



Pyrenean Fun Day was well attended, with the included Fun Match a big hit with Pyrs and their people.

### Special Board Meeting

by Barbara Bowes

There will be a Special Board Meeting held in conjunction with the Club's Fall Walk-in-the-Woods on Sat., October 20th.

The agenda will include discussion of membership and Club policies and procedures.

Board members will receive a more detailed agenda shortly and are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

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### Membership Directories

by David Kintsfather

Members renewing for the 2007/2008 year will have received a new Directory recently. While every effort was made to report membership information accurately, please proof your entry closely and report any corrections or updates either by e-mail to david@pyrbred.org, or by leaving a message on our answering machine at 610-682-2419.

Thank you.

### A Big Thank You

by David Kintsfather

A HUGE thank you goes out to Chic Gottesman who has taken on the role of Publisher, printing and mailing all paper copies of this newsletter. This help is much appreciated!!



# Penn-Dutch

## Serving Pyrs & Pyr People in Southeastern Pennsylvania

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### President's Message

by Barbara Bowes

Hello again, everyone! We've certainly had an event-filled year so far. The Rally-O/Therapy event in June was well attended. Everyone certainly had a lot of fun and learned a lot.

Fun Day was a huge success with even more members and dogs attending and we also picked up some new members. Congratulations to everyone who won prizes and we hope your dogs are still enjoying their toys! Thank you to all who attended, and welcome, new members!

Our next event is the Regional Specialty dog show held in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club all-breed show in Macungie, PA on September 15th. We hope to see many of you there as well. Since Sept. 15th is AKC Responsible Pet Owner Day, we have invited a 4-H group to attend the Specialty to learn about dog shows, why we have them, and to learn about responsible pet ownership. They will be having a mini-Fun Match after judging. At least, that is the plan right now.

They will get lessons in how to groom and properly care for dogs. So come out and cheer your fellow Pyr owners and the kids! There will be a tailgate lunch at the pavilion and a party at the show hotel in the evening. More information is contained in the flyer elsewhere in this issue.

After the Regional Specialty we have the Fall Walk-in-the-Woods at Beltzville State Park and then the Holiday Party in Lancaster County Park.

I hope to see more and more of you attending these events!



### Pyr Paw Pats

A column for members to share joys and concerns about their human and animal families. Please send items to the Sunshine Committee.

### Family News from Barb Bowes

My daughter Jessica has been in Iceland on an archeological dig. She left for Iceland on July 1 and will return August 15. I've missed talking to her on the phone but I'm so proud of her and all she has accomplished!

For those of you with computer access you can read her Blog at <http://jdbiceland2007.blogspot.com/2007/06/iceland-stuff-coming-soon.html>. There is a link to her photos on the Blog site, as well as the photos of her colleagues. Iceland is a beautiful country!

Jessica has been pursuing her Master's Degree in Anthropology and Archeology at the University of Massachusetts Boston Campus for the last year. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Anthropology from Monmouth University in May of 2006.

My son Joshua graduated from Electrical trade school as a Journeyman in June of 2005 and bought his first home this year. I am equally proud of him and his amazing accomplishments! He is 26 and Jessica is 23 years old.

And now you know a bit more about me and my family. I hope more of you will share your news with your fellow Club members.

The PDGPC newsletter, *Pyr-A-Scoop*, will be published at least 4 times a year for the members of the Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club as a means of sharing information. Opinions reflected in articles and advertisements are those of the writer(s) and are not necessarily held by the editorial staff, PDGPC members or the Board of Directors. Any material in this publication may be reprinted (unless otherwise noted), as long as credit is given to both the author and source and no changes are made in the copy without permission.

**Deadline for the next issue is: October 15, 2007.**

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## *Physical Rehabilitation Following CCL Repair - Part 1*

Jody Chiquoine R.N., M.S.N., F.N.P., CCRT  
Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist  
Member American Canine Sports Medicine Association

Physical rehabilitation in people is well understood and the benefits have been extensively studied and proven. The start of rehabilitation for humans began in World War I and was noticeably heightened during World War II when more men survived the war (due to penicillin) and needed to return to normal lives. The Vietnam War brought more advanced orthopedic techniques that required early physical therapy for recovery. By the 1970's and 80's Physical Therapy was part of the established standard of care for orthopedic and neurologic problems.

In contrast, the use of physical rehabilitation for canines in the United States is new and has only been introduced within about the past 5-10 years. Fortunately, it has rapidly gained acceptance. Currently, there are many veterinary research studies that demonstrate the multiple merits of canine physical therapy. Rehabilitation and hydrotherapy are truly new and exciting adjuncts to traditional veterinary care.

Stifle (knee) injuries are the most common orthopedic condition in the Great Pyrenees dog. When assessing the most common stifle injury, rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) ranks first followed by luxating patella. Luxating patella is commonly seen in toy and small breeds and is *not* common in larger breeds. Interestingly, the Great Pyrenees has a much higher incidence of luxating patella than any other large breed dog.

**Prevention** is paramount when discussing rehabilitation. Therefore, in order to discuss the various approaches to physical rehabilitation following CCL tear it is important to understand the etiology or cause.

Common causes of CCL rupture include: direct (acute) trauma to the stifle, luxating patella, previous CCL tear on the opposite leg, poor conditioning, chronic degeneration of the CCL, congenital / developmental conditions.

Direct trauma is often associated with jumping up or sudden hyperextension of the hind leg especially when coupled with inward (medial) rotation of the stifle and hind leg. Examples include jumping *into* a vehicle, missing 'footing' when vigorously jumping out of a vehicle or slipping (ice or slippery floors). Sudden acute rupture can be caused by rigorous play, especially body slamming or 'hamstringing' play for which Pyrs are famous!

Prevention: Risk for CCL injury can be minimized by: using a ramp for getting in and out of vehicles and teaching cue words like "wait" before exiting vehicles or moving onto slippery surfaces.

**Chronic Degeneration** is the most common cause of CCL tears and occurs in most large breeds. The highest incidence is with spayed females age 4-7 years. There is some speculation that early spaying (before 12-14 months) reduces hormones required for healthy ligaments. The classic symptom of chronic CCL degeneration can be identified on history as a Pyr that is generally healthy orthopedically but after long rest periods rises and takes a few lame hind leg steps, then "walks out of it" and is fine.

Prevention: Recognize that your Pyr may have a low grade partial CCL tear. Use controlled exercise and massage to allow healthy tissue to form. Minimize rigorous play until symptoms have subsided. Whenever possible, try to avoid sudden transitions from lying to running.

**Congenital** causes of CCL tear include: poor hind angulation (straight in stifles and hocks), luxating patella and lineage trends demonstrating early CCL tears in offspring. Most Pyrs with straight hind angulation or luxating patella will experience a CCL tear sometime during their lifetimes. It is interesting to note that most dogs (Pyrs included) with luxating patellas are also poorly angulated in the hind.

Prevention: Always purchase your Pyr from a reputable breeder. Keep in mind that even the most conscientious breeder can occasionally have a pup with poor angulation. So, when selecting a Pyr puppy or adult look for well

angulated and strong hind legs. Ask breeders about the incidence of stifle problems in the parents and grandparents of the Pyr you are interested in purchasing.

The congenitally related CCL tears occur early in a Pyr's life, usually from age 6 months to 2 years. Breeders should be notified of the CCL problem and monitor lineage.

***A Previous CCL Tear in Opposite Leg*** increases the risk of a CCL tear by 30% to 60% within 24 months. Part of this is related to slow return of thigh muscle size and decreased range of motion, thereby stressing the other limb.

***Prevention:*** As early as possible, seek a professional trained in rehab if your dog has a CCL problem. Studies indicate a reduction in contralateral (opposite leg) CCL tears in dogs that have had rehab. Minimize risk factors such as jumping and high contact play.

***Poor conditioning*** is another cause of CCL tears in Great Pyrenees. Like other dogs, Pyrs that are overweight and those that do *not* have a regular *daily* exercise regime are at higher risk of CCL tear. In addition, "the weekend warrior", or the Pyr that has no daily routine but occasionally is asked to perform in events (carting, agility, etc.) or go on long hikes (mountaineering, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring) is at very high risk of CCL tear.

***Prevention:*** Don't be a weekend warrior! Maintain your dog *for its lifetime* in an exercise program of sustained walking at least 35 minutes per day, 5-6 days per week. Do not allow it to ever be overweight.

### **Treatment Options**

The formulated physical rehabilitation program is based on: the cause of the tear, the degree of the tear, the length of time between tear and treatment and the type(s) of medical or surgical intervention applied by the veterinarian.

#### **Conservative Management**

As previously mentioned, not all CCL's suddenly rupture; some Pyrs experience slow degeneration of the CCL. In early/slow degeneration 30% to 50% (or less) of the ligament may be torn or frayed. This is referred to as a partial CCL tear.

In this case, conservative management with physical rehabilitation may preserve and restore the ligament. Passive range of motion to maintain flexibility, strengthening exercises to reduce muscle atrophy, alterations in lifestyle such as weight loss, and development of a regular exercise routine are imperative for maximum recovery with return to full function and performance.

In the past, veterinarians believed that only in small dogs (less than 50 pounds) could conservative therapy suffice. However, this is no longer true and large dogs such as Great Pyrenees, Newfoundlands and Bernese Mountain Dogs have done well with early conservative rehabilitation interventions for *early partial* CCL tears.

#### **Surgical Management**

To date, there are more than 50 different surgical techniques to treat a ruptured CCL! The details for each of these procedures are beyond the scope of this article.

The three most common surgical CCL repairs include:

- Extracapsular stabilization (imbrication) and there are several approaches. In all cases, heavy nylon is utilized around the outside of the joint to assure stability.
- Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO) which fractures the tibia and inserts a plate with screws to increase the angulation of the hind limb.
- Intracapsular stabilization using a strip of muscle for a graft to create a new ligament.

While arthroscopy is the human norm, the canine stifle differs noticeably and arthroscopy has not yet become widely

available. However, in a handful of veterinary facilities, arthroscopy is offered to debride ligament fragments and a prosthetic ligament is inserted to replace the ruptured CCL.

Interestingly, despite cost and complexity....there are NO studies that indicate superiority of one surgery to another. Research studies performed in unbiased settings demonstrate that functional outcomes are equal with all procedures.

However, veterinary university research has demonstrated improved outcomes with physical rehabilitation added to any of these procedures.

**Note:** The rehabilitation treatment plan varies remarkably for each of these procedures and is based primarily upon the performed surgery. An educated canine rehabilitation therapist *must* adjust the treatment plan accordingly in order to minimize complications and assure/speed maximal functional outcomes.

### **Rehabilitation: General Management**

Think Preoperatively...Prepare & Get Ready!

Ideally, rehabilitation begins BEFORE surgery!

Whenever possible, aquatic therapy, cryotherapy (heat and cold), massage, sling and/or ramp walking and passive range of motion exercises should be started *before* surgery. These modalities help to maintain muscle size and strength. Weight loss is also sometimes a desired goal and some pounds can be lost while waiting for the surgical date!

Also, a preoperative plan allows the dog and owner to 'practice' using products and techniques *before* the stress of surgery. The therapist may also have added helpful postop suggestions that prepare you, your dog and home environment. Examples are: securing rugs, adding rubber backed throw rugs for ease of walking on slippery surfaces, adding ramps to outside stairs and utilizing products for the paws to reduce falls.

All of this helps you and your Pyr to be better prepared for surgery.

### **The Benefits of Rehabilitation are Well Documented**

Several university studies have now demonstrated the positive benefits to physical rehabilitation following CCL repair.

Rehabilitation has been documented to improve muscle mass and attenuate muscle atrophy that occurs following surgery. Without physical rehabilitation, dogs commonly lose 30% (or more) of their muscle mass within 3 weeks postoperatively. This loss of muscle increases the concussive forces through the joint and adds significantly to joint stress.

Studies also demonstrate that rehabilitation speeds the return of both passive and active range of motion, thereby increasing joint flexibility and adding to the overall speed of recovery and earlier weight bearing. Rehabilitation increases blood and lymph flow through the affected area, promotes early resolution of inflammation, prevents joint contractures, and reduces compensatory injury of other limbs.

All of these factors: reduce the incidence and progression of arthritis, decrease pain, lower complication rates, speed recovery and improve canine/ owner satisfaction!

### **Physical Rehabilitation Following CCL Repair - Part 2**

#### **Postoperative Rehabilitation**

Once the veterinarian and you have determined that your Pyr needs surgery, the course of rehabilitation varies based upon the type of surgical procedure, the dog's overall physical condition and the caregiver's limitations. Hence, postop care is *always* individualized. The following serves only as a guide that should be supervised by a professional educated and certified in canine rehabilitation.

Phase 1> Immediately After Surgery until Toe Touch Weight Bearing

- Plan to be home with your dog for at least the first 2-4 days after surgery.
- Ice, Ice, Ice! Ice packs can be made by mixing: 2 cups of water, ½ cup rubbing alcohol, and 2 tablespoons of salt into a good quality zip lock bag; then freeze. Double bagging is a good idea to prevent leaks. The texture, when frozen, should be a very dense slush.
- Prior to icing, wrap a thick bath towel around the stifle to protect the skin. White dogs are more prone to skin damage from ice, so the layered protection of a towel and frequent skin checks is essential. Assure the ice placement so coverage surrounds most of the entire stifle joint. Ice should be applied for 15-30 minutes 3-5 times per day until all swelling is gone (several days).
- Passive Range of Motion (PROM) should be demonstrated by a trained professional and can be slowly performed to the stifle and hock starting the first postoperative day. Be certain you have a clear understanding of these exercises before attempting and perform PROM 2-5 times per day. Never move the joint or limb quickly and stop immediately at the point of resistance. Each day, the range of motion will slowly improve.
- Use a Bite-Me™ or Elizabethan collar any time your dog is unsupervised to prevent chewing of the suture area.
- Be certain to bring home from the veterinary clinic an ample supply of pain medication for the first several days to week(s) following surgery.
- Do **not** allow *any* running or jumping after surgery for *at least* 8-12 weeks. Do allow the dog some normal walking in the house and encourage weight bearing following surgery.
- Use a sling, as an assistive device, for the first 3-5 days when going outside or while walking on slippery surfaces. The sling or folded towel goes around the lower abdomen and is used to catch or secure the dog in case of a slip. The sling can also assist in position transitions from lying to standing.
- Massage the lower back and entire leg to reduce soreness.
- Check with your veterinarian and therapist regarding the amount of suggested walking. The amount of walking varies depending on type of procedure. The intracapsular and extracapsular repairs allow for 5 minutes of walking, especially for “potty breaks,” 4-5 times per day and this is slowly increased by about 5-7 minutes per week. The TPLO does not initially permit this much walking due to the healing fracture site.
- Added modalities: some therapists also use electrical stimulation for muscle contraction (NMES) and transcutaneous nerve stimulation for pain (TENS).

Phase 2> Increased Weight Bearing

In this phase the Pyr should be using the limb 100% of the walking steps even though there will be a limp. *If your Pyr is not partially weight bearing by 2 weeks after surgery definitely seek professional rehabilitation help.*

Swimming in a *therapeutic pool* often begins 8-14 days postoperatively or when sutures are removed. Swimming following a TPLO is usually not started until 4 weeks (or more) after surgery or when the first X-rays are performed. The warm water environment allows for muscle relaxation, improved passive and active range of motion and re-builds muscle quickly.

Leash walking should be sustained (no stops) and is increased as weight bearing improves. Short frequent walks are better tolerated, with less joint stress, than long walks. Walking 2-4 times per day on a flat surface is ideal. Inclines can be added slowly. Usually, walking starts at 5-7 minutes per session and the walks are increased by about 5 minutes per week before trotting is added. Slow walking is the best gait for encouraging early and maximal weight bearing.

If the dog experiences any worsening of lameness or soreness, the walking schedule must be decreased.

Ankle weights can be added for supervised walking in the house and outside. Never leave weights on unattended. Talk to your therapist about the proper amount of weight.

Continue massage, PROM and ice if there is any swelling.

Weight loss should be a desired goal if the dog is overweight.

Sit to stand exercises, walking up hills, and walking safe, gradual stairs help to increase thigh muscle. Walking over ground poles (PVC, 2x4's, etc.) spaced about 1 body length apart helps to restore strength and natural rhythmic gait.

During summer months remember to protect any shaved areas from the sun!

### Phase 3> Consistant Weight Bearing and Adding Trot Steps

At this phase the dog will have no limp at the walk and use the leg consistently at the walk and an occasional trot step.

Begin weaving at the walk for 1-2 minutes. The frequent change of direction at the walk should not cause soreness. If there is no lameness with weaves, then begin 5-minute sets of straight line trotting on a flat surface during each walk session. Pyrs do not normally trot for prolonged periods so 5-10 minutes of trotting 1-2 times per day is adequate exercise.

Add trotting *up* hills and some weaving at the trot. Continue the other previously described exercises. Crawling through a tunnel or under objects helps build hind strength. "Dancing" is permitted by allowing the dog to stand on the hind legs while you gently support the front legs. When dancing, do not allow the dog to stand totally upright because this can be stressful to the low back. In the 'dance' position, ask the dog to walk backwards 3-5 steps to maximize extension of the hip and stifle. Slowly increase the number of dance steps to 10-15 if possible.

### Final Phase> Sustained Trotting and Improving Endurance/Strength

At this phase, the Pyr should not have any limping during the short sustained trot on flats, hills or while weaving. Now the goals are to further increase muscle size and strength by adding a canter and return to normal activity.

If not aggressive or dominant, add tug-of-war games to engage the hind legs with deep squat pulling. To engage the hind legs, hold the tug in a high position to engage the drive with the hind legs. [Holding the tug down or close to the ground causes more work with the forelimbs than the hind.]

Begin allowing a supervised canter or 'free' time while in a fenced area for 10 minutes. Do not chase the dog to force a canter but allow the dog to canter freely if it wishes. I suggest walking the yard first to assure there are no animals to chase when the dog is released. Do not encourage sudden running but allow the dog to select its gait going from a warm up walk/trot to canter. Slowly increase the time outside.

Continue the walks with trots as described before.

Continue the weight loss program until goals are met.

Continue swimming in a therapeutic pool or, if desired, outside ponds if your Pyr likes to swim. Using a life vest helps build confidence.

Maintain your Pyr on a walking program of at least 35 minutes per day, 5 days per week for its lifetime. **Don't** be a weekend (or seasonal) warrior!

Always perform ample warm-up time before *any* performance event...including conformation showing.

Following injury and surgery there will be some arthritis to the stifle joint. Consider glucosamine/chondroitin joint supplements for life.

### Conclusion

Keep in mind that your Pyr may never be totally 100% 'normal' after surgery.

Most veterinarians feel that peak recovery does not occur until about 6-12 months after surgery. However, with a skilled surgeon, postoperative rehabilitation, proper lifelong care and weight management, your Pyr will be at its absolute functional best.

### About The Author

Jody Chiquoine is the owner of Fitter Critters, a canine physical rehabilitation and hydrotherapy (indoor swimming pool) center in Lee, MA. Jody has practiced and studied canine rehabilitation since 1999. She is a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist, Certified Canine Massage Therapist and a member of the American Canine Sports Medicine Association. In addition to providing rehabilitation for dogs after surgery and those with chronic conditions, she works with performance dogs, offering gait analysis and gait retraining.

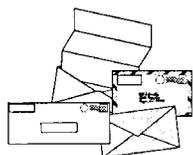
Jody has presented canine rehabilitation lectures to the students at Tufts Veterinary School and teaches canine massage courses to dog owners. She is a published author on the subjects of canine rehabilitation, hydrotherapy and canine massage.

Jody holds a Master's degree in nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner and has 13 years of human rehabilitation experience, as well as having worked in the clinical areas of surgery, cancer care and geriatrics. She draws on this experience in caring for her clients.

Active in Great Pyrenees Rescue for the past 9 years, Jody helped to establish Northeast Great Pyr Rescue (NEPR) in 2003 and serves as NEPR President.

*(Editors' Note: This article is presented here through the auspices of the Great Pyrenees Club of America's Health Committee and with the permission of the author. It may NOT be reprinted without permission!)*

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### *Dear Penny*

*Dear Penny,*

My name is Willow and I am 4 years old. I live in a village called Waitati which is 16 kilometres north of the city of Dunedin in New Zealand. I live here with my Pyr family including my father Frodo who is 6, my grandmother Misty who is really old—nearly 12, my auntie Ayla who is 8, my cousin Snowman who is just younger than me (my very, very best friend next to my dad), my five year-old cousin Stryder and my two year-old cousin Erin (she was born on St Patrick's Day—there is a lot of Irish blood in the family). We all live with our human parents, Martin and Ronda Trent.

My Pyr dad was going to be writing this but he is not himself these days. The people won't talk about it but there is a very big lump on his leg and he is getting very special treatment. Personally I do not see how having a lump on your leg stops you from typing. Auntie Ayla wanted to do the writing because she used to send e-mails all the time to her friend Frankie and she thought she was best qualified, but her spelling is appalling so the people said she couldn't.

I am the only Pyr living here who wasn't born here. I

come from overseas. Well, the North Island, actually. New Zealand is made up of three main islands: North Island, South Island and Stewart Island. Whoever named them must have run out of ideas after naming Stewart Island. I digress. We live by the sea (Pacific Ocean) and often go for walks on the beach. That is great fun because we are allowed to run free and play in the water. Often we can smell where the seals have been but as yet we have never seen one. Just as well, the people say, as there could be all sorts of problems if we did come across them. I don't know that I would like to meet anything that is still alive and smelling that bad. Sometimes we are not allowed to go too far as there are penguins nesting and they can get frightened. As if we would hurt them. Many years ago I am told, our great grandparents, Luka and Yoda, found two baby Fairy Terns that had fallen from their nest and rescued them. (They lived in the house among the Pyrs and the cats until they fledged). I didn't know Luka but I remember old Yoda. He was here when I arrived. He was only days off 14 when he went to the Rainbow Bridge. I have heard lots of stories about adventures at the beach. It is a great place to play.

Once again I digress. I suppose you wonder what we are doing down here. Well, I tell you for one, we are not fighting off wolves and bears. There are none. There are lots of sheep though, 15 sheep for every person living in this country, as well as llamas, alpacas and goats that might need a bit of protection. From what you may well ask? Well, roaming dogs for one, nasty wild pigs and peo-

ple. Okay, I am only dreaming. In reality, although dogs, pigs and people are a threat, not many of us Pyrs get to do our real job of protecting those 60 million sheep. Granny Misty's sister does. She lives on a farm with people who came here from Germany. They have Polish Lowland Sheepdogs who would eat the little lambs, so Misty's sister protects them. She is very good at it. Misty's nephew Humphrey lives near Auckland (our biggest city) and he has a herd of alpacas to protect. Probably only from people. Ayla's sister lives on a dairy farm but I don't think the cows need much protection. Lots of the Pyrs in this country live on farms but do no real work. Farms here are usually very automated, and highly industrialised so Pyrs do not have a role. Another of Ayla's sisters lives at a vineyard and olive grove. Auntie Ayla was from a litter of seven girls.

Next time I will tell you more of what we get up to down on the 50 degree parallel.

Bye for now,

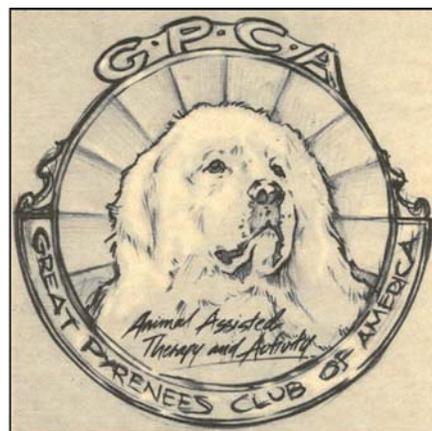
**Willow Trent** (CH Ariege Envinyatar at Tarascon)

*(Editors' Note: It is with great sadness that we report that Willow's dad Frodo went to the Rainbow Bridge a few days after this letter was written. We extend our deepest sympathy to her human and Pyr families.)*

*Photo by Ronda Trent*



Willow (R) and Snowman Trent



## Therapy Dog Visits and Certification

by Judy Skorup and David Kintsfater

*(Editor's Note: This article is based on an outline for a presentation given by Judy Skorup in June of 2007. Not having attended the presentation, but having done canine therapy work for 3 years, David has fleshed out the article from his own experience.)*

**Definition.** Canines provide therapeutic assistance to humans in a number of settings and through various types of interaction. This article does not cover the roles of professional "Service Dogs," but rather focuses on how dogs and handlers can provide emotional therapy to patients or residents during visits to a hospital, nursing home, school or library.

### Certification.

Many facilities will require that the canine and handler be certified and most certification services provide liability insurance, so certification is highly recommended!

The first step is basic obedience as covered in courses available from most AKC dog training clubs. This training helps the dog and the handler to communicate with each other, a necessity in a therapy situation.

The next step should probably be obtaining Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification, an AKC program requiring the dog to demonstrate basic good manners in a social environment. Testing is offered at the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club's Canine Learning Experience every January in Allentown, and at most GPCA National Specialties. Enough dog organizations offer the test that it should not be difficult to find a testing site.

Even without Judy's experience in competitive obedience David has successfully obtained a CGC certificate for two Pyrs on their first attempts, so it is not a difficult task.

### Therapy Dog Organizations and Their Tests

1. Therapy Dogs International, Incorporated, Flanders, NJ. Application, one 15-20 minute long test combining socialization and obedience skills, yearly fee and proof of annual veterinary visit. Phone: 1-973-252-9800; e-mail: tdi@gti.net www.tdi-dog.org. This organization probably has the least rigorous testing requirements and many sites offering the CGC test also offer TDI certification for a small additional fee upon the completion of a few additional, therapy-related tasks.

2. Therapy Dogs Incorporated, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Application, three tests in a nursing home/hospital setting with certified tester, yearly fee. Phone: 1-877-843-7364, or visit www.therapydogs.com.

3. Delta Society. Expensive and must retest every two years. Must buy a book and video, take in-home class using the book and video, complete forms and a take-home test, take 30 minute on-site test with three evaluators scoring you and the dog. On-site test requires solid obedience and good temperament skills. Bi-annual fee.

### Getting Started

A. Nursing Home- Phone call to Administrator or Activities Director of the facility. Usually no problems. Set up a date and time. David's experience has been that nursing homes may require health certificates for the human handler, including a TB test.

B. Hospital- Phone call to Administrator or Head Nurse of the Floor. Answers vary greatly from hospital to hospital. Some may want only certified dogs and may request background check by police on handler, as well as blood work on handler. Best to ask to visit only the person you know who is in that hospital, have name and room number ready to give hospital personnel.

### First Visits

A. Handler's appearance- neat and clean

B. Dog's appearance- clean and brushed

C. Dog accessories- copy of rabies and other shots to give to nursing home administration (1st visit only), Gentle Leader/harness/choker/buckle collar. No prong collars nor Flexi-Leads ever.

D. Age of dog- not before 4 months and all puppy shots must be completed

E. First visit- keep it short and positive

1. Puppy visits- 10-15 min., then bathroom break, 10-15 min., then leave.

2. Young dog/Adult dog- 15 min. visit, then bathroom break, return for another 15 - 30 mins.

### Level of Participation

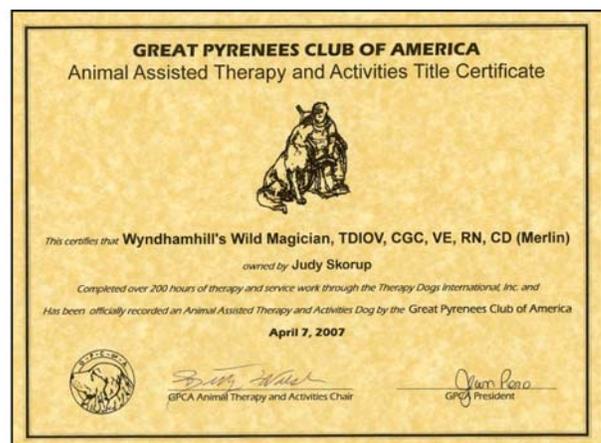
Dog therapy visits can be very rewarding, even if you or your dog are only up to a very limited schedule. Clondike Kintsfather was only certified at age 9½ and was diagnosed with lymphoma a year later. She managed a monthly visit to a local nursing home with a small band of fellow canines for most of the rest of her life (and she lived past 13).



Clondike Kintsfather with one of her "regulars" on a therapy visit to a nursing home, Halloween, 1999.

Judy and Merlin Skorup, on the other hand, have participated in well over 200 therapy visits at various facilities and Merlin was recognized as an *Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities Dog* at the 2007 GPCA National Specialty. The GPCA now recognizes this level of participation with a plaque based on the drawing at the top of this article and with a certificate like Merlin's shown below.

Whatever your degree of interest, therapy work can provide your Pyr with a job that will enhance your relationship and provide you with some very heartwarming experiences. Think about it.





by Penny Pyrbred

The humans are still behind with the newsletter, as this was supposed to be the July issue. Since our last issue we have had a workshop on Rally Obedience and a very well-attended Pyrenean Fun Day featuring the return of the Fun Match. We also welcome Willow Trent as our new foreign correspondent from New Zealand.

Penny missed the Rally-O event but hears that it was a lot of fun and Pyrs are learning to enjoy this laid back form of obedience.

Pyrenean Fun Day was one of the best attended events in recent years with moderate weather, although still a bit warm for those of us in fur coats. There was the usual sumptuous feast for people and Pyrs, followed by a very casual Fun Match.



Dianne Migas presided with Barb Bowes serving as Judge. Sam Garces took Best Adult Dog, Cecily Heckman took Best Puppy, and Bonnie Skorup took Best Adult Bitch and Best in Match. Great fun was had by all!



Judge Barb Bowes congratulates Bonnie and Judy Skorup.

Coming up is the Penn-Dutch Regional at Macungie Park on Sat., Sept. 15th. Check the Club web page for ring times and join us at the pavilion for a picnic after the judging. Penny encourages everyone to come out and support our show Pyrs.

On Sat., Sept. 22nd we need people and Pyrs to staff a booth at a new "Meet the Breed" event from 10 am-2 pm in Quakertown. If you can help out, please contact Judy Skorup at [jaskorup@hotmail.com](mailto:jaskorup@hotmail.com).

See you soon.



Montana, Joe and Ellie Bezotsky on vacation at Beartooth Pass.

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## Applicants for Membership

**Key to abbreviations:** A=Associate Member, F=Full Member, H=Honorary Member, J=Junior Associate Member. G=GPCA Member. B=Breeder. (After Pyr's call name: D=Dog and B=Bitch)

<b>FRIDLING, Ilene (F)</b> E-Mail: infrid@aol.com	1633 Hancock Rd., N. Wales, PA 19454 Pyr: Colby-D	215-616-0575
<b>KERRIGAN, Casey (J)</b> E-Mail: luvapyr@aol.com	2400 Edge Hill Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 Pyr: Kane-D	215-659-1347
<b>MEEHAN, Francis (F)</b> E-Mail: pigdog40@msn.com	5 Chase Ct., Westhampton, NJ 08060 Pyr: Ozzie-D	609-288-6232
<b>MERCADO, Donna (A)</b> E-Mail: donna@pyrmania.com	120 Hazelton Dr., Greentown, PA 18426 Pyr: Danny Boy-D, Misty-B, Heidi-B	610-621-1697
<b>RYESKY, Linda (A) &amp; Matthew (A)</b> E-Mail: scarlitfyr@aol.com	685 Garfield Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446 Pyr: Lilah-B	215-378-9860
<b>SCARBOROUGH, Dolly (F)</b> E-Mail: tscar1712@yahoo.com	1400 Forrest Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810 Pyr: Winnie-B	302-529-7464

## Membership List Additions & Updates

<b>CORSON, Charles (A)</b> E-Mail: chipcorson@yahoo.com	170 N. Main St., Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 Pyr: Bear-D	856-223-1646
<b>GRESS, Ben (F) &amp; Kathy (F)</b> E-Mail: bgress@enter.net	3264 Highland Rd., Orefield, PA 18069 Pyr: Rocky-D, Kayla-B	610-398-1363
<b>MERKEL, Mark (F) &amp; Sharon (F)</b> E-Mail: skmerkel@verizon.net	32 Old Company Rd., Barto, PA 19504 Pyr: Tanzy-B	215-541-4353

Please welcome our new members whose names appear in red. Updated information is printed in blue.



### Upcoming Events

\***Sept. 15**– Penn-Dutch sponsored GPCA Regional Specialty held with the Lehigh Valley KC show, Macungie (PA) Park. FMI visit [www.PDGPCRegional.org](http://www.PDGPCRegional.org).

\***Sept. 16**– Berks County KC show, Kutztown (PA) Fairgrounds.

\***Sept. 22**– Penn-Dutch booth at the “Meet the Breed”

event at the Quakertown (PA) Tractor Supply Co., 10 am-2 pm. FMI contact Judy Skorup at [jaskorup@hotmail.com](mailto:jaskorup@hotmail.com).

\***Oct. 20**– Penn-Dutch Fall Walk-in-the-Woods, Beltzville (PA) State Park. FMI contact Barb Bowes at 570-386-3017 or [greatpyr@enter.net](mailto:greatpyr@enter.net).

\***Dec. 1**– Penn-Dutch Holiday Party, Lancaster Co. (PA) Central Park. FMI contact Barb Bowes at 570-386-3017 or [greatpyr@enter.net](mailto:greatpyr@enter.net).

\*Red denotes Penn-Dutch events.

\*Blue denotes other Pyr-related events.

# 73rd Annual GPCA National Specialty

April 30 – May 3,  
2008  
Westlake, Ohio



Hosted by the  
**HEART OF OHIO GREAT PYRENEES CLUB**

Celebrating  
“Past, Present, and Future”

The Heart of Ohio Great Pyrenees Club invites you to join us for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual GPCA National Specialty to be held at the Westlake Holiday Inn. The hotel is located in Westlake, Ohio, a prestigious suburb of Cleveland, at the intersection of I-90 and Crocker Road. It is 15 minutes from Downtown Cleveland and 20 minutes from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.



**We are honored to have a distinguished judging panel:**

Conformation – **Mr. Keith Savage**, England  
Obedience/Rally – **Mrs. Linda Mac Donald**, Ohio  
Futurity – **Mrs. Valerie Seeley**, New Jersey  
Puppy Sweeps – **Mr. Michael Floyd**, Washington  
Veteran Sweeps – **Mrs. Betty Wade-Warmack**, Washington  
Junior Showmanship – **Ms. Carrie Stuart-Parks**, Idaho  
Draft Dog – **Mr. Steve Likevich and Ms. Sue Sanvido**, Ohio

## **Holiday Inn Westlake**

1100 Crocker Road  
Westlake, Ohio 44145  
(440) 871-6000

Online reservations: [www.holidayinnwestlake.com](http://www.holidayinnwestlake.com)

- Enter arrival and departure dates
- Click on Corporate, Group and IATA identification
- Enter preferences ( King or 2 Doubles)
- Enter the Group/Booking Code : **HOH**

Room rate is **\$79.00 per night** (single, double, triple) plus 15.5% occupancy tax.

**For more information contact:** Carolyn Yeager, Lisa Fouras (Co-Chairs):

P.O. Box 147 Novelty, Ohio 44072

(440) 463-5583 or email: [acsgincyager@aol.com](mailto:acsgincyager@aol.com)

***www.2008gpcanational.org***

## 2007 GPCA Regional Specialty

This Regional is dedicated in loving memory of fellow  
Penn-Dutch Member & dear friend

*Karl Edinger*

Hosted by Penn-Dutch GPC in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley KC

**Date:** September 15th, 2007

**Location:** Macungie Memorial Park—Macungie, PA

**Closes:** Wednesday—August 29th, 2007—12:00 Noon

**Superintendent:** Jim Rau Dog Shows, [www.raudogshows.com](http://www.raudogshows.com)

**Hotel Accommodations:** Days Inn — 610 395-3731 <http://www.daysinnallentown.com/>

**We are proud to welcome our  
Puppy & Vet. Sweepstakes Judge  
(Spayed/Neutered allowed in Veteran Sweeps!)**

**Dr. Valerie Seeley**

and

**Breed Judge**

**Mr. Steven Gladstone**



*Make it a weekend of showing (history of Majors)*

Pocono Mountain Kennel Club on Friday

Berks County Kennel Club on Sunday



Penn-Dutch will be holding a DNA Collection Clinic for the very important

**CHIC DNA Repository Program**

Please contact Dianne Migas @ [bluepyrs@comcast.net](mailto:bluepyrs@comcast.net) FMI or visit

[www.PDGPCRegional.org](http://www.PDGPCRegional.org)

Don't miss our traditional **"Tailgate Party"** immediately after Breed Judging.

Be sure to join us later that **evening for a "mixer" back at the Hotel!**

There will be raffles and items up for auction and **FOOD** at both parties.

FMI—CONTACT SHOW CHAIR—Dianne Migas [bluepyrs@comcast.net](mailto:bluepyrs@comcast.net)

# Pyr-A-Scoop

Editorial Staff  
239 E. Weiss St.  
Topton, PA 19562

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## *Fall Walk at Beltzville State Park*

*by Barbara Bowes*

This Fall's Walk-in-the-Woods will be at Beltzville State Park in Carbon County on October 20th, starting at 11:00 am. The park is five miles east of Lehighton off US 209.

Beltzville has a number of great hiking trails that range in length from .5 to 2.5 miles. Of particular interest is the half mile Blue Falls Trail that has some very pretty waterfalls and rock formations that make great backdrops for Pyrenean photography! The trails are not a difficult hike, but you do want to wear appropriate gear for being in the woods for 5 miles.

So let's hope the weather is cool and sunny and you and your Pyrs are ready to hike out and enjoy a crisp fall day in the woods!

## *Rules*

Beltzville is a State Park so a few rules apply:

1. No alcohol
2. Keep your Pyrs on a six foot lead.
3. As always, clean up after your Pyr. Let's only leave footprints and Pyr hair!

## *Directions*

From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike take exit 74 and pay toll to go 209 South. Make left onto 209 **North**, then left again at Harrity Road, the first left after you get on 209 North.

Make the first right onto Pohopoco Drive to Park Entrance, or follow the signs to the Park. We will be at Pavilion One, right off Pohopoco Drive. Just look for the Penn-Dutch signs as you near the picnic area.

## *Food*

The Club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert and beverages to share.

To coordinate the food items, please contact Bea Gottesman at [lurvapyr@aol.com](mailto:lurvapyr@aol.com) or 215-659-1347.

## *FMI*

Contact Barbara Bowes at [greatpyr@enter.net](mailto:greatpyr@enter.net) or 570-386-3017.

