

## Recommendations from the Rescue Committee to the PSCA Board

The PSCA Rescue Committee recommends:

1. Creating a page that offers contact information to other owners and breeders of Pyr Sheps in North America that desire to provide advice or rehoming options to any Pyr Shep that is in need of this service.
2. That we provide a contact name, email and maybe phone for a point of contact to AKC for rescue. Update-That has been fixed by linking to the club website.
3. That first and foremost it is ascertained that the dog is a purebred Pyrenean Shepherd and not a wild guess by a shelter or rescue organization.
4. That if the dogs breeder is known, help rehome only if the breeder has disappeared, or is incapacitated and unable to do so themselves, or has passed away and the breeders family is no longer involved with the breed.
5. That prior to accepting a rescue, the dog is evaluated utilizing standard methods of temperment testing, ascertaining that the dog is in fact a purebred Pyr Shep, gathering as much information about the dog as possible including where the dog came from, in order to possibly contact the dog's breeder if known, if possible observe it interacting with its current owner if it is a surrender, and not accept:
  - Dogs in the end stages of terminal illness. Sometimes an owner can't bear the thought of the dog's impending death or the possibility of euthanasia.
  - Dogs with a history of severe human aggression. If the dog has aggressively or predatorily inflicted a wound on a human being that required sutures, is not usually adoptable for reasons of legal liability.
  - A dog that tries to attack the evaluator on sight.
  - A dog whose legal ownership is in question. Vindictive ex's or even relatives who feel an older relative should no longer have a pet are an example. Co-owners may not have been informed that the primary owner cannot care for the dog anymore or just wants to get rid of the dog. Sometimes the owner does not understand what first right of refusal means on the contract they signed when purchasing the dog.
6. That we utilize an adoption contract and a surrender statement, similar to other breed organizations' contracts for all rescues through PSCA - PSCA Forms attached. (Irish Water Spaniel, Golden Retriever, Rottweiler, and Mastiff all had documents available to study and model from.)
7. That upon receipt of the dog, it receives a veterinarian exam, required shots are updated, it is micro-chipped, and if necessary spayed or neutered. Receipts must be provided to the board, to be reimbursed to a maximum of \$500 without board approval; keeping in mind that the new owner is required to reimburse the PSCA for health and medical costs incurred in care of the dog, plus for its transportation to the new owner.
8. Keeping rescue simple and keeping the parent club involvement to a minimum.

Note: Looked into the AKC grants to clubs or breed specific rescue organizations (See Background). Those are not viable at this time. We don't have significant rescue related activities going on. Plus, most of the rescued/rehomed dogs' new owners absorb those expenses.

Additionally, there is not a breed rescue organization that is a nationwide 501(c)(3) that really could be encouraged to apply for a grant with our recommendation to rescue PyrSheps and only spend the grant money on rescuing PyrSheps. PSCA would be responsible for the reporting and tracking to AKC of how the funds are used. It is only \$1000 per year for a max of 3 years.

Back ground: AKC Humane Fund Grant program indicates that it is mainly for AKC Parent Clubs that conduct breed rescue activities with significant, rescue-related expenses or (2) an organization that is exempt from Federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that conducts breed rescue activities (breeds accepted into AKC) and is recommended in writing by an AKC Parent Club. Grants are used to help cover the costs of veterinary care, spaying and neutering, vital supplies and more.

