

**2018 Newsletter
1st Quarter Edition**

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1st Quarter 2018 Highlights

During the first quarter of 2018, twenty one dogs joined us at Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue:

Alex, Cain, Clancy, Dakota, Gracie, Happy, Kai, Kasey, Leo, Levi, Lufy, Magnus, Marshall, Phoebe, Poppy, Prince, Timber and the "fab four" (puppies John, Paul, George and Ringo).

The following seventeen dogs are very happy in their new forever homes: Bosco, Cain (now Ollie), Dakota (now Olivia), Gracie (now Sophie), Happy

(now Beefo), Jordie, Judge, Jury (now Jericho), Lucky, Paul (puppy—now Sanbona)), Poppy (now Callie), Pebbles, Prince, Ralphie, Ringo (puppy—now Aspen), Star, and Timber.

Banjo is still being loved in a foster home and is getting good reviews about being a wonderful house and farm dog.

Congratulations to the 1st Quarter adopted Pyrs and thank you to their new families!

Some Happy Adoptees - 1Q2018



Ollie (fka Cain - left) and Olivia (fka Dakota - right) came to AGPR together and are believed to be related. Both are Pyrenean Mastiffs, are absolutely stunning in

appearance, and very even tempered. The siblings were adopted together and are adjusting to city life. They walk to work several times a week and enjoy the office environment (and all the attention associated with it).

When at home, they enjoy being spoiled rotten, their city walks and the solitude of their back yard.



Prince (left), now known as Ari, is settling in quite nicely. His new Pyr sister (Abigail) is about his age. They enjoy their limited playing in the yard and then resting up on the furniture. Why limited? First Ari had a few restrictions after his neuter surgery. Then Abigail became a bit under the weather. Both Pyrs and family are looking forward to years of playing and crazy Pyr antics.

Some Happy Adoptees 1Q2018—cont'd



Timber is adjusting to his new home fantastically!!! Our entire family loves him, including Bruno. We adopted Bruno from Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue in 2011.

Timber is very well behaved for such a young boy, and seems to love us also. He's such a happy little boy.

{Editor's note: While every adoption is important and makes us happy, this one is truly special. Ralphie was with us for three years—just waiting for his perfect forever home}

Ralphie has such good manners. He sits in his big boy bed and patiently waits to be invited up on our bed. And always goes back to his own bed when told. We've never had

such a smart and obedient dog before.

Debra (formerly "shy Debra" while at AGPR) has become so relaxed since we brought Ralphie home. Many of our friends have commented that they see her smiling for the first time ever. I can tell she's very happy with the new arrangement.



{Editor's note: We had to laugh—this is what happens when you let your kids name your new dog- "Beefo"! But, as most Pyr owners know, Pyrs don't answer to their names anyway, so it really does not matter!}

Beefo (formerly Happy) is enjoying his new home. He has two female rescue

beagles—one who loves to play with him and the other who is still trying to figure out why this BIG dog is now in her house. And, as of last report, the cat is still staring him down.

He loved the snow—prancing around and eating it. And loves his daily walks (and sitting on laps).



Judge (left with his new girl friend Kate) and brother Jury (right—now known as Jericho) are in loving homes with loving families. Judge has his girl Pyr Kate to play with as well as a couple other dogs. Jericho also has a Pyr girl friend, Minnie (adopted from AGPR) and they are enjoying each other's company. Both boys are doing well and enjoy having Pyr ladies in their lives.



Some Happy Adoptees 1Q2018—cont'd



These two cuties are half of the four males left on the grounds of Virginia Tech. The quartet was named after the "Fab Four" - John, Paul George and Ringo. Ringo (left) has been renamed Aspen and is enjoying his yard and canine friends in northern VA. Paul (right), now known as Sanbona, has been named after the wildlife reserve in S. Africa which is home to several white lions. Sanbona is busy watching over his large family and enjoying their love.



Callie (left—formerly Pebbles) is a very sweet and loving young girl. When not working on her house and leash walking manners, she loves to lay at her teenager's feet while she does her homework. Callie's favorite pastime is having someone try to take her toys in the yard as she sprints back or forth with them in her mouth.

Poppy (right) is definitely trying to get the hang of being inside, but loves being with the kids. Her young person is the only one she will take cookies from to date. She is perfectly nonchalant about the other pets and goes in her crate with no problems.



Thank You Volunteers!



Our friends from Bank of America (left) came out to work on an almost Spring-like day in January. After scrubbing the doghouses (they looked great!), they enjoyed themselves walking many of the dogs and getting some Pyr love and attention in return.

Those same doghouses are getting a roof "facelift" (right). The parents of Pyr alum Judy and Custus have been generous in volunteering their time and energy to fix the roofs. The doghouses look great and the Pyrs are very grateful for making their doghouses warm and dry.



Several members of the VCU sorority Alpha Xi Delta came out to spend time with the dogs. They walked a half dozen Pyrs, helped take photos to post on Petfinder, and spent time loving and spoiling with the four puppies from Virginia Tech.



Happy Tails—Flashback One Year

{Editor's note - Happy One Year Gotcha Day to the Pyrs adopted 1Q2017. Hope you enjoy the updates from their families.}

Walter (formerly Sonny) None of us can believe that Walter has been with us for a year since we can not think of a time that he was not in our lives. Walter and his cat Lucy curl up and nap together {editor's note—love the look on the cat's face!}, while he wrestles non-stop with his canine brother, the 3 legged Oliver. Thanks so much for giving us the opportunity to love this big guy!



Matteo (left) is still a bit of a big baby but loves "gardening" with his dad and being outdoors. He is great friends with all his pack, including the feline ones. He's a complete love and easy to pet because you don't have to bend over. We love him!

Lacey (right) is so loving, energetic and comfortable in her surroundings. She has a favorite bay window to look out back on squirrel patrol, a favorite front window to see four other dogs who live across the street in different houses and of course the futon couch - her favorite bed/seat in the house. Here's Lacey enjoying her futon bed with her favorite gator friends who she carries to her bed with her.



Artica (formerly Addie) - is lovingly call Tika or Tiki and is doing great! She has her 7lb kitty to watch over. She enjoys her daily trip to dog school (doggy day care) and continues to practice her best therapy dog skills. She especially loves her trips to Home Depot where she can visit people and be adored. She has to say hi to all the kids she sees. Artica believes that she is a lap dog at heart and will happily lay down on her mom or sit in her lap regardless of how small the space is. I love her so so so much!

Jackson (right) - I feel like Jackson and I were destined to be together. He brought joy and happiness into my life after my husband died unexpectedly and I gave him a home with unconditional love. He makes me laugh and smile every day, and sometimes shake my head in wonderment.

We both smile when we see one another at the end of the day. After I hit the garage remote and the door begins to roll up, I see my special boy smiling at me as he stands in the doorway to the house, having opened the door from the house into the garage to make sure it is me driving in. That is followed by a big hug and kiss once I walk in the house. I think it is the best part of both our days. Thank you AGPR for "saving" us.



Happy Tails—Flashback One Year (cont'd)

Congee (fka Arrow) is a sport about letting me put a hat on him for a quick photo (it was his birthday). He's really settled in to our family and we're so happy to have him in our lives. He enjoys his morning "perimeter check" walk of our neighborhood and an extended afternoon perimeter check to visit dog friends around the block. Congee loves to snuggle and get belly rubs. He lets his cat sister (a cranky 17 year old) take over his dog bed most of the time. I can't imagine our lives without this beautiful kind soul. Thank you for helping us find each other.



Stella (left) - it's hard to believe we have had Stella for over a year now. She is bubbly, loves her toys and her 'kids' from whom she has earned a name "Nanny Stella Bella Bean". She is our sunshine, and very much loved.

It happened to me—don't let it happen to you! (...a story of lessons learned)

I've owned over 30 dogs in my life. I pride myself on being a good dog owner.

Like many of you, my life is busy and I am often juggling multiple things in a single day. When I leave home, I make it a habit to scan for things that my dogs might get into while I'm gone. And so far, I have been pretty successful.

One day in February, I had a list of errands to do including picking up medication for my Lab with bladder cancer. Plus I had a lot to do at home too – completing taxes, catching up on bills, and packing me and my dogs for a trip to see my family in Kansas a few days later.

I had 56 capsules of Piroxicam left - I wanted to be sure I had enough to last through the trip. I pulled the bottle from the shelf and called the pharmacy for a refill. Then I was out the door and started my list.

A few hours later, I returned home to find an empty pill bottle. I had inadvertently not replaced the Piroxicam on the shelf where I ordinarily keep it... it was left on the kitchen counter.

The childproof lid had been pried off. I looked everywhere for any remaining pills. There were none. I went into full-blown panic mode. My brain went from denial to the full realization that my dogs were in danger. Because I am a nurse, I knew that even though the dogs looked fine, that the 56 capsules were beginning to damage inside one or both of my dogs. I found hydrogen peroxide and poured a bit down into each of my dog's throats. I waited. Soon they threw up but there were no pills. I called my vet. They immediately advised me to call poison control. For \$59 they told me to get my dogs to the emergency clinic. For my lab, 2 capsules were toxic; for my pyr, 3 capsules. The poison control vets were consulted by the ER vet clinic during the three days for treatment and protocol guidance.

Both dogs were admitted at the ER clinic. There were conversations about potentially needing dialysis in the future. Since there are no toxicology tests for dogs to tell us which dog ingested how much, both dogs were started on a regime of activated

charcoal by mouth, which was intended to absorb any remaining medication in the gastrointestinal tract. IV fluids were used to flush the kidneys and protect them from kidney damage as the drug was excreted from their bodies through the kidneys. Blood work was taken every 24 hours to monitor for kidney damage. They were hospitalized for 3 days and at the end of that period, the kidney values remained stable. They were discharged with a follow-up blood test at my regular veterinarian. They are fully recovered and I am beginning to recover from the guilt.

No one is perfect. All of this was a nightmare. My advice to everyone is: 1) Keep a fresh bottle of hydrogen peroxide handy, and 2) Call your vet immediately when you believe your dog has ingested something. My veterinarian told me that he is certain that my rapid response was the difference between two healthy dogs and two dogs with kidney failure.

-- Jan Gurtner, proud guardian of Cotton (Pyrenees) and Savoy (lab)

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 Events:

~ April 28, 2018 ~

Woofstock (10 - 2)
Westchester Commons
Midlothian Tpk & Route 288
Midlothian, VA 23113

~ May 5, 2018 ~

Parham Plaza Petco (11 - 2)
1520 N. Parham Road
Henrico, VA 23229

~ May 5, 2018 ~

Pet Fiesta (11 - 4)
Reston Town Center
11900 Market St.
Reston, VA 20190

~ May 19, 2018 ~

Ashland Petco (11 - 2)
Intersection of Rts. 1 & 54
Ashland, VA 23005

~ Save the Date ~

Pyrfest—September 22, 2018

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

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.



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Attention all **Kroger** shoppers in Virginia. You too can help by linking your Kroger Plus Card to our charity. Easy to do - if you don't have a Kroger Plus card, please stop at your local Kroger and ask for one. Here's what you need to do next:

1. Log in to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com)
2. Sign In or Create an Account to Enroll (for the latter, you'll need your Kroger Plus card number)
3. After setting up your account, Select Community Rewards
4. Enter "Appalachian Great Pyrenees Rescue" or our charity number => 86255
5. Complete and shop!



For more information on how you can help, e-mail us at [AGPR-news@verizon.net](mailto:AGPR-news@verizon.net).  
Thank you.