



# The Pyrenees Post...

spreading the word about the Southeast's best kept secret.



## GPRA Thanksgiving Match November 11, 2025

Dear Great Pyrenees friends,

Thanks to so many generous donors, we are approaching our anonymous donor's \$60,000 match. Similarly, last year we surpassed the match and ended up totalling \$163,000.

**We are therefore setting our new goal at \$160,000, or 73 saved Gentle Giants.**

Please help us achieve our new goal, and please know every dollar goes to the medical needs of our rescued PYRS.

We can't thank you enough for your support.

— John

## The Hidden Costs of "Normal" Rescues



Through our almost 16 years, GPRA has discussed in newsletters some of our most critical cases, usually orthopedic injuries. What we don't often discuss is our routine care costs and the cost for non-emergency dogs with other issues who come into the GPRA Program.



Story by  
**Marla McSwiney**  
GPRA Medical Director

Most of you have had the Vet visits for the routine exams and vaccinations that end up being more costly due to an unexpected issue, so you understand the costs GPRA can incur on a "normal dog".

Suzy Q, Autumn and Jako were three of our intakes this year who all shared one thing - extreme hair loss from long term skin infections. These infections require skin scrapes and cultures to identify the potential cause of the hair loss, then medicines to help cure whichever medical issue is identified. None of these infections happened overnight — nor are they cured overnight — so costs continue to be incurred as they heal. In addition to

her skin issues, Ms. Suzy Q needed two Entropion eye surgeries, the last one with a "Doggie" Ophthalmologist.



Heartworm-positive dogs are our most heartbreaking diagnosis, as their disease is preventable simply by the prior owners giving a monthly heartworm preventative. Depending on the weight of the dog, **each heartworm treatment** (most dogs receive two) **costs us between \$400-600**, as in addition to the Immiticide shot our GPRA dogs also receive pain management meds, anti-nausea medicine, and corticosteroids on the day of the shots to help manage the pain and side effects as the shots are extremely painful. In order to prevent heartworm disease all of our dogs in custody receive monthly heartworm preventative. Since we average 35-50 dogs in our custody each month, our heartworm preventative bill to treat our rescues (depending on the number of dogs in custody) will be between **\$770 to \$1100 every month**.

A lot of the dogs we get from shelters (and sometimes from owners) have ear infections, both common and tricky ones. We often need to do ear cultures, not just check samples, so we can figure out exactly what germs are causing the infection and which medicine will work best. This helps us treat it right the first time and prevent it from coming back or becoming resistant to antibiotics.

All shelter dogs are put into an isolation period for 14 days due to how common it is for shelter dogs to have an Upper Respiratory Infection, the worst being mycoplasma (a bacterial infection requiring a longer isolation period and more expensive antibiotics). When these infections happen, the vet costs for each infected dog go up.

Spay and neuters are also a costly procedure for GPRA. Many of our dogs have not been spayed/neutered before they come to us. Unfortunately, the low-cost spay and neuter clinics are booked months in advance and some don't perform the surgery on dogs over 70 lbs (and yes, few of our Pyrenees are that small).

An intake exam is typically composed of the exam, 3 to 4 vaccinations, a fecal and heartworm test, and medications for potential follow up issues, such as vaccine boosters and medications like Drontal Plus for intestinal parasites. As many of you who do routine exams know, none of it is cheap. If we need to perform labs and bloodwork, the costs increase by another few hundred dollars.

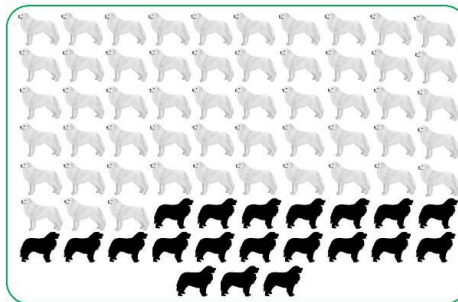
Each GPRA newsletter typically includes a request for fosters as we always need them. If **a Pyr is in boarding for one month, our average cost is \$795 per dog**, so **fosters are critical to help keep costs down**.

GPRA's ability to provide great care for our dogs is possible because of donors whose generosity helps us help as many dogs as possible. Please consider donating this year. Our dogs thank you!

**DONATE TO OUR THANKSGIVING  
MATCH**

## Help us Rescue Pyrs in need Donate today!

With your generosity, we hope to reach our **new goal of \$160,000** raised — which means rescuing 73 beautiful, lovable PYRS!  
Funds for 53 Pyrs raised so far



## 2026 Calendars Are Here!

Visit our website to order your calendar for the upcoming new year.

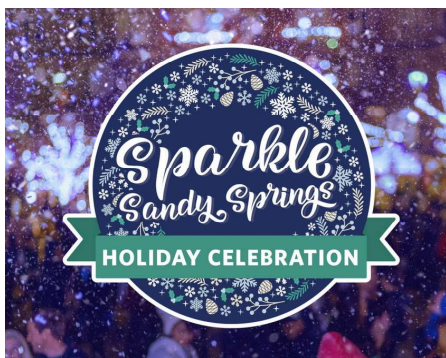
**ORDER CALENDAR**

## Pictures with Santa (Hours extended!)

Has your Pyrenees been a little naughty this year?  
Come have their picture taken with Santa so they can get on his good side before Christmas!

Sunday November 30, **1:00pm - 4:00pm**  
Animal Wellness Clinic  
2790 Bethany Bend  
Alpharetta, GA 30004  
**Cost:** \$25 donation

**SIGN UP**



## Sparkle Parade

GPRA will participate in this year's Sandy Springs Sparkle Parade.  
Join us for tons of fun!  
Sunday December 7, 2025, 6:00pm.  
(Participants meet at 4:30pm)  
Deadline to register 11/20/2025

**MORE INFO + SIGN UP**

## Apply to Foster a Pyr

Becoming a Foster is one of the most powerful, life-changing ways to help a Great Pyrenees in need. Sign up to be a part of our Foster team today!

[LEARN MORE](#)



### Upcoming Adoption Days

November 15th, December 13th  
11:00am - 1:00pm  
Pet Lodge Pet Resort  
3456 Bethany Bend  
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004

*For more information, visit our [News & Events page](#)*

**Great Pyrenees Rescue of Atlanta**  
404.829.2609

[GPRA Website](#) - [Available Dogs](#) - [Volunteer](#) - [Foster a Dog](#) - [Donate](#)



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