

# The Versatile Great Pyrenees

*by Tommy Dickey, Jim and Linda Hinds, and Linda Whisenhunt*



Danielle & Jammies

**History/Breed Origins**  
**Show standards**  
**Functions of the Breed**  
**Therapy**  
**Rescues**



Bearee, Linda H., Muffin



Teddy, Linkin, Mia



**Painting called Chasse au Loup (Hunting the Wolf) by Jean Baptiste Oudry (1686-1755) *circa* 1746 showing two Great Pyrenees and two Braque-type dogs attacking a wolf.**





**Le Marché aux Chiens Cauterets, Hautes-Pyrénées [circa 1900]**  
**(The Walk of the Dogs in the Pyrenees Mountains)**

# Standards

The Great Pyrenees conveys the distinct impression of *elegance and unsurpassed beauty* combined with *great overall size and majesty*.

Has a white or practically white coat that may contain markings of badger gray or varying shades of tan.

Qualities include: *keen intelligence, unique elegance of bearing and movement*. His soundness and coordination show unmistakably his purpose: the *strenuous work of guarding flocks* in all kinds of weather on the steep slopes of the Pyrenees Mtns.





**Dogs – 27-32 in. at withers,  
weight ~100 lb for 27 in.**

**Bitches – 25-29 in at withers,  
weight ~85 lbs for 25 in.**

**Double coat & <1/3 markings.**

**Coat makes dog look larger.**

**Gait: Moves smoothly and elegantly,  
showing power and agility.**

**Calm, fearless demeanor, aloof.**

**Unique features: double rear dew claws, tail makes wheel when  
alert, sometimes crook in tail.**

**Much diversity within breed.:**



Terrie Strom with Brody (Linkin's sire)  
receiving Group 4 at Del Sur March 2012.

# All-time Champion: Sundance Legend (DD)



Karen Bruneau,  
DD, & Terry Denney-Combs

Number 1 Great Pyrenees of All-Time Breed Competition since 1933 defeating over 4,000 Pyrenees.

All Breed Competition wins over 74,000 dogs; 65 Group 1's.

18 Best in Shows.



Terry Denney-Combs

Intl., Am., Cn., & Mx CH  
GPCA Show Dog Hall of Fame.  
In Hall of Fame for Production also.  
DD's Record for Most Great Pyrenees  
Specialty wins is 14!  
Last All-Breed BIS at ~ 10 yrs.  
**Our dogs descend from DD.**

# Functions of the Pyr

## Guardians



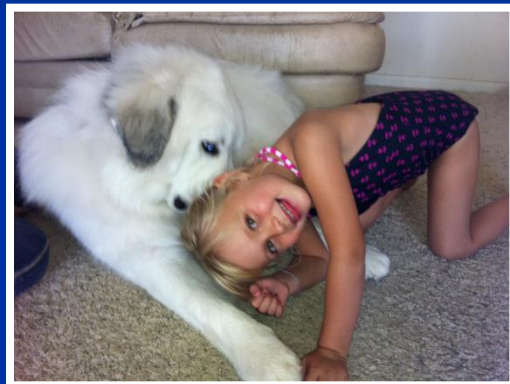
## Carting



## Therapy



## Pets





# Livestock Guardian Dogs





# Pyr's Are Imbedded as Pups



Herding companion:  
Pyrenean Shepherd





# **Pyr's Are Fearless Protectors**







**Best of Buds  
for the Young**



# Checking on Mom and Baby





# Ever Vigilant





# Carting Competition



**Boo – Sire of Mulligan and Teddy**



# Hospital and Nursing Home Therapy Activities



Jesse and Linda W.



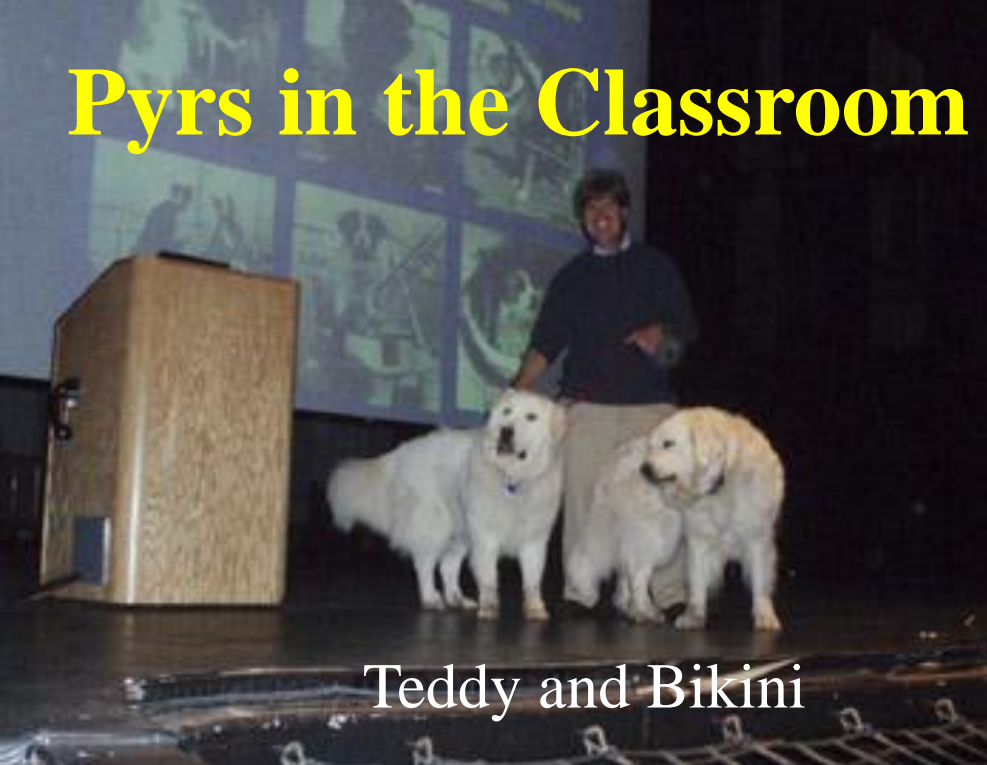
# Special Olympics Tennis Program



Teddy & Linkin



# Pyr in the Classroom



Teddy and Bikini



Teddy



Linkin



Mia



# Rescue Pyrs

Many opportunities for  
supporting rescue efforts  
e.g., GPAW, GPCA, ...







# Family Pets





# References

**Lasley, K., 2001, Great Pyrenees: New Owners Guide.**

**Strang, P.D. & J.M. Green, 1977, The Complete Great Pyrenees.**

**Strang, P.D., 1991, The New Complete Great Pyrenees.**

**Cuncliffe, J., 2004, Great Pyrenees (A Kennel Club Book).**

**Gordon, J., 1978, The Pyrenean Mountain Dog (The Great Pyrenees).**

**The Pyrenean Mountain Dog Club of Great Britain, 1978, The Pyrenean Mountain Dog.**

**The Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc., 1994, The Great Pyrenees: Standard Visualization and Commentary.**





**Tommy's UCSB Website:**

**www.opl.ucsb.edu (see left menu for 'Pyrs')**

**Great Pyrenees Club of America,**

**<http://clubs.akc.org/gpca/>**

**Great Pyrenees Club of America breed guide**

**<http://clubs.akc.org/gpca/gpcabreed.html>**

**AKC Guide to Great Pyrenees**

**[http://www.akc.org/breeds/great\\_pyrenees/](http://www.akc.org/breeds/great_pyrenees/)**

**[http://www.akc.org/breeds/great\\_pyrenees/did\\_you\\_know.cfm](http://www.akc.org/breeds/great_pyrenees/did_you_know.cfm)**

**<http://www.kennel.com/greatpyrenees/index.html>**

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(aka Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Patou)



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