



# Mile High Great Pyrenees Club

“AS IT A’ PYRS”

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2011

## The Show Ring \* Summer-Fall 2011

### DISNEY comes to the Mile High Great Pyrenees Club!

Puppies out of Butler’s “Louie” and Sue Cole’s “Rickie” were filmed for the movie “Santa Pups” (sequel to “The Search for Santa Paws”) to be released in 2012. Exciting to have movie star Pyr’s!

[\(more pictures\)](#)



**Starmount Pyrs** had a good summer with the championship of Ch Starmount’s Shimmering Aspen “Aspen”. She was 7 mos old when she finished.

### MHGPC Specialty was once again fun and successful!

Suepyr’s April LoveSpoofers finished her championship all in this one weekend with 2 BOW wins and a WB win. She also got Best in Sweepstakes in the Sweepstakes competition. Fun weekend for breeder Sue Cole and owner, Judi Woolever!

### 2015 Nat’l Specialty

Don’t forget to vote for the 2015 Nat’l Specialty Judge:

- Mrs. Nancy Coombs Pennsylvania
  - Mr. Whitney Coombs Pennsylvania
  - Dr. Peter Emily Colorado
  - Mrs. Tamra Green Michigan
  - Mrs. Jean Pero\* Colorado
  - M Alain Pecoult France
  - Mr. Keith Savage England
- Find Ballot on the website.  
(GPCA members only)  
\* MHGPC member

### Special points of interest:

- GPCA Health Survey
- Show results for Club members
- News in Dog Health
- Understanding Bone Cancer
- Rescue

## What’s next in showing

### 2012 Show schedule

(as available)

- Peak to Peak Working Dog 2-16-12
- Plum Creek KC 2-17-12
- Plum Creek KC & Rocky Mtn Cluster
- Beg Puppy Competition 2-18-12
- Colorado KC 2-19-12
- Colorado KC 2-10-12
- Scottsbluff NE 3-30-12
- Scottsbluff NE 3-31-12
- Scottsbluff NE 4-1-12
- Salina KC April 5
- Salina KC April 6
- Wichita KC April 7
- Hutchinson KC April 8
- Wichita KC April 9

- Terry-All KC 4-14-12
- Terry-All KC 4-15-12
- Utah Valley KC 5-3-12
- Utah Valley KC 5-4-12
- Inter Mtn KC 5-5-12
- Inter Mtn KC 5-6-12
- Sunflower KC May 11
- Sunflower KC May 12
- Sunflower KC May 13
- Colo Spgs KC June 9
- Colo Spgs KC June 10
- Buckhorn KC Oct 27 (new date)
- Buckhorn KC Oct 28 (new date)



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## Mile High Great Pyrenees Club

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“If dogs could talk it would take a lot of the fun out of owning one”

Andy Rooney

### NCSU Researchers Find Lymphoma Genes by Turning Dogs into Humans

April 12, 2011

**Published results are part of an ongoing AKC Canine Health Foundation funded project.**

Researchers at North Carolina State University are narrowing the search for genes involved in non-Hodgkin lymphoma – by turning dogs into humans. Humans and dogs don’t just share companionship and living space, they also share a similar genetic makeup. Additionally, they share the same types of cancer, including lymphoma. Dr. Matthew Breen, professor of genomics at North Carolina State University, uses canines as a genetic model for studying lymphoma because purebred dogs of the same breed have less genetic variation among them than humans do, making it easier to pinpoint areas on canine chromosomes that may be involved with cancer.

The data revealed that there were only a few genes involved with lymphoma that were shared by dogs and humans. This is in contrast to current research into

### “Dedicated to Breed Excellence”

human lymphoma, where numerous genes have been identified as possibly having a relationship to the cancer. Breen and his colleagues hope that this data will point researchers toward the most likely genetic culprits.

“In essence, we stripped the background noise from the human data,” Breen says. “Lymphoma genomics is a lot more complex in human patients than in dog patients. This study tells us that while both humans and dogs have comparable disease at the clinical and cellular level, the genetic changes associated with the same cancers are much less complex in the dog. This suggests that maybe



there is a lot of genetic noise in the human cancers that are not essential components of the process. While human studies have been looking in numerous places in the genome, the dog data indicate we need to focus on what’s shared, and these are very few regions.”

**Chasing your tail gets you nowhere.... 'cept' back to where you started**

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and by AKC Canine Health Foundation [Grant 613](#).

### Researchers Gain Better Understanding of Bone Cancer

A new University of Minnesota discovery may help bone cancer patients fight their disease more effectively, according to new research published in the September issue of *Bone*.



Bone cancer typically affects children; the course and aggressiveness of the disease can vary from patient to patient and is very difficult to predict. Some patients respond remarkably well to conventional therapies. Their disease shows less aggressive behavior and they can survive for decades without recurrence. Others respond poorly to treatment or their disease comes back rapidly. Often, these patients survive less than five years.

Recently, a team led by Dr. Jaime Modiano, a College of Veterinary Medicine and Masonic Cancer Center expert in comparative medicine, discovered a gene pattern that distinguishes the more severe form of bone cancer from a less aggressive form in dogs. Dogs are the only other species besides humans that develops this disease spontaneously with any frequency.

In fact, dogs are much more likely to develop bone cancer than humans, but according to Modiano – who specializes in the relationship between animal and human disease – human and canine forms of bone cancer are very similar and the gene pattern is an exact match. The discovery of this key

differentiating signature may be beneficial in the treatment planning of human bone cancer patients.

“Our findings pave the way to develop laboratory tests that can predict the behavior of this tumor in dogs and children at the time of diagnosis,” said Modiano. “This allows us to tailor individualized therapy to meet the patient’s needs.”

#### The downstream impact of the findings

University of Minnesota researchers hope to use their findings to develop practical and useful lab tests for humans and for companion animals that will help clinical care providers determine the type of cancer a patient faces, and how aggressive that cancer may be.

Then, depending on which type of cancer a patient has, clinicians could adjust interventions and treatment plans accordingly.

“Patients with less aggressive disease could be treated conservatively, reducing the side effects and the risks associated with treatment, while patients with more aggressive disease could be treated with more intense therapy,” said Modiano.

The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute, the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the Kate Koogler Canine Cancer Fund.

**Article is reprinted with permission from the [University of Minnesota](#).**

**“In a perfect world, every dog would have a home and every home would have a dog.”**

## Volume 1, Issue 3

### Eric Letendre's Freaky Dog Facts

I was driving home from a meeting the other night listening to "Nights with Alice Cooper."

It's a good radio show and I always like his freaky facts and commentary. Good stuff like:

Kentucky Fried Chicken's slogan, Finger Licking Good, in Chinese translates to, "Eat your fingers off."

Thinking about Alice Cooper's freaky facts got me thinking. You see, everyday I get loads of questions via email, Twitter and Facebook.

Some of the common ones are:

Do Pit Bull's jaws really lock when they bite?

Does a Doberman's brain become enlarged as they get older and make them aggressive?

Is it true that a dog wagging his tail will not bite you?

So, in the spirit of Alice Cooper, I am going to give you Eric Letendre's Freaky Dog Facts:

1. President Lyndon Johnson had two beagles named Him and Her - I once had a client that had two chocolate labs named "Hershey" and "Squirts."

2. A dog's mouth exerts 150-200 pounds of pressure per square inch with some dogs exerting up to 450 pounds per square inch - Pit Bull's jaws DO NOT lock but with that much pressure, you are not going to open their mouth. I have seen this in many breeds, once they clamped their jaws shut there was no opening them.

3. Basset Hounds cannot swim - I know this is true. A client of mine had to jump out of his canoe to save his basset hound. His basset got excited, and fell out of the canoe and sank like a stone.

4. Dogs have no sense of "time" - I don't believe this one. Feed your dog every day at 4:00PM for three months. At the end of the third month, watch what your dog does when no chow is given at that time.

5. 70% of people sign their pet's name on greeting and holiday cards - do you do this?

6. 58% put pets in family and holiday portraits - I do this one.

7. Dogs can only learn about 20 words - WRONG! Dogs can learn way more than 20 words.

Think about it, if you teach your dog just basic commands you have sit, down, stand, stay, come, wait, let's go, heel - 8 words.

Then you teach some simple tricks: Shake, roll over, sit pretty, speak, crawl, wave, play dead, high five, and circle - 9 words.

17 so far 17 words. Then if you throw in some behaviors that are very easy to teach like go to your crate, back up, get busy you easily get to 20 words.

In Stanley Coren's book, "The Intelligence of Dogs," he states: "Sure, most dogs understand the basics --"fetch," "sit" and "stay." But if you have the motivation and patience, you will probably be able to teach your dog even more than 100 words."

Mr. Coren adds, "That average trained dogs know about 160 words. Some dogs even show a vocabulary as vast as a human toddler's."



- **"If you are a dog and your owner suggests that you wear a sweater. . . suggest that he wear a tail."- Fran Lebowitz**



Sue Cole—Editor

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GPCA Health Survey—REMINDER!

The Great Pyrenees Club of America has revised a confidential health survey for GPCA Breeders and Great Pyrenees for the purpose of identifying diseases and health conditions (both genetic and otherwise) that affect the breed.

The survey will assist the GPCA Health Committee in determining the best use of GPCA donated Health fund for health research. In addition, it will serve as a tool to determine CHIC participation requirements. The 2009 Revised Survey still consists of only two pages—page one will remain with an independent tabulator for record keeping purpose and Page Two will go to the GPCA Health Database Manager—Catherine de la Cruz. The revised survey has been changed to offer information to the Health Committee as to which outreach efforts are resulting in responses and discourage any ancillary information that could compromise confidentiality.

Please download and print a copy for each dog you own and become a part of the solution to make our breed healthier. The Health Survey can be downloaded from our website. There should be 3 filled out

## We're on the web! [www.milehighgreatpyrenees.com](http://www.milehighgreatpyrenees.com)

### **Puppy Size, a sweet puppy tail**

"Danielle keeps repeating it over and over again. We've been back to this animal shelter at least five times. It has been weeks now since we started all of this, "the mother told the volunteer.

What is it she keeps asking for? The volunteer asked. "Puppy size" replied the mother. "Well, we have plenty of puppies, if that's what she's looking for."

"I know...we have seen most of them," the mother said in frustration... Just then Danielle came walking into the office "Well, did you find one?" asked her Mom, "No, not this time" Danielle said with sadness in her voice. "Can we come back on the weekend?"

The two women looked at each other shook their heads and laughed "you never know when we will get more dogs. Unfortunately, there's always a supply," the volunteer said. Danielle took her mother by the hand and headed to the door. "Don't worry, I'll find one this weekend," she said.

Over the next few days both mom and dad

had long conversations with her. They both felt she was being too particular. "It's this weekend or we're not looking any more,": Dad finally said in frustration. "We don't want to hear anything more about puppy size either," Mom added.

Sure enough, they were the first ones in the shelter on Saturday morning. By now, Danielle know her way around, so she ran right for the section that housed the smaller dogs. Tired of the routine, mom sat in the small waiting room at the end of the first row of cages. There was an observation window so you could see the animals during times when visitors weren't permitted. Danielle walked slowly from cage to cage, kneeling periodically to take a closer look. One by one the dogs were brought out and she held each one. One by one she said, "Sorry, you're not the one."

It was the last cage on this day in search of the perfect pup. The volunteer opened the cage door and the child carefully picked up the dog and held it closely. This time she took a little longer.

"MOM! That's it, I found the right puppy! He's

the one! I know it!" she screamed with joy. "It's the puppy size!"

"But it's the same size as all the other puppies you held over the last few weeks," Mom said.

"No, not size — SIGHS. When I held him in my arms, he sighed," she said.

"Don't you remember? When I asked you one day what love it, you told me love depends on the sighs of your heart. The more you love, the bigger the sigh!"

The two women looked at each other for a moment. Mom didn't know whether to laugh or cry. As she stopped down to hug the child, she did a little of both.

"Mom, every time you hold me, I sigh. When you and Daddy come home from work and hug each other, you both sigh. I knew I would find the right puppy if it sighed when I held it in my arms." she said. Then holding the puppy up close to her face she said. "Mom, he loves me, I heard the sighs of his heart!"



RE/MAX Alliance 4770 Baseline Rd

# BethMason.NET

“Your Information Resource”

Dear Friends of Mile High Great Pyrenees Club:

I am pleased to announce a program that could potentially help provide funding to an organization that we mutually hold dear to our hearts.

The program is simple and easy! Here is how it works:

- 1. If you are selling or buying a home, give me a call. 5% of any commission I earn will go to the Mile High Great Pyrenees Rescue General Fund.
- 2. If you know of someone else who is buying or selling a home and you refer them to me, I will donate 5% of my commission to the fund.
- 3. If you know of **anyone** in the **United States** who is buying or selling a home, you can refer them to me, and I will set them up with an outstanding Realtor in their area. That would also result in a donation.

This is a terrific and easy way to help Mile High Great Pyrenees Rescue while receiving outstanding service from a leading Real Estate Company in the area! Call me today and we'll set an appointment to discuss how we can work together to make a difference.

Beth Mason

