

## Gracie's Story

“It’s getting dark again and it’s chilly out here. I should find a place to sleep, but there are so many cars and I don’t feel very well. There’s a car with its door open; a lady is waving in my direction. She can’t possibly be waving at me. I’m so ugly, dirty, and matted. I’ll just cross the street and keep going, but there are so many cars. Now that lady is standing in the road, trying to stop them. Why is she doing that? Whoa!! Narrow miss. I’d better go the other way.

Here’s a park - no cars. Look, there’s another dog. Maybe we can be friends! He’s a bit nervous, so I’ll be very slow and quiet to let him know that I mean no harm. Here’s that lady again. She wants me to come by her, but I’d rather talk with the dog. Oh, but she’s scratching behind my ears...now she’s got my attention! That feels sooo good!

Here comes a man in a uniform - this can’t be good. The lady doesn’t want me to go with him, but he assures her that they will find me a home. Yes!!! That’s just what I want.

I have to go with the uniformed guy in his van. It’s pretty high up, so they give me a boost to get me in. The door closes. Wait, where’s the lady? I can see her through the window, but she’s not coming and we’re leaving! I want her to come with me. She scratched my ears!

I’ve been at this new home for a week now. I wonder when they’ll give me a bath and brush out my mats, or give me some medicine to help me feel better. They haven’t found my ingrown dewclaw yet, either. But I have a new name! It’s #2248A. I have a last name, too. Euthanize. At least that’s what’s written on my chart. I don’t like it very much, but all the pretty names must have been used already.

The lady’s back! We’re going to another home – a “rescue”.

This rescue place is much better than that other home!!! There are lots of dogs who look just like me! And I have a new name, a pretty one. It’s Gracie. I got a bath and, oh boy, did that feel good! We went to see the vet and I got all checked out. They even gave me medicine to help me feel a little better. I still don’t have much of an appetite, though, and guess what I got to eat? Broasted chicken!! But the best parts of this place are the kids - there is always someone who wants to pet me and brush my coat.

They tell me that I’m going to be pretty again, in time for me to go to my forever home! I’ve been here less than a week now and I can finally relax and get a good night’s sleep. I’ve got a new blanket and perhaps I’ll dream of my forever home tonight.....

The next morning, the kids are yelling to Mom and Dad that they can’t wake me up. They’re all saying that I was so good, gentle and sweet, and that I gave them so much. They want to know why I passed away so soon. They loved me.

I loved them, too. They gave me the best gift of all. They gave me a chance.”

## Afterword

Gracie stayed in rescue for six short days in 2007. An older dog, she came with worms, a urinary tract infection, and an ingrown dewclaw. She was dirty and her coat was matted. On her sixth day, Gracie was diagnosed with cancer. Despite all of the above, it was decided to continue her treatments.

Gracie passed away in her sleep that night. She was found on her new blanket with her front paws crossed. She had a name. She was clean, fed, warm, and loved. A few days later the rescue received a call from someone interested in adopting her.

Gracie had a lasting impact on those who met her. Kandy Konitzer, “the lady” in Gracie’s story, is now on the Board of GPRW and has adopted two Great Pyrenees. GPRW remains committed to rescuing Great Pyrenees and treating those with significant medical problems. In Gracie’s memory, we have established this fund for the dogs needing extra care and medical attention.

If you would like to help give these dogs a chance, please donate to Gracie’s Fund.  
Thank you.