

2015 Newsletter

July Edition

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2nd Quarter 2015 Highlights

During the second quarter of 2015, we had 25 dogs join us at Rescue: Annie's ten puppies (Gilligan, Ginger, Lovey, Maryann, Professor, Skipper, Thurston Howell, Ellen, Phil and Rachel), Avalanche, Callie, Charlie, Dolly, Elvis, Honey, Ivory, Lucky,

Mishka, Otis, Sebastian, Snowflake, Stella, Vodka and Zeus.

The following 28 dogs are very happy in their new forever homes: Irene and all eight of her puppies (Bates, Clarkson, Cora, Edith, Matthew, Mosely, Thomas, and Violet) as

well as Artie, Avalanche, Bandit, Barrow, Buck, Charlie, Hugo, JR, Lady, Marge, Mishka, Naomi, Oreo, Simba, Vodka, Zumba and three of Annie's puppies (Maryann, Phil and Rachel). We are so happy they found loving families.

Annie's Puppies



Annie came to Rescue the very end of February from the southwest corner of Virginia (see first photo). She was found in an abandoned building and was reported to be seen hanging around with an Australian Shepherd.

Annie kept us on our toes right up until the day she delivered her litter. There were many false alarms which meant several sleepless nights. She went



into labor the evening of April Fool's Day (seemed fitting) and became the proud mama of five boys and five girls.

Annie was a great mom. Any time we removed a puppy to check it, she seemed to look around, count noses and then look at us until we replaced her missing pup.

Based on what the puppies look like today,



we believe the daddy was a hound. The middle photo shows the pups at about two months old. The photo on the right is Gilligan at a recent adoption event.

We currently have three of her puppies in their new homes, with four others under consideration. And Annie is still looking for her future home.



Above: Lady and Hugo

Happy Tails – Lady and Hugo

{Editor's note: Lady and Hugo were adopted in May of this year and are being spoiled rotten up in Maryland. We had a chance to see them recently when they were here for a "vacation". They looked great!}

Lady & Hugo are doing wonderfully. They are a joy to have in our family. We are finding them to be very affectionate and loving, and require a lot of hugging and petting. They are slowly finding their way onto the couch

(mostly Lady) when we are watching TV. I'm not sure what show is their favorite...just so one of us is touching them.



Above: Xena and Arthas

Happy Tails – Rachel (now known as Xena)

{Editor's note: It was my intention to write a story about Rachel and her siblings, NeyMar, Huck and Riley. I would love to hear from the owners of these puppies for the next newsletter. Here's an update on Rachel}. When we adopted Rachel last September, she was a shy, 28 pound, three and a half month old. Now, Xena is over 70 pounds and growing like a weed. She has become a fiesty, curious, loving girl. She joined Arthas (an AGPR adoption in 2013, formerly known as Thor), a now five year old Pyr who needed

a friend to play with his lazy self. While the first day or two was a little bumpy, with Arthas vehemently setting boundaries, the two are now inseparable best friends. When it snowed this winter, they spent hours in the snow in the back yard, not wanting to come in, play-fighting nonstop. She constantly picks friendly fights with him and he loves it! Xena's also learned a lot of social skills from him such as respecting his boundaries (though the sassy little sister in her likes to test his limits). While Arthas has been

my husband's dog from day one, Xena has been my little girl since I "test-walked" her at AGPR. She follows me everywhere. Xena likes: stand-up dancing with her father, back rubs, bugging Arthas, ice cubes, being my napping buddy, car rides, and dirty socks. Xena doesn't like: getting her paws wet first thing in the morning, big crowds, being bossed around, and when we eat all the bacon without sharing.



Above: Xena being cute.

Happy Tails – Maggie

{Editor's note: Maggie had a tough life before coming to AGPR. She was fearful and mistrusting and would flinch when you would go to pet her and lunge at you to grab a treat. Maggie was my favorite girl...I worked with her every time I visited and taught her the "wait" game. She was not allowed to take a treat

from the ground until I gave her permission. I loved looking into her eyes when she was anxiously waiting for the nod of the head and "okay". She had a piece of my heart and I was so happy to know she went to a wonderful home. Her owners sent us a picture and a quick note}.

We wanted to send a photo of our beautiful girl relaxing in the backyard. She's been with us for a little more than eight months and we can't remember what life was like without her. Thank you for helping us complete our family so perfectly.



Above: Maggie

A New Home Visit Volunteer – Brad Sheffer

{Editor's note: AGPR needed a home visit done in the Suffolk, Virginia area and did not have a resource. We called Brad, a recent adopter, and he was happy to help out. Armed with a home visit checklist, off he went. Thanks to Brad, we were able to find Bandit a new home with a companion and lots of room to run. Thank you Brad!}

Sunnie is three years old and Walby is two. June 22 was our one year anniversary of their adoption. They have gotten into their fair share of mischief since they arrived, but I guess that's just dogs being dogs. They are great companions, and I'm a better person for having brought them to my home. I guess it's our home now.

Sunnie and Walby take their job of guarding the property very seriously. They have what I call Pyr paths worn in the ground along all the fence lines from where they go on patrol. However, there is always off duty time to enjoy a belly rub or a good brushing. Thank you AGPR for allowing me adopt my new best friends.



Enjoying their one year anniversary by relaxing in the yard. Sunnie and Walby are happy to have been adopted together.

A Thank You to Transport Volunteers

Not a week goes by that we don't get Great Pyrenees or two (or three) at a shelter somewhere in Virginia. Do we have room? Can we take the dog(s)? When can we pick him or her up? What follows are sometimes hours of coordinating the transport. Oftentimes, the dog is in the far southwest corner of Virginia. Quite a drive for one person! But Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue is lucky...we have a small team of dedicated individuals who are ready, willing and flexible. A typical transport might have Diane Prout or Ruthie Murray picking up the dogs in southwest Virginia and driving them up to a designated meeting place. The next leg of the journey is typically handled by Jack Stanton and his wife Helena or friend Wendy Alexander. They bring the Pyrs home

to the rescue kennels in Richmond, VA. Without transport volunteers like these (and others like Larry and Cathy Banner), the future for many of these wonderful dogs would not have happy endings. If you are interested in helping with transport, either bringing new dogs in or helping transport them to adoption events, please contact us at: agpr-news@verizon.net



Above left: Diane transferring Buck and Naomi to Jack in Charlottesville. Above right: Buck and Naomi arriving at the kennels.



Left: Ruthie Murray transferring Otis to Jack. Above: Wendy and Diane transferring Charlie for his ride to Richmond, VA.

Young Volunteers

A Tribute to Cotton by Kylie Carroll

{Editor's note: I met Kylie earlier this year when she asked if she could do something to help Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue. Since she and her family were up in northern Virginia, I asked her what she thought she would like to do. Her first suggestion was that she and her sister Lily could make some fleece blankets for the dogs. I thought that was wonderful. Kylie then told me she loved to draw and asked if she could write a story for a future newsletter advocating adopting an older dog. Why not?}

I have to admit that I was floored when I read her letter and saw her portrait of Cotton. There's so much love and passion and artistic talent inside that teenage girl...I just had to share it.

By the way, the sisters did deliver close to two dozen snuggly new dog blankets that they made. They are very appreciated by the dogs! Thank you Kylie and Lily.}

I was sent an angel on the day of December 17, 2009. She was dressed in white, and as I ran off the bus to greet her, the sun adorned her head with a glowing halo. I remember her soft fur pressed against my face when I hugged her close, and the way her dark eyes glistened in the light when she looked at me.

Above all, I remember that night. I remember the first flakes of what would become the biggest snowstorm in years falling softly. I remember walking Cotton in the darkness, but not

fearing the dark. I remember the way we gazed up at the falling snow. She pranced along, enjoying the sweet serenity of the night, me beside her. I was absolutely in awe with this wonderful thing at the end of the lead that I held in my hand. I knew then that she was special, and I know now that I was right.

Cotton was an angel that was sent to my family. We didn't know at the time just how much we needed her, but they say you never know a good thing until it's gone. We adopted Cotton from the Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue at age 8, and I never would have had it any other way. She was young at heart, always playful, and always mischievous, right up to the end. She loved us and we loved her for that and so much more. She was more than I ever could have asked for. She was my guardian dog and my guardian angel, and for that, Cotton, I will forever be grateful.

In the end, Cotton was sick, and that was a very difficult time for all of us. We did our best to make her comfortable, and as time was fleeting, I stayed by her side as she had done for me for the five beautiful years that she'd been in my life. My last memory of Cotton was much like my first. I knelt down to her level and looked into her eyes. They didn't sparkle as much as they used to, but they shine so bright in my memory. We both knew what was coming, and as wrapped my arms around her one last time, and hid my face in her familiar fur, I whispered



something that I had said a thousand times over but meant it with all of my heart, 'I love you.' As I was leaving, I begged her to be there when I returned, and I took one last photograph of my beautiful princess and I together. She wasn't there when I came back. She was gone.

People tell me that dogs don't go to Heaven. But I know deep down in my heart that I will see Cotton again, and for now, she will continue to watch over me from above.



Kylie and Cotton

Giving Old Dogs a Second Chance *by Howard Lewis*

My wife and I fostered Cotton (see the previous article) for about a month before the Carrolls adopted her in 2009. She was eight years old at the time. When Ed and Sharon Carroll came out to our farm right before Christmas to discuss adopting a Great Pyrenees, they were looking for a younger dog and were not interested in a dog such as Cotton. Cotton, however, was a very neat dog and, by the time Ed and Sharon left, they had decided to adopt her.

Having helped find homes for around 65 Pyrs through a local pet store in Middelburg, Virginia over the last half dozen years, my wife and I have heard all the reasons why people don't want to adopt older dogs. "They won't be around very long." "I want a dog to play with my children." "I am just taking over someone else's problem." "They can't be trained." "They just lie around." This is why older dogs (seven plus

years) often spend a year or more in rescue before finding a home. But in many ways, these worries, which incidentally can be true for a dog of any age, sell short the benefits that come with adopting an older dog. My wife and I can speak from experience about adopting an older dog.

In December 2007, we adopted Casper. For his first seven years, he had been chained to a tree for hours at a time near our farm in southwestern Loudoun County. He was over seven when we got him and was considered a "senior" by the county shelter. At the most, we thought we would have him for another three years or so. We never dreamed that he would have a second life with us, but that is exactly what happened. He was with us for another seven and a half years. In May, we had to say goodbye to Casper but we'll always feel that adopting him was one of the best decisions we ever made. He was the sweetest dog ever...

there's no other way to describe Casper.

He fit in with our other two Pyrs, Lucy and Bear, from day one, although Bear grumbled a little bit at first about the new guy. For the first time in Casper's life he had freedom to roam around a yard. That was apparently a big deal for him. Every so often he would be sleeping in the yard and suddenly get up, run around the house once, lie back down and go to sleep again. It was almost as if he were saying, "I always wanted to do that!"

So, we urge people thinking about adopting a dog at least to consider the older ones. It may be a better fit than they realize. Casper was proof of that. We miss him terribly but will always be glad we gave an old dog a second chance.

Young Volunteers - Spring "Spa Day"

It was a beautiful day near the end of May. The school year was coming to an end, but the students from Hermitage Vet Tech program weren't ready to start their Summer vacations yet.

Nineteen students and their teacher spent the day volunteering at the kennels – walking, grooming, bathing and de-matting over a dozen dogs. AGPR was very grateful for all their hard work! Their special project included getting Lady groomed for her big adoption the following day.

AGPR is looking forward to seeing the students again this Fall.



Above: First bath of the day!



Above: Lady and her "make over" team.



Left: Puppy Sebastian's spa treatment.



Right: Connor practicing "down"

Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue

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Email your photo
and/or story to the
address above.
Include your name and
your Pyr's name as you
would like it printed. All
submissions will be
edited for style, clarity,
and length.

Upcoming Adoption Events:

~ August 8 ~
Ashland, VA Petco
(11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
Rt. 1 & Rt. 54
Ashland, VA 23005

~ August 22 ~
(11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
Warrenton, VA Petco
251 W. Lee Highway
Warrenton, VA 20186

AGPRescue is a
501(c)(3) organization -
all donations are tax
deductible.

Spring "Spa" Day (cont'd)



Left: Lady and the Vet Tech team;
Above: "Puppy love" (Annie's litter)

Veterinary Science at Hermitage Technical Center is a two year program for high school juniors and seniors in Henrico County. It attracts students who have a love of animals and who wish to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. First-year students learn the basics of animal husbandry, breed recognition, behavior, anatomy, and nutrition. Second-year students, under the direction of

Licensed Veterinary Technician Karen Bowles, learn medical terminology, restraint and handling, and other skills necessary to work as a veterinary assistant. Her class also has a grooming business. Students work on teams of 3-4 to trim nails, clean ears, brush and de-mat, bathe and dry dogs and cats. They do this every Thursday throughout the school year, and the money they make goes towards classroom pet

supplies, grooming and cleaning supplies, and sending students to state and national competitions. Since its inception in 2003, the program has helped hundreds of students to decide on a career pathway and has given them the knowledge and skills needed to obtain jobs in the animal care field, and to gain entry into Veterinary Technician programs and Veterinary Schools.

How you can help...

Volunteer Time

Want some exercise and love? Come out and walk the Pyrs and spend time socializing them. We can also use help transporting dogs to adoption events or from shelters or rendezvous locations to our kennels. Our big white fluffy dogs need brushing and bathing now that the weather is hot.

There's always a list of "honey do's" for a work group to tackle (painting, minor repairs). So come join us!

Donate Supplies

We can always use supplies... some of the typical needs are:

- Dog biscuits (all sizes)
- Blankets (preferably polyester) and towels
- Pedigree canned dog food (chopped chicken)
- Pork rolls (for chewing)
- Hard tough toys
- x-large dog crates
- Stainless steel water buckets
- Pill pockets
- Postage stamps, file folders, labels, office supplies.

Fundraising

Any organization that does rescue is always in need of funding. If you would like to offer financial help, please feel free to make a donation. The money goes directly to the care and placement of the Pyrenees we rescue. To send a donation by check please make your check payable to:

Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue
8976 Battlefield Park Road
Richmond, VA 23231

For more information on how you can help, e-mail us at AGPR-news@verizon.net