



Τεύχος 1 / 2014

NEWSLETTER

Επίσημη Έκδοση Ομίλου Σκύλων των Πυρηναίων Ελλάδος
Official Journal of Great Pyrenees Club of Greece

Καλό
Φθινόπωρο!

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**ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΣΚΥΛΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΠΥΡΗΝΑΙΩΝ
ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ (Ο.ΠΥΡ.ΕΛ.)
Pyrenees Dogs' Club of Greece**

Ο.ΠΥΡ.ΕΛ / PDCG Newsletter

Επίσημη έκδοση Ομίλου η οποία διατίθεται δωρεάν σε ψηφιακή μορφή στα Μέλη και τους Φίλους των Σκύλων των Πυρηναιών μέσω της επίσημης ιστοσελίδας του Ομίλου:

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Official journal of the Pyrenees Dogs' Club of Greece distributed free to members and friends of the Club via its website.



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Μιας και ο Όμιλος μας είναι ακόμη στα σπάργανα από πλευράς δραστηριοτήτων, τα πρώτα τεύχη του Newsletter θα περιέχουν ενημερωτικά χρηστικά άρθρα για τα Μεγάλα Πυρηναία (ΜΠ) που θα συνδράμουν στην ενημέρωση των νέων ιδιοκτητών ΜΠ ενώ και οι περισσότερο έμπειροι θα βρουν πληροφορίες που ίσως έψαχναν.

Επιλέξαμε τα κείμενα να είναι πρωτίστως στα Αγγλικά με συνοδό περίληψη και σχόλια στα Ελληνικά για λόγους ευκολίας και από το γεγονός ότι δεν υπάρχουν αντίστοιχα κείμενα από τον δικό μας χώρο.

Ευελπιστούμε στη συνέχεια και με τη συνδρομή σας, τα Ελληνικά κείμενα να έχουν αυξημένη παρουσία καθώς η μεταφορά γνώσης είναι το κλειδί για τη βελτίωση της φυλής και την αρμονική συμβίωση ανθρώπων και ΜΠ.

Η έκδοση θα είναι τριμηνιαία ενώ κατά περιόδους θα συνοδεύεται και από ειδικά θεματικά ένθετα.



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Εκ μέρους της Διοικούσας Επιτροπής σας
καλωσορίζω στο Newsletter και σας εύχομαι
ευχάριστη ανάγνωση!

Με φιλικούς χαιρετισμούς,

Γιάννης Γαλατάς

* Ο Εκδόστης είναι πρώην στρατιωτικός ιατρός (Αλλεργιολόγος/
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και ευτυχής ιδιοκτήτης 4ΜΠ.

ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΣΚΥΛΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΠΥΡΗΝΑΙΩΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ



GREAT PYRENEES DOGS' CLUB OF GREECE



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Working dogs: What Is Their Job?

By Catherine de la Cruz (Poste de Pompier Working Great Pyrenees)

Source: <http://www.cgpr.org/what-is-a-livestock-guardian-dog>



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The original purpose of the Anatolian, Komondor, Kuvasz, Maremma, Pyr and similar breeds was to protect livestock from predators. The Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGDs) share some common traits: they are about the same size and color as the livestock they were bred to guard; they exhibit the traits of “responsibility” (the tendency to remain with the livestock) and “reportability” (regular checking-in with the human caretaker of the flock.) There are many more similarities among the LGD breeds than there are differences between them. Some breeds, like Pyrs, were developed for tractability around people; others, like Tibetan Mastiffs, were developed for hostility toward those not of their camp – most LGDs fall somewhere in the middle.

For thousands of years, the economies of Europe and Asia alike were agricultural/pastoral. The LGDs were an essential part of the economy and dogs, like people, were judged solely on their ability to work. Then, 150 years ago, the Industrial Revolution began to change that; two World Wars and fifty years of “me-first” consumerism continued to change the face of the world inalterably.

With the exception of Australia and New Zealand, sheep populations world-wide have declined dramatically. It is no longer necessary for every family to own enough sheep to produce the wool for mother to spin and weave into clothing for the family. Cities have replaced farms, houses have replaced yurts and huts and the only predator that threatens the livelihood of most people is two-legged. In the United States, sheep production has been steadily declining since the 1940's; there are now fewer than 10 million sheep in the entire country. Ninety percent of those are in the hands of 10% of the growers; the remaining one million sheep are found in backyard and family farm flocks of 50 or less. The situation is similar throughout Europe and Eurasia. In short, just as our own jobs are now different from that of our ancestors, and the skills needed for those jobs are different, so do our dogs have different jobs, requiring different skills than did their ancestors in the Old World.

In France, it was acceptable for the Great Pyrenees to wander the village during the winter when her sheep were stabled in the farm yard. When spring came she would follow her sheep to the mountains. The tendency to travel great distances that was originally a positive trait is a now liability in a country crossed with highways and heavy traffic. In Tibet, a stranger in the camp was usually up to no good and a Tibetan Mastiff that could pull down a man on horseback was highly valued. Such aggression in our society today would lead quickly to lawsuits and the destruction of the dog.

So, the question of “transferrable skills” arises today as much for our dogs as for ourselves. An LGD needs “reliability” and “reportability” as much in his job as family watchdog as he does as a livestock

guardian. What differs is his reaction to stimuli. The barking behavior that warns predators that something larger has staked a claim to territory becomes “problem” behavior when indulged on a city lot. The Mark-Warn-Chase-Attack sequence that serves to keep livestock safe from wolves must be truncated after the Warning behavior if the dog’s owners are to remain safe from charges of harboring a vicious dog. The sharp temperament that indicated a good working dog in the high mountains finds little place in a family whose members freely bring strangers to trespass the dog’s territory.

There are those in the business of raising LGDs who advocate “going back to nature”, “doing it like the Old Country” or “breeding only for `working ability.” The reality is that we live in the time and the place that we do and few of our dogs will spend their lives wandering the unfenced range with their sheep. Even those of us who breed specifically for “working dogs” -i.e. dogs who will spend their entire life with the livestock, not interacting with families – recognize that, just as there are few “100% successful show” litters, so there are few “100% successful working” litters. I was once asked, during a Congressional hearing, whether I culled my guardian-dog litters, and what I did with the culls. Tongue-in-cheek, I replied, “I sell them as show dogs.”

Even if every commercial sheep producer were to use LGDs, there would still be a surplus of dogs – dogs that don’t exhibit responsibility, dogs that have the “wrong” disposition for the circumstances. There would still be people who may have never seen a live sheep, but want to own a LGD for reasons of their own. (Witness the number of people who don’t hunt, but own Golden Retrievers.) So it becomes our responsibility, as owners and breeders of a large guardian breed, to recognize that behaviors that once were useful may now be liabilities. If we are considering breeding, we must ask ourselves the big “WHY” – Why am I breeding? What do I hope to produce? Have I studied enough individuals of this breed to really understand their behavior? Is it possible for me to spend enough time educating would-be buyers about those behaviors – and turn down those that I don’t feel really need this breed?

Rather than sidetrack ourselves into specious arguments – type-vs-soundness, show-vs-working, inbreeding-vs-outcrossing – we need to take an unbiased look at the realities presented in our society. We need to pay attention to the anti-dog legislation making its way into our communities, and start to educate ourselves as well as the public about the responsibilities of dog ownership in general and LGD ownership, in particular. If we don’t, we have only ourselves to blame when we find our beautiful guardians legislated out of existence.



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Biography of Catherine de la Cruz

I have owned and bred Great Pyrenees dogs for over 30 years; I also raise sheep (in fenced pastures.) My present show dog is of my own breeding; he has five generations of OFA-clear dogs behind him; he and his entire litter cleared OFA Good or Excellent. He spent his first three years in the pasture, taking responsibility for a large band of purebred sheep. I bathe him on Friday night, bring him into the house (which he respects as “my” territory, so doesn’t raise a leg to mark it), show him on the weekend, then return him to his sheep Sunday evening. He is protective in the field, friendly at the shows. He is an example of what I consider to be a Livestock Guardian Dog for today’s times.

Doggy Dating

Source: <http://www.doggydating.com/en>

With the free DoggyDating App, owners can see with one click on the map where other dogs are playing or walking in the area. Even a social playdate (walk) can be organized, and it’s very simple. Each dog has its own profile with name, photo, breed and characteristics. Talking a gamble and going to the park with the hope of meeting a nice dog is a thing of the past. With DoggyDating, you’re



certain of a succesful outing every time!

Here's how the DoggyDating app works:



1. Your dog is ready to go out...

However strong the bond between a dog and his owner, contact with other dogs remains important for the dog's well-being. And for the owners, it's much more fun to take the dogs out together!



2. Check-in and see where other dogs are in the area...

When you go walking with the dog, you check in and indicate how long you plan to be walking. From that moment, your location is visible on the map for other owners. You see on the map which dogs are already checked in and where Playdates are organized. It's very simple to organize a playdate yourself and to invite others to it.



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3. Find each other...

By clicking on "join" you sign up for a Playdate/walk, and see which dogs are going along. Share the enjoyment of the fun that the dogs have. You can invite playmates of your dog to your friend list. Then you get a notification when these dogs go out, and you can invite them for your Playdates.

Check regularly to see if there are fun new Playdates near you, or make one yourself.

DoggyDating offers you:

- * Never again wait in the park, wondering where the other dogs are
- * A list with Playdates and walks
- * A map with the location of dogs that are out at the time
- * Quickly and easily make contact with the other dog owners
- * Organize Playdates and walks and invite others to them
- * Your dog learns social behavior and to function in a pack
- * Add favorites: You then get a message as soon as these dogs go out
- * Safe for late walks or in remote areas
- * Send free messages to users



ΣΧΟΛΙΟ: Δεν είναι γνωστό πως η εφαρμογή υποστηρίζεται στην Ελλάδα. Όμως είναι μια καλή ιδέα η οποία μπορεί στο μέλλον να εφαρμοστεί και στα μέρη μας καθώς συμβάλλει στην κοινωνικοποίηση των σκύλων. Εάν τη χρησιμοποιήσετε στείλτε μας τα σχόλια και την εμπειρία σας!

Great Pyrenees "Quirks"

Source: http://www.great-pyrenees.us/great_pyrenees_right_dog_for_you.htm

Not sure if a Great Pyrenees is right for you? If any of the points below trigger an uncertainty, a Great Pyrenees may not be the best choice for you or your family. Before we share the negative comments, understand that we believe a Great Pyrenees is one of the finest, most loyal and friendliest dogs you could possibly find. However, they do have their "quirks" and some of these aspects could prove disastrous in the wrong setting. **If you're a jogger** and you want a companion to accompany you on those long marathons, this is **NOT** the dog you want. Pys are not long-distance runners and tire more readily than other breeds. Our Lilly loves to go for brisk walks, but when she gets tired she will just stop - and lay down, and it's hard to do much with a head strong 100 pound pooped pooch.

- **Light sleeper?** Or do you live in a close-in neighborhood or apartment complex? If so, you may want to think about a different breed. Great Pyrenees are like teenagers... boisterous and nocturnal - and they mind just as well as teenagers. **They're barkers!** Because they are such good watchdogs, Pys bark at everything and when they are young and everything is new... everything merits a bark. They find their voice early. I remember thinking how cute it was when our Lilly first barked. It seemed that within days she developed a deep bark (and a growl) - and decided she liked using it. Obviously, this can be a problem in a neighborhood or apartment.



- **Climate?** I know that people all over the country own Great Pyrenees, but these are a "Northern breed" of dog and they prefer cold weather. Even as a puppy, our Pyr would stretch her pink belly on the snow and sleep in single digit temps!

- **Inside companion?** Pyr's make great ranch and farm dogs, they like to patrol and make the rounds (*barking at everything - and nothing*). They prefer to be outside - in any weather. This is not a good choice for a "house pet" that will be confined for long periods of time. They need room to roam!

- **Gentle Giants?** Great Pyrenees are called "gentle giants" and the name fits them well as it relates to their interaction with children and cats, etc. But don't confuse the word "gentle" with docile or wimpy. These are very strong dogs and a leisurely stroll is something that is a rarity. This dog can drag you down the road if it sees or smells something it wishes to pursue. If I were 65 years old with a hip replacement, I'd not want to take a Pyr for a walk.



- **Apartment dweller?** If you live in an apartment, it is our opinion that this is not a good dog for you. Although some people do live in an apartment with a Pyr, we don't think this is fair to the dog. These are BIG creatures and like any dog, they like to romp and run. An apartment does not



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provide an ideal setting for such a pooch. Pyrs prefer to be outside - in ANY weather and the colder the better.

Μερικοί λόγοι για τους οποίους τα Μ Πυρηναία δεν είναι η κατάλληλη επιλογή για εσάς:

- Έχετε κοντινούς γείτονες ή μένετε σε περιοχή με πολυκατοικίες; Τα Μ Πυρηναία “γαυγίζουν” (ιδίως το βράδυ) – αυτή είναι και η φύση τους ως φύλακες κοπαδιών!
- Μένετε σε περιοχή που το κλίμα είναι ζεστό; Τα Μ Πυρηναία είναι ευτυχισμένα σε περιοχές με κρύο και θερμοκρασίες μονοψήφιας!
- Δεν έχετε κήπο; Πρόβλημα! Γιατί τα Μ Πυρηναία θέλουν το χώρο τους για άσκηση και κίνηση. Οι βόλτες δεν είναι πάντα αρκετές...
- Ευγενικοί γίγαντες! ΝΑΙ! Αλλά θα πρέπει να έχετε την ανάλογη φυσική κατάσταση για να τα χειριστείτε. Τι θα γίνει εάν στη βόλτα αποφασίσει ότι θέλει να δει κάτι ή να κυνηγήσει κάτι? Ένας σκύλος 60-80 κιλών δεν είναι εύκολη υπόθεση – ιδίως εάν ο ιδιοκτήτης δεν είναι έμπειρος ή είναι κάποιας ηλικίας!

Pyrs as Pets

By Dan & Paula Lane

Source: <http://www.bountifulfarm.com/pyrsaspets.html>

We are often asked if Pyrs make good pets and if we would sell a Great Pyrenees for a pet.

Our answer to both is an unequivocal yes but...

The but... means that there are some things you should know about Pyrs before you can even think about making an intelligent decision about whether a Great Pyrenees should be your choice for a pet:



Pyrs can be loving and enjoyable pets. Here is Barrèges lounging in her favorite relaxing position and again relaxing with Pierre.



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1. **Pyrs drool.** Drool isn't necessarily something we think about often when we think of pets. We usually think about love and petting and loyalty. Well, Pyrs are loving and loyal and they love to be petted but the fact is they drool, too. Some are bigger droolers than others but when any Pyr drinks water in your home, you're going to be walking in water over what can sometimes be a considerable area, depending on how far your Pyr moves immediately after drinking. This may not be a subject included in your dreams about a really great dog but it's one you need to include if you think that really great dog might be a Pyr.

2. **Pyrs shed.** Great Pyrenees have a beautiful coat. It's a gorgeous, self-cleaning, relatively maintenance-free coat for an LGD. For a pet, it's still gorgeous, not quite as self-cleaning as we'd like, and quite a bit higher maintenance. Part of the reason that the Pyrs' coat tends to take care of itself is that the coat sheds hairs, lots of them, so that you will have a hair coat on any furniture or carpet where your Pyr lies. If you have tile or hardwood, the hair based dust bunnies can grow to truly staggering proportions unless you keep that dust mop busy on a regular basis. Owners of Great Pyrenees never wear dark clothing. All of this is during the normal part of the year. Pyrs do what is called "blowing their coat" usually on an annual basis although some dogs will do it twice a year. Blowing the coat might be compared to Spring Housecleaning for the Pyr's coat. Almost everything must go! Great clumps of hair can be gently pulled from the coat or they fall out. The Gorgeous coat starts to look a little thin and raggedy as it's "out with old and in with the new". During this time the mild distribution of Pyr hair on all domestic items seems insignificant compared to the explosion of hair during the "blowing of the coat".

3. **Pyr's roam.** Great Pyrenees have been bred for thousands of years to keep their territory free from predators. To them, this often means they need to run patrols beyond their boundaries to ensure that predators are not sneaking up on the Pyrs' home territory. In the Pyrenees Mountains, this worked well. It also works in the huge ranches of the Southwestern US. It doesn't work well in a city, a small town, or even in the countryside in most areas of our country. To protect the Pyr from its own instincts which may lead to being hit by a car, being shot by a neighbor, being apprehended by the local Animal Control Authorities, being adopted by some well-meaning pet needy family, being stolen for research, or any of several other less-than-desirable alternatives, Pyrs must never be allowed out without being on a leash or in a Pyr-proof fenced enclosure. Pyrs will lie and tell you they'll be good and stay with you but in this respect they are spectacularly untrustworthy.

4. **Pyr's Dig.** Pyrs love to dig. Usually it seems to be to find a cool spot to lay in but sometimes they do it just for the enjoyment. Pyrs are also not above tunneling out when they're trapped in a place where they just don't want to stay any longer. Right is a picture of Barrèges landscaping the Sittings' yard to better suit her whims.



5. **Great Pyrenees are protective, especially of children.**

Sometimes they will protect children from playmates who appear to be trying to cause harm to their children and sometime they will protect children from adults who appear to be causing the children harm. In many cases this is exactly what you want the dog to do. At other times, it can be a bit awkward trying to discipline your child with an adult Great Pyrenees standing between you and your child, especially when it's telling you you're not getting near the child until you present a much different attitude. How would you handle that? It is a real possibility and something to consider ahead of time. You also need to consider how other children and their parents might react if your Pyr tells the children that they aren't getting near your child until they present a different attitude.



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6. **Great Pyrenees is a large breed of dog.** They are large enough that an exuberant tail wag can clear a coffee table. They are also large enough that your dinner, which you left unattended only for a minute, can disappear without a trace, except perhaps, for a little slobber, a few white hairs, and some drippings that were too quick to be caught.

7. **Pyr's are independent.** Great Pyrenees have been bred for thousands of years to make their own decisions. This trait makes them excellent guardians but is responsible for causing some human canine behavioral specialists to rate the Great Pyrenees as "not very intelligent" because they don't seem to understand quickly what the "specialist" wants them to do. The truth is, Pyrs catch on almost immediately, they just don't care unless what the human wants matches what the Pyrs want. The effective outcome of this trait is that Pyrs are a bit willful when it comes to obedience. Our house dog, Bob, has been to obedience school on and off leash. He still has to decide to obey every time. Don't expect instant obedience as you would from a breed that has been bred to please humans and the earlier you start, the better.

8. **Pyr's bark.** A lot. At night! This is part of their genetic make-up for warning predators to stay away. This has also caused major problems for Pyr owners who bought a cute little puppy without knowing much about what they were doing. No one of whom we are aware recommends surgical de-barking and we would never place a dog where this would be a requirement. If your Pyr won't be able to bark, don't get one.

9. **Pyr's are usually food aggressive toward other dogs.** This means that they don't share their food with other dogs, although we can remove any food from our Pyrs' mouths any time. Pyrs practice food aggression with their litter mates when they're little so they are pretty good at it when they grow up. If you have other dogs in the home, your Pyr can be trained to live with them and often learn to bond with them, but sharing food requires a very special relationship. Be prepared for fights over food.

With all of this, "Why", you might ask, "would anyone not out of their mind want a Great Pyrenees for a pet?" The only answer we can give is that they are the most marvelous dogs in the world.

All Pyrs that leave our home as pets are puppies that have been spayed or neutered or are sold with a spay/neuter deposit. The pup is brought into our home for at least a month to make the adaptation from being an LGD to being a house pet and to have a final evaluation of their personality to make sure they'll do well in a home environment. Consequently Pet Pyrs will usually be about 12 weeks of age when they leave here.

In order to more closely align our practice with our principles, we feel it's necessary for us to restrict our customer base in regards to the purchase of Great Pyrenees for pets.

- We will not sell a Great Pyrenees to any family that has children younger than 8 years of age living at home unless the family owns a Great Pyrenees or has had a companion Pyrenees pass away recently. We believe a family with young children should not own a Great Pyrenees as a pet unless they already have extensive experience with the breed. We do this not for the safety of the children who would never be endangered by their Pyrenees, but for the safety of the dog who is not prepared to deal with the intricacies of our modern world and whose efforts to protect the children could easily be either mistaken or inappropriately handled by someone acting in ignorance. We have found no way to screen potential buyers and satisfy ourselves that this would not happen.
- We will not sell a Great Pyrenees for a pet to someone who has no previous experience with them. People who have owned livestock guardians or previously owned a pet Pyrenees will be welcomed.
- We will not sell a pet Great Pyrenees to a home where all the family members work out of the house or the dog is left unattended several hours every day.
- We will not sell a Great Pyrenees for a pet to anyone who represents to us that color is of vital importance. When we have pure white Great Pyrenees born on this farm they are sold as a normal puppies and not as "special" dogs because of color. We feel that Great Pyrenees are special enough in their own right and will not traffic in designer dogs.

To those of you who may think these criteria are arbitrary, we can only agree. Nevertheless, they are criteria with which we must abide to satisfy ourselves and our consciences when placing a pet Great Pyrenees.



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Σε συνέχεια με το προηγούμενο άρθρο για τους μελλοντικούς ιδιοκτήτες Μεγάλων Πυρηναίων:

- Τα ΜΠ σαλιαρίζουν! Ορισμένα λίγο, άλλα πολύ! Και δεν γαμίζουν μόνο το πάτωμα. Όταν κουνάνε το κεφάλι τους τα σάλια τους "καρφώνονται" παντού! ☺
- Τα ΜΠ «βγάζουν τρίχα»! Γι αυτό και οι ιδιοκτήτες του σπάνια προτιμούν τα σκούρα ρούχα! Και όταν λέμε τρίχα, εννοούμε "ΤΡΙΧΑ"! Ιδίως μια φορά το χρόνο που αλλάζουν ολόκληρο το τρίχωμα τους. Βέβαια μπορείτε να το μαζεύετε και να το κάνετε πουλόβερ ή κασκόλ. Αλήθεια!
- Στα ΜΠ αρέσει η περιπλάνηση και η εξερεύνηση! ΠΟΤΕ μην αφήνετε ένα ΜΠ ελεύθερο χωρίς άμεση επιτήρηση – ιδίως σε αστικό περιβάλλον που έχει ιδιαίτερους κινδύνους (πχ αυτοκίνητα).
- Τα ΜΠ σκάβουν! Ίσως όχι όλα και όχι πάντα. Αλλά ένα καλό σκάψιμο είναι πάντα απόλαυση!
- Τα ΜΠ είναι ιδιαίτερα προστατευτικά με τα παιδιά! Έτσι μπορεί να "παρέμβουν" όταν κάποιος φίλος του παιδιού σας το ζορίσει (ακόμη και στο παιγνίδι) ή ακόμη και όταν εσείς μαλώνετε το παιδί σας. Πρέπει να έχετε σχέδιο για ένα τέτοιο ενδεχόμενο ιδίως όταν φιλοξενείτε ξένα παιδιά στο σπίτι σας.
- Τα ΜΠ είναι έμπειροι κλέφτες! Λόγω ύψους μπορεί να αδειάσουν ένα τραπεζάκι με γλυκά και μπισκότα ή να εξαφανίσουν το τάπερ με το ζαμπόν από τον πάγκο της κουζίνας σε χρόνο μηδέν και χωρίς τύψεις!
- Τα ΜΠ είναι ανεξάρτητα! Και αυτή η ανεξαρτησία είναι στη φύση τους εκατοντάδες χρόνια. Υπακούν εφόσον συμφωνούν και όχι για να ευχαριστήσουν απόλυτα όπως αρκετές άλλες φυλές. Μπορεί να έχετε ένα ΜΠ που να είναι πρότυπο υπακοής αλλά όταν υπάρχει "εχθρός" στον ορίζοντα ξεχάστε εντολές και παραγγέλματα. Έχει δουλειά να κάνει και θα την κάνει με κάθε τρόπο. Μετά θα επιστρέψει στην "κανονική" του συμπεριφορά – ίσως με την απορία στα μάτια γιατί σκουζάτε τόσο πολύ και αναστατωθήκατε χωρίς λόγο! ☺



- Τα ΜΠ είναι επιθετικά σε άλλους σκύλους για θέματα τροφής. Τα ΜΠ δεν μοιράζονται την τροφή τους με άλλα σκυλιά ακόμη και όταν ζουν στο ίδιο σπίτι. Μπορεί να ξεσπάσει καυγάς ακόμη και για ένα μπισκοτάκι. Επίσης ορισμένα σκυλιά εφαρμόζουν κόλπα εξαπάτησης μόνο και μόνο για να φάνε το φαγητό ή μπισκότο του άλλου σκύλου – πχ. αρχίζουν και γαυγίζουν ώστε να ξεσηκωθούν και οι υπόλοιποι τη στιγμή που αυτοί κλέβουν το αφύλακτο κόκκαλο!

Ενδιαφέρον παρουσιάζει και το τελευταίο τμήμα του άρθρου που αναφέρεται στην πώληση ΜΠ σε τρίτους:

- Αποφεύγουν οικογένειες με παιδιά κάτω των 8 ετών ή χωρίς προηγούμενη εμπειρία ΜΠ
- Αποφεύγουν ιδιοκτήτες που δεν έχουν εμπειρία με ΜΠ
- Αποφύγουν ιδιοκτήτες/οικογένειες όπου όλοι εργάζονται ή απουσιάζουν για πολλές ώρες από το σπίτι
- Αποφεύγουν ιδιοκτήτες που επικεντρώνουν ιδιαίτερα στο χρώμα του ΜΠ – ιδίως στο “ολόλευκο”

10 Tips for Getting Great Photos of Your Dog

Source: <http://www.dogster.com/dog-pictures/take-great-dog-photos>

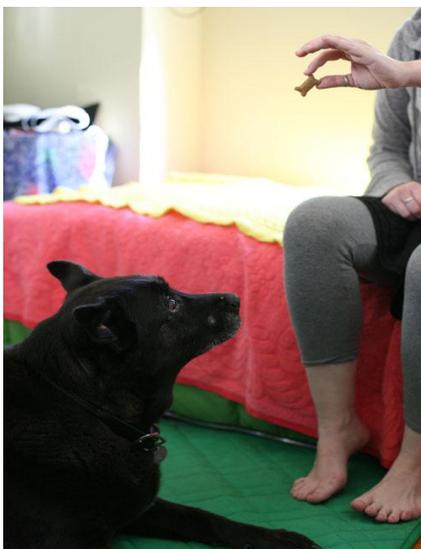
Sometimes we really wonder...with ears propped, head angled just a liiiittle to the right, and paws frozen in stance, our Mr. Snuffers McSnufferton seems to know when a camera's around. Does he *know* we're snapping a photo of him? He must!

Interesting then that he's so choosy about when he wants to have his photo taken. We don't blame him for feeling a little self conscious - that bargain pooch haircut, no bueno.

While we wait for that mop chop to grow out, and for our pupsters to feel a little more camera ready, we're going to capture all of his tail waggin', tongue hangin', grass chompin' charm with these handy bribes, er, *tips*!



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1. The treat trick

Ahhh, the treat trick. Nothin' like some good old fashioned bribery to get your pup to do what you want. Sounds easy enough, but trust us when we say there's more to it than just waving a treat around.

Sweeten your pup up first by giving him a few small treats - comfortable and happy is the goal! Once he knows you have the treats and that you're freely giving them out, keep them in your hand and near your camera while you start to photograph.

Another option is taping the treat to the top of your camera - this way your pup's eyes will always be towards the lens! ('Course if you think your pooch might lunge for it, be cautious!)

2. Set up challenges you know your dog can't resist

We like to call these dog photo traps (not to be confused with the equally cool National Geographic photo traps).

Is there something your dogstinator can't resist? Drinking out of the toilet? An open screen door? An open bag of dog food conspicuously positioned smack dab in the middle of the kitchen? These are all ways to lure your dog out for some funny action shots!

Tailor it to your dog's quirks. For example, our pooch face loves chasing leaves that are blowing in the wind. For some cute pics, we'll get him near a leaf pile. If there's no wind, we'll get a friend to help us get some up in the air!

3. Simple and colorful blankets, backgrounds and toys

Here's an easy one: simple backgrounds. They make for great dog photos! A simple, stuff-free background brings all the attention to your doggy. A blank wall, background, blanket - get your pup in front of one of these.



Colorful rugs, blankets and toys are the perfect way to brighten up the photo and will make your subject (aka pupperz) pop all the more.



4. How to make your dog smile

This trick works like a charm every time. Take your main woofers for a quick sprint around the backyard/block/living room. If pup's not in a sprinting mood, throw a toy around to get him active.

Bring him back to the spot you want to photograph. At this point, your pup should be panting up a storm a.k.a. looking up at you with a big cute, tongue-hangy grin! Aim, shoot, "awww."



5. Candid photos: See what your dog is doing when you're not looking

There are three methods to candid photos of your canine companion. They work best when not used with flash since flash will grab your dog's attention. If you're indoors, instead of flash, set your camera on high ISO, sports mode, or any mode that lets you take photos in low-light conditions.



- **Sneak attack** - Take your shoes off, get in stealth mode, and sneak up on your pup. We keep our camera held up to our face while we do this, so as not to startle him with any sudden movements (i.e. bringing our camera up to our face). This one's the most difficult since dogs have such a keen sense of hearing.

- **Zoom** - Have zoom on your camera? Use it! This way you can stand far away from your dog and capture that adorable shot without distracting 'em.

- **The Camera Extender** - The camera extender is a hand-held extendable pole on which you can mount your digital camera (works best with point and shoots). We like to use this one to peek our camera around corners, over fences, and under tables. It lets us capture our doggy without him knowing we're taking a photo. It's kind of like sending out a drone to bring back photos from beyond!



6. Get on your dog's eye level

All those photos you have of your kibble-nibbler from above are lovely, but you're probably tired of seeing your feet in all of your shots. Get down to your poocherton's eye level.

Chances are they'll be less distracted by you hovering from above and if you sit at their level long enough, they will start to get more comfy with you and your camera. Getting on their level also softens the master/follower hierarchy - now, you see your dog as an equal!

7. Catch 'em in a chillaxed mood

Wait 'til after you take them to the park or on a walk for your photo session; they'll be in a more relaxed and comfortable mood. Chances are you'll get some great pics of your dog lounging or sleeping!

8. Prepare to shoot on special occasions!

Baths, dog-friend birthday parties, doggy watersides, doggy trampolines. You get the picture.

9. Make a doggy composite

Get close up shots of your dog's most adorable parts - tufted paws, curly tail, shiny round nose. Put the photos together to make a doggy composite! This would look especially sharp framed and hung together in a block on your wall. (You can even make a dog photo block!)



10. Let your pooch do the shooting

Have you heard of Doggie Cam? You can use a Gorillapod (a bendy tripod) to attach a camera to your dog. Wrap the Gorillapod



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around your doggy's collar, turn the camera on video mode (or set the photo timer), and see where he goes and what he does!

The Don'ts

Don't use too much flash. This will eventually bother your pup, and it'll make his eyes look funky. Shoot in daylight or use high ISO, sports mode, and any low-light setting if you need to!

Don't have a nonstop dog photo session. Let them have a break! Mix play in.

Don't make 'em do things you know they'll hate (i.e. clothes, go places they don't like)

Don't think you need a fancy camera. Point and shoots can do wonders!

Don't restrict yourself. Experiment!

Don't suddenly throw a camera in your puppy's face. Let them get used to the camera.

And there you have it! 10 tips for getting great photos of your pooch. Mix play with photos, and you're in for a photo session that will keep your dog happy, too!

Η φωτογράφιση του σκύλου σας δεν είναι τόσο εύκολη όσο φαίνεται! Ευτυχώς με τα σύγχρονα μέσα έχουμε δυνατότητα να πάρουμε δεκάδες φωτογραφίες – κάποιες θα είναι καταπληκτικές και οι περισσότερες κουνημένες ή μια ουρά ή μισό κεφάλι! ☺

Δέκα συμβουλές για μια επιτυχημένη φωτογράφιση:

1. Προετοιμάστε τον σκύλο σας με μερικά μπισκοτάκια για να κερδίσετε την προσοχή και την αναμονή του. Βάλτε εάν θέλετε ένα μπισκοτάκι πάνω στην camera για καλύτερη ανφάς φωτογράφιση!
2. Στήστε ένα σκηνικό που δεν θα μπορέσει να αντισταθεί – πχ. εξερεύνηση ενός κουτιού ή μιας

- σακούλας ή όταν τα φύλλα του δένδρου πέφτουν στο έδαφος. Έτοιμοι!
3. Ρυθμίστε τα χρώματα του περιβάλλοντος της φωτογραφίας – πχ. ένας Μεγάλος Πυρρναίος που κάθεται πάνω σε αχυροκίτρινο πλακόστρωτο δεν δίνει καλή φωτογραφία όσο όταν ο σκύλος κάθεται στο γκαζόν ή σε μια χρωματιστή κουβέρτα!
 4. Φωτογραφίστε τον μετά από ένα σύντομο τρέξιμο! Σίγουρα θα “πιάσετε” ένα “χαμόγελο” με τη γλώσσα έξω ή στο πλάι. Μερικά Πυρρναία “χαμογελούν” από μόνα τους – κάτι σαν να δείχνουν “δόντια”!
 5. Φωτογραφίστε τον σκύλο σας χωρίς να σας αντιληφθεί ή από μεγάλη απόσταση σε υψηλή ανάλυση – η μέθοδος δίνει εξαιρετικά ενδιαφέρουσες φωτογραφίες (βλέπε tip #5 στο άρθρο) ☺
 6. Συνήθως φωτογραφίζουμε από ψηλά. Δοκιμάστε να πάρετε φωτογραφίες στο ύψος των ματιών του σκύλου ή και “τυφλές” φωτογραφίες με την camera στο επίπεδο του εδάφους (κάποια από αυτές θα είναι εξαιρετική!)
 7. Φωτογραφίστε τον σκύλο σας μετά τη βόλτα – θα είναι χαλαρός και μπορεί να πάρει απίθανες στάσεις ανάπαυσης ή ύπνου!
 8. Φωτογραφίστε τον σε ειδικές περιστάσεις – γενέθλια, φίλοι στο σπίτι, επαφή με παιδιά, με την αγαπημένη του γάτα, με ένα παπιγιόν στον λαιμό για τη γιορτή του κλπ
 9. Φωτογραφίστε διάφορα τμήματα του σκύλου σας και μετά συνθέστε την πλήρη εικόνα του – κάτι ενδιαφέρον μπορεί να προκύψει!
 10. Χρησιμοποιήστε μια κάμερα στο κολάρο του και δείτε φωτογραφίες και videos από τις δραστηριότητες του!

Τι να μην κάνετε:

- Όχι υπερβολική χρήση του flash – σε κανέναν δεν αρέσει!
- Κάνετε διαλείμματα στη φωτογράφιση αλλιώς θα βαρεθείτε και οι δύο!
- Αποφύγετε πράγματα που ξέρετε ότι δεν του αρέσουν!
- Μην χρησιμοποιείτε ξαφνικά την camera – δώστε του χρόνο να τη συνηθίσει!



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The Basics of Dog Photography

By Mark Rogers

Source: <http://www.dogster.com/dog-pictures/dog-photo-basics>

Other than baby photos, pictures of pets are among the most popular in any household. Unfortunately, they also tend to suffer the most from poor quality or, as we term it in the trade, snapshot-itis. You may have this problem if friends start walking away fast when you mention the latest photos of your cat or if your dog's loving brown eyes end up glowing green like some malevolent demon in every shot you take.

Here Are Five Surefire Ways to Help Avoid Snapshot-itis

1) Change angles

Most pet photos are taken from the perspective of a human being looking down while the pet looks up. Bor-rinnnnng! Try something different and get down at their level or, if they're moving, pan with them as you take the shot.

2) Stick with natural light. Turn off or cover the on-camera flash

On-camera flashes are evil. They flatten everything out, cast harsh shadows and are the source of the infamous glowing green pet eyes. If you have to use a flash go with an off-camera one and bounce the light off a ceiling or wall.

3) Stay out of direct sun and shoot in the morning or late afternoon

Contrary to popular belief, bright sunlight is not a photographers friend. It wreaks havoc with your exposure and you typically end up with lots of nasty shadows in places you don't want them. I avoid photographing subjects outside in direct light except first thing in the morning or in the late afternoon before sunset when the light is angled low.

4) Don't wait for the perfect moment and don't be afraid to take lots of shots but...

Most of us are shooting digital these days so you can essentially take as many pictures as you want. With pets, unpredictability is the rule of law. You never know how a shoot is going to go. All you can do is be there and hope you catch the moment. This requires taking a lot of shots in quick sequence and culling through them later for the best one.

5) ...make sure you edit yourself

Some of the most important work happens after you shoot. It sounds cliché but less is more. It's easy to become enamored of the 100 pictures you took of Spot playing with his new ball but chances are your friends won't feel the same way. Limit what you show people to only the very best.

Mark Rogers is a San Francisco-based professional pet photographer.

Σε συνέχεια του προηγούμενου άρθρου ας δούμε τι προτείνει ένας επαγγελματίας φωτογράφος κατοικίδιων ζώων:

1. Λήψη από διαφορετικές γωνίες!
2. Φωτογράφιση με φυσικό φως!
3. Αποφυγή φωτογράφισης με τον ήλιο αντίθετα – καλή ώρα είναι το πρωί και το απόγευμα!
4. Μην ψάχνετε για την τέλεια στιγμή – τραβήξτε όσες περισσότερες φωτογραφίες μπορείτε!
5. Από το σύνολο των φωτογραφιών κρατήστε μόνον τις 2-3 καλύτερες (για εσάς και τους φίλους σας)!



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Aspirin and Ibuprofen: Are Human Pain Meds Safe for Dogs?

Source: <http://www.dogster.com/lifestyle/aspirin-ibuprofen-for-dogs-pain-medication-meds-dog-health-tips>

My excellent nine-year-old dog took ill recently. She seemed to be walking gingerly, as though in some



discomfort, if not explicitly in pain. My dad announced that he was just going to crush up an Advil and toss it in the bowl along with her food. I thought I should consult with some reputable and reliable sources first. I was certain that we weren't the first dog owners to wonder whether ibuprofen for dogs or even regular aspirin for dogs was a salutary solution, or even advisable.

As dog owners, naturally, when our pets appear to be suffering, we want to do anything and everything in our power to help. In the case of **aspirin and ibuprofen, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (or**

NSAIDs) for humans may be easily attainable and ready to hand, but they are almost universally toxic to dogs. There are veterinarian-approved and prescribed NSAIDs specifically formulated for dogs -- always consult with a veterinary health care professional before attempting to treat your dog at home. Let's take a peek at what human painkillers like aspirin and ibuprofen can do to dogs.



Can you give a dog aspirin?

As far as your dog's health goes, regardless of whether you have a very large dog or a very small one,



the immediate answer is no. The simple fact about normal, over-the-counter aspirin is that it can cause ulcers to form in a dog's stomach, disrupting the normal operation of a dog's digestive system. Aside from wreaking havoc on a dog's stomach, repeated exposure to aspirin can also cause damage to a dog's kidneys. In a large enough single dose or over time, aspirin can impair kidney function -- a condition called analgesic nephropathy -- or even cause kidney failure. If you want to relieve your dog's pain, taking the simplest route by going to your medicine chest and

pulling out the aspirin may end up doing just the opposite.

It is always best to ask a vet first. That said, if you have the time and presence of mind to consider your dog's physique, height, weight, and general health history, aspirin with a coating, also called buffered aspirin, or even baby aspirin can be administered to dogs in carefully measured doses and over a short period of time only. We will not recommend an aspirin dosage for dogs here, simply because there are so many types, breeds, and sizes of dogs out there, and too many factors to take into account before proceeding.



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Can you give a dog ibuprofen?

When it comes to ibuprofen for dogs, all of the same terms and conditions for over-the-counter NSAIDs like aspirin apply. While buffered aspirin and buffered baby aspirin may be given to dogs -- only with great care, and preferably after a veterinary consultation -- ibuprofen has an even narrower margin of safety. In point of fact, ibuprofen for dogs is even worse and more dangerous than aspirin, and should be avoided at all costs. The same issues caused by aspirin can be caused by ibuprofen, including stomach ulcers and kidney failure. If a possible side effect of a medication is death, it's probably not worth the risk when there are canine-specific NSAIDs that your vet can prescribe.



Symptoms of accidental aspirin or ibuprofen ingestion



What if the circumstances are different? What if you didn't give aspirin or ibuprofen to your dog, but have come home to find your bottle of Motrin or Advil open on the floor? How do you spot accidental ingestion of these NSAIDs? Since the primary ill-effects dogs suffer from these medications are related to digestion and filtration, the symptoms of poisoning are reliably related to those systems. Things to look out for if you suspect your dog has gotten hold of human pain meds include vomiting. **If the dog has enough aspirin or ibuprofen in its system, that vomit may contain blood, as**

may the dog's feces, which may express itself as bloody diarrhea.

Seemingly innocuous symptoms include lack or loss of appetite, which can lead to fatigue and lethargy. In large enough amounts or given enough time, the dog may experience abdominal pain, which can lead the dog to hunch over or struggle to find a comfortable resting position. The dog may also seem confused or disoriented. In more advanced cases, a dog who has ingested aspirin or ibuprofen not meant for them can have seizures and even lapse into a coma. Basically, it's bad news all the way around.

Is your dog in pain? Consult a vet!

Can you give a dog aspirin? Technically yes, but only under certain conditions and doses. Can you give a dog ibuprofen? Best not. The rule of thumb to follow is that if it's human pain medication, think twice before offering it to your dog, even with the purest motives and the best of intentions. After you think twice, put the bottle of ibuprofen or aspirin back in the medicine cabinet. If you cannot get to a vet, then at least give one a call -- in the long run, it's possible you'll spare your dog further and completely unnecessary pain.

- Τα ανθρώπινα φάρμακα “ασπιρίνη” και “ιβουπροφαίνη” (Brufen, Ibuprofen, Advil, Algofren, Nutrofen) μπορεί να είναι τοξικά για τα σκυλιά σας.
- Η μη ασφαλής φύλαξη των φαρμάκων σας μπορεί να προκαλέσει προβλήματα στα σκυλιά (και τα παιδιά σας!) – πρόκληση εμετού ή διάρροιας με αίμα (πιθανή γαστρορραγία).
- Υπάρχουν κτηνιατρικά ανάλογα φάρμακα για περιπτώσεις πυρετού και πόνου.
- **Πάντα να συμβουλευέστε τον κτηνίατρο σας πριν από τη χορήγηση οποιουδήποτε φαρμάκου.**
- Οι συμβουλές γνωστών και φίλων που είχαν το ίδιο (;;;) πρόβλημα δεν είναι ότι το καλύτερο. Όπως και στους ανθρώπους, έτσι και στα ζώα ποτέ δύο ασθενείς δεν έχουν το ίδιο ακριβώς πρόβλημα υγείας!



On Dogs and Body Language: How I Learned to “Speak” Dog

By Casey Lomonaco

Source: <http://www.dogster.com/lifestyle/dog-body-language-behavior-training>

I remember the first time I read a book on dog body language. It was, literally, an epiphany for me -- “Holy \$!*\$? Dogs can talk to us!”



For as long as I can remember, dogs have held a special place in my heart. As a rather imaginative child, I remember spending hours pondering what dogs would say to us if only they could talk.

When I began to pursue dog training as a career, my fascination with dogs transcended the social and emotional aspect of our relationships with dogs and took on an academic interest -- I devoured every book I could read on the

subject of canine. My office currently includes two floor-to-ceiling bookshelves covered in books on dog breeds, training, ethology, and body language.

I remember the first time I read a book on canine body language. It was, literally, an epiphany for me -- "Holy #@&\$! Dogs can talk to us!" They can, and they do all the time. Dogs, however, do not have conversations in human speech -- their beautiful, complex language is one of ear flicks, tail wags, shifts in body weight, a wrinkling of the nose, and a quick spark in or hardening of the eye.

The more I learned about canine body language, the more I wanted to learn. Trainers strive to develop what is known in the profession as "1,000-hour eyes," hours spent, literally, just watching dogs and learning how they communicate with each other and humans.

I've spent well more than 1,000 hours at this point watching and learning from dogs, and I still have more to learn. Within canine body language, there are myriad dialects. I often struggle, especially at a distance, to interpret the facial communications of black dogs, specifically. Dogs with docked tails have truncated vocabularies, as do brachycephalic breeds, which may not exhibit the full range of facial expressions seen in their longer-nosed brethren.

Some breeds have hair that speaks so loud it's hard to hear their communications, such as Olde English Sheepdogs and Pulis. Asian breeds, such as my own beloved Chows, are a bit gruff in their communications -- they certainly don't wear their hearts on their sleeves like a Lab or Golden may. So, I'm still striving for 10,000-hour eyes.



While learning about canine body language has been very exciting, it has an insidious side effect: If you want dogs to talk to you, and you are willing to become educated in their communication systems, you are, in some ways, obligated to listen to them. Sometimes, lots of times, you won't like what dogs have to say.

This is the nefarious side effect of learning about canine body language -- the people who don't speak it will think you are crazy.

I am fairly active on a number of social networking sites, and on them many of the groups and pages to which I subscribe are, not surprisingly, dog-related. What is surprising, and often discouraging, is how many people who legitimately love dogs can look at the exact same picture I'm viewing and see something totally different.

Take, for example, the picture above. It came up in the first page of returns on a Google image search for "Happy Dogs." This dog doesn't look happy to me at all -- his eyes are squinted, ears are back and plastered against his head, and lips are pursed. Not surprising, since most dogs actually do not like being patted on the top of their heads but prefer to be lightly touched on the side of their face, or shoulders, or along the chest and chin.



The most frequent offenders in the "dog trainers are going to cringe" category are pictures of dogs with infants, toddlers, or children. Like this one:

They see adorable, I see dangerous

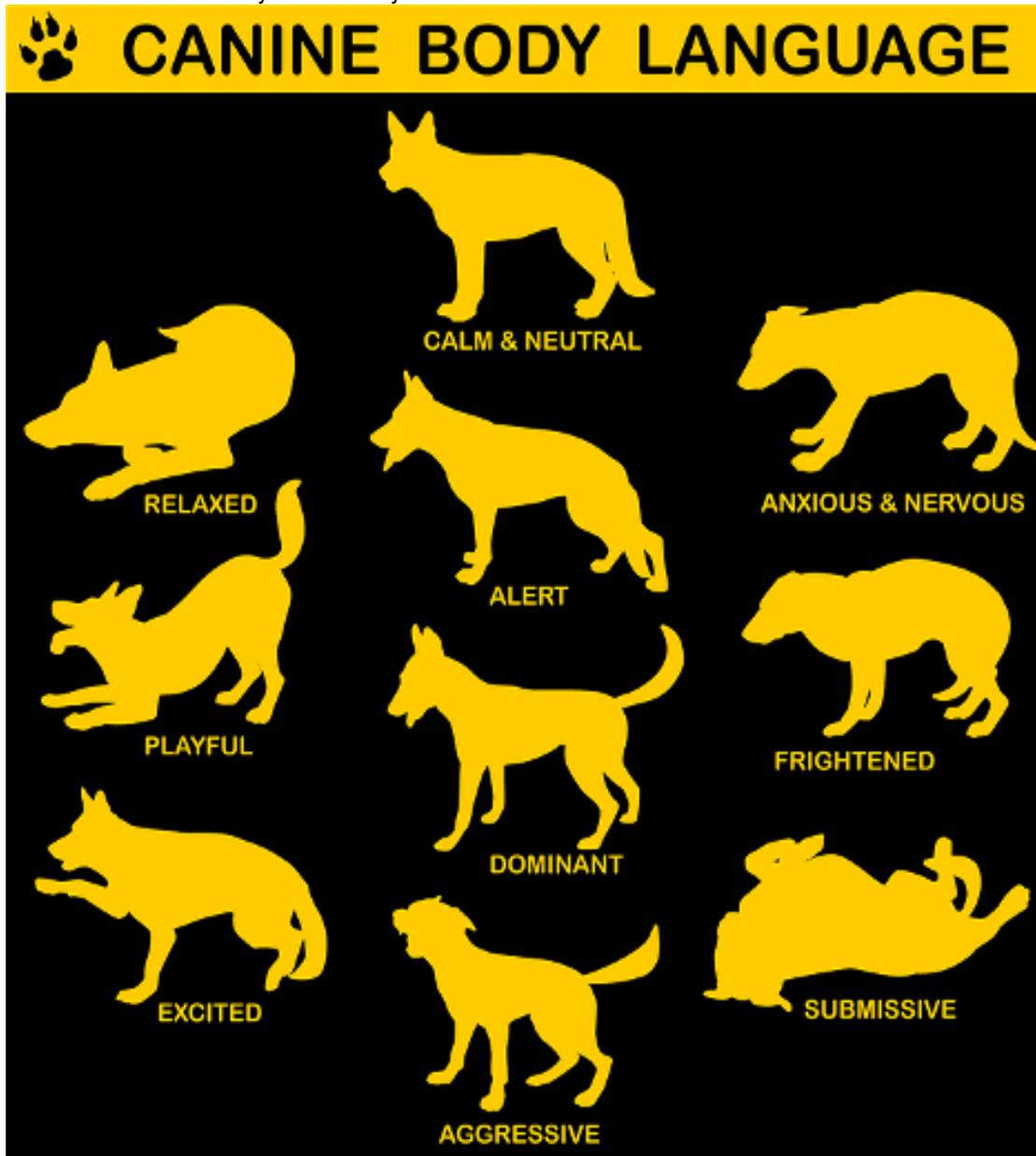
Many will look and say, "That dog and baby are adorable! Love the matching headbands!" I see a dog in distress, brow wrinkled in consternation, hoping his owner will say, "Um, he doesn't look

happy, maybe he needs some space from the baby."



This is the kind of situation that sets kids up for being victims of dog bites, and young children are the population most at risk for dog bites and most at risk for severe injury, maiming, or death should that dog choose to voice his displeasure with his teeth -- the one canine communication tool humans are *bound* to listen to.

Often, even when we can see very visible signs that a dog is terrified, people will post pictures like the one above and laugh, "Hahaha! So funny! My dog covers the same way when he has to wear his coat," but fear isn't funny. The dog above is terrified -- if we love dogs, instead of laughing at his discomfort shouldn't we try to find a way to alleviate it?



19

So, now I do see life through dog-tinted lenses. Sometimes people say, "Yeesh, Casey, why such a killjoy?" Rest assured, when I comment on a picture like this, it is only because my job carries with it an ethical obligation to help dogs and people understand each other better, to coexist together more joyfully and safely.

This goal can only be achieved once we start letting dogs into the conversation and listening to them, as no healthy relationship ever survives without all parties involved being able to share in the dialogue. To me, there is no greater love for dogs than learning to speak to and respond to their language. Here is a great video to help you to understand some of the basics:

My other favorite resources for learning about dog body language are Doggone Safe and the Liam J. Perk Foundation, both dedicated to dog-bite prevention with a wealth of free online resources for those wanting to learn more.

Casey Lomonaco is a behavior consultant, author, and speaker who owns Rewarding Behaviors Dog Training. She is a graduate of the Karen Pryor Academy, a member and board member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and a contributor to many popular online sites on dog training and behavior.

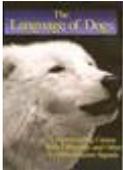
Ένα ενδιαφέρον άρθρο που αναφέρεται στη γλώσσα του σώματος των σκύλων με τα μάτια μιας ειδικού σε θέματα συμπεριφοράς σκύλων. Εάν σκεφτούμε ότι κάθε άνθρωπος έχει τη δική του γλώσσα σώματος, αυτό είναι μια καλή αρχή για να μάθουμε να μεταφράζουμε τις εκφράσεις του προσώπου και του σώματος του Πυρηνάιου μας. Βέβαια αυτό δεν είναι κάτι εύκολο και απαιτεί χρόνο, παρατήρηση και διάβασμα ειδικών βιβλίων. Όμως το αποτέλεσμα αυτής της επένδυσης είναι η αρμονική συμβίωση και η κατανόηση ενός άγνωστου κώδικα επικοινωνίας που θα μας φέρει πιο κοντά στον σκύλο μας ενώ ταυτόχρονα θα ελαχιστοποιήσει δυσάρεστες “μεταφράσεις” που μπορεί να είναι ιδιαίτερα επώδυνες.

Με τις σκέψεις αυτές, ο Ο.ΠΥΡ.ΕΛ σχεδιάζει να οργανώσει σχετικό σεμινάριο που θα δώσει τις βασικές κατευθύνσεις στο θέμα αυτό με τη βοήθεια ειδικών από το εξωτερικό.

Βιβλία συμπεριφοράς σκύλου

- 

[ON TALKING TERMS WITH DOGS - CALMING SIGNALS, 2ND EDITION](#)
by Turid Rugaas
Item: DTB527
In On Talking Terms With Dogs, noted expert on canine body language Turid Rugaas explains calming signals. These are signals dogs give each other - and humans - that denote stress. These are the dogs' attempt to defuse situations that otherwise might result in fights or aggression.
Ships the next business day.
Price: \$12.95
Rating:
★★★★★
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[CANINE BODY LANGUAGE - A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE](#)
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Item: DTB875P
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20

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4.



[CALMING SIGNALS - WHAT YOUR DOG TELLS YOU DVD](#)

by Turid Rugaas

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Rating:



5.



[DOG LANGUAGE - AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CANINE BEHAVIOR](#)

by Roger Abrantes

Item: DTB534

Here is a well-illustrated A-Z guide to canine body postures. Organized in alphabetical order and cross-referenced with excellent black and white line drawings. This book is a must to understand canine body language and the evolution of the domestic dog.

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Price: \$19.95

Rating:



6.



[OFF LEASH DOG PLAY - A COMPLETE GUIDE TO SAFETY AND FUN](#)

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Whether you operate or work in a dog daycare, a pet boarding facility, a kennel, or a shelter, offer off-leash playgroups, or just visit the dog parks, the book will assist you in having safe, fun playtimes and doggy encounters.

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7.



[CANINE BEHAVIOR - A PHOTO ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK](#)

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Item: DTB1005

Dogs have deliberate, subtle, and often humorous ways of expressing themselves. Canine Behavior - A Photo Illustrated Handbook includes 1,000 images of dogs, wolves, coyotes, and foxes. It was created for everyone interested in dogs—pet owners, trainers, veterinarians, ethologists, and behaviorists. Using the interdisciplinary language of photography, Barbara Handelman illustrates and explains canine behavior and communication. Her book establishes a common



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8.



[AM I SAFE? - THE ART & SCIENCE OF CANINE BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENTS
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Price: \$49.95

Rating:



9.



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10.



[EVOLUTION OF CANINE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR, 2ND EDITION](#)

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11.



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12.



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by Turid Rugaas
Item: DTB527EBK

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[EBOOK: DOG LANGUAGE - AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CANINE BEHAVIOR](#)

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Here is a well-illustrated A-Z guide to canine body postures. Organized in alphabetical order and cross-referenced with excellent black and white line drawings. This book is a must to understand canine body language and the evolution of the domestic dog.

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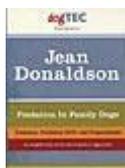
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15.



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16.



[OFF LEASH DOG PLAY POCKET GUIDE - A COMPLETE GUIDE TO SAFETY & FUN](#)

by Robin K. Bennett & Susan Briggs

Item: DTB1086

Use these laminated, fold out guides to help you learn body language basics. This quick reference visual behavior guide is a great companion tool for anyone supervising off leash dog play.

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Price: \$13.95

Rating:



17.



[EBOOK: EVOLUTION OF CANINE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR, 2ND EDITION](#)

by Roger Abrantes

Item: DTB535EBK

2nd Edition is updated, revised, and expanded. Leads the reader step-by-step through the various aspects involved in development of social behavior patterns. It is a comparative study that dismisses many common beliefs and assumptions and leaves the reader with simple, sound explanations. For all students of animal behavior.

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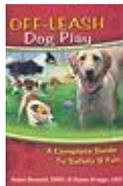
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Item: DTB963EBK

Whether you operate or work in a dog daycare, a pet boarding facility, a kennel, or a shelter, offer off-leash playgroups, or just visit the dog parks, the book will assist you in having safe, fun playtimes and doggy encounters.

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20.  [ON TALKING TERMS WITH DOGS - CALMING SIGNALS, 2ND EDITION BOOK / EBOOK COMBO](#)
by Turid Rugaas
Item: A258
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Rating:


21.  [EBOOK: TALES OF TWO SPECIES - ESSAYS ON LOVING AND LIVING WITH DOGS](#)
by Patricia McConnell
Item: DTB1038EBK
Have you ever caught yourself wondering just what your dog is thinking when he suddenly drops and rolls around on his back in ecstasy? In these 30+ thought-provoking essays author and behaviorist, Dr. Patricia McConnell, helps us gain insights into the dog-human relationship and the genius of the family dog.
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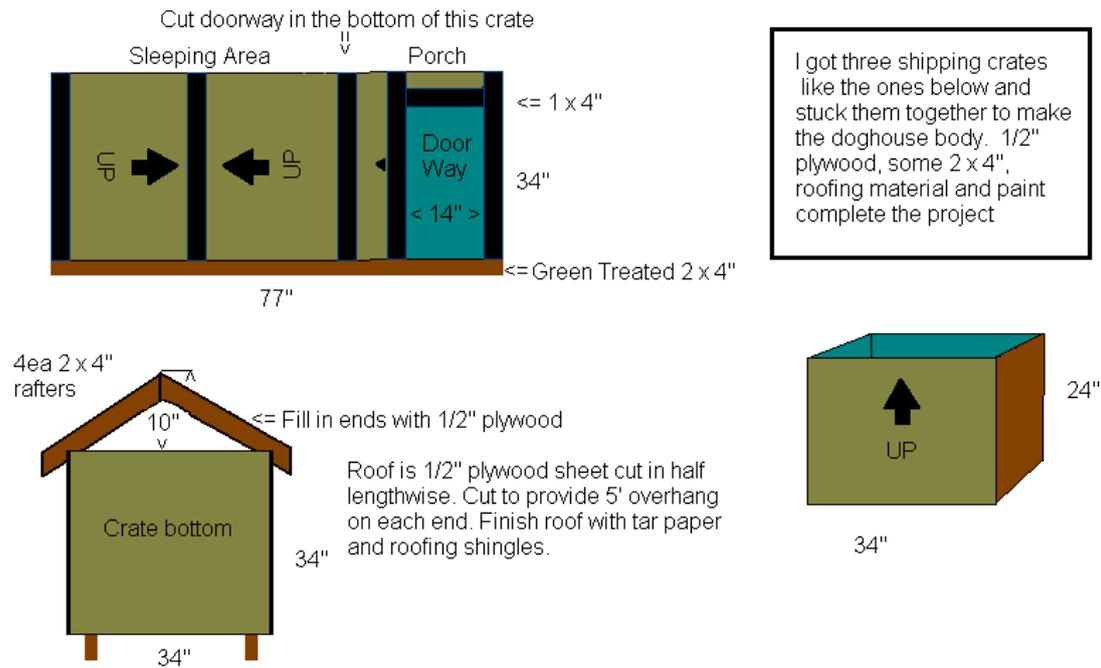
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LET'S TALK DOG UNDERSTANDING YOUR DOG'S STRESS SIGNALS

Great Pyrenees' Shelter

Source: <http://www.milkandhoneyfarm.com/dogs/training.html>

Great Pyrenees, guardians by nature, like to sleep outside. They don't like the wind and will find a



shelter behind a wind block. Cold and snow doesn't seem to bother them, although they will find an overhang if it begins to rain heavily. A good shelter will keep the wind and rain off them and give them a



place to stretch out when it is hot. It should also get them up off the ground when the temperature is below freezing



A shed, garage or barn works well. I built this doghouse from three wooden packing crates. It sits on two green-treated landscaping timbers and there's an inner partition to help keep the wind out. The entrance is facing downwind from the prevailing winds and there's enough space just inside to place a food dish. Total cost for this project was about \$50. Using plywood instead of crates would work well, but keep the dimensions about the same for a two dog house.

Fencing

The loss of a Pyr is hard to deal with - especially if it could have been prevented. Being run over or stolen happens all too frequently where there is a lack of fencing. Great Pyrenees are large and most animals respect their spaces, so they seem deliberately slow to move out the way when a car approaches. We are fanatical about keeping the dogs off the busy highway in front of our house and watch them closely when they are outside the fences. Our fence is made up of tee-posts supporting six wires and a electric fencer. The dog receives a shock when touching the wire and can be trained to the fence with two or three shocks. The fences require maintenance to check for broken wires, to tighten sagging wires and to trim back weeds and grass. They do not work in the snow or when a lot of weeds touch the wires. A standard wire fence or cattle panel works well, though some Pyrs learn to climb.



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Boomer will climb any five-foot fence but does respect the electric fence - even if it is under five feet of snow. We have also used a portable electric sheep fence which the Pyrs respect (Premier 1). Several people have told us that invisible fencing works out well for them.



Η δική μας εκτίμηση είναι ότι μπορεί ο ηλεκτρικός φράχτης να είναι αποτελεσματικός για τα παραγωγικά ζώα, αλλά δεν δουλεύει για τα ΜΠ και την ευφυΐα που τα χαρακτηρίζει. Τίποτα δεν είναι καλύτερο από μια ασφαλή περίμετρο ύψους τουλάχιστον 2μ και μια κλειστή γκαραζόπορτα! Και βέβαια είμαστε κάθετα αντίθετοι στα (κάθε είδους) ηλεκτρονικά κολάρα όταν υπάρχουν ηπιότεροι/ασφαλέστεροι τρόποι ελέγχου του σκύλου και του χώρου που διαβιώνει.

Climbing

Climbing is something your Great Pyrenees may do. Boomer, pictured above, will climb any three to five-foot fence. He doesn't climb the outer pasture fence, only gates and fences in the barn. Boomer's dad was also a climber. Boomer is the only male climber. Kodi will climb, but not as aggressively as

Boomer. I'm not sure why they start, but for Boomer, he seems to enjoy sniffing and marking the area he has just climbed into. We do maintain two kennels where the fence goes to the ceiling. We can put the climbers in there when we do not think it's best for them to be climbing.

Dog Hair Sweaters - Epic or Ewww?

Source: http://blogs.discovery.com/daily_treat/2011/05/epic-or-ew-dog-hair-sweaters-scarves.html



It was just a matter of time. Just last month we shared with you the funky fashion that is cat hairball jewelry and, not to be outdone, crafty dog enthusiasts have upped the ante and are peddling sweaters and scarves made from none other than bits o' dog hair found on their floors, couch cushions, beds, clothing and wherever else dog hair has wafted about in their homes.



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"Chiengora" Samoyed Sweaters & Collie Caps

According to the Wall Street Journal, a band of like-minded enthusiasts are doing everything they can to turn garments knitted of canine sheddings from a pet-owner's fetish into a fashion trend. Calling it "Chiengora," a kinder, gentler term than "DOG HAIR SWEATER", the term was built around the French word for dog (Chien) that also evokes the luxurious feel of angora. Apparently this cottage industry was spurred by the publication of a how-to guide titled "Knitting With Dog Hair: Better a Sweater From a Dog You Know and Love Than From a Sheep You'll Never Meet."

Will I Smell Like Wet Dog If It Rains?

We have been reassured that these canine hair crafters wash the dog hair several times with a detergent before spinning it into yarn. Even when wet, a Golden Retriever scarf doesn't smell any more like dog than a typical wool sweater smells like sheep, according to the crafters.

Wearing the hair of the dog

By Katy Hall

Source: <http://jscms.jrn.columbia.edu/cns/2009-04-28/hall-petsweaters.html>

Pegg Thomas's dog Thor is no longer with her, but he still keeps her warm through frigid Michigan winters. When Thomas goes ice fishing or braves a blizzard, she puts on a sweater made from the hair the elkhound-Lab mix, who died in 2005 at the age of 13.

"It's much warmer than wool," said Thomas, 47. "And you know it's him. It's a sentimental thing."

Thomas, a fiber artist in Ossineke, Mich., saved the beige and gray hair from her beloved dog over years of grooming, spun it together with the wool of a graying black ewe, and knit the yarn into her prized sweater. She even had some left over to make socks and mittens for the kids.

Some may think that wearing a deceased pet is creepy. But in an age when people are cloning, freeze-drying and buying velvet-lined caskets for their four-legged friends, dog and cat hair sweaters aren't the most peculiar memorials. Animal lovers across the country are collecting the hair their pets shed and turning it into knitwear that evokes their cuddly companions—sometimes when the pets are still alive.



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When Sammy, a Great Pyrenees, died in 2005, his owner sent hair she had collected from him to fiber artist Nancy Brome. (Courtesy of Nancy Brome)



The box of Sammy's hair was enough for several skeins of yarn, some of which Brome knit into a headband and evening bag. (Courtesy of Nancy Brome)

They often send the hair off to specialized fiber artists, or those who spin fibers into yarn.

"They really feel they've got their pet sent back to them," said Christine O'Hara, owner of Spinning Straw into Gold in Southlake, Texas. "If you pick up an urn of ashes, it's a cold vase. But yarn is soft and tactile. It's like holding your pet again."

O'Hara has been spinning fibers like silk, wool and alpaca for more than a decade, but for years it didn't occur to her to spin the black hair her cat, Onyx, shed in piles every spring.

When Onyx died four years ago, "it was one of those lightbulb moments," she said. "The most obvious thing is right there in front of you."

O'Hara now receives large packages of smelly dog and cat hair from around the country—the average woman's sweater requires two pounds of it, which can take years to collect and cost hundreds of dollars to spin—and turns it into clean, fuzzy skeins of very personal yarn.

To get enough yarn to create something special, it's a good idea to start stockpiling hair well before the animal's death. For more than five years Nancy Brome has saved the long, golden hair of her Afghan hound, Chili Dog. She now has three boxes of it.

"As I was brushing him, I thought, 'I wish there was something I could do with all this beautiful hair,'" she said.

Three years ago, Brome, 46, signed up for spinning lessons and soon was turning out designer blends of dog hair with alpaca wool from farms near her Manchester, N.H., home.



It wasn't long before Brome's coworkers wanted in on her services. The project manager at Blue Cross/Blue Shield would come into work to find her desk laden with baggies of pet hair affixed with it notes bearing their owners' extensions.

Now her business, Hair of the Dog Designer Yarn, has a two-month waiting list and she hasn't even had the time to finish the shawl from Chili Dog, now 12. Starting at a base price of \$10.50 per ounce, Brome spins everything from Maltese to Malamute.

"It's really no different than any other fiber," she said.

Dog yarn is technically called chiengora—and in terms of texture and look it's more like angora or cashmere than wool.

"It's about having something from a pet you love, but on a purely aesthetic level, the yarn is really beautiful," said Kendall Crolius, author of "Knitting With Dog Hair: Better a Sweater From a Dog You Know and Love Than From a Sheep You'll Never Meet."

If you're wondering whether a wet dog hair sweater will start to smell like your pooch after he comes in from a romp in the rain, it won't. Chiengora is thoroughly hand washed and deodorized before being spun into yarn.

"In the same way a wool sweater doesn't smell like wet sheep, a dog hair sweater doesn't smell like wet dog," Thomas said.

Despite its pleasing properties, pet hair isn't the perfect material for human clothing. It lacks the memory—the ability to retain its original shape—that makes wool more elastic. And people may also find that their sweaters tend to shed just like their pets.

Even though enthusiasts of pet yarn are invariably ardent animal lovers, some people find turning family members into clothing distasteful or morbid. A widespread misconception about how the hair is harvested only adds to the contempt, said Crolius.

"There are people who are going to be grossed out by it," she said. "They think we're out there shearing dogs. We'd never do that."

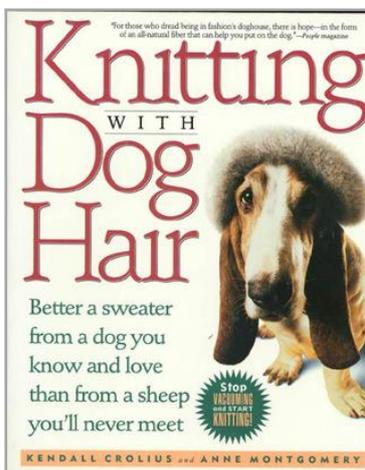


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E-mail: ksh2119@columbia.edu

Knitting With Dog Hair: Better A Sweater From A Dog You Know and Love Than From A Sheep You'll Never Meet

Source: http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/725900.Knitting_With_Dog_Hair



Learn to recycle Rover into beautiful garments and accessories as the authors teach you this wacky new spin on an old craft. *Knitting with Dog Hair* is the definitive guide to putting on the dog!

In this tip-filled, easy-to-use book, the authors tell:

- How to make Afghan or a beret from your Beagle: you pet can yield yarn
- How to collect, clean, and store your pooch's fur
- How to modify your patterns to accommodate pet-spun yarn
- How to find experienced pet hair spinners, a guide to resources and suppliers

From mittens from a Malamute to caps from a Collie, this illustrated guide is the creative answer to that vexing shedding problem. This fetching book is certain to be this year's best in show!

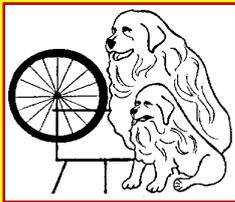
► Οδηγίες συλλογής και επεξεργασίας μαλλιού:

http://www.ehow.com/how_2074482_knit-dog-hair-sweater.html

ehow

Είναι όντως εντυπωσιακές οι ποσότητες μαλλιού που συλλέγουν οι ιδιοκτήτες Μ Πυρηνάϊων την εποχή που ο σκύλος αλλάζει σχεδόν το σύνολο του τριχώματος του. Ίσως πολλές φορές να σκεφτήκατε: “Με τόσο μαλλί φτιάχνω πουλόβερ!” Όπως διαβάσατε στα παραπάνω κείμενα, αυτός ο αστείσιμος είναι πλέον πραγματικότητα! Η επεξεργασία του μαλλιού δεν διαφέρει από εκείνη των προβάτων. Έτσι εάν έχετε κάποια γνωστή κυρία που ξέρει να γνέθει και να πλέκει τότε μπορείτε να το επιχειρήσετε. Και εάν αναρωτιέστε εάν θα μυρίζει «σκυλίλα» όταν βραχεί, ένα είναι σίγουρο: όλα τα ρούχα από αγνό παρθένο μαλλί έχουν μια ιδιαίτερη μυρωδιά όταν βραχούν! Τίποτα παραπάνω!

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Coping with Pet Loss

By Lawrence Robinson, Jeanne Segal, Ph.D., and Robert Segal, M.A.

Last updated: July 2014

Source: http://www.helpguide.org/mental/grieving_pets.htm



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Given the intense bond most of us share with our animals, it's natural to feel devastated by feelings of grief and sadness when a pet dies. While some people may not understand the depth of feeling you had



for your pet, you should never feel guilty or ashamed about grieving for an animal friend. Instead, use these healthy ways to cope with the loss, comfort yourself and others, and begin the process of moving on.

Understanding grief after the loss of a pet

For many people a pet is not “just a dog” or “just a cat.” Pets are beloved members of the family and, when they die, you feel a significant, even traumatic loss. The level of grief depends on factors such as your age and personality, the age of your pet, and the circumstances of their death.

Generally, the more significant the loss, the more intense the grief you'll feel.

Grief can be complicated by the role the animal played in your life. For example, if your pet was a working dog or a helper animal such as a guide dog, then you'll not only be grieving the loss of a companion but also the loss of a coworker or the loss of your independence. If you cared for your pet through a protracted illness, you likely grew to love him even more. If you lived alone and the pet was your only companion, coming to terms with his loss can be even harder. If you were unable to afford

expensive veterinary treatment to prolong the life of your pet, you may even feel a profound sense of guilt.

Everyone grieves differently

Grieving is a personal and highly individual experience. Some people find grief comes in stages, where they experience different feelings such as denial, anger, guilt, depression, and eventually acceptance and resolution. Others find that grief is more cyclical, coming in waves, or a series of highs and lows. The lows are likely to be deeper and longer at the beginning and then gradually become shorter and less intense as time goes by. Still, even years after a loss, a sight, a sound, or a special anniversary can spark memories that trigger a strong sense of grief.

- **The grieving process happens only gradually.** It can't be forced or hurried—and there is no “normal” timetable for grieving. Some people start to feel better in weeks or months. For others, the grieving process is measured in years. Whatever your grief experience, it's important to be patient with yourself and allow the process to naturally unfold.
- **Feeling sad, frightened, or lonely is a normal reaction to the loss of a beloved pet.** Exhibiting these feelings doesn't mean you are weak, so you shouldn't feel ashamed.
- **Trying to ignore your pain or keep it from surfacing will only make it worse in the long run.** For real healing, it is necessary to face your grief and actively deal with it. By expressing your grief, you'll likely need less time to heal than if you withhold or “bottle up” your feelings. Write about your feelings and talk with others about them.

Dealing with the loss of a pet when others devalue your loss

One aspect that can make grieving for the loss of a pet so difficult is that pet loss is not appreciated by everyone. Friends and family may ask “What's the big deal? It's just a pet!” Some people assume that pet loss shouldn't hurt as much as human loss, or that it is somehow inappropriate to grieve for an animal. They may not understand because they don't have a pet of their own, or because they are unable to appreciate the companionship and love that a pet can provide.

- Don't argue with others about whether your grief is appropriate or not.
- Accept the fact that the best support for your grief may come from outside your usual circle of friends and family members.
- Seek out others who have lost pets; those who can appreciate the magnitude of your loss, and may be able to suggest ways of getting through the grieving process.



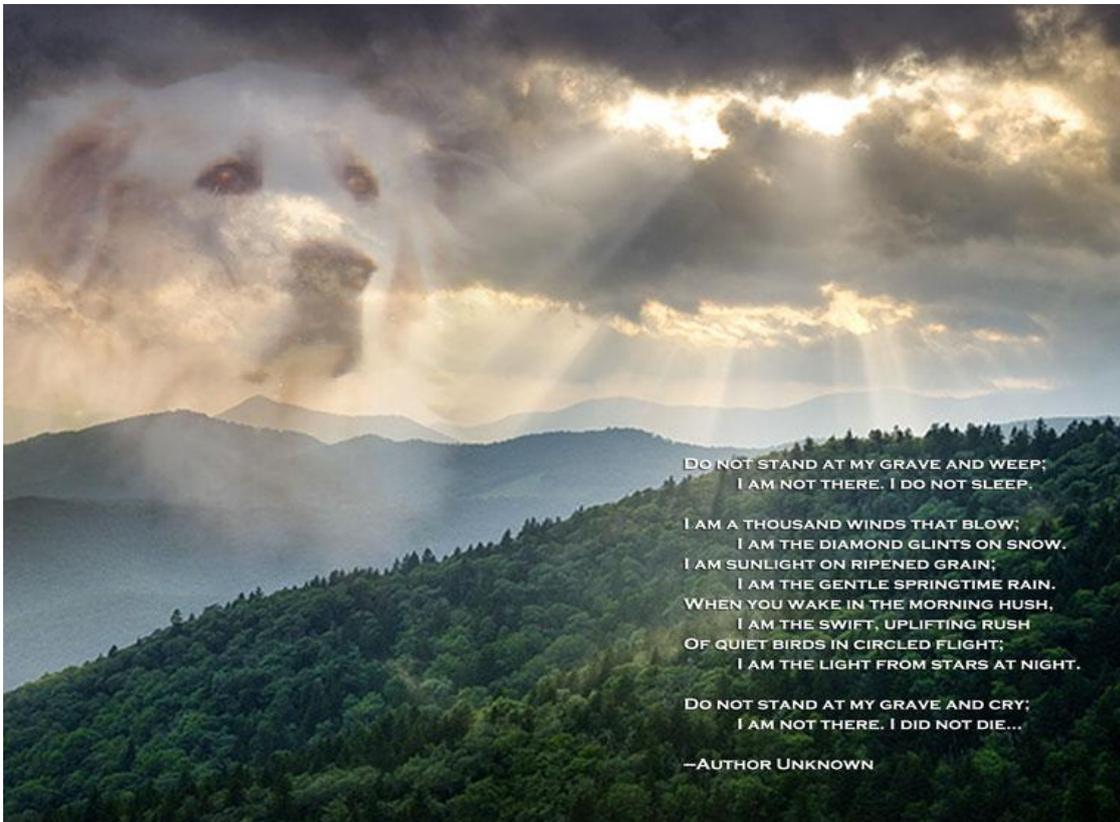
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Tips for coping with the grief of pet loss

Sorrow and grief are normal and natural responses to death. Like grief for humans, grief for animal companions can only be dealt with over time, but there are healthy ways to cope with the pain. Here are some suggestions:

- **Don't let anyone tell you how to feel,** and don't tell yourself how to feel either. Your grief is your own, and no one else can tell you when it's time to “move on” or “get over it.” Let yourself feel whatever you feel without embarrassment or judgment. It's okay to be angry, to cry or not to cry. It's also okay to laugh, to find moments of joy, and to let go when you're ready.
- **Reach out to others who have lost pets.** Check out online message boards, pet loss hotlines, and pet loss support groups. If your own friends, family members, therapist, or clergy do not work well with the grief of pet loss, find someone who does.
- **Rituals can help healing.** A funeral can help you and your family members openly express your feelings. Ignore people who think it's inappropriate to hold a funeral for a pet, and do what feels right for you.
- **Create a legacy.** Preparing a memorial, planting a tree in memory of your pet, compiling a photo album or scrapbook, or otherwise sharing the memories you enjoyed with your pet, can create a legacy to celebrate the life of your animal companion.
- **Look after yourself.** The stress of losing a pet can quickly deplete your energy and emotional reserves. Looking after your physical and emotional needs will help you get through this difficult time. Eat a healthy diet, get plenty of sleep, and exercise regularly to release endorphins and help boost your mood.

- **If you have other pets, try to maintain your normal routine.** Surviving pets can also experience loss when a pet dies, or they may become distressed by your sorrow. Maintaining their daily routines, or even increasing exercise and play times, will not only benefit the surviving pets but may also help to elevate your outlook too.



DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP;
I AM NOT THERE. I DO NOT SLEEP.

I AM A THOUSAND WINDS THAT BLOW;
I AM THE DIAMOND GLINTS ON SNOW.
I AM SUNLIGHT ON RIPENED GRAIN;
I AM THE GENTLE SPRINGTIME RAIN.
WHEN YOU WAKE IN THE MORNING HUSH,
I AM THE SWIFT, UPLIFTING RUSH
OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLED FLIGHT;
I AM THE LIGHT FROM STARS AT NIGHT.

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND CRY;
I AM NOT THERE. I DID NOT DIE...

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN



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Tips for seniors to cope with pet loss

As we age, we experience an increasing number of major life changes, including the loss of beloved friends, family members, and pets. The death of a pet can hit retired seniors even harder than younger adults who may be able to draw on the comfort of a close family, or distract themselves with the routine of work. For older adults who live alone, the pet was probably your sole companion, and taking care of the animal provided you with a sense of purpose and self-worth.

- **Try to find new meaning and joy in life.** Caring for a pet previously occupied your time and boosted your morale and optimism. Try to fill that time by volunteering, picking up a long-neglected hobby, taking a class, helping friends care for their pets, or even by getting another pet when the time feels right.
- **Stay connected with friends.** Pets, dogs especially, can help seniors meet new people or regularly connect with friends and neighbors while out on a walk or in the dog park, for example. Having lost your pet, it's important that you don't now spend day after day alone. Try to spend time with at least one person every day. Regular face-to-face contact can help you ward off depression and stay positive. Call up an old friend or neighbor for a lunch date or join a club.
- **Boost your vitality with exercise.** Pets help many older adults stay active and playful, which can boost your immune system and increase your energy. It's important to keep up your activity levels after the loss of your pet. Check with your doctor before starting an exercise program and then find an activity that you enjoy. Exercising in a group—by playing a sport such as tennis or golf, or taking an exercise or swimming class—can also help you connect with others.

Helping a child cope with pet loss

The loss of a pet may be your child's first experience of death—and your first opportunity to teach them about coping with the grief and pain that inevitably accompanies the joy of loving another living creature.

Losing a pet can be a traumatic experience for any child. Many kids love their pets very deeply and some may not even remember a time in their life when the pet wasn't around. A child may feel angry and blame themselves—or you—for the pet's death. A child may feel scared that other people or animals they love may also leave them. How you handle the grieving process can determine whether the experience has a positive or negative effect on your child's personal development.

Some parents feel they should try to shield their children from the sadness of losing a pet by either not talking about the pet's death, or by not being honest about what's happened. Pretending the animal ran away, or "went to sleep," for example, can leave a child feeling even more confused, frightened, and betrayed when they finally learn the truth. It's far better to be honest with children and allow them the opportunity to grieve in their own way.

Tips for a helping a child cope with the loss of a pet

- **Let your child see you express your own grief at the loss of the pet.** If you don't experience the same sense of loss as your child, respect their grief and let them express their feelings openly, without making them feel ashamed or guilty. Children should feel proud that they have so much compassion and care deeply about their animal companions.
 - **Reassure your child** that they weren't responsible for the pet's death. The death of a pet can raise a lot of questions and fears in a child. You may need to reassure your child that you, their parents, are not also likely to die. It's important to talk about all their feelings and concerns.
 - **Involve your child in the dying process.** If you've chosen euthanasia for your pet, be honest with your child. Explain why the choice is necessary and give the child chance to spend some special time with the pet and say goodbye in his or her own way.
 - **If possible, give the child an opportunity to create a memento of the pet.** This could be a special photograph, or a plaster cast of the animal's paw print, for example.
- **Allow the child to be involved in any memorial service,** if they desire. Holding a funeral or creating a memorial for the pet can help your child express their feelings openly and help process the loss.
- **Do not rush out to get the child a "replacement pet"** before they have had chance to grieve the loss they feel. Your child may feel disloyal, or you could send the message that the grief and sadness felt when something dies can simply be overcome by buying a replacement.



Making the decision to put a pet to sleep

A decision concerning euthanasia may be one of the most difficult decisions you will ever have to make for your pet. As a loving pet owner, though, the time may come when you need to help your pet make the transition from life to death, with the help of your veterinarian, in as painless and peaceful a way as possible.

Knowing when it's time to put a pet to sleep

Euthanasia for a beloved pet is highly personal decision and usually comes after a diagnosis of a terminal illness and with the knowledge that the animal is suffering seriously. Your choices for your pet should be informed by the care and love you feel for the animal. Important things to consider include:

- **Activity level.** Does your pet still enjoy previously loved activities or is he/she able to be active at all?
- **Response to care and affection.** Does your pet still interact and respond to love and care in the usual ways?
- **Amount of pain and suffering.** Is your pet experiencing pain and suffering which outweigh any pleasure and enjoyment in life?
- **Terminal illness or critical injury.** Have illness or injury prohibited your pet from enjoying life? Is your pet facing certain death from the injury or illness?

- **Your family's feelings.** Is your family unanimous in the decision? If not, and you still feel it is the best thing for your pet, can you live with the decision that you have to make?

If you do decide that ending the suffering is in your pet's best interest, take your time to create a process that is as peaceful as possible for you, your pet, and your family. You may want to have a last day at home with the pet in order to say goodbye, or to visit the pet at the animal hospital. You can also choose to be present during your pet's euthanasia, or to say goodbye beforehand and remain in the veterinary waiting room or at home. This is an individual decision for each member of the family.

What to expect when putting your dog or cat to sleep

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, euthanasia for a pet is most often achieved by injection of a death-inducing drug. The veterinarian may administer a tranquilizer first to relax your pet. Following the injection of the euthanasia drug, your pet will immediately become unconscious. Death is quick and painless. Your pet may move its legs or breathe deeply several times after the drug is given, but these are reflexes and don't mean that your pet is in pain or is suffering.

How to explain pet euthanasia to a child

Explain that the pet is ill, often suffering, and that you have the ability to end that suffering in a very humane and gentle way. It is a simple injection, very peaceful and painless, and if you really love a pet you have to make these kinds of difficult decisions.

- Children tend to feed off of how their parents react. If a parent is hysterical, the children will be the same. If the parents are truly sad, and deal with the sadness in a healthy and thoughtful manner, the children will follow their example.
- If you are putting your beloved pet to sleep for the right reasons, tell your children that it is OK to feel sad, but don't feel guilty. These are two very different emotions. You should feel sad, and your children can feel the sadness, but don't mix guilt in with the sadness. One emotion is healthy, the other terribly burdensome.



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Getting another dog or cat: Moving on after pet loss

There are many wonderful reasons to once again share your life with a companion animal, but the decision of when to do so is a very personal one. It may be tempting to rush out and fill the void left by your pet's death by immediately getting another pet. In most cases, it's best to mourn the old pet first, and wait until you're emotionally ready to open your heart and your home to a new animal.

Some retired seniors living alone, however, may find it hardest to adjust to life without a pet. If taking care of an animal provided you with a sense of purpose and self-worth as well as companionship, you may want to consider getting another pet at an earlier stage. Of course, seniors also need to consider their own health and life expectancy when deciding on a new pet.

Each animal is different, so trying to exactly duplicate your old pet will likely result only in frustration and disappointment. A new pet should be appreciated fully for its own sake, not as a direct replacement. That may mean choosing another type of pet or a different breed. Whatever you decide, give yourself time to grieve the loss of your old friend and follow your instincts. You will know when it is right to bring a new animal companion into your life.

Αντί σχολίου η παράθεση περιλήψης αντιγράφων από μια ιστοσελίδα:

Τα ζώα ζουν την στιγμή. Αυτή είναι η ομορφιά τους. Ζουν την κάθε μέρα σαν να είναι καινούργια. Δεν αναπολούν το παρελθόν και δεν προβάλλουν το μέλλον. Αυτό φαίνεται ιδιαίτερα στο πως αντιμετωπίζει ένα υγιές ζώο κάποιο άλλο κακοποιημένο. Ένα ζώο ενώ ξέρει ότι το άλλο έχει υποστεί κακοποίηση δεν θα του συμπεριφερθεί διαφορετικά από ένα κανονικό ζώο. Οι κανόνες θα παραμείνουν και η ιεραρχία θα τηρηθεί χωρίς έλεος. Διότι οι κανόνες αυτοί είναι που στηρίζουν και εγγυώνται την επιβίωση μιας αγέλης. Πρέπει εμείς οι άνθρωποι να το λάβουμε υπόψη αυτό και να μην τους συμπεριφερόμαστε με την υπερβολική συμπόνια που χαρακτηρίζει εμάς τους ανθρώπους διότι έτσι δίνουμε έμφαση στο πρόβλημα και δεν το αφήνουμε να ξεπεραστεί. Οπότε τα ζώα, ενώ έχουν αίσθηση του θανάτου, δεν το σκέφτονται

συνέχεια και δεν είναι κάτι που κυριεύει την ζωή τους. Θα το αντιμετωπίσουν όταν έρθει η ώρα.

Όταν πλησιάζει ο θάνατος

Όταν ένα ζώο πλησιάζει τον θάνατο λόγω αρρώστιας, ατυχήματος, ή γηρατειών αρχίζει να φεύγει από το σώμα του όλο και περισσότερο. Όσο περνούν οι μέρες είναι όλο και λιγότερο στο σώμα του και ο ιδιοκτήτης του θα καταλάβει ότι το ζώο έχει στιγμές διαύγειας αλλά τις περισσότερες ώρες τις περνάει κοιμισμένο η 'αλλού'. Αυτός είναι μηχανισμός που έχουν όλα τα ζώα και είναι προστατευτικός. Ένα παράδειγμα είναι τα θηράματα στην φύση, πχ γαζέλες. Ενώ φεύγουν από την ζωή με τόσο φρικτό και βίαιο τρόπο (για τα ανθρώπινα δεδομένα) η φύση έχει προνοήσει και την στιγμή που το λιοντάρι πιάνει την γαζέλα στο στόμα του εκείνο έχει ήδη φύγει από το σώμα του και έτσι δεν αισθάνεται τον πόνο.

Η ώρα του θανάτου

Ένα άρρωστο ή πληγωμένο ζώο συνήθως αποκόβει τις επαφές του με τον έξω κόσμο. Κοιμάται πολύ, τρώει και πίνει λίγο έως καθόλου και θέλει μια ατμόσφαιρα ήσυχη και μοναχική. Στην φύση μία αρρώστια μπορεί να είναι αιτία για απομάκρυνση ενός αγελαιού ζώο από την αγέλη του με ρίσκο τον θάνατο, διότι φεύγοντας χάνει την προστασία της αγέλης του. Η ανάγκη για απομόνωση είναι πιο μεγάλη. Είναι σαν να μπαίνουν σε ένα πεδίο διαφορετικό όπου γίνεται ένα είδος διαλογισμού με στόχο την ανάρρωση ή την πέραση στην άλλη πλευρά. Όλο τους το είναι προσπαθεί να αναρρώσει ή να προετοιμαστεί για τον θάνατο αλλά γίνεται με έναν τρόπο γαλήνιο, διαλογιστικό και με φοβερή αξιοπρέπεια. Είναι λίγες οι φορές που ένα ζώο θα κλαίει και θα φωνάζει όταν είναι άρρωστο. Μπορεί την στιγμή ενός ατυχήματος να φωνάζει ή να κλάψει αλλά στην ανάρρωση η συμπεριφορά του είναι διαφορετική.

Ο θάνατος είναι κάτι απόλυτα φυσικό για ένα ζώο και έτσι αντιμετωπίζετε όταν βρεθεί μπροστά του. Είναι ένα κομμάτι της ζωής τους, ένα κομμάτι του εαυτού τους. Αντιλαμβάνονται τον θάνατο και τον δέχονται με απόλυτη αξιοπρέπεια. Κάποια ζώα θα δείξουν λίγο άγχος θανάτου προς το τέλος ειδικά όταν αισθάνονται ότι τους κρατάει κάτι στην ζωή. Εκείνη την ώρα χρειάζονται την στήριξη μας και την απελευθέρωση για να φύγουν. Πρέπει, λοιπόν, να τα καθησυχάσουμε και να τους δώσουμε να καταλάβουν ότι μπορούν να φύγουν ελεύθερα όποτε θέλουν και ότι εμείς θα είμαστε καλά μένοντας πίσω αλλά ότι θα μας λείψουν.

Ο θάνατος σε τρίτο πρόσωπο

Τα ζώα θρηνούν για τον χαμό κάποιου αγαπημένου προσώπου, ανθρώπου η ζώου. Είναι πολλές οι ιστορίες που περιγράφουν ζώα να στέκονται και να περιμένουν πιστά δίπλα στο άψυχο σώμα του ιδιοκτήτη τους ή ενός συγγενικού ζώου. Υπάρχει λοιπόν η αίσθηση του κινδύνου αλλά και η αναγνώριση του θανάτου και σε άλλα πρόσωπα τρίτα.

Συμπέρασμα και συμβουλή

Ο πόνος και η θλίψη εκείνες τις ώρες είναι δικιά μας και όχι δικιά τους. Τα δικά μας συναισθήματα, λοιπόν, μπορούν να μπλοκάρουν το ζώο μας και να μην μπορεί να φύγει με ευκολία. Από την μεριά μας εκείνες οι ώρες χρειάζονται ψυχραιμία για να μην σταθούμε εμπόδιο στην διαδικασία αυτή. Όσο μπορείτε, λοιπόν, δεχτείτε τον θάνατο του ζώου σας ξέροντας πως αυτό που βιώνει του είναι απόλυτα φυσικό, όσο πόνο και να αισθάνονται. Μην βιαστείτε για την ευθανασία. Στην Ελλάδα έχουν αυξηθεί πολύ οι άσκοπες ευθανασίες με στόχο την λύτρωση από τον πόνο και εγώ ρωτώ 'ποιόν πόνο του ζώου ή τον δικό σας; '!!! Η ευθανασία πρέπει να γίνεται όταν το ζώο είναι έτοιμο



να φύγει και όχι πριν διότι έτσι γίνεστε εμπόδιο στην ανάπτυξη της ψυχής του ζώου και στην εμπειρία που έχει διαλέξει αυτή η ψυχή στην συγκεκριμένη ενσωμάτωση. Υπάρχουν τρόποι για να μάθει ο ιδιοκτήτης αν η ψυχή του ζώου του είναι έτοιμο να φύγει.

<http://www.marilyn.gr>

Όταν ένας φίλος φεύγει

Επιμέλεια: Κατερίνα Χατζηγιάννη

Πηγή: <http://www.skilia.gr>

Μας χαρίζουν αγάπη, αφοσίωση και στιγμές χαράς, αλλά «φεύγουν» νωρίτερα από εμάς τους ανθρώπους.

Οι τετράποδοι φίλοι μας αξίζουν και αυτοί, ίσως με το παραπάνω, τη θλίψη και τον πόνο που μας προκαλεί η απώλειά τους. Αποτελούν ένα από τα πιο γλυκά κομμάτια της ζωής μας και η θέση τους, ακόμα και μετά το θάνατό τους, είναι μέσα στην καρδιά μας.



Για κάποιο λόγο, σύμφωνα με τα ρωσικά έντυπα που αναφέρονται στους σκύλους, σχεδόν κανείς δεν γράφει τίποτα σχετικά με το θάνατο του αγαπημένου τετράποδου φίλου του. Ίσως αυτό είναι σωστό, γιατί δεν υπάρχει λόγος να ξύνει την πληγή στην καρδιά του, εφόσον αυτό είναι ένα αναπότρεπτο γεγονός.

Καλύτερα να μην το σκέφτεσαι και να ζεις ήρεμα το παρόν. Όμως, έμεινα έκπληκτη όταν, διαβάζοντας τα αγγλικά περιοδικά κυνολογίας, είδα ότι η αναφορά σε αυτό το θέμα είναι συνήθης, σχεδόν εθιμική. Σε κάθε έκδοση των τελευταίων ετών έβλεπα μία στήλη «Νεκρολογία» με τη φωτογραφία ενός σκύλου που είχε πεθάνει και τα αποχαιρετιστήρια λόγια που ήθελαν να πουν οι ιδιοκτήτες του.

Πολύ συχνά έβλεπα τον τίτλο «Χάνοντας ένα φίλο» σε μία ενότητα όπου διάφοροι άνθρωποι (κτηνίατροι, ψυχοθεραπευτές,

κ.λπ.) έγραφαν και μοιράζονταν τις εμπειρίες τους και έδιναν συμβουλές στους ιδιοκτήτες (π.χ. τι να κάνουν αν ο νεκρός σκύλος λείπει πολύ στο φίλο του ή στο ταίρι του). Και μου φαινόταν ότι σ' αυτές τις περιπτώσεις ίσως υπάρχει κάποιος καλύτερος τρόπος αντί της σιωπής και ότι οι ιδιοκτήτες χρειάζονται ψυχολογική υποστήριξη και κατανόηση όταν πεθαίνουν οι σκύλοι τους.

Θλίψη και τύψεις

Οι Άγγλοι ειδικοί σε θέματα κυνολογίας γράφουν χαρακτηριστικά: «Η πικρία κι ο πόνος ακολουθούν κάθε θάνατο. Όλοι οι πραγματικοί λάτρεις των σκύλων νιώθουν ένα βαθύ κενό στην καρδιά τους για μεγάλο διάστημα αφού πεθάνει ο σκύλος τους. Αισθάνονται θλίψη και μετανιώνουν για κάτι που δεν έκαναν ή που δεν πρόσφεραν ακόμα περισσότερη αγάπη και προσοχή.

Έρχεται στο μυαλό σου εκείνη η φορά που την τιμώρησες, κλείνοντάς την στο κουτί της, όταν σου πήρε τη μπάλα για να παίξετε, ή εκείνο το σαββατοκύριακο που δεν πήγατε εκείνη τη βόλτα, που περίμενε με τόση χαρά, επειδή εσύ έπρεπε να φύγεις ξαφνικά για δουλειά. Και τώρα θυμάσαι με τύψεις πώς σε κοίταξε τότε. Ένας καταρράκτης σκέψεων πλημμυρίζει το μυαλό σου: «Τι θα γινόταν



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αν... », «Θα μπορούσα να έχω κάνει περισσότερα... ». Όλα αυτά αποτελούν ένα μέρος της θλίψης μας που μόνο ο χρόνος μπορεί να θεραπεύσει. Κάθε ιδιοκτήτης το ξέρει αυτό.

Μια νέα «μαλλιαρή» παρηγοριά

Μερικές φορές, όταν χάσουν το λατρευτό τους σκύλο οι άνθρωποι μένουν κολλημένοι στη μνήμη του και αποφασίζουν να μην επιτρέψουν σε κανένα αδέξιο και ζωηρό κουτάβι να μπει στο σπίτι τους. Είναι δύσκολο να επιλέξεις μεταξύ της αγάπης για ένα αστείο κουτάβι, με μικρή ουρίτσα και μουσουδά και τέσσερα μικρά ποδαράκια, και της αφοσίωσης και πίστης του χαμένου φίλου σου. Θα ξαναυπάρξει νέος χωρισμός και νέος πόνος – οι άνθρωποι ζούνε περισσότερο από τους σκύλους. Όμως, φαντάσου τη χαρά που σε περιμένει αν δώσεις ξανά την καρδιά σου σε ένα αδέξιο, παιχνιδιάρικο κουτάβι με



μεγάλες πατούσες...

Ο Κόνραντ Λόρενζ (Konrad Lorenz), ειδικός σε θέματα συμπεριφοράς σκύλων, στο βιβλίο του «Man Meets Dog» δίνει την εξής περιγραφή γι' αυτό το συναίσθημα: «Στην ανθρώπινη ζωή όλες οι χαρές πληρώνονται με λύπη και θεωρώ ότι κάποιος ο οποίος αρνείται στον εαυτό του τις απλές χαρές, που δεν βλάπτουν από ηθικής πλευράς, μόνο εξαιτίας του φόβου, αργά ή γρήγορα η ζωή θα τον τιμωρήσει, κάνοντάς τον έναν συναισθηματικά νεκρό άνθρωπο».

Αν χάσεις κάποιον σκύλο κι αμέσως μετά πάρεις ένα κουτάβι της ίδιας ράτσας,

τότε, αν όλα ακολουθήσουν τη φυσιολογική πορεία τους, σύντομα θα δεις ότι θα γεμίσει το κενό στην καρδιά σου και στη θλιμμένη ζωή που έζησες μετά τον αποχωρισμό σου από τον τετράποδο φίλο σου.



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Εκδηλώστε τα συναισθήματά σας

Όταν χάνουμε ένα σκύλο, χάνουμε τη μελλοντική μας κοινή ζωή. Ποτέ ξανά δεν θα έρθει στο κρεβάτι σου για να σε ξυπνήσει, σπρώχνοντάς σε ανυπόμονα με την υγρή μύτη του ή γλείφοντας απαλά το πρόσωπό σου. Δεν θα ξανακάνετε ήρεμες βόλτες μαζί. Μετά το θάνατο του φίλου του, ο άνθρωπος ζει σαν μέσα σε... ομίχλη. Για να βγει απ' αυτή, οι Άγγλοι ψυχολόγοι προτείνουν τα εξής:

Τα 5 στάδια του πένθους

(κατά Kubler-Ross):

1. Άρνηση
2. Θυμός
3. Διαπραγματεύση
4. Κατάθλιψη
5. Αποδοχή

- «Μην καταπιέζετε τα συναισθήματά σας όταν βρίσκεστε σε φιλικό περιβάλλον. Εκφράστε τα μεγαλόφωνα».

- «Κάθε άνθρωπος αντιμετωπίζει διαφορετικά την απώλεια. Ο γιος σου μπορεί να παίζει με τους φίλους του, ενώ εσύ δεν μπορείς να βρεις τίποτε να σε παρηγορήσει. Αυτό οφείλεται, απλά, στο ότι εσύ νιώθεις διαφορετικά».

- «Κάποιοι άνθρωποι μπορεί να σε πληγώσουν, ακόμα και εσκεμμένα, όταν

προσπαθήσουν να σε ηρεμήσουν, λέγοντάς σου: «Μα είναι μόνο ένας σκύλος».

- «Συχνά, ο άνθρωπος ξεφεύγει με τη δουλειά του. Ίσως αυτό να βοηθάει πολύ. Όμως, μη ξεχνάτε την οικογένειά σας. Αισθάνονται τον ίδιο πόνο με σας. Μην κρύβεστε από αυτούς μέσα στη μοναξιά σας».

Πενθεί και ο τετράποδος «σύντροφός» του...

Όταν υπάρχουν περισσότεροι σκύλοι στο σπίτι, ειδικά αν είναι φίλοι μεταξύ τους, προκύπτει κι άλλο ένα θέμα: ένα ζώο μπορεί να υποφέρει πολύ αν εξαφανιστεί ξαφνικά ο φίλος του. Στη βόλτα, ο σκύλος μπορεί να σας τραβήξει έντονα προς τη μεριά ενός ζώου που μοιάζει με το χαμένο του φίλο. Φυσικά, δεν μπορείτε να του εξηγήσετε ότι αυτός δεν είναι ο πιστός σας... Τζόκερ.

Σε αυτή την περίπτωση η εξής μέθοδος έχει αποδειχτεί ότι μπορεί να βοηθήσει: πάρτε ένα κουτάβι της ίδιας ράτσας. Αν ο σκύλος σας έχει συνηθίσει να ζει παρέα με έναν άλλο σκύλο και να κάνουν έτσι μια μικρή αγέλη, θα υποφέρει πολύ όταν μείνει μόνος.

Το σύνθημα είναι ότι θα αναλάβει να μεγαλώσει ένα νεοφερμένο μωρό, σύμφωνα με τους δικούς του κανόνες. Να είστε σίγουροι ότι θα χαρείτε ξανά, όταν η μαλλιαρή τύχη σας συναντήσει στην πόρτα σας, κουνώντας την ουρά της πέρα-δύθε και κλαψουρίζοντας χαρούμενα.

Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement

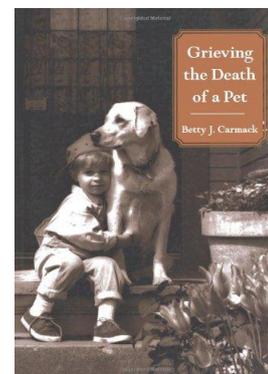
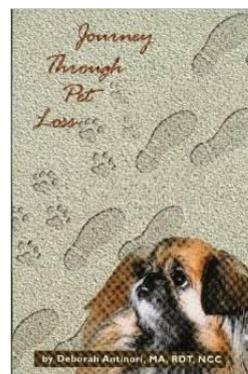
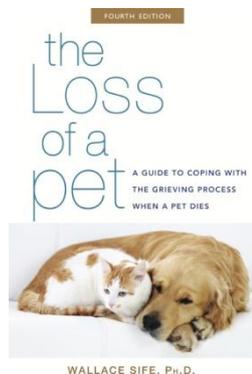
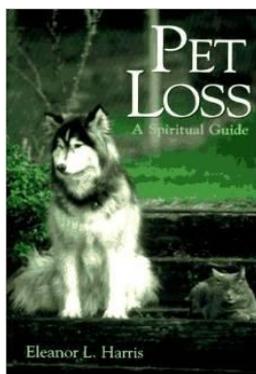
Source: <http://www.aplb.org/>



Ιστοσελίδα με πλούσιο περιεχόμενο για θέματα απώλειας κατοικίδιων ζώων.

► Ιδιαίτερα ενδιαφέρουσα είναι η σελίδα με τη σχετική βιβλιογραφία:

<http://www.aplb.org/resources/books.html>



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Grooming the Great Pyrenees

Source: <http://gpcaonline.org/grooming.htm>

If you can manage 30 minutes a week to groom and inspect your Great Pyrenees, you should have no trouble maintaining that beautiful coat and a healthy pet.

Regular grooming and inspection at least once a week are necessary for your Pyr — from puppyhood throughout his life.

If you've looked at a big, beautiful Pyr and thought what a chore it must be to keep that white coat looking lovely, rest assured it is not that difficult. The Great Pyrenees is one of the easiest of all breeds to maintain properly because he has been endowed with a coat which is self-cleaning, tangle and mat resistant. It may sound like one of the new miracle fabrics. It's not. It is an old miracle. That coat really does shed dirt, really does clean itself!

The Pyrenees coat is deceptive. The texture of the outer hair is coarse. Underneath is another coat, soft and wooly

The once-a-week grooming/inspection session will suffice in most cases to keep the dog looking in top form. It won't hurt to run a wire card brush across the coat every other day to pick up any loose hairs, but too frequent brushing may break



off hair ends.

The weekly grooming and inspection will provide an opportunity for you to check the dog's ears, eyes, mouth, body and feet for possible problems, of which you should have none if you are consistent in your grooming.

Start With Head

For this weekly session start your examination at the dog's head. If the eyes are tearing unduly (and on white dogs this red/brown stain is unattractive) they may need attention. Check the ears. If a black discharge and foul smell are found, ear canker/ear mites may be starting. Any such discovery, when treated early, can forestall serious trouble. Healthy ears may be cleaned with a cotton ball and rubbing alcohol. Long hairs (eyebrows) over the eyes should be trimmed. This prevents them from growing into the eye.



Toe nails must at all times be kept short enough to clear the ground, a good foot can



be ruined by overly-long nails as the pressure of the nails on the ground causes the toes to splay out. Nails may be trimmed with nail cutters or a high speed grinder. If you make the nail trimming a weekly ritual, you'll have no problems. Should the nails grow out, it then takes special care to get them back to where they should be. Always check the

dewclaws (single in front, double behind) and keep them trimmed. These tend to curl as they grow and can grow into the dog's leg and become painful.



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Pyrs sometimes love to get dirty...

Your inspection complete, you're ready to groom. Starting at the head and working down to the tail, brush out all the dead hairs with a brush. Pay special attention to the thick ruff round the neck, the rump and the pantaloons on the rear legs and the feathers on the front legs. If mats and tangles have formed (and they shouldn't with routine grooming) you may cut these out. Just be careful that the scissors doesn't cut the skin, as it is easy to do when working with mats, which get in close to the skin. A comb really isn't necessary in this weekly session, other than to loosen clumps or mats of undercoat which may be out of reach of the short pin or wire brush.

An Occasional Bath

When your dog is shedding his coat (and this varies with the individual, some shedding once a year, others seeming to shed all the time) it may help to get a "rake" with teeth 1" to 1½" long to pull out the loosened undercoat. This also may be the time a bath will help, as a warm bath does wonders to "blow" a coat and lift it out quickly. While we're talking about bathing, chances are your pet will need few

baths. If he's healthy and well-groomed regularly, he will look and smell great and be welcome in your home



No matter how carefully you wash, brush, trim, etc. that final bloom of good health must come from inside.

Coat conditioning and grooming are continual and the responsibility lies squarely on the owners shoulders. If you keep him healthy and comfortable he can live with himself. If you keep him neat and sweet smelling, you can live with him. It's that simple.

Show Bathing

Readying your Pyr for the show ring is another matter. Show grooming is time consuming, Frustrating — and satisfying.

First decide whether it is to be a wet bath or a dry one. The determining factor is how tight the hair. If a pin brush run backwards through the coat is not clogged with hair and a little pinch of hair on the fore leg does not come out in your fingers when tugged gently, it is probably safe to wet wash. If you have guessed wrong — the coat goes down the drain. Before wetting the coat, brush out the loose hair. Loose hair mats like felt when washed.

Shampoo – There are many excellent ones. Make sure it is made for dogs not people. There are shampoos for white coats, ones for parasite problems and ones for a coat in poor condition.

To six inches of water add one cup of La France granular laundry bluing. This helps the water get through a thick coat and takes care of the whitening problems. In goes the Pyr, wet well, add shampoo, and wash away, paying close attention to the elbows and belly hair. When lathered well all over except around the eyes and muzzle, smooth the hair tight to the body, stand back and take a moment to find out what your Pyr really looks like without the full white picture frame. With a soapy cloth, carefully wash around the eyes and muzzle. Then rinse and rinse and rinse again. Remove from the tub and encourage to shake. Do not scrub at a show coat — blot. If it is not approaching shedding time and you have a dryer, use it. If not, let your wet mop dry about half way, then with your Pyr prone, pin brush. Brush up against the hair, layer by layer, until dog is a dry, fluffy, shapeless mound. Put Pyr on feet and lightly brush with the hair to give a soft outline. So much for the water bath.



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Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning is a labor of love. Hard to believe but it is possible to take a tan colored Pyr and get him as clean as one that has been wet washed.

Fill a spray bottle two thirds full of Blue Ribbon Kote-Glo and one third full of Roux, Ultra White Minx (rinse for human hair). There are several different dry materials that can be used in various combinations:

- Johnson Baby Powder — Kind to coat but expensive.
- Corn Starch — Water soluble, hard to remove in humid weather.
- Calcium Carbonate (painter's whiting) — Gives body to a soft coat but is very drying
- Boric Acid Powder — Use with caution, poison. Great for pink drool stains on the chest. Acts as mild bleach. Takes time
- Baking Soda — Use in conjunction with first three. Cuts dust and makes removal easier.

Armed with spray bottle of Kote-Glo and White Minx, shaker can (flour sifter works well) of dry material and unsuspecting canine resting on his side, begin. Starting at the belly, one hand holding the hair, second hand wielding the pin brush and operating the spray bottle, work upwards. Brush, dampen, sprinkle. Every three or four inches work powder in well with hands. Do body, neck, and skull (cover eyes). If tail is not too dirty include, otherwise clean as legs. Legs, soak with contents of spray bottle and work into a foam, towel off. Keep changing to a clean spot on the towel or you just rub the dirt back in. When legs are just damp, with a teasing or vegetable brush, pack hair with powder — put lots of powder on top of brush and rub against the hair with short strokes and allow to dry. The powder holds the hair at right angles to the leg. When powder is removed the legs have a nice soft cylindrical look. Then work Kote-Glo and White Minx into a foam on a sponge or washcloth, apply to muzzle and around eyes. Towel off.

If possible do the dry cleaning the day before the show, as a great deal of the powder will fall out during the night making your final grooming much easier. To remove the powder, use a vacuum cleaner on the body and a bristle type Afghan brush on the legs and tail. Point to remember; Chapter 16, Section 9B, A.K.C. rules prohibit taking a dog into the ring with powder or other foreign substance in the coat.

Show Trimming

Whiskers and eyebrows should be removed. Eyebrows must be kept short lest they grow into the eye. Ears, especially on puppies, can be very unkempt. With coarse, double bladed, thinning shears work against the hair from the leather out. Remove the excess hair a little at a time. The last stragglers may be removed by a quick downward jerk with the thumb and forefinger. Be sure the ears match when finished.

Toenails must at all times be kept short enough to clear the ground.

Fore feet and legs: Feet first — with a pair of barber's scissors, trim excess hair from bottom of foot and around the edge so you have a smooth line where the foot meets the floor. With pin brush backbrush the hair on the sides and top of foot, shape with your thinning shears. Comb the feather below the carpus (pastern) straight out, with scissors trim straight down from carpus to the bottom of the heel pad. If your Pyr is well up on his pasterns, and you want to accentuate the fact, clean out hair from the side of the heel pad in a wide V. To establish the line, hold foot slightly bent at wrist. Lay scissors along the heel pad, pointed to front of the wrist joint. Observe. This is the line to cut. To establish other side of V, cut along upper edge of heel pad.

Hind Feet. Same as (rent with the exception of the V cut to show pastern, rather with scissors pointing down, trim rear toes close.

Metatarsus. It is also called the hock. Comb the hair straight out, smooth down lightly. With your barber's scissors mold the hair. Don't cut too much. Cut down with the hair. Cutting across leaves ridges. The bone and hair should appear to be solid mass. Trim neatly across the bottom or blend to heel pad as in front, around the dewclaws, and you are finished.

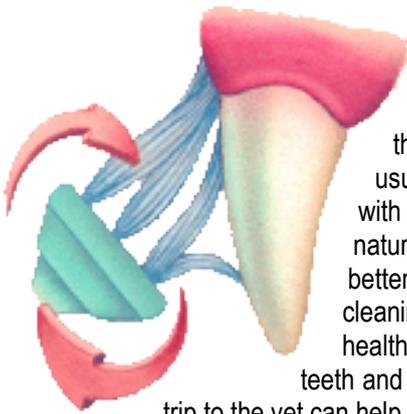
For those who are going to become involved in showing, watch the professional handlers. For scissors work the Poodle people; for educated fingers and cob work, the Terrier people; and for super pin brush layering, the Old English Sheepdog groomers.



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Teeth



Periodic cleaning of the Pyrs teeth will also help to avoid potential problems and ensures you pyr will have pearly whites for them to show off to all those around them. A medium bristled toothbrush or a special dog toothbrush will fit the bill. A non-flavored or lightly flavored toothpaste will work the best as Pyr's usually dislike having their teeth brushed and will so even more if it is accompanied with strong tasting toothpaste. Some owners also use baking soda, which offers a natural deodorizing and also a natural scrubbing action that can help clean the teeth better than toothpaste alone. A good brushing at least twice a year or more, with a vet cleaning or checkup once a yet will ensure that you Pyr keeps its teeth and gums health well into its senior years. Signs of trouble are yellow plaque deposits on the teeth and puffy gums or bleeding around the gums when brushing the dogs teeth. A quick trip to the vet can help these problem nicely.

Parting thought — in your zeal to keep your show dog a thing of beauty and a joy to behold, do not lose sight of the fact that he is a living, breathing, feeling creature known as canine. Not a stuffed toy nor an animated snowdrift — he needs to run, play and get dirty.



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Ένα χαρακτηριστικό ου λατρεύουν οι ιδιοκτήτες των Μεγάλων Πυρηνάιων είναι η αυτο-καθαριζόμενη γούνα τους!!! Μπορεί μια μέρα του χειμώνα να δείτε τον φίλο σας από λευκός να σας έρχεται χαρούμενος και ΚΑΦΕ! Ψυχραιμία! Μόλις στεγνώσει και τιναχτεί μερικές φορές θα ξαναγίνει λευκός και μάλιστα θα είναι πιο καθαρός από πριν! Παρά ταύτα είναι επιτακτική ανάγκη το χτένισμα του σκύλου σας σε δύο φάσεις: μια καθημερινή για την απομάκρυνση αγκαθιών, χορταριών ή μικρών κλαδιών που μπλέκονται στο τρίχωμα του και μια εβδομαδιαία. Στη δεύτερη το χτένισμα γίνεται όπως περιγράφεται στο άρθρο και διαρκεί συνήθως 30 λεπτά (ανά σκύλο). Μπορείτε να χρησιμοποιήσετε διάφορες χτένες και βούρτσες ώστε να έχετε ένα όμορφο αποτέλεσμα. Ιδιαίτερη προσοχή χρειάζονται οι "τζίβες" (κόμποι από τρίχες διαφόρων διαστάσεων) κυρίως κάτω από τα αυτά και στην περιοχή των γεννητικών οργάνων. Πέρα από την οπτική, η απομάκρυνση τους είναι και ουσιαστική γιατί εάν μείνουν ή μεγαλώσουν προκαλούν ενόχληση (ακόμη και πόνο) στα σκυλιά. Εάν η τζίβα δεν μπορεί να ανοιχτεί με τη χτένα τότε μπορείτε να την κόψετε με το ψαλίδι. Το χτένισμα του σκύλου είναι και μια καλή ευκαιρία για να ψηλαφήσετε όλο το σώμα του ζώου και να διαπιστώσετε εάν όλα είναι εν τάξει ή υπάρχουν μικρά ή μεγάλα προβλήματα που θέλουν κτηνιατρική συμβουλευτική ή παρέμβαση. Πρέπει να σημειωθεί ότι το χτένισμα πρέπει να αρχίζει από πολύ μικρή ηλικία, ώστε ο Πυρηνάιος σας να συνηθίσει τη διαδικασία βλέποντας της σαν παιγνίδι (με πολλά χάδια, μασάζ, μικρο-λιχουδιές κλπ). Τέλος το μπάνιο του σκύλου δεν είναι ιδιαίτερα απαραίτητο εάν τηρούνται τα παραπάνω. Ίσως μια φορά το χρόνο – το καλοκαίρι – ένα καλό μπάνιο να ευχαριστήσει εσάς και τον σκύλο σας. Εάν συνηθίζετε να πηγαίνετε σε αγώνες μορφολογίας τότε ένα μπάνιο πριν από τον αγώνα είναι απαραίτητο (;) για μια καλή εμφάνιση στον στίβο. Πάντα όμως πρέπει να έχουμε κατά νου ότι πρόκειται για σκύλο φύλακα κοπαδιών και κάθε παρέμβαση πέρα από τα καθορισμένα είναι απλά ανθρώπινη ανοησία!

Therapy Dogs and Healing

By Ellen Michaud

Source: <http://www.saturdayeveningpost.com/2011/11/04/in-the-magazine/health-in-the-magazine/rescue-dogs.html>



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The small shapes lay motionless, each cocooned in a protective sheath of wires and tubing as a team of nurses ministered to their needs. On this day, the pediatric intensive care unit at UCLA Medical Center



was filled to capacity. Above the low hum of voices and the occasional squeak of a rubber shoe on

polished floors floated the hypnotizing bleeps of monitoring equipment. A blue fluorescent light washed over everything and seemed to magnify the smallest detail—a few drops of blood here, a splash of yellow fluid there, the pale skin of a seriously ill child farther on. Parents hovered in corners, not wanting to get in the way, but fearful to leave.



Into this sanctum stepped Laura Berton-Botfeld with her therapy dog—a 70-lb blond poodle named Apollo. The father of one of the patients spotted them and came quickly to her side. “Over here,” he said, tugging on her arm. Laura and Apollo moved to the bed of his 10-year-old daughter, whom we’ll call Sophia to protect her privacy. The delicate, wan figure under the sheets had bacterial meningitis—an inflammation of the brain that can be fatal. By the time Laura and Apollo arrived, the girl had been in a coma for seven days, and things were not looking good. Doctors had told the parents to prepare for the worst.

Sophia’s dad propped his daughter up with pillows. Her unseeing eyes were wide open, a beautiful blue, framed by lank blond hair.

Normally, with a patient’s permission, Laura has Apollo jump up on a chair beside the bed then onto the bed itself. He’s trained to sit with his broad back to patients so they can stroke him and nestle their fingers in his fur. In this case, because Sophia was not conscious, Laura urged Apollo only to sit on the chair, a position that left him practically nose to nose with the patient. “It was



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the weirdest thing,” says Laura. “Sophia’s eyes seemed to just lock onto Apollo’s, and the dog’s gaze



was so intense I thought he was going to kiss her—something therapy dogs are trained not to do.” Eventually, Laura moved Apollo to the foot of the bed where he continued to watch the patient intently with his intelligent, poodle eyes for a good 20 minutes. But Sophia was unresponsive, and eventually Laura and Apollo moved on to other patients. A few hours later as she sat in a parking lot waiting to pick her daughter up from school, Laura’s phone rang. It was Jack Barron, director of UCLA’s People Animal



Connection (PAC), the volunteer organization responsible for Laura, Apollo, and 49 other therapy-dog teams at UCLA.

“He said, ‘Sophia just woke up,’” recalls Laura. “And her first words were, ‘Where’s Apollo?’ How fast can you get back here?”

In hospitals across the country, stories like Laura’s are common. “I see miracles here every day,” says Barron as he talks about the PAC program in the medical center’s cafeteria. “People who just wake up. People who start eating. People who finally take their meds. People who are paralyzed and then suddenly

move a couple of fingers to wave at a dog.”

But if the healing associated with these dog visits is stunning, so are the sheer numbers of dogs and their humans now certified to provide Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT), the technical term that refers to using trained dogs intentionally as a therapeutic healing tool. **The Delta Society, a non-profit**



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organization that evaluates and certifies teams across the U.S., has gone from 700 AAT teams to a staggering 10,000 plus in less than 20 years while Therapy Dogs International, a non-profit that also credentials dogs, reports that it has fielded 20,000 teams in the U.S. and Canada.

Although dogs have been used for therapeutic purposes around the globe for years, today, particularly in the U.S., their use is driven by mounting evidence that dogs truly can heal. One look at a therapy dog strolling into a hospital room and a patient’s blood pressure drops, heart rate slows, and the corrosive hormones generated by stress that damage arteries and play a part in so many diseases and disorders plummet.

In a study at the University of Southern Maine researchers found that therapy dog visits calmed the agitation of patients with severe dementia. At UCLA another group of researchers found that therapy dog visits had a significant effect on heart patients. The study looked at 76 patients with heart failure

and their responses to a 12-minute visit from either a therapy dog or a volunteer, then used blood tests to compare the patients' responses to other patients who had no visit of any kind. The results were unequivocal: There were essentially no changes in those who did not receive a visit. Visits from volunteers lowered anxiety levels around 10 percent, and didn't do much else. **But visits from therapy dogs reduced pressure in the heart and lungs by 10 percent, reduced stress hormones by 17**



percent, and lowered anxiety levels by a startling 24 percent. A similar study at Massachusetts General Hospital supported those results and extended them. In this report, visits from therapy dogs markedly reduced patients' pain levels as well.

"Blood levels of endorphins generated by the body increase dramatically after dog visits," says University of Pittsburgh neurologist and pain specialist Dawn Marcus, M.D., author of *The Power of Wagging Tails*. "That's why pain levels go down. Endorphins block stress chemicals—the body's natural narcotic."

Nor are the physiological effects of a therapy dog visit fleeting. Other studies have found that the **benefits last a full 45 minutes**. "It's not just that the dog walks in and does its stuff," says Marcus. "Even very brief encounters produce a helpful effect. There's a profound, biological change. And the change is associated with better health. So when you see changes in someone who connects with a therapy dog, something's really behind it. We're not just crazy dog nuts. Real science proves the dogs make a difference."



To get a sense of just how therapy dogs work their magic, this reporter pays a visit to the UCLA medical center early one morning where I meet Charley, a personable, 79-pound "goldendoodle" (golden retriever/poodle mix) therapy dog and his handler, Ellen Morrow.

It takes me about two seconds to fall in love with them both. Charley has long, straight, creamy-beige fur that falls in shaggy lines from the top of his huge head to the bottom of his equally huge feet—and a sparkle in his eyes that suggests he's up for anything. At the other end of his leash—complete with ID badge and carrying a navy cloth bag stuffed with everything from treats and collapsible water bowls to



doggie-wipes, balls, biobags, hand sanitizer, and a brush—his teammate Ellen is a tiny powerhouse of positive energy with hair about the same color and cut as Charley's.

The three of us take the elevator up to the 4th floor to visit the adolescent psych unit. There, on an outdoor triangular roof patio sheltered on two sides by the medical center and on a third by 20-foot, clear, shatter-proof panels, a dozen kids between 14 and 18 are gathered in the sun. Some lounge in twos and threes on benches, others pace back and forth, and a few simply wander around. One kid stands alone up against a wall, looking down at his feet, shifting his weight back and forth from one foot to the other. Tall and thin, with creamy café-au-lait skin and beautiful dark curls, he is completely



withdrawn, isolated as if alone on a desert island.

Except for this one young man, the kids light up when they see Charley. Ellen calls out, "Do you want to see Charley do some tricks?" and the patients gather around the two, petting the dog, shaking his paw, answering Ellen's questions about their own pets, and asking questions about Charley. Eventually they perch on benches while Ellen folds her legs under her and sits on the ground, nose to nose with Charley.

She puts Charley through his paces—speaking in his regular voice, his quiet hospital voice, his big voice, and finding a circular cut-out on the ground as kids shift it around. But his big crowd-pleaser is the way he shakes hands, literally



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curling his paw around the kids' hands and squeezing. "It's like he's holding your hand," chuckles Ellen. "It's a very personal connection. They just light up!"

The kids bond instantly with the dog. As Ellen draws kids, dogs, even staff into the interaction, each begins to open to the other: kids to dog, then to Ellen, then to staff. The process is beautiful to watch.

But the quiet young man by the wall never looks up.

Then something happens. Ellen asks Charley to give her a high-five, and the dog joyfully leaps straight up into the air, smacking both of Ellen's raised hands with his shaggy front paws.

The kids squeal with delight, and suddenly the silent young man is paying attention. His eyes come into focus and he stops rocking back and forth. A few minutes later he rigidly stretches out a hand in Charley's direction. Ellen, seeing the invitation, moves the dog closer. For the next 10 minutes, the young man is anchored to reality by a shaggy dog.

In the psychiatric world, breakthroughs are often made from far less.

"I love these dogs," says unit nurse Coleen Moran. "They know when someone needs love. And that's better than any medicine."

Charley, Ellen, and I walk down another corridor toward the neuro trauma unit where Charley and Ellen are scheduled to visit Lois Kearney who recently had a stroke. When we arrive on the otherwise sunny unit, Lois' room is pitch dark except for the red, white, and green lights of monitors measuring every sign of life.

Ellen checks with a nurse to see what's going on. The nurse enters the room and quietly asks Lois if she'd like to see Charley. "Oh yes," a faint voice murmurs from the bed.

"Come on in," the nurse calls as she opens blackout drapes and flips on some lights.

Lois is sitting propped up on a high bed, wires taped to her head and neck, a tube taped to her nose, an oxygen mask dangling to her shoulder, IVs and other tubes running every which way to more computers, monitors, and wires than I've ever seen in my life. Her eyes are dull, her face pale, and she is clearly a very sick woman.

Ellen quickly surveys the situation, approaches the high-tech bed with Charley, and asks if Lois would like Charley to lie on the bed with her. The woman nods, a small smile taking shape as she looks at Charley. She watches as Ellen carefully spreads a fresh sheet over the bed where Charley will lie. Her soft "Oh!"s of amazement and delight as Ellen helps Charley onto the bed are a gift to Charley, Ellen,



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and the smiling staff clustered around the door, peeking in from the hall.

It's nothing short of a love fest. As Charley lies next to Lois, she gently strokes his head and begins to tell Ellen about a dog she had for 12 years. Ellen listens, Charley connects, and Lois talks, her voice gaining strength and energy with every word.

"He's such a love," she says in wonder.

From floor to floor, room to room, patient to patient, the story's the same. Charley comes in, he and the patient connect, and someone's healing process gets a boost.

But exactly how and when did this human-dog connection happen?

Part of the answer may be rooted deep in our shared past. One theory holds that when people stopped hunting and began forming villages, early dogs—descended from wolves—started hanging around the edges. "The dogs were attracted to the trash people threw around," says Alan Beck, D.Sc., director of the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University. "Dogs were useful. They ate the trash, alerted residents when predators were around, helped with hunting, and provided companionship. And people found the puppies fascinating so they kept them around."

As time passed, the connection between dog and human evolved with each growing more tightly attuned to the other's needs. The bond between therapy dogs and the humans they visit may be the next step on that evolutionary journey, says Beck. But, in effect, the dogs are only doing what they've been programmed to do for centuries: help us out.

Although the theory behind the dog-human bond is plausible, there's a real, measurable explanation for the healing that occurs, says Rebecca Johnson, Ph.D., director of the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction at the University of Missouri, Delta Society board member, and president of the International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organizations. She points to studies defining the neurochemical changes in our brains triggered by the dog-human connection. "The vagus nerve that

runs from brain to gut is stimulated when you see, hear, touch, and smell the dog,” she explains. “That triggers the relaxation response.”

The result: the amount of the stress hormone cortisol drops and oxytocin and prolactin—two feel-good hormones—increase. “When that happens,” says Johnson, “the body can switch over from a deterioration state—a state of illness—to a growth state” in which healthy new cells emerge that can promote healing.

“It’s the magic of animal-assisted activity,” she adds. “Actually, it’s not magic at all. It’s medicine. Good medicine.”

Ellen Michaud is the author of Blessed: Living a Grateful Life

Σε όλους είναι γνωστή η ηρεμιστική/επουλωτική επίδραση των σκύλων στους ιδιοκτήτες τους. Σε πολλά μέρη του κόσμου, η “θεραπεία με σκύλους” αποτελεί πλέον μέρος της ολιστικής προσέγγισης των ασθενών με χρόνια νοσήματα ή ανίατες παθήσεις με ιδιαίτερα καλά αποτελέσματα. Στο άρθρο γίνεται αναφορά σε μετρήσιμα αποτελέσματα (πτώση της ορμόνης κορτιζόλης και αύξηση της



οξυτοκίνης και της προλακτίνης) της επαφής των παιδιατρικών ασθενών με τους σκύλους των ομάδων θεραπείας. Οι φωτογραφίες από το διαδίκτυο που συνοδεύουν το άρθρο δείχνουν ότι τα Μ Πυρηναία τα καταφέρνουν άριστα στον τομέα αυτό. Και αυτό **γεννά την ιδέα** να προσπαθήσουμε και εμείς ως

Όμιλος μια παρόμοια προσέγγιση ασθενών με σοβαρά προβλήματα υγείας ή πληθυσμιακές ομάδες που έχουν ανάγκη από άδολη αγάπη – κάτι που μόνον οι σκύλοι μπορούν να προσφέρουν. Τα παιδιατρικά ογκολογικά νοσοκομεία, το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού, τα άσυλα ανιάτων και τα γηροκομεία σε κάθε περιοχή της Ελλάδος μπορούν να είναι οι μελλοντικοί μας στόχοι. Εάν έχετε έναν Πυρηναίο που θεωρείτε ότι είναι κατάλληλος για αυτή την κοινωνική προσφορά επικοινωνήστε με τον Όμιλο και ίσως βάλουμε τις βάσεις για κάτι εντελώς πρωτοποριακό για την Πατρίδα μας!



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North Shore LIJ Hospital in Manhassat, LI

"Delilah"

Champion Darlington's Wish
Upon a Star, CGC, TDI

"Bridget"

Champion Darlington's High
Distinction, CGC, TDI, RN

"Orion"

Champion Darlington's
Starstruck, CGC, TDI, RN

Dog elected mayor in Cormorant, Minnesota

Source: <http://abc7chicago.com/pets/dog-elected-mayor-in-cormorant-minnesota/254646/>



You may have heard stories in the past of child-age mayors. Now, we have another for you. Duke is seven years old and is the new mayor of Cormorant, Minnesota. He's also a dog. Tricia Maloney of Cormorant says, "He doesn't know how to handle this publicity." It's an election year, but in Cormorant, there's no campaign. Tricia says, "He won by a landslide." Who better to run the village than someone that knows everybody?



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Tricia says, "He's used to coming to the pub and getting some burgers and some fries or something." He's not a politician, but someone's pet. David Rick of Cormorant says, "He follows me wherever I go." Duke the dog is Cormorant's newly elected mayor. The 12 people in the village each paid a dollar to cast a vote. David says, "His name came up. In fact, I voted for him."

“Poor Richard Sherbrook that owns the Cormorant Store, he didn't even have half as many votes as Duke did, says Tricia.

After winning, he needed a little TLC.

Tricia says, “I should say he needed a lot of TLC.

After five hours of grooming and a new outfit, this farm dog looks like a leader. He's even helped make his community safer by roaming around.

David says, “What he does is when the cars are coming through town, they're hitting town at 50 miles per hour, and he slows them down.”

And now that he's mayor, I wanted to see how he handles media. “Mr. Mayor, could I get a statement from you? Nothing?”

I guess he's all bark, no sound bite. Even so, his constituents still say this Great Pyrenees makes a great leader.

David says, “It's quite the country.”

Duke is going to be officially sworn in Saturday at 10AM during Cormorant Daze. As for the mayor's salary, Tuffy's Pet Food out of Perham is donating a year's supply of kibble to reward him for his service.

Toys that Will Keep a Great Pyrenees Busy

Source: <http://www.terrificpets.com/articles/102207765.asp>

The Great Pyrenees likes to have toys just like any other type of dog. However, as a large breed, they will need toys that are suited to their size. All too often when large dogs such as the Pyr get a hold of regular sized toys, they are destroyed rather quickly; or even worse they are swallowed whole,

prompting an emergency visit to the vet. Luckily, there are a number of toys made especially for big dogs. Consisting of sturdy, non toxic rubber and latex blends these playthings are built to take extreme abuse. They are made to mentally stimulate as well as safely release anxiety through chewing and chasing.

One of the most popular toys for any type of large breed dog is the **Kong**. A Kong (photos) is made of



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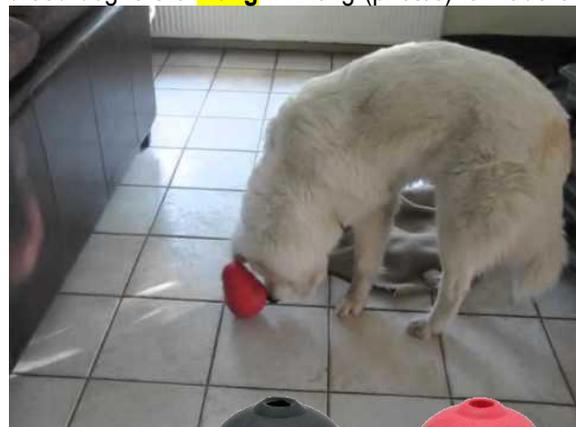
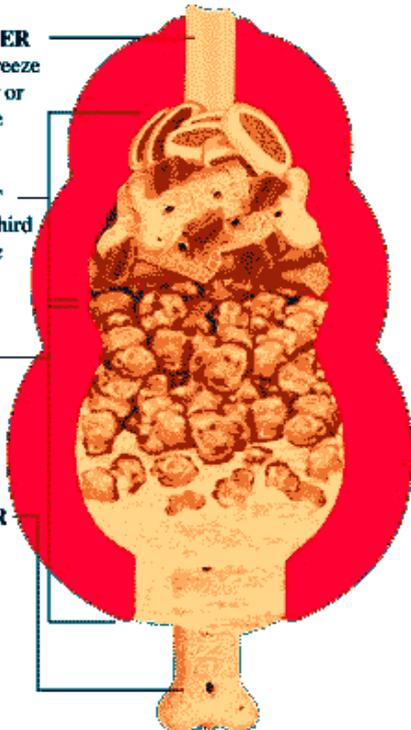
EXAMPLE - Step One: Start with a few clean Kong toys appropriately sized for the largest dog that could access them (see size chart).
NOTE: small breeds need medium Kongs for stuffing.

Step Two: TANTALIZER
Place a little morsel of freeze dried liver, peanut butter or cheese into the little hole on top.

Step Three: DESSERT
Fill approximately one-third of the cavity with doggie treats such as biscuits, marrow bites, etc.

Step Four: MAIN COURSE Fill the last two-thirds with canned food or food roll mixed with food nuggets.

Step Five: APPETIZER
Leave a nice tidbit sticking out of the opening. The “easy pickins” will provide an immediate pay off and entice your dog to “get serious” about the job.



sturdy rubber that is meant to be chewed. Though it

makes a perfect chew toy, it is more popular for mentally stimulating dogs as a treat dispenser. Once a bit of food, liver flavored paste or other treat is inserted in the middle, a Pyr can spend hours trying to get the food back out. The toy is dishwasher safe and lasts an extremely long time compared to other chew toys. Another toy that fits along



these lines is the **BusterCube** (photo) Owners can hide food in several compartments and then watch as their Pyr moves the cube with their nose and paws to dispense their goodies.



Nylabones (big photo below) are another good idea for the Great Pyrenees. Though they are a laid back breed, they are rather strong chewers and Nylabones are meant for this purpose. They are also a good choice for Pyr puppies. Chewing is simply a natural stage of development in puppies and it is their normal way of dispersing youthful energy. Puppy teeth are well known for chewing through furniture, cords and other valuables when not given a proper outlet. Before bringing a new puppy home, any and all treasured and dangerous items should be

picked up off the floor. Chew toys should be left at random throughout the house.



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A large rubber ball made of thick plastic or rubber is a wonderful toy for the Great Pyrenees. This allows them to chase after or herd an object as is their natural instinct. A soccer ball does quite well for the job. The Great Pyrenees will also like a well made **tug of war rope**. It should be noted that small children should never be allowed to play tug of war with the Pyr as their strength may accidentally hurt the child without even trying. A fun blend of both toys is the tug of war rope that incorporates a large colorful ball right into the center



Και τα Μεγάλα Πυρρηναία χρειάζονται παιχνίδια! Όμως τα παιχνίδια πρέπει να έχουν το κατάλληλο μέγεθος για να μην καταστρέφονται (τουλάχιστον όχι αμέσως). Ορισμένα από αυτά (Kongs, BusterCubes) είναι "γεμιστά" γεγονός που τα κάνει πιο ενδιαφέροντα για τα σκυλιά καθώς προσπαθούν να φάνε το γέμισμα. Τα Nylabones είναι επίσης αρκετά ανθεκτικά και σε μεγάλα μεγέθη. Τα ιδιαίτερα ανθεκτικά σχοινιά για τράβηγμα (tug of war) χρειάζονται προσοχή με τα παιδιά – ένα βίαιο τράβηγμα μπορεί να ρίξει κάτω το παιδί! Βέβαια υπάρχουν πάντα και οι μπάλες – προσοχή μόνον στις "σφυρίχτρες" που συχνά περιέχουν! Εάν δεν είναι ειδικά για σκύλους (όπως οι συνηθισμένες παιδικές μπάλες), οι σφυρίχτρες μπορεί να καταλήξουν στο στομάχι των σκύλων σας!

Aggression Between Great Pyrenees Dogs in the Same Household

By Simon Foden

Source: <http://pets.thenest.com/aggression-between-great-pyrenees-dogs-same-household-13061.html>

Great Pyrenees are naturally protective, but not naturally aggressive.

The Great Pyrenees is a large, powerful livestock guardian. This breed should be protective and confident. Aggression toward other dogs is inconsistent with his natural personality. However, certain environmental factors can draw out unwanted aggression in this otherwise gentle giant.



Territorial Aggression

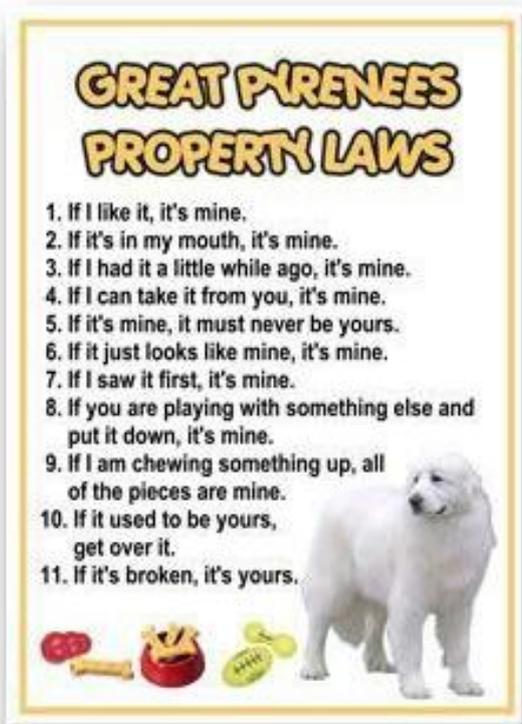
As a livestock guardian, he is naturally suspicious and wary of potential threats to his flock. In the domestic context, he will view his family as his flock. If a new dog, even one of the same breed, is introduced into the household, the Great Pyrenees may become protective over his territory and his flock. If the aggression is between two dogs who have been living together already, sexual maturity may be a contributing factor, especially between male dogs.

Combating Territorial Aggression

Since the Great Pyrenees is naturally inclined to protect his territory, when bringing a new dog into a household, it's beneficial to make the first introductions on neutral territory, such as a park. This way, the dogs are familiar with one another before being forced to occupy the same space. Spaying and neutering is a potential solution too, as unsatisfied hormonal drives can cause territorialism. If you're reluctant to alter your dog, seek the advice of a professional trainer.



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The Battle for Dominance

As pack animals, dogs strive to establish a social hierarchy. Aggression plays a key part in how the dogs establish who the top dog is. Aggressive gestures and vocalizations enable the dominant dog to assert himself without resorting to violence. When a Great Pyrenees is displaying aggression, it may not be as obvious as it is with other breeds, due to their naturally slow, cautious movements.

Dealing with Dominance Issues

Interfering with the battle for dominance can be counterproductive. Once the dogs have established their relationship, aggressive behavior tends to subside and harmony prevails. Monitor the dogs behavior and only intervene if you suspect either dog is at risk of injury.

Resource Guarding

Tensions may arise between two Great Pyrenees because of resource guarding. Dogs view food, sleeping areas, toys and sometimes other objects as resources to be protected. One dog may think that the other is attempting to steal his coveted resources, for example if he picks up a toy or approaches the food bowl. This can lead to aggression.

Coping with Resource-based Aggression

Feed the dogs separately and remove the bowls to avoid unnecessary tension at feeding time. Remove toys and use training sessions to teach each dog that the resources are privileges to be earned. Correct the dogs with verbal reprimands and distraction when they act protectively over supposed resources.

Simon Foden has been a freelance writer and editor since 1999. He began his writing career after graduating with a Bachelors of Arts degree in music from Salford University. He has contributed to and written for various magazines including "K9 Magazine" and "Pet Friendly Magazine." He has also written for Dogmagazine.net.

Το άρθρο αναφέρεται σε ένα ιδιαίτερα σημαντικό θέμα: την επιθετικότητα μεταξύ των Μεγάλων Πυρηναίων. Όπως ο ΜΠ προστατεύει το κοπάδι και τον χώρο του, το ίδιο κάνει και στο περιβάλλον του σπιτιού. Έτσι μπορεί να προκύψουν προβλήματα εξουσίας όταν συμβιώνουν περισσότερα του ενός ΜΠ. Πέρα από την εγκατάσταση της ιεραρχίας, κύρια σημεία τριβής είναι το φαγητό, ο χώρος που συνήθως κοιμούνται και τα παιχνίδια τους. Χρειάζεται προσοχή και παρατηρητικότητα γιατί ο ΜΠ εκδηλώνει εκ φύσεως συγκαλυμμένη την επιθετικότητα του και μπορεί να εκραγεί ξαφνικά χωρίς προειδοποιητικά σημεία. Το πρόβλημα εμφανίζεται εξίσου στα αρσενικά και τα θηλυκά ΜΠ (πατέρας-γιός και μητέρα-κόρη). Συνιστάται τα ΜΠ να τρώνε σε ξεχωριστά μέρη ή σε λίγο διαφορετικές ώρες και τα παιχνίδια τους να είναι μαζεμένα (ώστε να μάθουν ότι είναι "ανταμοιβή" και όχι απασχόληση).

Εάν τα παραπάνω δεν αποδώσουν τότε (από προσωπική εμπειρία) θα πρέπει να γίνει διαχωρισμός περιοχών. Αυτό είναι εύκολο σε σπίτια με μεγάλο κήπο αλλά δύσκολο σε μικρότερες ιδιοκτησίες. Το τελευταίο πρέπει να ληφθεί σοβαρά υπόψη εάν μετά τον πρώτο ΜΠ θελήσετε να αποκτήσετε και δεύτερο ή τρίτο σκύλο.

Η γνώση που αποκτήθηκε από δύο γενεές ΜΠ (8 σκυλιά) μας έδειξε ότι κάποια στιγμή ο νεαρότερος ΜΠ θα διεκδικήσει τη θέση του αρχηγού της αγέλης. Και αυτό μπορεί να γίνει ξαφνικά και έχει ενίοτε αιματηρή κατάληξη – που προκαλεί έκπληξη για τέσσερα σκυλιά που μέχρι εκείνη τη στιγμή ζούσαν αρμονικά μεταξύ τους. Εάν το φαινόμενο επαναληφθεί τότε ο διαχωρισμός είναι απαραίτητος προς αποφυγή δυσάρεστων καταστάσεων. Στην παρούσα κατοικία μας (με τη δεύτερη γενεά ΜΠ) ο εξωτερικός και ο εσωτερικός χώρος έχει χωριστεί σε 3 περιοχές στις οποίες εκ περιτροπής κυκλοφορούν τα ΜΠ (οι γονείς μαζί και τα παιδιά μαζί – ένα άλλο "ειρηνικό" σχήμα είναι: "πατέρας με κόρη" και "μητέρα με γιό"). Υπάρχει κάποια επαφή μέσω εσωτερικού φράχτη όπου κατά καιρούς πέφτει το σχετικό "σκυλοβρίσιμο" [ανά φύλο] αλλά πέραν τούτου ουδέν. Κάθε ζευγάρι έχει την αυλή του και τον αντίστοιχο χώρο μέσα στο σπίτι και όλοι είμαστε ευχαριστημένοι.



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Και να θυμάστε ΠΑΝΤΑ: Εάν ο καυγός αγριέψει και "βγουν δόντια", **ΠΟΤΕ** μην επιχειρήσετε να μπείτε ανάμεσα σε δύο σκυλιά 70 κιλών. Χρησιμοποιήστε το λάστιχο του ποτίσματος (ή τον κουβά με το νερό τους) ή τραβήξτε το ένα από τα δύο από την ουρά. Επειδή ένα άτομο δύσκολα θα τα καταφέρει υποστηρίζουμε την άποψη ότι η "πρόληψη είναι πάντα καλύτερη από τη θεραπεία!" (► Διαβάστε και το σχετικό άρθρο στη **σελ. 59**).

► Διαβάστε επίσης: http://workingdogs.com/doc0182.htm#chitika_close_button



Tadakichi-san

Source: <http://azumanga.wikia.com/wiki/Tadakichi-san>

Tadakichi-san (忠吉さん), also known as "Mr. Tadakichi", is Chiyo's pet dog. A mild-mannered and gentle Great Pyrenees, he is large enough for Chiyo to ride on his back and indulgent enough to allow her to. Sakaki particularly likes him, because he allows her to pet him without biting her, something Kamineko has done at most. Chiyo describes him as a gentleman. Sakaki also

daydreams about being able to ride Tadakichi as Chiyo does.



Chiyo takes him for a walk every evening and after Sakaki and Chiyo become friends, Sakaki often joins them. The fact that Pyrenees come from France is something Osaka has referred to more than once. When Maya finds Sakaki after travelling all the way from Okinawa, Chiyo suggests that he should stay at her house until Sakaki gets her own apartment (since Sakaki's mother is allergic). Chiyo, along with her friends, was a bit worried about how well Maya and Tadakichi-san would get along, but for nothing, seeing as they

respected one another.

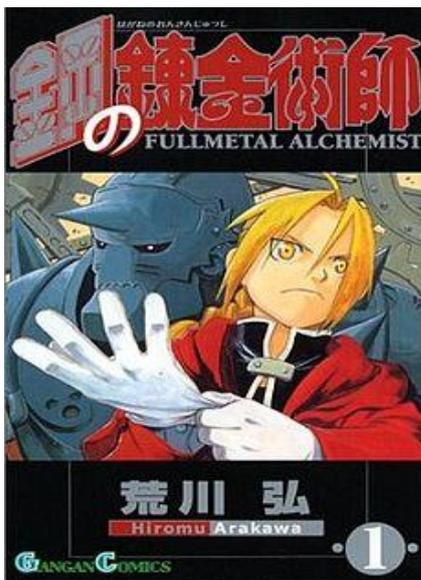
When Chiyo moves to America after high school graduation, Tadakichi-san comes with her, staying at the house of some of the family's friends.

Ένα Μεγάλο Πυρηνναίο (ο κ. Tadakichi) πρωταγωνιστεί σε δημοφιλή σειρά κινούμενων σχεδίων στην Ιαπωνία!

Το ίδιο και στην έκδοση κόμικς "Full Metal Alchemist" (Alex).



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"Full Metal Alchemist" manga has sold approximately 64 million volumes as of 2014

Alexander was the family pet of the Tucker Family and Nina's closest best friend.



Interactive pet activity toys & treat puzzle games

Source: <http://www.nina-ottosson.com/index.php>



Nina Ottosson's philosophy is that the dog has four legs and one head, and all five need activity in different ways – both physical and mental.



1. Nina Ottosson games and toys will exercise your dog's mind and body.
2. Can help prevent and reduce behavior problems!
3. Help prevent and reduce weight problems.
4. The games will help strengthen your bond with your dog.
5. Prevent boredom.

Developed by Nina Ottosson, original since 1990 together with dogs for dogs.

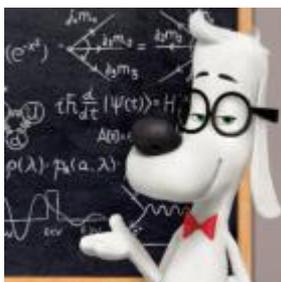


<http://www.youtube.com/user/NinaOttossonProducts#grid/user/3B90FF4B530E342D>



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Έχουμε δοκιμάσει μερικά από αυτά – δώρο φίλων από την Ολλανδία. Μερικά από τα Πυρηναία μας έδειξαν ενδιαφέρον. Άλλα όχι! Πάντως η ιδέα είναι πρωτοποριακή και αξίζει μια προσπάθεια. Δοκιμάστε τα στη μέση της ημέρας όταν ο σκύλος σας αρχίζει να πεινάει. Αυτό είναι ένα καλό κίνητρο. Τα ΜΠ είναι ιδιαίτερα έξυπνα και σε μερικές περιπτώσεις τα δημιουργικά παιχνίδια μπορεί να βοηθήσουν στη λύση διαφόρων προβλημάτων συμπεριφοράς – διαβάστε την ιστορία που ακολουθεί!



Great Pyrenees mountain dogs are geniuses and are bored with the tedium of the homemaker's life

Source: <http://www.ryot.org/great-pyrenees-mountain-dogs-are-geniuses-and-are-bored-with-the-tedium-of-the-homemakers-life/232913>

An Akron, Ohio, couple was confounded when their rescued great Pyrenees mountain dog began scattering her food around the kitchen and burying it under throw rugs.

Jim Michel, a retired postal worker, began searching for reasons why the normally calm, 6-year-old Maddie began exhibiting the bizarre behavior about a year ago. His wife, Jeanette, noted that it started while they were caring for their son's puppy.

"She started taking food from her bowl and giving it to the puppy. She was trying to make sure the puppy ate," Jeanette said.

Maddie's ancestors were bred in the Pyrenees mountain range between southern France and northern Spain to protect livestock. The dogs are famed for their calm, composed demeanor. Their patience makes them great companions for children, and their loyalty makes them great pets.

Maddie's behavior stumped the couple who are very well versed in dog care. After the puppy went home and the behavior escalated, Jim consulted books written by highly respected animal behaviorists.

"But I was looking for answers to this specific problem. I wasn't looking at the whole picture," he said he realized.

The couple took the normally docile dog to their veterinarian for a physical exam. The vet did not have a clue as to what was causing the change in Maddie's behavior, which was quickly turning into an obsession.

They tried different methods to help her, including throwing away the food she spread as a punishment. But that only caused Maddie to lose weight.

In March, the couple appealed to the Beacon Journal's pet expert panel that answers questions from readers about animal issues each week.

Dr. Elizabeth Feltes of the Behavior Clinic in Olmsted Falls suggested (after Maddie was given a clean bill of health by her vet), that the couple put her food inside enrichment toys so she would have to "work" for it.

Dr. Feltes' answer sparked an "aha" moment, said Jim. "It all started to make sense. Maddie is a working dog and needs to be challenged. She needed a job to do," he said.

Because she was bred to sit quietly but constantly be alert for predators, Maddie always appears calm. It was easy to forget that her daily 2-mile walks weren't enough to keep her brain engaged, too, he said. Maddie and Jeanette, a retired grade-school teacher, had worked as a Doggie Brigade team at Akron Children's Hospital. They were forced to give up the activity when Jeannette began volunteering at the hospital.

"Her favorite place was the registration area where kids would wait for surgery," said Jeanette.

"She sensed the kids' nervousness. She would go over and place her head in their laps. It would break your heart," said Jim.

She lost her "job" when she dropped out of the Doggie Brigade program, they realized.

After getting Dr. Feltes' advice, the couple began pulling out toys that Maddie had never shown any interest in. They loaded one with kibble, making a game out of feeding time. Over the span of five days, Maddie gradually learned a new job, spinning the toys around to release her food.

When the toy is empty of food and Maddie is finished eating, she noses it under an antique dry sink in the foyer, where Jim or Jeanette will find it and refill it at feeding time. Maddie no longer spreads food, they said.

"Slowly but surely, the problem is disappearing," the Firestone Park, Ohio, couple wrote in May. "We have the occasional piece from her toy on the floor, and we have to retrieve the toy from under the dry sink ... but that is a pleasure." Dr. Feltes said she was glad the problem has been solved.

"It's such a pleasure helping pet owners read their companion animal's behavior and help find a solution that works for both the two- and four-legged family members."



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Η εξάχρονη ΜΠ "Maggie" (Οχάιο, ΗΠΑ) άρχισε ξαφνικά να σκορπίζει την ξηρά τροφή της στην κουζίνα και να την στρώχνει κάτω από τα χαλιά του σπιτιού. Οι ιδιοκτήτες της δεν μπορούσαν να καταλάβουν τι συνέβαινε! Την περίοδο εκείνη βοηθούσαν στην ανατροφή του κουταβιού του γιού τους. Η Maggie έπαιρνε την τροφή της και τάιζε το κουτάβι! Μόλις το κουτάβι έφυγε, η συμπεριφορά της επιδεινώθηκε. Οι ιδιοκτήτες της προσπάθησαν να καταλάβουν τι συμβαίνει αλλά χωρίς αποτέλεσμα. Οι εξετάσεις της σκύλας ήταν απόλυτα φυσιολογικές. Τότε συμβουλευτήκαν κάποιον ειδικό που τους είπε ότι εκ φύσεως τα ΜΠ έχουν μάθει να κερδίζουν το φαγητό τους και τους συμβούλεψε να χρησιμοποιήσουν τα ειδικά "γεμιστά" παιχνίδια (βλέπε παραπάνω). Μέσα σε μικρό χρονικό διάστημα η Maggie έμαθε το κόλπο και το πρόβλημα με το σκόρπισμα της τροφής λύθηκε!

Έχετε παρατηρήσει κάτι ανάλογο;



Από μικρή ηλικία και μέχρι σήμερα ο "πατέρας" Πυρηνάιος έχει δείξει μια μοναδική ικανότητα να εντοπίζει "νέα πράγματα" στο περιβάλλον του. Από ένα μικρό καρφί στον τοίχο ή ένα μικρό μπιμπελό μέχρι καινούργια ριχτάρια ή παπούτσια ή βραχιόλια κλπ. Με το που θα μπει στο σπίτι, "σκανάρει" το περιβάλλον και μόλις εντοπίσει την νέα προσθήκη ή αλλαγή αρχίζει να γαυγίζει. Αυτό διαρκεί λίγη ώρα μέχρις ότου το συνηθίσει! Τα υπόλοιπα ΜΠ αδιαφορούν πλήρως για τα νέα πράγματα. Γράψτε μας ηλεκτρονικά εάν έχετε παρατηρήσει ανάλογη συμπεριφορά στα δικά σας ΜΠ! ■ ΙΓ



Breaking Up a Dog Fight Between Pyrs

Source: <http://sonic.net/~cdlcruz/GPCC/library/dogfight.htm>

ATTENTION!

4 notices for New Pyr Owners

1. Pyr are addictive - betcha can't own just one
2. Pyrs are fighters - males and females
3. Pyrs have been known to kill each other
4. You will not be the first person to escape this reality

Probably everyone would agree with #1 above. How they feel about 2, 3 and 4 depends up their experience and length of time in the breed. However, a lack of understanding of, and belief in, those facts can lead to serious and traumatic situations for the unsuspecting and uninformed owner.

Pyrs can be (and often are) dog aggressive. They are dominant and territorial by nature and it is these qualities that make them effective livestock guards. A Pyr simply won't allow any animal on its territory that is not submissive to it. Since Pyrs (and especially males) do not submit to any animal, **an encounter between two Pyrs on the same territory can be violent and bloody.**

"Oh no!" I hear the cries of horror. "Not our kindly, gentle, patient friends". Oh yes, and to try to ignore this simple reality is to court disaster.

Let me be clear at the outset that dog/dog aggression and dog/people aggression are two totally different things. A dog-aggressive Pyr does not have a bad temperament, a people-aggressive Pyr does. A stable Pyr clearly differentiates between the two. An owner could take a Pyr who has been intention dismembering a rival and within minutes of the encounter entrust the tiniest baby (human or animal) to its patient care. **Owners who get bitten in dog fights are bitten because they put their bodies between dogs intent on biting each other.** If you have ever seen the look on the face of a Pyr who has bitten a human in the heat of battle, you will see a dog filled with remorse and embarrassment. Pyr bitches are somewhat better than males.

As a general rule two adult male Pyrs will never live together in harmony. Certain bitches will, while others absolutely will not. Be aware that really aggressive bitches can be more single-minded than males. **Male Pyrs will almost never beat up a bitch and work very hard not to respond to an attack by one.** Pyr bitches will beat upon males. **However, cross-sex fights seldom result in serious injuries.**

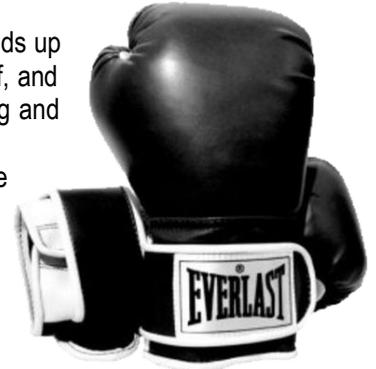
It may take several years before two dogs really go after each other. We once had a father-son combination who co-existed until the son was almost two years old; then his sire jumped him. Once you have had one serious encounter that goes beyond growling and bullying, and both dogs participate, it is all over. You will never be able to have those dogs together again with any safety. Sometimes the day comes much earlier - often before the younger animal is a year old.

There is no doubt that in many cases of aggression, if you let the dogs fight it out, they would 'settle' it. However, the damage could be fearful and they might main each other permanently. I know of 3 cases in which one dog died of the injuries sustained in such a fight.

Constant vigilance is the price of "peace", and prevention is the only answer; secure fences, secure locks, and attention to detail.

My own personal key to avoiding trouble is to assume that everything will fight with everything else of the same sex until proven otherwise.

Try to be alert to signs of impending problems. Two bitches together where the younger begins dominance behavior with the older (i.e. standing with her head and neck over the other's back; stiff legged, tail up approaches; little growls; body checks for no apparent reason.)



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These are all signals the youngster is testing her place. Either the older bitch will turn on her or the younger will launch a full out attack the minute she senses that she has the upper hand. The ensuing battle may be brief and bloodless or it may be a true fight. Be aware that it is coming.

So, if in a moment of distraction, you forget the "secure fences, secure locks, attention to detail" maxim and you look out of your window and see two mortal enemies stalking around each other, what then? **DO NOT GO OUT TO THE DOGS.** You have the **slight** chance that they will decide not to fight. If you step out the door you will alter the balance of power and you **will** have a fight. It is important to understand that your very presence will often change the dynamics enough to cause two dogs to fight. If they do fight you will need to do something about it then, but try to avoid precipitating it.

This leads us to the next step. How do you break up a fight? 'TAIN'T EASY. Keep in mind that you want to avoid being bitten and that the dogs will probably not do each other much damage in the first few minutes of the fight, so take the time to do it right. **Screaming will not work** (except to release your tensions) and water hoses don't work. Large objects such as shovels will work only if you knock someone unconscious!

If you are fortunate you will have two people present. Each person should get behind a dog and grab the tail and hang on for dear life. Slowly pull the dogs away from each other. At this point you may realize that one has an iron grip on some part of the other--usually the head (lips, ears, dewlaps etc.) Do not pull violently or something will get torn. Hold on and keep constant pressure until the dog lets go and then drag them rapidly backward away from each other. Do not let go or you will have to repeat the process! **Take my word for it that the dogs will not turn on you.** If you have a third person present (kids are good for this) and one dog has a grip on the other, have the third person rap the grabber hard across the bridge of the muzzle—the edge of a dog food dish works well for this. Most of the time the dog will let go in pain and surprise. Once the dogs are separated, drag at least one of them into a secure kennel. **Do not, under any circumstances, put any part of your anatomy between two fighting dogs--you will get bitten.**



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Now, suppose that the true horror scenario occurs and you are alone? The cardinal rule still applies--do not get between the dogs. Rule #2 - **Do Not Panic!!** Do not waste time and energy screaming!! The only way to break up this fight is to immobilize one of the contestants. Accept the fact that they will continue to fight and injure each other while you are readying yourself to end the battle. The following has worked well for me: take a leash, catch it around the loin of one of the dogs and then pull the latch end through the handle end and create a lariat-like affair around the dog. (Note: this takes patience and should be done deliberately; without panic. Once you have the lariat in place, drag both snapping snarling animals backwards until you get to something solid (gate, fence etc.) and tie or snap the leash to it. Voila--one dog immobilized. Go to the rear of the other, grab the tail and proceed as above. Get one dog kenneled before you release the second.



Now the most important part of all. Go to your house, pour a large cup or glass of whatever soothes you best, collapse on the couch, and blubber until your heart beats normally again!!

With any degree of luck, this will be a once in a lifetime experience. If not, at least you will know what to do. Do, however, try to avoid "practice makes perfect" !!

Αυτό είναι ένα άρθρο που πρέπει να το διαβάσετε ξανά και ξανά και να εύχεστε να μην το ζήσετε ποτέ! Το πιο σημαντικό σημείο είναι ότι ΠΟΤΕ δεν μπαίνουμε ανάμεσα σε δύο ΜΠ που μαλώνουν. Εκτός και εάν θέλουμε να τριτώσει το κακό! Δύο άτομα χωρίζουν προσεκτικά τα σκυλιά τραβώντας τα από τις ουρές τους. Ένα άτομο προσπαθεί να δέσει το ένα σκυλί σε σταθερό (γερό) σημείο ώστε να απομακρύνει το άλλο τραβώντας το από την ουρά. Οι μικροκαβγάδες αρσενικών-θηλυκών μπορούν να σταματήσουν με το λάστιχο του ποτίσματος – ούτως ή άλλως θα σταματούσαν και από μόνοι τους καθώς σπάνια εξελίσσονται σε κάτι πιο σοβαρό (συνήθως οι θηλυκές προκαλούν). Το τρομακτικό αφορά καυγάδες μεταξύ ΜΠ του ίδιου φύλου – κάτι που μπορεί να προκύψει μετά αρμονική συμβίωση 1-2 ετών (άρα προσοχή όταν ο γιός πλησιάζει την ηλικία των 2 ετών). Απόλυτη προσοχή στην εφαρμογή των ενδο-οικιακών μέτρων ασφαλείας – ιδίως όταν έχετε φιλοξενούμενους στο σπίτι. Μια ανοικτή πόρτα μπορεί να σημάνει αιματοχυσία!

The Dis-a-Pyr

OR

What Do You Call a Pyr Off Leash? – Gone!

Source: <http://sonic.net/~cdlcruz/GPCC/library/disapyr.htm>

One of the **most unpleasant surprises a new owner** of a Great Pyrenees encounters comes the first time he takes his adolescent or adult Pyr for an off-leash walk. The puppy who had clung to his owner's side suddenly moves out of reach, becomes deaf to all commands and entreaties, and decides to wander away, far faster than an ordinary human can move. For some, the surprise comes when the front door is left open – the result is the same. One "gone" dog.

The explanations for this behavior vary – the dog isn't obedience trained, it is examining its territory, it needs more exercise – and the "solutions" range from yelling and running after the dog, to long sessions in obedience class, to never taking the dog out of the yard. **The truth is, the only real explanation is "it's a Pyr's nature" and the only real solution is NEVER let the dog off leash outside its own yard.**

A top obedience competitor, who trained her Pyr to its Utility Degree and Draft Dog title, said that her dog would take advantage of her smallest degree of inattention to wander off and no amount of obedience training would make him "come" when he "went walkabout".

**Ο Μεγάλος Πυρηνάιος που έχει δικιά του 4 στρέμματα, θέλει 40!
Όταν έχει 40 στρέμματα, θέλει 400!**

Pyr used as Livestock Guardian Dogs on large farms or open range are reported to stay near the sheep - or not, as their understanding of the job takes them; some can be found sleeping with the sheep, some on a hill overlooking them, some making the rounds of their perceived "territory", marking it against predators. Dogs used on small fenced pastures are more often reported to be found somewhere they shouldn't be, often trying to expand their defensible perimeter. **One long-time Pyr owner reported,** "The Pyr that has five acres wants fifty; the one that has fifty wants five hundred." One LGD Pyr who cared for her sheep on five hundred acres also periodically could be found on the neighboring 300 acres, checking out their sheep.

Perhaps this tendency to wander could be bred out; but might not doing so also remove the independence, the ability to think for itself, the ability to handle new situations, that makes this breed what it is? Perhaps those who want a dog to go with them off lead should get a breed that doesn't wonder what's behind

the next bush, beyond the next hill, that doesn't want to clear its new-found territory of all other canines. But for those who can't imagine living without a Great Pyrenees – get a leash and use it.



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Η απόλυτη πραγματικότητα! Δύο προσωπικά περιστατικά από την περίοδο που ζούσαμε στην Παιανία (ψηλά – λίγο κάτω από το Σπήλαιο της Παιανίας): Στο πρώτο, ο κηπουρός άφησε ανοικτή την πόρτα. Η σκύλα άρχισε να ανεβαίνει εξερευνώντας την περιοχή προς τις κεραίες του Υμητού! (δύο ώρες ανάβαση!) Στο δεύτερο, και τα 4 ΜΠ βγήκαν στην περιφραγμένη αυλή (4 στρ) για την απογευματινή τους έξοδο – μόνο που η γκαραζόπορτα ήταν ανοικτή από το μεσημέρι! Μια καλή γειτόνισσα μας τηλεφώνησε εάν τα 4 άσπρα σκυλιά που πέρασαν από μπροστά της ήταν τα δικιά μας! Πήγαιναν προς το νεκροταφείο της Παιανίας. Μόνον ο πανικός και η αναστάτωση μέχρι να τα φέρουμε πίσω ήταν αρκετά (πλέον) για τη υιοθέτηση στρατιωτικού τύπου μέτρων ασφαλείας κυνοτροφείου: "Μεγάλα εμπρός – πόρτα κλειστή – καγκελόπορτα κλειδωμένη!" "Μικρά πίσω – πόρτα κλειστή" κλπ. "Το τρις εξαμαρτείν ουκ ανδρός σοφού!"

Everything you're always asked about a Pyr

And Never Want to Answer

Source: <http://sonic.net/~cdlcruz/GPCC/library/evrythng.htm>

HOW BIG, REALLY, IS A GREAT PYRENEES?

Your dining room table is 27" from the floor, kitchen counters 36". The average female Pyr can walk under your dining room table only if she ducks her head; the average male need to either scrunch himself smaller or lift your table a few inches higher. In either case, the front of the counter is not the place to store meat thawing for dinner. The top of the refrigerator is out of the reach of most Pyrs

ΜΕΓΕΘΟΣ: Το πλέον ασφαλές σημείο για να ακουμπάτε τρόφιμα είναι το πάνω μέρος του ψυγείου σας!

HOW MUCH DO THEY WEIGH?

On the scale at the feed store, 80 to 120 pounds. While trying to give one a pill or cut its nails: as much as a Moray eel. On the first day of obedience class: as much as a young elephant. The day you teach the "down" exercise in obedience class: as much as a Sumo wrestler. When walking through a litter of pups, kittens, chicks or lambs: about as much as two feathers.

ΒΑΡΟΣ: Όταν προσπαθείτε να του δώσετε ένα χάπι, ζυγίζει όσο ένα τεράστιο χέλι! Όταν του μαθαίνετε το "κάτω", όσο ένας παλαιστής Σούμο! Όταν περνάει ανάμεσα σε γατάκια, κουτάβια, κοτόπουλα ή πρόβατα, όσο δύο φτερά!

HOW MUCH DO THEY EAT?

As much as they want - never mind what the back of the dog-food bag says. The average Great Pyrenees can survive quite nicely and maintain weight and normal activity on as much dog food as will fit into a two-pound coffee can. Most, however, have convinced their owners that plain dog food is completely unpalatable and will starve unless supplemented with ground round, chicken breast, sirloin tips or cheese omelets. If he discovers you have a weakness for cookies you may find your leg battered black and blue by Pyr-paw-pats, repeated until you share the cookies - Oreos are much preferred to Milk Bones.



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ΤΡΟΦΗ: Δύο κούπες καφέ ξηρά τροφή αρκούν. Τα περισσότερα ΜΠ έχουν καταφέρει να πείσουν τους ιδιοκτήτες τους ότι η ξηρά τροφή είναι άγευστη και ότι τα πεθάνουν στην πείνα εάν δεν προστεθεί λίγο κοτόπουλο ή κρεατάκι ή ομελέτα με τυρί! Επίσης τα γεμιστά μπισκότα είναι καλύτερα από τα κόκκαλα γάλακτος.

DO THEY SHED MUCH?

At the annual ritual known as "coat blowing" you can comb enough fur out of your dog to have spun into enough yarn to make yourself a cap, a scarf and a pair of mittens. Why you would want to is beyond me, since everything else you own is already lavishly decorated with Pyr Hair. Since shedding, in some degree, takes place 365 days a year, you will have ample decoration on your rug, couch, bed, etc. Since Pyr hair has a particular affinity for dark clothing, the Pyr-owning business person wears a lot of light grey and tan. Firefighters, police officers and military personnel owned by Pyrs learn to leave their uniforms in sealed lockers at work and change there.

ΜΑΔΑΝΕ; Αρκετά για να φτιάξετε ένα πουλόβερ ή ένα κασκόλ! Η τρίχα των ΜΠ έχει ιδιαίτερη προτίμηση στα σκούρα ρούχα – έτσι οι ιδιοκτήτες συνήθως "αγαπούν" το γκρι και το ανοικτό κίτρινο. Όταν ο ιδιοκτήτης είναι πυροσβέστης, αστυνομικός ή στρατιωτικός συνήθως προτιμά να αλλάζει στον χώρο της εργασίας του!

WHAT ABOUT BARKING?

What about it? If begun early, you can train yourself to come every time your Pyr barks and give it some attention. Give him enough attention for barking, and your neighbors will also begin to give you some



attention. Mutual reinforcement always works. What do Pyrs bark at? Only things they can see and hear - that includes low flying satellites and butterflies. Most Pyrenees eavesdrop on a family argument four houses away, yet become selectively deaf upon hearing words like "stop that", "come here" and "be quiet". Pyr owners exchange information on stopping barking the way our grandmothers exchanges recipes for pickles - no two were ever alike.

ΓΑΥΓΙΖΟΥΝ; Εάν του δώσετε σημασία χάσατε! Μερικές φορές η "κασέτα" μπορεί να παίζει συνεχώς. Τι γαυγίζουν; Μόνον ότι μπορούν να δουν ή να ακούσουν – συμπεριλαμβανομένων των δορυφόρων χαμηλής τροχιάς και των πεταλούδων! Παρά ταύτα εμφανίζουν στιγμιαία "κώφωση" σε λέξεις όπως "σταμάτα" ή "έλα εδώ" και "ησυχία"!



I'VE HEARD THEY LIKE TO DIG

How do you think the Pyrenees Mountains were really constructed? One Pyr, out of consideration for her owner's failing eyesight, enlarged the cup of his putting green to bunker-sized. Landscape companies report their greatest repeat business comes from Pyr owners. Some Pyr owners, however, simply resign themselves to living with a yard that looks like a gunnery range.

ΣΚΑΒΟΥΝ; Πως νομίζετε ότι έγιναν τα Πυρηναία Όρη; Οι εταιρείες φροντίδας κήπων αναγνωρίζουν ότι οι ιδιοκτήτες ΜΠ είναι οι καλύτεροι πελάτες τους!



HOW DO PYRS AND CHILDREN GET ALONG?

If you train your children early enough not to tease the dog - not to pull his tail, wake him by jumping on top of him, pinch his ears or steal his food - your Pyr will be safe from the kids. Children are not as easy to train as a Pyr because it is not legal to put a choke-chain and leash on a child.



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ΜΕ ΤΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ; Άριστα! Εφόσον τα παιδιά είναι εκπαιδευμένα!

Για να είμαστε ακριβοδίκαιοι (σε παρένθεση η εμπειρία μας από την τρέχουσα γενεά = 4ΜΠ: 2 αρσενικά [Α] και δύο θηλυκά [Θ]):

- Μέγεθος: 1Α/4
- Βάρος: Χάπια (1Α/4) – λοιπά (0/4)
- Τροφή: 2Θ/4
- Τρίχωμα: 4/4
- Γαύγισμα: 2Θ/4
- Σκάψιμο: 1Θ/4
- Παιδιά: Ορθόν – οι περισσότερες ζημιές στο σπίτι γίνονται από τις γάτες (αλλά και από καμιά διερχόμενη ουρά ΜΠ)

Επίσημοι και Περιστασιακοί Εκτροφείς Σκύλων

Source: <http://www.sonic.net/~cdlcruz/GPCC/library/breedercomparison.htm>

Χαρακτηριστικά Επίσημων Εκτροφέων	Χαρακτηριστικά Περιστασιακών Εκτροφέων
"Into" Dogs (shows, training, clubs, etc.)	Not "into" dogs (has "pets" around the house)
Belongs to dog clubs and organizations	Is not involved in the "dog world"

Proves quality of dogs and suitability for breeding by competing for titles and certificates in conformation, obedience, agility, field trialing, Schutzhund, herding, tracking, earth dog trials, etc.	Quality of dogs is almost always substandard, however, he does not test his dogs in shows or trials (Dogs are just pets or "breeding machines")
Pups' pedigrees are filled with dogs who have obtained show titles/working certificates; never breeds dogs without "papers"	Pedigrees mostly a list of pets bred by backyard breeders; pups may not even have "papers"; may be mongrels (Cockapoos, etc.)
Supports rescue groups; knows his actions inevitably play some part in pet overpopulation and euthanasia (one of every four dogs in shelters is purebred). Even with all his efforts to stem over- population, he knows "cracks" will lead to canine deaths	Honestly believes that because he places/sells all his pups, he does not contribute in any way to the needless slaughter of millions of dogs per year in shelters (Does not see his role in his pups making pups and them making more pups and so on)
Knowledgeable in every facet of breed, including that of health issues/defects; researches genetics when choosing mates	Not particularly educated about breed, often not aware of his own breed's genetic defects; does not consider mate's genetics
Knowledgeable about house breaking, training, socializing, breeding, health; constantly reads dog-related materials	Has own ideas which may not coincide with professionals' opinions; won't bother to read any of the hundreds of dog books available
Can and will help and educate puppy buyers re these issues	Says "Goodbye" and "Good luck"
Willing to give you his references	Has no references
Knows his puppies' ancestry	Knows nothing about the other dogs on puppies' pedigrees
Follows up on puppies' well-being; collects health information affecting his dogs	Does not concern himself with the puppies' well-being or how puppies' health affects his breeding "plan"
Breeds to improve his own dogs, his bloodlines and the breed	Breeds just to breed or make money or see his "great dog" procreate
Rarely breeds as he does not use dog breeding as a business and strives for quality, not quantity	Breeds regularly if for money or if puppy mill; if for ego, breeds once in awhile, or "just once" before neutering or spaying
Rarely repeats a breeding	Often repeats breedings, mainly those that are cheap and convenient.
Breeds only dogs which meet breed standard	Dogs used for breeding rarely meet breed standard
Breeds only dogs with stable temperaments	Breeds shy/aggressive dogs with poor temperaments
Breeds only dogs over 2 years old, and a limited number of times	Breeds dogs at almost any age, and any number of times
Mate choice could be anywhere in the country (almost never breeds his own males to his own females)	Mate choice is that which is convenient, cheap, local (very often owns both sire and dam)



Does all genetic testing and will provide proof; does not breed animals with genetic defects or which are carriers of defects	Does no genetic testing; ignorantly breeds defective animals or those which are carriers, thus, perpetuating disease in breed
Puppies are sold from waiting list created before breeding even takes place	Puppies are sold after birth in the local newspaper, first-come, first-served
Pet-quality pups generally cost \$500-600+ (show-quality costs more)	All pups are pet-quality and are relatively cheap, usually \$200-\$400
Puppies are sold with health guarantees	Puppies are sold with no guarantee
Puppies are sold with contracts	No contracts; does not care what you do with puppies
Requires pups back if new homes don't work out	Says "Find them good homes"
Dogs on property are friendly, socialized, trained	Dogs on property may be aggressive or shy, and untrained
Does not own more dogs than he has room, time or money for; Dogs are groomed, exercised, healthy, happy	Puppy mills are overloaded, "warehoused" dogs are not groomed or exercised, don't look healthy or happy
Will show you pups' parents if available, or if not, will have pictures	Might have to "lock up" pups' aggressive or shy parents (dogs that should never have been bred)
Raises puppies indoors	Raises puppies outdoors
Stays home to care for puppies	Dam and pups are alone for long hours
Feeds only premium dog food	Feeds cheap, grocery store dog food (containing 4D meat/chemicals)
Visitors remove shoes and wash hands to prevent spread of parvovirus	Has no understanding and takes no precautions to prevent puppy-killer disease
Keeps pups with mom and litter a minimum of 49 days to ensure sibling socialization and important lessons from pups' mother	Doesn't know leaving litter earlier can cause lifelong temperament problems or staying too long can hurt bonding with humans
Socializes pups by systematically handling them and exposing them to various noises, children and other animals before sending them to new homes	Does not understand or want to be troubled with any kind of training; just tries to keep puppies quiet and contained until sold
Tests pups to match their temperaments and drives with buyers' personalities and lifestyles	Knows nothing about puppy-testing or matching puppies with buyers; allows buyers to pick the "cutest" one
Can honestly evaluate pups' quality	Says all pups are high quality
Never sells to "impulse" buyers	Is not concerned about buyers being prepared for pups
Never sells two pups at the same time to a novice	Would consider this killing two birds with one sale
Interviews prospective buyers, checks home and references, refuses to sell to substandard homes	Sells first-come, first-served to whomever has the cash; does not find out which homes are substandard



Wants to meet whole family; won't sell if children are abusive	Does not consider anything past obtaining the funds
Sells only to buyers with disposable income (AKC reports it costs thousands of dollars per year to properly care for a dog)	Is not concerned whether or not buyers can afford to properly care for pups
Waits for buyers who offer lifelong homes (Knows that only 30 percent of all dogs stay in one home throughout their lives)	Does not reject high-risk buyers: (renters, young people, those with poor track records, low income, other pets, dogs kept outdoors)
Understands dogs are "pack" animals; sells pets only to buyers wanting to make pup an indoor dog and part of the family	Doesn't care if pups live as outdoor dogs or chained dogs, being unhappy or anxious being isolated and separated from "packs"
Sells only to buyers who make pup's safety a priority	Does not consider pups' best interests
Encourages or requires buyers to spay/neuter pet-quality pups	Encourages buyers to breed, regardless of quality
Encourages buyers to train pups; refers to good trainer	Shows no concern for pups after sale; knows no trainers
Makes sure buyers understand pup's considerable need for time, attention, exercise and training	Does not provide even his own dogs with enough time, attention, exercise or training
Οι Επίσημοι Εκτροφείς βελτιώνουν τη φυλή	Οι Περιστασιακοί Εκτροφείς καταστρέφουν τη φυλή



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Βέβαια για να μην αδικούμε και κανέναν "περιστασιακό εκτροφέα": υπάρχουν αρκετοί ιδιοκτήτες ΜΠ που θα κάνουν μία ή περισσότερες γέννες σε διάστημα 3-5 ετών με βάση "επαγγελματικά" (κατά το δυνατόν) πρότυπα ακόμη και εάν δεν θα μπορέσουν ποτέ να αποσβέσουν τα χρήματα που ξόδεψαν. Όμως ο πραγματικός "εραστής" των ΜΠ δεν το κάνει βιοποριστικά. Συνήθως θέλει ένα ή περισσότερα "δικά του" κουτάβια. Και το πιο σημαντικό: πάντα επιδιώκει να εξασφαλίσει ότι τα κουτάβια του θα αποκατασταθούν σε εξαιρετικά σπίτια και θα έχουν το ίδιο επίπεδο διαβίωσης που θα είχαν εάν μπορούσε να τα κρατήσει όλα! Κάποτε δώσαμε δωρεάν ένα θηλυκό κουτάβι σε γείτονα [και συνάδελφο ιατρό] αλλά την ξαναπήραμε πίσω όταν διαπιστώσαμε ότι περνούσε φρικτά με την μέλλουσα "μητέρα" του. Και εάν δεν μας το επέστρεφε (παραλαβή πάνω στην Εθνική Οδό με εκατοντάδες αυτοκίνητα να περνούν με υψηλές ταχύτητες), απλά θα το κλέβαμε!

How to Train a Puppy That Bites

Source: <http://pets.webmd.com/dogs/guide/biting-puppy-how-train-puppy-bites>

Puppies spend a great deal of time playing, chewing and investigating objects. All of these normal activities involve puppies using their mouths and their needle-sharp teeth. When puppies play with people, they often bite, chew and mouth on people's hands, limbs and clothing. This kind of behavior may seem cute when your puppy is seven weeks old, but it's not nearly so endearing when he's three or four months old-and getting bigger by the day!

What to Do About Puppy Mouthing

It's important to help your puppy learn to curb his mouthy behavior. There are various ways, some better than others, to teach this lesson. The ultimate goal is to train your puppy to stop mouthing and

biting people altogether. However, the first and most important objective is to teach him that people have very sensitive skin, so he must be very gentle when using his mouth.

Bite Inhibition: Teach Your Puppy to Be Gentle

Bite inhibition refers to a dog's ability to control the force of his mouthing. A puppy or dog who hasn't



learned bite inhibition with people doesn't recognize the sensitivity of human skin, and so he bites too hard, even in play. Some behaviorists and trainers believe that a dog who has learned to use his mouth gently when interacting with people will be less likely to bite hard and break skin if he ever bites someone in a situation apart from play-like when he's afraid or in pain.

Puppies usually learn bite inhibition during play with other puppies. If you watch a group of puppies playing, you'll see plenty of chasing, pouncing and wrestling. Puppies also bite each other all over. Every now and then, a pup will bite his playmate too hard. The victim of the painful bite yelps and usually stops playing. The offender is often taken aback by the yelp and also stops playing for a moment. However, pretty soon, both playmates are back in the game. Through this kind of interaction, puppies learn to control the intensity of their bites so that no one gets hurt and the play can continue without interruption. If puppies can learn how to be gentle from each other, they can also learn the same lesson

from people.

When you play with your puppy, let him mouth on your hands. Continue play until he bites especially hard. When he does, immediately give a high-pitched yelp, as if you're hurt, and let your hand go limp. This should startle your puppy and cause him to stop mouthing you, at least momentarily. (If yelping seems to have no effect, you can say "Too bad!" or "You blew it!" in a stern voice instead.) Praise your puppy for stopping or for licking you. Resume whatever you were doing before. If your puppy bites you hard again, yelp again. Repeat these steps no more than three times within a 15-minute period. If you find that yelping alone doesn't work, you can switch to a time-out procedure. Time-outs are often very effective for curbing mouthing in puppies. When your puppy delivers a hard bite, yelp loudly. Then, when he startles and turns to look at you or looks around, remove your hand. Either ignore him for 10 to 20 seconds or, if he starts mouthing on you again, get up and move away for 10 to 20 seconds. After the short time-out, return to your puppy and encourage him to play with you again. It's important to teach him that gentle play continues, but painful play stops. Play with your puppy until he bites hard again. When he does, repeat the sequence above. When your puppy isn't delivering really hard bites anymore, you can tighten up your rules a little. Require your puppy to be even gentler. Yelp and stop play in response to *moderately* hard bites. Persist with this process of yelping and then ignoring your puppy or giving him a time-out for his hardest bites. As those disappear, do the same for his next-hardest bites, and so on, until your puppy can play with your hands very gently, controlling the force of his mouthing so that you feel little or no pressure at all.





Έχετε φωτογραφίες από το καλοκαίρι με τα Μεγάλα Πυρηνάια σας στη θάλασσα;

Θα τις δημοσιεύσουμε στο τεύχος του Χειμώνα!

Great Pyrenees Guard Dogs Keep Predators Out of Texas Zoo

Source: <http://www.thedogfiles.com/2011/03/15/great-pyrenees-guard-dogs-keep-predators-out-of-texas-zoo/>

The guinea hens and peacocks can all sleep soundly tonight now that Sarge and Jazz are on the job.



Sarge and Jazz, a brother and sister pair of Great Pyrenees, are the newest additions to the Victoria, Texas zoo. And no, they're not part of a new canine exhibit. They're the zoo's security dogs.

"They guard the zoo not from people coming, but they guard the animals from natural predators," said Andrea Blomberg, zoo executive director. "It's our job to keep the

animals safe."

The zoo's location in the middle of Riverside Park, Texas left some animals vulnerable to attacks from snakes, bobcats and raccoons.

So taking a cue from the Austin, Texas Zoo, who started the trend, the decision was made to acquire guard dogs. But zoo staff knew they couldn't bring any type of dog into the zoo.

"We needed dogs that knew not to attack the animals that were supposed to be here and guard them," said Blomberg.

After much research, zoo staff decided upon Great Pyrenees, who sleep all day, are bred and raised to guard livestock, and who also have an excellent demeanor around humans.

So not long after getting in contact with the Texas Great Pyrenees Rescue, Blomberg learned about 100-pound Sarge and 70-pound Jazz.

The furry, white siblings had been living on an Austin, Texas Ranch where they guarded turkeys.

Sarge and Jazz, who will be 2 years old in May, arrived at the zoo on Feb. 22.

Their training consisted of learning their patrol routes as well as familiarizing themselves with the zoo's inhabitants.

And as cute as they are however, the dogs will most likely not be seen by the general zoo public, as they sleep in the administrative building during the day and work after the zoo is closed to the public.



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Coming Soon

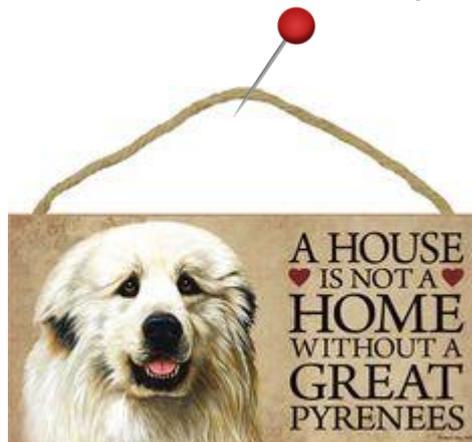
Στο επόμενο τεύχος

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Πολύ μεγάλος
είναι αυτός!!!

Πολύ μικρός
είναι αυτός!!!



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