A big THANK YOU to the dozen Genworth volunteers who came out to the kennels to help assemble outdoor kennels for our “special needs” Pyrs. The outdoor kennels were purchased using a grant from ARF (Animal Rescue Fund) in Middleburg, VA. The team used their creativity and engineering know-how and were able to reconfigure the kennel materials to enlarge the original kennel size. Our Pyrs are very grateful for the additional space. And we greatly appreciate all of Genworth’s hard work and enthusiasm.

Joshua (now Simon), Limey (now Nala), Lola, Maggie (now Madison), Marshall, Parma, Pinky (now Patou), Sadie, Samson, Snow, Snowy (now Willow), and Tawny (now Aubrey).

Blue and Rosie the lab are both in loving foster homes.

Congratulations and thank you to their new families!
Pyrfest 2017

This year’s event was so much fun! Great fall weather, food, music, talking with other Pyr owners, education, shopping...and best of all, lots of big, white fluffiness. Here are just a few numbers:

- 43 Pyrs/canines in attendance accompanied by 83 humans
- 49 Silent Auction items (most of which were bid on)
- Shopping - Pottery, tee shirts and new sweatshirts, limited edition of Pyr ornaments and bargain table items
- $3,500 received (this will feed the Pyrs on site through the end of the year)

Thanks to all who attended and/or supported! Looking forward to a repeat performance in 2018. Enjoy more photos on our website: www.agprescue.org
**Samsung Volunteers**

On October 13, several members of the Samsung team came by to continue assembling several outdoor kennels for the Pyrs. Samsung volunteers offer their assistance twice a year and roll up their sleeves and tackle whatever we throw at them. No task is too small for them - scrubbing and bleaching the outdoor dog houses, painting kennel panels, spreading gravel - they don’t care as long as their day includes walking and loving the dogs.

This fall, the team helped install the finicky chain link fencing on the frames of some of the outdoor kennels.

We are very grateful for the grant from ARF and our volunteer teams like Samsung and Genworth.

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**Some Happy Adoptees - 3Q17**

Left: Becca and Samson together and loving it
Right: Debra guarding her front doorstep

Left: Snow smiling about being adopted
Right: Jackie saying goodbye to her time at AGPR
Far right: Luna (formerly known as Cream)

Editor’s Note: My apologies to Samsung for accidentally deleting the photos I took of the team. The Pyrs appreciate their chance to appear in the newsletter. Mea culpa!
An update from Custus— Has it really been a year already? When we first came to our forever home, we didn’t know what to expect. But a year later, lots of love, plenty of food and “cookies” (to put on the weight we needed after being so skinny) and for Judy, so many belly rubs they can’t be counted anymore – well, life is just grand! Now, my humans say I just need to find my snooze button in the mornings, especially on the weekends.

P.S. I think Judy is spoiled rotten! She gets the sofa.

Lily - Lily made herself at home right away, taking the most comfortable spots she can find. She loves to play with her brother Odin and pretty much any other dog she meets.
Thank you to everyone participating in the 3rd Annual AGPR Calendar Photo Contest! It was a HUGE success (and the Pyrs are very grateful). The contest exceeded our goal of $8,000 and raised $10,080. There were 32 beautiful/handsome entries competing for the honor of “Cover Pyr” or “Pyr of the Month”. There were a number of ties which means more Pyrs featured as "Pyr of the month" on the calendar pages. Here’s the lineup (if the number 2 is listed after the month, that indicates two photos featured):

**Cover**: Cotton (last minute votes pushed him into the lead)

January: Cody
February: Bailey Bug
March (2): Ben; Aurora
April: Isaac
May: Simon and Willow
June (2): Sophie; Becca and Samson
July (2): Wesley; Octavius
August (2): Grayson; Odin
September (2): Brooks; Tulip
October (2): Gabby; Congee
November (2): Molly; Jacob
December (2): Paladin; Brewer

The other 11 entries will appear in the calendar in smaller photos to decorate the calendar pages.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

There’s still time to order calendars: email us at agpr-news@verizon.net for ordering information. Calendars are $20 each and are due to arrive at the end of November. They can be picked up at the Middleburg Christmas Parade and the AGPR kennels or can be mailed.

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**5 Helpful Holiday Hints to Safely Celebrate with Your Pups**

*Editor's note: Here’s a great article from our behavioral trainers at 2SpeakDog.*

It’s not too early to start thinking about holiday pet safety. Whether it’s house guests, food and decor, safety around kids, or gifting a dog for the holidays, we have you covered! Check out this article from Kasey: [http://www.2speakdog.com/articles/safely-celebrate.html](http://www.2speakdog.com/articles/safely-celebrate.html)

And since you’re all wondering about pet photos... We all want that perfect pic with our pups; cute hat, Reindeer ears, lights, etc. Understand that your dog does not love this as much as you do and it can cause unneeded stress. Taking pictures with other dogs is also stressful and can cause contention between them. **Know your pup’s limits** and be aware of their body language under stress (i.e. tongue flicking, excessive yawning or the obvious: not complying). A picture can be just as cute by adding the effects (Christmas hat, cute sayings) after the fact. Our photo apps these days are amazing!

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**Photos with Santa**

We are partnering with the Parham Road Petco in Richmond, VA on Saturday, December 9th to offer a “Photos with Santa”. Petco will donate a portion of the proceeds to our deserving Pyrs. Hope all our Richmond friends will support us! Watch Facebook for more details.
Helping our Pyrs by Shopping

Thanks to many of you who have already signed up for the AmazonSmile program. Last year we averaged $35 per quarter (enough to feed one Pyr for a month). This past quarter, we hit a new high and received a check for $105.26. That’s enough to feed three dogs for a month! Let’s keep it up!

The holiday season is almost upon us. Many of us shop on-line, especially with Amazon.com. If you would like to help the Pyrs at AGPR, Amazon offers a program called AmazonSmile that will contribute a small percentage of sales to the charity of your choice. Here’s how you sign up:

1. Sign in to set up an account at: www.smile.amazon.com
2. Click on Accounts & Lists
3. Under Account Settings, pick Change Your Charity
4. Pick Your Charity => we are listed as Appalachian Great Pyrenees Association (not Rescue) in Henrico, VA
5. Click on Select and you are all set

You MUST access Amazon via www.smile.amazon.com or else your purchases will not be linked to AGPR. Your charity will be listed up near the top of the screen when you log in. Same products, just different log in.

Don’t forget!

* December 2, 2017- Middleburg Christmas Parade. RSVP by emailing: agpr-news@verizon.net

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