The Versatile Great Pyrenees
by Tommy Dickey, Jim and Linda Hindes, and Linda Whisenhunt

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

Danielle & Jammies

Bearee, Linda H., Muffin

Teddy, Linkin, Mia
Slide 1 Narrative
1. Here you see pictures of our present Great Pyrenees. Great Pyrenees are also known as Pyrenean Mountain Dogs, and Patou in France.

2. We will first give very brief reviews of the breed’s history and show standards.

3. Next we will highlight some of the breed’s many versatile functions including therapy work.

4. We conclude with some information concerning Pyr rescue activities.
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.
1. The Great Pyrenees name comes from their home in the Pyrenees Mts. lying in Basque country near the Spanish-French borders as well as the dog’s size and perhaps its capability to do the work of two men.

2. This painting shows the Pyr as the royal dog of France in action during the reigns of Louis XIV and XV (late 1600’s and 1700’s). Pyrs are seen in many French painting. Oudry’s work is shown in many of the world’s great art museums including the Getty and Huntington in LA area.

3. Pyrs origins go back to nomadic tribes of Tibet or Asia-Minor who used them to protect livestock herds. There is still debate about their actual geographic origins.

4. Related breeds include the Leonberger, Kuvasz, Kommondor, Maremma, and others.
Le Marché aux Chiens Cauterets, Hautes-Pyrénées [circa 1900]
(The Walk of the Dogs in the Pyrenees Mountains)
Slide 3 Narrative
1. This photographic postcard shows a street scene in Basque country around 1900.

2. Pyrs were isolated in the Pyrenees Mtns. for several hundreds of years.

3. Two male Pyrs were first brought to America by French General Lafayette in 1824 as gifts.

4. Mary Crane brought Pyrs to the U.S. from England in 1931 and these dogs are the foundation of the American Pyr breed, which became recognized by the AKC in 1933.
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.
All-time Champion: Sundance Legend (DD)

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.

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.

Karen Bruneau, DD, & Terry Denney-Combs

Terry Denney-Combs
Functions of the Pyr

Guardians

Carting

Therapy

Pets
Pyrs Are Imbedded as Pups

Herding companion: Pyrenean Shepherd
Pyrs Are Fearless Protectors
Best of Buds for the Young
Guardian Dog Examples:

- Louis XIV's Court at Versailles
- Flocks in Pyrnenees Mountains
- Alpacas and other livestock in USA

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.
Pyrs in the Classroom

Teddy and Bikini

Teddy

Linkin

Mia
Rescue Pyrs

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

Muffin
Family Pets
References


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/did_you_know.cfm  
http://www.kennel.com/greatpyrenees/index.html
The Versatile Great Pyrenees
(aka Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Patou)

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