



# Mile High Great Pyrenees Club

## “AS IT A’ PYRS”

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2011

### Show News \* Spring 2011

Early May, several club members traveled to Utah for the Intermountain KC & Utah KC shows. It was a fun 4 days with club members each winning majors with their dogs.

- [Intermountain Kennel Club, Inc. \(1\)](#)  
Thursday, May 5, 2011
- [Intermountain Kennel Club, Inc. \(2\)](#)  
Friday, May 6, 2011
- [Utah Valley Kennel Club, Inc. \(1\)](#)  
Saturday, May 7, 2011
- [Utah Valley Kennel Club, Inc. \(2\)](#)  
Sunday, May 8, 2011



Flatirons KC shows in June again favored club member dogs

- [Flatirons Kennel Club, Inc. \(1\)](#)  
Saturday, June 4, 2011
- [Flatirons Kennel Club, Inc. \(2\)](#)  
Sunday, June 5, 2011

### What’s next in showing

#### 2011 Show schedule

- Scottsbluff KC April 1,2,3
- Terry-all KC April 9 & 10
- InterMtn KC May 5 & 6
- Utah Valley KC May 7 & 8
- Mt Ogden KC May 21 & 22
- Durango KC May 20,21,22
- Central Wy KC May 27 & 28
- Laramie KC May 29 & 30
- Flatirons KC June 4 & 5
- Colo Springs KC June 11 & 12

#### Save the date \*FUN MATCH!!

We will be holding our next club meeting at the Evergreen Fun Match. In conjunction with this event we will be holding our own breed fun match. ALL puppies and dogs in need of practice are welcome! Sunday, July 31th. Directions on the website.

#### Study: Man's Best Friend Is Also a Mind Reader

A recent “Learning and Behavior” study indicates that canines may have an innate ability to sense our mental states.

This idea of “canine telepathy” has been suggested before—often, pet owners comment on how their dog seems to know what they’re thinking. Researcher Monique Udell and others from the University of Florida

questioned this idea of animal telepathy by studying canine attentiveness to humans in both domestic dogs and wolves, and found that the animals may be born with the ability to perceive and react to human emotion.

Researchers experimented by letting canines choose whether to beg for food from either an attentive person or someone who ignored them. They found that the wolves were “sensitive to human attentional state under some conditions.” That evidence suggests, for the first time, that dogs are born with the capacity to read minds, so to speak. The findings did indicate, however, that increased exposure to humans (as in the case of domestic dogs) improves a dog’s ability to sense attentiveness.

Better watch what you're thinking when Fido's in the room.

#### Special points of interest:

- GPCA Health Survey
- Show results for Club members
- News in Dog Health
- Pet Telepathy
- Rescue Funding

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# Mile High Great Pyrenees Club

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## “Dedicated to Breed Excellence”

**There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face.**

~Ben



### Planning for Your Furry Family Members

What would happen to your dog if something happened to you?

Even if you know who would take your furry friend, does that person have the money to pay for vet bills, medications, food, toys, grooming, doggie daycare, etc.? If you left money to a family member or a friend, are you sure they would use the money for your dog’s care?

Your dog’s future shouldn’t be left to chance. The solution: a pet trust. A pet trust is a simple, affordable way to make sure that your dog would be well-taken care of if something happened to you.

With a pet trust, you can:

- Select a suitable caregiver;
- Provide your caregiver with binding pet care instructions; and
- Provide your caregiver with the funds to maintain your dog’ customary lifestyle.

Without a pet trust, a possibility exists that your dog could end up in a shelter. Moreover, grief and confusion could lead to behavioral issues, making it difficult for your dog to find another home.

Often, people assume that their sister, brother, or friend would take their pet in the event of an emergency, but they forget to check with that person in advance. A pet trust is a great way to designate your caregiver after checking with them about lifestyle considerations like job demands, space accommodations, and the presence of other pets in their home. A suitable caregiver is someone who would treat your dog the way you do and who has a lifestyle compatible with caring for your dog.

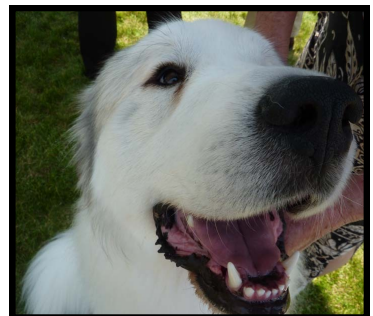
Once you’ve selected a caregiver, you can select a trustee. A trustee would act as your money manager and distribute trust funds to your caregiver in a manner consistent with the care instructions set forth in the trust. That way, you can be rest assured that the money would be used properly.

Call Casey Cassinis, Pack Leader of the Cassinis Pet Trust Firm, at 303-410-7708 for more

information about how simple and affordable creating a pet trust can be! Otherwise, visit [www.pettrustfirm.com](http://www.pettrustfirm.com) where you will enjoy a number of articles designed to answer the most frequently asked pet trust questions.



**Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job. ~ Franklin P. Jones**



### How to reduce shedding in 3 to 5 days - Eric Letendre

What a week for your friend, The Amazing Dog Training Man.

Last Wednesday a couple of tornados touched down in the Springfield, MA area. One of them was just four miles from my house.

Amazing what Mother Nature can do when she gets angry.

I was very lucky and none of my friends or family were harmed.

Anyway, if a tornado was not enough, I was outside last night cooking some chicken on the grill for me and the missus when a BEAR pops out of the woods in the back yard and stands there looking at me.

This is the first and only bear I have ever seen without a large, strong fence between us.

I grew up in a crowded suburb outside of Hartford, CT and we did not have any bears, foxes, woodchucks, or even

domestic animals like cows and horses.

It was pretty cool standing there about 200 feet away looking at him or her. He stood there for about two minutes and then sniffed the air and disappeared.

All of this got me thinking about our dogs. This is the time of the year when stress can effect our dogs.

Between the heat, storms, fireworks, bears, your dog can get stressed and the stress can lead to...

...SHEDDING!

So I want to share a few tips to help you eliminate all the fur you may find around the house.

Shedding Tip#1: Keep a lint roller close by. We use the lint roller to keep the hair off our clothes, you can also use it on your dog. You'll be amazed how much hair it pulls off your dog.

Shedding Tip#2: Supplement your dog's food. A little olive oil or cod liver oil can really help your dog's skin and coat.

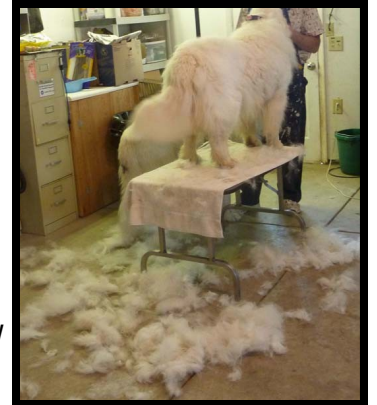
Shedding Tip#3: Diet. What you feed your dog will have a direct result on how much your dog sheds. In my guide, "How To Reduce Your Dog's Shedding In 3 To 5 Days," I explain which foods are best for your dog and which ones to avoid.

The guide is included with The Dog Training Inner Circle. You can get all the details here:

<http://dogtraininginnercircle.com>

All the best,

Eric  
Eric Letendre  
683 South Westfield St.  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030



**Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.**  
~Roger Caras

# Mile High Great Pyrenees Club

## Juvenile Renal Dyplasia

Affected pup showing excessive bony growth of muzzle



from the same breeder and died at six months of age. Although this was also considered an isolated incident, the owner and breeder were willing to discuss the case with anyone who asked. Within the next two years, two more breeders identified affected pups. One of them contacted Dr. Gary

Johnson of the University of Missouri (who had done DNA research on a kidney disease in Basenjis) and began submitting blood samples from the affected pups, their parents and siblings, to lay the basis for future DNA work. In order to have enough samples to develop a test, Dr Johnson needs

at least ten affected dogs identified and tested. Since not all affected pups show severe symptoms, identifying them depends on close observation by the owner and cooperative testing by the pup's veterinarian. Here are the symptoms to look for.

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function, the Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine rise significantly. At this point, the pup may be found to have lost significant muscle mass and there may be bony enlargement of the mandibles. Ultra-sound of the kidneys at this point may show abnormalities.

Chronic Kidney Disease in puppies is also described as Juvenile Renal Dysplasia (JRD). It has been identified in more than 30 breeds of dogs including Pyrs, (1) , but until recently was not considered a concern by Pyr breeders. In 2002, a Pyr pup became ill shortly after being delivered to the buyer.

Kidney failure was diagnosed and, despite the best of care, it died within the year. Since the rest of the litter

appeared healthy, this was considered an isolated incident by the vet, the buyer and the breeder.

Six years later, another affected pup turned up

- Difficulty in house-breaking – pup pees frequently and urine is light-colored with little odor.
- Poor appetite, though this may be intermittent.
- Slower growth than that seen in litter-mates.

Veterinary examination

### Affected pup and normal littermate at 10 months



As the disease progresses, pups may show hyperparathyroidism, which causes the bones to soften, leading to skeletal changes that resemble rickets – deformed legs, roached back, swollen jaws. In one litter, a severely affected pup at 8 months weighed 25 pounds, a less severely affected sister 65 while their normal littermates were

close to 90 pounds.

A mildly-affected pup may continue to grow and show few symptoms. Even ones with elevated BUN and creatinine levels can often be maintained on a diet formulated for kidney disease, usually with the addition of pepsid and phosphorus binders. According to Larry Cowgill, DVM of University of California, Davis, many

pups born with renal dysplasia do better than dogs who acquire kidney disease later in life. He said that these puppies are able to plateau until a small insult occurs, then they decompensate. (2)

The genetic basis for JRD in Great Pyrenees is not definitively known at this point, other than it is a heritable disease. In the 1970's, it was believed

to be recessive in Standard Poodles. However, recent studies in Shih Tzu and Lhasa Apso dogs indicate the genes may be “dominant with incomplete penetrance”. Over a ten year period, a group of Shih Tzu breeders carried out matings based on kidney biopsy results, but the results proved inconclusive. (3) It is highly likely that the development of

**Affected pup showing roached back & swollen muzzle**



a DNA test will be the best hope for eliminating this disease by selective breeding based, not on symptoms, but on genetics.

If you have a Great Pyrenees pup that may be affected with JRD, or currently own one of the parents or siblings of an affected pup, please contact :

**Dr. Gary Johnson**  
**320 Connaway Hall,**  
**University of Missouri,**  
**Columbia, MO 65211**

for instructions for submitting blood or tissue samples and pedigrees.

Pyr owners wanting further information can contact:

Catherine de la Cruz at [cdlcruz@sonic.net](mailto:cdlcruz@sonic.net).

<http://www.vetprof.com/cletinfo.poodlerenal.html>  
Renal Disease in Standard Poodles,  
Susan L Fleisher (1996)

#### References:

Veterinary Pediatrics: Dogs & Cats from Birth to Six Months, 1995 ed, pp 401-410 (J.D.Hoskins, ed) W.B Saunders, Philadelphia, PA

<http://www.vin.com/procceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=WSAVA2003&PID=6602&O=Generic>

28th World Congress of Small Animal Veterinary Association , Renal Dysplasia in Shih Tzu Dogs, Kenneth C. Bovee, DVM, M Med Sc, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA



Sue Cole, Editor

sue3cole@gmail.com

**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 per dog during the life of the dog or when the health of the dog changes, or it dies.

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## We're on the web!

**www.milehighgreatpyrenees.com**

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### **BRAGS & CRIES**

**BRAGS N CRIES \***  
06/05/11

- Jean Pero's "Murphy" had surgery costing \$1540, but is doing well and it probably saved her life! Jean appreciated Sandy staying with her all day and keeping her company.
- Sandy McCrady's "Button" had a tumor on her spleen but she is doing well after treatment.
- Pam's "Louie" is officially a Grand Champion. Mitchael finished his girl "Juno" and their bitch "Echo" has also finished.
- Abby won the title of "Best Junior Handler" at the Brighton Shows. Abby also got BOS/WB with her puppy Aspen.
- Sue Cole finished "Earl" at the age of 13 months.
- Sue Cole's "Daisy" passed away on May 2nd at the age of 13.

**Happiness is a warm puppy. ~Charles M. Schulz**





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