

Thea Hynes Memorial Versatility Award

2019 is the first year GPCA will be awarding the Thea Hynes Memorial Versatility Award at the National Specialty in April. This Award will be presented for the next ten years at the GPCA National Specialty Awards ceremony honoring the Versatility title applicant who has accomplished the most varied Versatility title qualifications during the GPCA club year. This award is in honor of the Great Pyrenees who was the invaluable service dog for Thea Hynes. In honor of this special dog, other Great Pyrenees who have performed a variety of activities for and with their owners and the public are acknowledged. This Versatility award will be presented to the Versatility title applicant who has accrued the most points from activities completed during that year. Dogs may have participated in AKC title pursuits, and GPCA title pursuits including the Drafting and AAT&A title series, as well as livestock guarding, and sports. In addition, dogs may also have earned certificates, made special therapy visits, provided service care for the owner, and made community participation presentations to groups (e.g., 4-H, senior centers, scouts, public education at dog shows and other animal-related events, fairs, parades, walkathons, etc.). Certified service dogs will have priority. A dog can only receive this award once. Qualifying activities and events are described in the Versatility Workbook, located on the GPCA website at: https://greatpyrenees.club/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FINAL_12_14_VersWkbk-6.pdf.

"Thea Hynes loved and treasured her dog who repeatedly saved her life and also served her entire family. The GPCA Versatility program gave Thea a way to express how well Kira became her partner and ultimately earned her Versatility Excellent title, the highest title level at the time. This new award is an expression of Thea's passion and appreciation for her dog, GPCA and the GPCA Versatility titling series. To apply for this award, dog owners are required to submit documentation for activities and awards earned by the dog as part of the application for a Versatility title. Submissions will be sent to the Versatility Committee Chair according to the annual spring deadline for awards.