



The Pyrenees Post...

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



GPRA Thanksgiving Match November 25, 2025

Isabel Part II, the Thanksgiving Litter, and Daddy Ham

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!



Dear Great Pyrenees Friends,

In our earlier story, "GPRA is Proud to be Somebody," we introduced Isabel, a sweet pup who came to us with a Grade 4 out of 6 heart murmur. By her intake exam on Tuesday, November 4th, her condition had worsened; **the murmur had progressed to Grade 6/6, and she was showing early signs of congestive heart failure.**



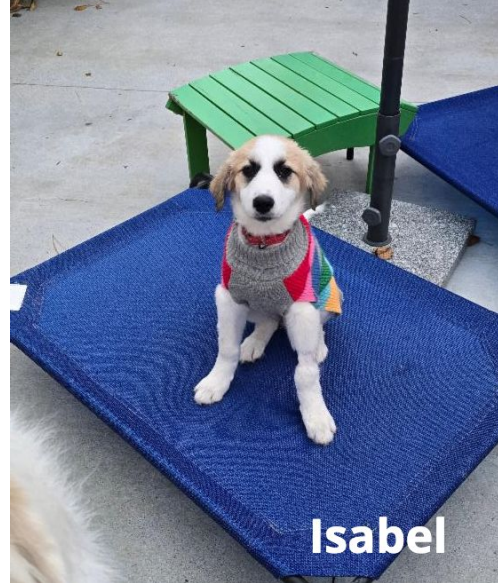
Story by
Marla McSwiney
GPRA Medical Director

At her intake appointment, our veterinarian suspected that Isabel had Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), **a heart defect where a blood vessel fails to close after birth.** We immediately took X-rays and sent them to a cardiologist, who cleared her schedule to see Isabel the very next day for an echocardiogram, as the timing was critical.

Isabel's echocardiogram confirmed both the PDA diagnosis and the beginning stages of congestive heart failure. The cardiologist quickly arranged a consultation with a soft tissue surgeon for Friday morning at 9:30 am. At that appointment, surgery was scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th, **just five business days after Isabel's intake.**

The surgery was proceeding smoothly until the doctors encountered an unexpected

complication: **a tear on the caudal wall of Isabel's heart.** Suffice it to say, there were some adrenaline-surging moments, but thanks to the surgical team's exceptional skills and composure under pressure, they **successfully completed the procedure and saved Isabel's life.**



Isabel

Nearly two weeks later, **Isabel is thriving and full of puppy energy!** She has a follow-up echocardiogram scheduled for November 29th, and if all goes well, she'll be ready to find her forever family!



As if Sabine (our #1 Foster) didn't have enough on her plate with Isabel, she received an urgent call on Monday, November 10th. **A mama dog and her mate had been abandoned** in an unheated building in Albertville, Alabama. The local rescue feeding them didn't even know she was pregnant, until **she delivered seven puppies overnight in the cold.**



They quickly arranged for electricity so heat lamps could keep the puppies warm. Once again, GPRA was that "Somebody," and **we welcomed what we're calling the Thanksgiving litter.** Mama arrived at Sabine's on November 11th, followed by Daddy Ham on the 14th.

At two years old, Daddy Ham has had a rough life . His hips did not rotate without pain, and he had a tooth root abscess, a lower right broken canine, and another broken tooth. During his dental surgery to extract the teeth, x-rays were performed and we found out how bad his right hip is. He likely had a fracture (same side as his teeth) and it healed poorly with a lot of arthritis. He will soon be seen by our orthopedic partner and future surgery will be determined.

We share the stories of dogs with injuries with you as they are part of what GPRA does so well, but we also have many dogs who come in and have "routine" intakes without issue. Even the routine rescues can be costly.

The many rescues GPRA accomplishes wouldn't be possible without you, our donors. As we close out another year of our Thanksgiving Match, we're deeply grateful for your role in helping us save so many lives.



Daddy Ham

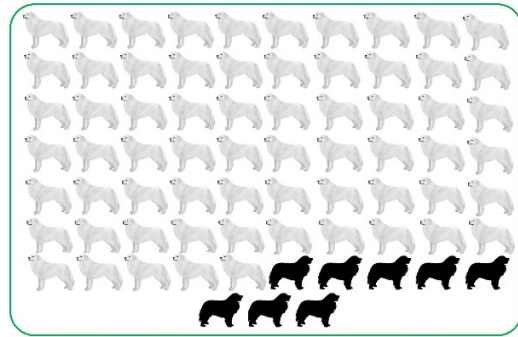
We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our veterinary partners : Doctors Willhite, Ford, and Harford at our primary care vet, Animal Wellness Clinic. We'd also like to thank our two specialty partners: Northlake Veterinary Surgery, and our newest partner, Veterinary Specialists of Greater Atlanta. **Finally, we'd like to thank our dedicated GPRA volunteers who make our mission possible every single day.**

Happy Thanksgiving to all, and many, *many* thanks from our GPRA Alumni!

DONATE TO OUR THANKSGIVING MATCH

ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT Please 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 65 Pyrs raised so far. We are almost there.



2026 Calendars Are Here!

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

ORDER CALENDAR

Pictures with Santa Only a few slots left!

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

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

December 13th, January 10th

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

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