kevin loaded up on chocolate and drinks.

They met at Martha's house at 6:30 am, loaded the dogs, and started on the day long adventure. Six hours later, they arrived at the meeting place in Pennsylvania where they handed over the dogs to the eager northern representatives.

Exhausted, they safely made their way back to NC where they slept well knowing that they had been instrumental in helping five dogs find forever homes.

The dogs also arrived safely and were let loose in a solarium to wait for their new owners. The anxious adopters began to arrive at their assigned times, eager to be united with their long-awaited new family member. As each adopter entered the solarium, an amazing

site began to unfold- the preassigned dogs actually attached themselves to their family. The love and affection was immediately apparent and continues to this day.

The dogs have all settled in to their new families and are enjoying the deep and fluffy snow of the North. The families have expressed their appreciation and shared pictures of their adopted Southerners. The experience has been so rewarding for all involved that there is talk of making another swap in the near future.

Up for a roadtrip? Martha needs volunteers for future trips to New England and throughout the South. If you can drive or ride shotgun, contact Martha at lvmypyr@triad.rr.com.



An excerpt from the December 2008 NEPR *Pyriodical* on the adoptions by Rescue Coordinator Judy Tatro

"Driving in a private vehicle to pick up the dogs was magical. In the sun, the ice-covered trees sparkled, and large crystals coated the grasses. To see the Pyrs find their new families, late into that same night, was equally magical. There were smiles, jingle-bell collars and holiday tears. We welcome them into their new homes and the NEPR network. This week, they are exploring the deep, fluffy snow...something they have never experienced before. "

To learn more about the work of the NEPR, see their webpage: www.nepyrresq.org/

Snow playing at her new home

WILLA'S TAIL, CONTINUED



Willa

The lady brushed us every day and told us we will look as beautiful as Tess. We came running when the lady called our names. Most of all, we ate and ate and ate. Slowly, the littlest one, Brie, came back to life! We love this lady who has saved us from the place of death. We looked into her eyes and solemnly thanked her with our eyes every day.

But she warned us that this was not the end of our journey. We thought that we would be very happy to stay with this lady forever, but she explained that we will find a place where we will be very special dogs for the rest of our lives. She explained to us how close we came to death, and how she needs to be able to save other dogs so they too can live a long time with a loving, forever family. And so, we stayed with this lady until we felt like new, and soon people came to visit us.

The lady explained that if we see a family that we like, we can go with them.

Brie picked a young couple that had another male dog just like us about her same age. He will keep her safe, and she will not be scared.

Tristan picked a lady who has a farm. He can be outside all day and play and work, and sleep safe with this lady at night. He will have a team to work with.

I, Willa, went to a place far from the lady who rescued us. I have a fantastic family, and I am happy. I am cared for. I am treasured.

Cindy: I picked up Willa and the two other dogs from a shelter in eastern North Carolina. They were going to be euthanized immediately were it not for a wonderful shelter volunteer who contacted us. They looked like concentration camp victims when they came to me. They were so thin, it hurt them to be touched.

I was blessed to spend a few short months with Willa, Tristan, and Brie, and I wish I had more room and more time to take more dogs. I have been a foster mother since 1999, and have rescued more Pysr than I can count. I am the CEO of a biotech company, and in another life, I bred Pyr working dogs. I am a foster mother because of the look of "thank you" I get from all the dogs that stay with me. Through Martha's tremendously hard work and efforts, we rescue about 150 dogs a year. Sadly, though, for every dog CGPR saves through our rescue organization, there is at least one, if not more, that are killed because we don't have a place for them to stay.

There are many ways that you can help us to save these majestic gentle giants in dire straits. Your donation of time could be a couple of hours of time on the weekend helping with transportation or grooming. We also need foster homes. **There are only seven active foster families to help rescue dogs in North Carolina.** If you have room in your home for dog for any timeframe you feel you can commit to—sometimes all we need is a place for a day, or up to a week—you can save a life.

You can describe the type of dog that you feel will be convenient for you to care for—you can specify male or female, between a certain age, housebroken, good with cats, etc. Since we generally have 20 or more dogs in foster care at any one time, there is almost always a dog that will fit with your family for a short stay. I will be happy to tell you more about my experiences as a foster parent if you are interested. You can contact me at clark_cindy@bellsouth.net.

“We love this lady who has saved us from the place of death. We looked into her eyes and solemnly thanked her with our eyes every day.”



Brie, the youngest & smallest of Cindy's fosters. Cindy noted how delicate she was as she walked like a little doe.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
CAROLINAPYRRESCUE.COM



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Submit to the CAROLINA PYRANEWS!

Email your photo, story, or article to carolinapyranews@gmail.com. All contributors are entered into a raffle to win the sponsored product of the quarter. Winners will be announced in the following issue.



CGPR, Inc. is a non-profit 501.(c).3 organization, which means your donation is tax deductible. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at president@carolinapyrrescue.com.

Do you have an area of expertise that can help us help Pyrs? Let us know! We are devoted Great Pyrenees lovers just like you, and the Pyrs would appreciate any assistance you can offer in caring for these gentle giants. We need volunteers to foster dogs. We need donations of food, kennel supplies, and funds for veterinary care. We also need help transporting, grooming, and socializing the dogs.

CAROLINA PYRANEWS, the newsletter of the Carolina Great Pyrenees Rescue, Inc., is published quarterly. To subscribe or submit, email carolinapyranews@gmail.com. Our mission is to support the efforts of the CGPR; to raise awareness of and support for abandoned and mistreated Pyrs throughout the South; and to serve as a resource for Pyr-lovers in our region.

UPDATES FROM THE CRATES



If you are looking for a running buddy to train for a marathon, Ozzie is not for you. And if you only like perfect dogs without any boo boos, don't read on. Like the rest of us, Ozzie wasn't born perfect, and he's needed a little work. This year-old male had bad knees, but four surgeries later, he's on the mend. Martha expects a full recovery. Having his own humans to spoil him and snuggle with him would sure speed up his healing process.

Sabrina is a beautiful young female who hasn't felt too well lately, but she wants you to know that she'll be at 100% soon. Her previous owner didn't have her on heart-worm preventative, and she's now suffering through heart-worm treatment. She's got a sweet temperament, and feeling wiped out just doesn't suit her. She's looking forward to finding a forever family who will make sure that she never feels icky again.



Did you resolve to drop a few pounds in 2009? Buck is in the same boat. This four-year-old neutered male is large on pounds *and* love. Other than his extra girth, he is healthy and up-to-date on his vaccinations and heartworm-free. He is housebroken, and he is crate trained. He likes adults and children, and he gets along well with other dogs, too. Wouldn't it be easier to lose those extra pounds if you had a Pyr as your work-out buddy?