

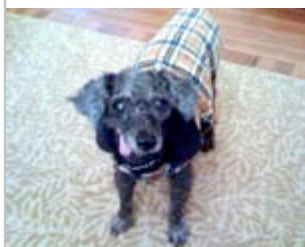
Renaissance Poodles

The Newsletter of Poodle Rescue of New England

Welcome Note... by Amanda Lion

I can't believe it's already November! The leaves are almost gone from the trees and we're already getting ready for the holidays.

We've got a full newsletter with lots of tips to keep your poodles happy, well behaved, and safe this season. Also the newsletter features a new segment, "Focus on Adopters," which highlights previous adopters' stories. And then you'll want to enjoy our Halloween Gallery. It seems that oodles of poodles were out "trick or treating" this year. Since the newsletter offers much to peruse, I'll try to keep my *Welcome* short and to the point.



Brock, a puppy-mill rescue

Two months ago, Poodle Rescue New England was in a very difficult financial situation. Thanks to the generosity of our loyal supporters, we're almost out of debt. Without their help, we wouldn't be able to continue. As we celebrate the holidays and welcome in the New Year, let us give thanks to all of our wonderful supporters – volunteers, fosterers, fundraisers, transporters – everyone who helps us to carry on our mission; and let us give thanks also to all those animals who have graced our lives and shown us what true spirit really is.

From now on, the PRNE Newsletter will be available on line at: <http://www.poodlerescuene.org/> Going electronic will save PRNE the cost of printing and postage, freeing much needed funds for the poodles.

Please let us know if you have a question, a suggestion or a story to share for the next issue of the newsletter. Also, so that we can alert you when the latest issue of *Renaissance Poodles* is available on line, please send your email address to:

poodlerescue@poodlerescuene.org

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Merrilea Agostino

Hats Off to Merrilea... by Amanda Lion

We'd like to thank Merrilea Agostino for 15 years of service to Poodle Rescue New England.

Merrilea was one of the founders of PRNE and managed the books, bills and various other fiscal responsibilities for 15 years. She has decided the time has come to move on and has stepped into the newly created position of Vice President.

We would not be where we are today if it weren't for her vision, dedication and determination. Merrilea's insight and common sense has led PRNE through thousands of rescues. Many poodles are safe and sound as a result of her drive and spirit.

Our hats go off to you, Merrilea, and we look forward to many more years of service together!

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Merrilea Agostino, MC



Poodles prepare for contests



Tail-wagging contest

Poodles Galore!

by Alice O'Connor

On Sunday, October 5, at Needham's Ridge Hill Reservation, Poodle Rescue volunteers, adopters and friends gathered for the annual 2008 Poodle Picnic, an event that was all about the poodles. Activities included shopping, raffles, a silent auction, poodle contests, doggie tarot card readings, and a doggie buffet sponsored by Especially for Pets.

Foster families got a chance to visit with their former foster dogs and to relish the rewards of seeing how happy the dogs are with their new families. Available poodles got a chance to meet prospective adopters. Old friends had a chance to catch up with each other, new friends were made, and most importantly, the poodles had a blast playing with each other.

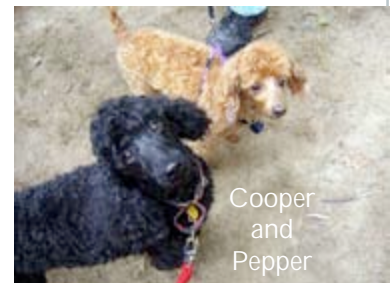
Finally, thanks to the work of many PRNE volunteers and the generous participation of the attendees, the picnic raised greatly needed funds to support the mission of PRNE.



Scrap, Louie and Sky



Picnic Pleasantries



Cooper and Pepper

Focus on Adopters: Jack's Story... by Jim and Joanne Halpin

In February of '05, we contacted PRNE after the unexpected death of our 5 year-old toy poodle. We loved her so much that we just had to find another poodle close to her age.

When a PRNE volunteer came to our house to conduct a site visit, she brought Doodles. Doodles was very thin and had very short ears. However, he was quite curious and had a cute stance with one foot turned out.

After hearing Doodles' story, we decided to keep him. We changed his name to Jack after Jim's dad who had the same color hair and a birthday in February.

Jack has been a pure delight. His hair has grown into a beautiful soft coat, thick and curly on his ears. Unfortunately, all but one of his teeth had to be extracted (due to neglect), but that hasn't slowed him down one bit.

Jack likes to sit next to people - the closer, the better. He has traveled on planes and is quite the hit in the security line. Although Jack doesn't like to play with toys, he can twirl and bark simultaneously. He loves his daily walks with his dog friends, all of whom are much, much bigger than Jack. At home he follows me everywhere I go.

Sadly, one day Jack was listing to the left. The vet determined that he had probably had a stroke. We learned also that Jack was much closer to 20 years than the 11 we had thought previously. We were very sad thinking that

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Jack

Jack was not going to make it. However, steroids seem to have given him a new lease on life. He's quite the lively old man right now.

We don't know what the future will hold for Jack. However, he knows he is loved very much by all of us. He has been given the attention and nurturing that every pet deserves. He was a very lucky dog to have been saved by PRNE. We are

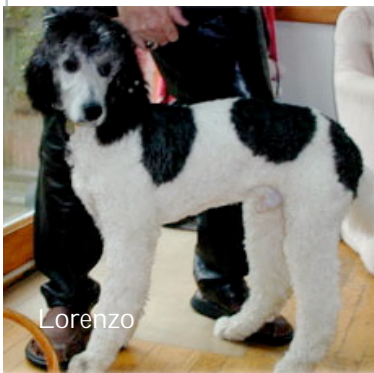
grateful to PRNE for bringing him to us and for all of the work they do to help these helpless dogs. In Jack's honor, we've made donations to make Jack's Guest House a place where more dogs can find safety.

PRNE is truly making a difference in the world. Thank you for caring so much!

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Focus on Adopters: Lorenzo's Story... by Vickey and Ted Bestor

Lorenzo joined our family on November 17, 2007, three months after our beloved Aussie, Molly, died at the age of 13. For the intervening months we had been looking online for the right new dog for our family. We had never had a poodle before, but knew several lovely standards and minis in the past, so Poodle Rescue of New England became one of my regular cyber-haunts in the weeks that we were investigating dogs, interviewing friends with puppies and talking to our vet. The best advice we received was to look for dogs that were being fostered locally so that we could communicate easily with their foster parents and meet the dog before proceeding with the adoption. Fortunately PRNE is local, and most of the dogs on their site are being fostered in Western Massachusetts.



Lorenzo

As soon as I saw Lorenzo's picture on the PRNE site, I submitted our application and almost immediately got a phone call from his foster mother, Evelyn. We drove down to Milton where Lorenzo was staying with John, Evelyn and their two foster-pups, Yo-Yo and Diva. It was love at first sight for us and we

Mark your calendars!

Next spring at the Sheraton Hotel in Needham, MA, Jan Fennell, the acclaimed original dog listener, will present her techniques for shaping positive behavior in dogs:

- Foundation Course in Canine Communication: April 18 and 19, 2009, 9 am – 4:30 pm
- Advanced Course: April 24, 25 and 26, 2009, 9 am – 4:30 pm
- An Evening with Jan Fennell: April 21, 2009, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. (Proceeds from this evening will be donated to Poodle Rescue of New England!)

For more information on Jan Fennell and her techniques, visit: <http://www.janfennellthedoglistener.com> or email pwright01@snet.net.

Experience the pure pleasure of a relationship with your dog that both of you truly deserve!

went home looking forward to the home visit and the completion of our application. We got Lorenzo the next Saturday, just a couple of days after he turned 7 months old.

Lorenzo is a full-sized standard silver parti-poodle. Before he joined our family, he had the misfortune of being purchased from a breeder by a family with two small children who had not imagined how difficult it would be to raise two human babies and a canine baby at the same time. Quickly realizing their mistake, they put Lorenzo up for sale and boarded him in a nearby kennel. Luckily for Lorenzo, PRNE bailed him out and sent him to live with John and Evelyn while he had his medical check-ups and was neutered. They also gave him some excellent basic training, and we are continuing to work on obedience with a local training group.

Lorenzo is an absolute delight and has been with us eight months now. He hangs out with Vickey most days in her home-office on the third floor of our Cambridge house or goes to Ted's office at Harvard where he is greatly loved by the staff and students. He also enjoys visiting Ted's mom at Youville House Assisted Living where he is extremely popular with the residents, many of whom seem to have had poodles in their earlier years.

Lorenzo is a wonderful addition to our family and gets along well with his feline siblings, Emma and Abby, all of whom have occasionally been seen sleeping in close proximity. Lorenzo also has a large group of playmates in our Porter Square neighborhood where we sometimes meet human and dog friends at places like Raymond Park and Radcliffe Quad.

We are enormously grateful to Poodle Rescue of New England for taking such wonderful care of Lorenzo before he became a treasured member of the Bestor Family.

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Focus on Adopters: Sky's Story

by Bonnie Staniewicz and Donna Roy

Our first contact with Poodle Rescue followed the recent loss of our two beloved dogs. We were filled with excitement and anxiety as we anticipated bringing another poodle into our home, for we have been enjoying the "young life" in our household with our 7 year old and 9 month old toy poodles.

Our first step was to complete an application for a little 4-month old puppy who was available for adoption. Unfortunately for us, Poodle Rescue was working with another applicant to place him. Huge bummer, we thought, but we were invited to meet a few of the other dogs that were available. We visited with one of the PRNE volunteers who fosters and met a handful of dogs. It was quite a sight - oodles of poodles in different shapes, sizes, and colors! In addition to their own dogs, they had quite a few foster dogs with various medical needs.

We spent over two hours at their home, asking questions about each dog and about Poodle Rescue. Most of the fosters had "issues" about which the foster parents were completely upfront - housetraining, physical challenges and personality quirks, to name a few. We were impressed with how in tune with each dog and the accompanying responsibilities they were! We thought, "Wow, we could really help one or two of these dogs - but are we really ready to do this?" And how could we "choose"? But we KNEW we could really provide a great home and life for those adopted dogs. We were torn.

We contacted the foster parents about our dilemma. They sincerely understood our position and helped us work through the decision. The bottom line was: we just weren't ready yet to take on a senior dog again. We were relieved because we knew how much these dogs could benefit from a permanent home ASAP, but there was no pressure from Poodle Rescue to place them in a home that might not be ideal for them. The foster parents had a sincere interest in the long-term well being of each of their dogs. Their attitude was admirable.

About a week later we received a phone call about the poodle who had originally attracted us. Luckily for us, he had not been placed! We then met Sky's foster parent. Sky is a puppy-mill rescue who had been adopted by someone who returned him to the back yard (and shut down) breeder because of some minor ailments (all fixable). Once again, his foster parent was open and honest about his personality - another full disclosure as we called it. After the introductory visit, there was no doubt Sky would be a great fit with our family - and he is.

His sister Pupcake (6 months older) absolutely adores him as they enjoy daily bouts of wrestle mania and Indy 500 around the house. Their joint hobbies include tearing up the fuzzies on every tennis ball in the house and sleeping in; their favorite look seems to be "it wasn't me."



Sky

Our experience with Poodle Rescue of New England has been excellent, not only because of their generosity with the many poodles that need homes, but because of their commitment and compassion in placing these animals in appropriate homes based on the individual poodles' personalities.

We're thankful to be part of the Poodle Rescue family and look forward to introducing others to such a wonderful organization.

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Focus on Adopters: Senior Tales by Caron Leichtman

My husband Kerry and I have been involved with PRNE for almost five years. During that time we have adopted four senior poodles, lost two to old age and illness, and we currently foster another senior poodle. I originally found PRNE through petfinders.com and was immediately hooked. All those poodles!

We wanted to adopt a senior poodle, and with the help of PRNE's Amy Kelly and foster parent Susan Filskov of Vermont, our first adoptee was Ginger, a 12 year old redhead who'd lost two families and her dog sister, Sue. Ginger had suffered some hard times and was in need of some serious spoiling.

We drove from our home in Rockport, Maine, to Manchester, NH, to meet Susan and Ginger. Ginger was so spunky that you'd never guess she was a senior. With that fluffy pompom on her head, she was so cute!

She came into our house, with our newly adopted schnauzer, our elderly spaniel, a cat and several parrots, and never blinked. It was like she had always been here. She immediately took to Pearl, our deaf schnauzer, and they were

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Holiday Tips from Dr. Dallas... with help from Laura Kleine Plunkett

The holiday season is a time of fun and excitement for you and your family, including your dogs. Here are some tips for making the season safe for your furry friend:

- Some holiday foods can be dangerous for dogs. Gravy and rich fatty foods can cause a serious condition called pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas that causes pain, vomiting, and dehydration. Treatment often requires hospitalization.
- Uncooked meat, fish, and poultry can carry dangerous bacteria and parasites, and should not be given to your dog.
- Make sure your guests know not to give your dogs any table scraps, especially bones. Bones from fish, cooked meat and poultry can splinter causing intestinal damage. Grapes and raisins contain an unknown toxin, which can damage the kidneys. Macadamia nuts contain an unknown toxin, which can affect the digestive and nervous systems and muscles of dogs.
- Keep alcoholic beverages away from dogs. Pick up glasses and bottles after parties. Some dogs love the taste of alcoholic drinks, especially sweet drinks and eggnog. Each year hundreds of dogs die after ingesting alcoholic drinks.
- Chocolate, coffee, and tea contain dangerous toxins that cause diarrhea, seizures, nervous and urinary system damage, heart problems and death. Unsweetened and dark chocolate are most dangerous, but dogs love the taste of all chocolate, so keep it and other candy out of their reach.
- Keep cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, nicotine gum and patches, and ashtrays out of reach. Nicotine products are poisonous to dogs. Symptoms develop within 15 to 45 minutes and may include excitation, salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and death from cardiac arrest. Empty ashtrays frequently since cigarette butts contain about 25% of the total nicotine in a cigarette.
- Uncooked yeast dough can expand and produce gas in the digestive system, causing pain and possible rupture of the stomach or intestines.
- Keep the trash can secure and countertops clear of tempting objects. Food remains and juices on plastic wrap or aluminum foil make a tempting snack for dogs. If eaten, plastic or foil wrap, including candy wrappers, can cause choking or intestinal obstruction.
- A ribbon and bow around your dog's neck may look cute, but ribbon, string and yarn are dangerous if eaten. Meat-soaked strings from rump roasts are attractive to dogs. All of these things if eaten can cause a surgical emergency called a 'linear string foreign body' in the intestines.
- Poinsettias and mistletoe can be fatal to dogs and cats, and hibiscus can cause diarrhea, so keep them out of reach.
- Potpourri and scented candles may smell like food to your dog. They contain toxic oils. Candles can also cause burns and fires. Never leave lighted candles unattended or within reach of your pet.
- Keep tablecloths and runners from hanging too low to the floor. Tug-of-war with the tablecloth under your holiday dinner might be very tempting for an excited dog!
- Don't overlook the hazards on and under your tree. Make sure the tree is in a stable stand and make sure your dog doesn't chew on the needles or decorations. Only use tinsel if it can be placed higher on the tree than your dog can reach. Angel hair, flocking, and artificial snow can also be toxic.
- Dogs sometimes like to play with round glass ornaments because they look like balls. Broken ornaments and the sharp ornament hooks can become imbedded in your dog's mouth or esophagus. Place shiny round ornaments out of reach.
- Don't decorate with candy canes and gingerbread cookies. Dogs will eat these as well as popcorn and cranberry garlands, and they'll need surgery to remove the intestinal blockage that may result.
- Tree preservatives contain harmful chemicals. Cover the water with a tree skirt so your dog isn't tempted to drink it.

Finally, make sure you have a collar and tag on your dog at all times. Guests coming and going and the resulting stress on your dog can make it easier than usual for a dog to escape out an open door. Consider keeping your rescue dog's PRNE tag on the collar along with your own ID tag as another means of contact if your dog does become lost.

All of us at Poodle Rescue of New England wish you and your beloved pets a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

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Ask Andrew...

Dear Andrew,

Even though I enjoy the excitement of the holiday season and getting together with family and friends, I'm dreading what happens to my poor dog Katie! She gets so excited when we have visitors that she jumps all over them. She gets into everything and she's always underfoot. When I hug my family and friends, she gets jealous and pushy, and she whines and sometimes growls. And I wish she would play nicely with the children, but I'm sure she'll do what she always does and hide under the bed when they try to play with her. What can I do to help Katie enjoy the holidays as much as I do?

Mary Hatch Bailey

Dear Mary,

There are lots of things you can do to help Katie, your guests—and you—enjoy the holiday festivities. For humans and dogs, the activities surrounding the holidays can drive stress levels up. Even laid-back dogs like me can become anxious when faced with boisterous children, lots of noise, unaccustomed activity, changes in family routine and unfamiliar guests in the house. Hospital emergency rooms report an increased incidence of dog bites during this busy season, so you're right to be concerned.

Start now by getting a friend to help you train Katie to sit and stay when greeting guests. Put a leash on Katie. Have your friend come to the door while you tell Katie to sit. If Katie stands up or even lifts her rear or shows excitement at your friend's approach, take the leash, turn, and walk Katie away from your friend. Then tell her to sit again and stay. When she greets your friend calmly, praise her and give her a treat. Keep practicing. Repeat this exercise, preferably in different rooms and with different people, always rewarding and praising Katie when she's calm. Allow your friend to pat her gently, again as long as Katie remains calm. Your friend can also give Katie a treat when Katie greets her calmly. Katie will learn to associate calm behavior with the reward of getting attention from the visitor and praise from you. Keep practicing and keep a treat jar close by the door!

We dogs don't experience jealousy like a human. We dogs thrive on attention, and jumping and pushing at humans when they are sharing a hug with another person is a way for us to tell you we want attention too and we want it now! Any reaction to this behavior will reinforce it, so ignore Katie's actions by stepping away, crossing your arms and turning your back on her. The sit/stay command will also help manage this behavior and you can practice sit/stay in advance of the holidays too.

When guests are in your home, pay close attention to Katie's body language and facial expression. Most people understand that a growling dog is upset. People don't always realize that a dog that gets up and walks away may be

stressed and trying to escape. A dog that turns away or looks away when someone is talking to her or petting her may want to be left alone. If Katie holds her ears back, tucks her tail under, licks her lips or yawns repeatedly, she's communicating that she's uncomfortable and wants to be left alone. Help Katie cope by taking her to her crate or removing her to a quiet room for a while.

Tips to reduce overall stress:

We dogs need structure and thrive on a schedule. To minimize the anxiety surrounding holiday preparations and guests, keep Katie's feeding and exercise on the regular schedule. Give Katie a treat before a party so she won't want to beg or steal food.

If you know you're expecting guests, increase Katie's exercise before the guests arrive. A tired dog is a good dog!

Try Rescue Remedy, a Bach flower essence, which helps relieve anxiety. Put a few drops in Katie's water bowl or rub a drop on her ear.

Make sure that Katie has plenty of fresh water. Stressed dogs pant more and panting makes them thirsty. Put some water in a location that's away from the center of activity.

Set up Katie's crate in a quiet room away from guests. Get her used to the new location in advance of the holidays. Make sure your guests know that this room is off-limits to the children. Katie will then have a safe and quiet place to escape the activity.

- Don't leave children alone with her.
- Tell guests not to hug, chase, scream, or stare at her.
- Tell guests not to lean over Katie or push, pull, or pick her up.
- Don't let the children tease Katie with remote controlled or loud toys.
- Above all, don't let anyone bother Katie if she's in her crate, eating, resting or playing with a toy.

When the guests finally leave and all is quiet, share a few minutes alone with Katie. Pet her, give her a gentle massage, and tell her what a good girl she was.

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Do you need advice on training and behavioral issues?

Ask Andrew!

Andrew has over 16 years experience as a Ph.D.* and in each issue of Renaissance Poodles he will share his knowledge with us. If you have a question you'd like Andrew to answer, email it to info@poodlerescuene.org.

* Phenomenal Dog

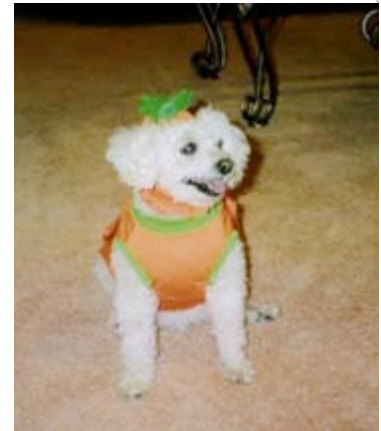
Halloween Gallery



Higgins as a Leprechaun



Micha, Poodle Princess



Micky. Trick or Treat?



Greta, the Busy Bee



Triton in his Irish Duds



Poodle Masqueraders



Senior Tales...continued from page 4



Sasha and Junior

inseparable until Pearl's death from cancer 10 months later. It was a great sadness for all of us, but especially for Ginger, who had lost yet another dear companion. Sadly, Ginger had health issues, including a broken heart, which eventually wore her down, and she left us after only 18 months.

Chico was our most challenging poodle. Also a senior dog, he came to us through Amy Kelly (again!), when we mentioned that adopting another dog might help heal Ginger's broken heart. It didn't. In hindsight, we think he would have been happier as an only dog. He wanted people, not other dogs. Chico was a marker, and in his short time with us, taught us a lot about bellybands and pee pads.

Last year, Amanda Lion offered us a new adoption, a dog named Caesar, and suggested we come down and meet him. It was a long drive; the only time we saw Caesar was when we came through the door. After that he was the Invisible Dog. He wanted nothing to do with us. He seemed to know why we were there and let us know he wanted no part of it! A small dog had snubbed us!

Two of Amanda's other fosters, Sasha and Junior, though, were very interested in us. At 11 and 14, they'd been together all their lives and came into rescue when their family lost their home. We took them both. Junior is 7 lbs and thinks he's twice the size; he's our official greeter and guard dog. He can be a marker, especially on anything new, so we've learned to put new things where he can't reach them, and of course, there's always a bellyband if we need one. Sasha on the other hand, is gentle, sweet and loving and dances when she's happy.

Our newest arrival is Betsy Boots, our first foster dog. She has been here just a few weeks, so we are all still getting to know each other. She came from a puppy mill, and so far doesn't seem to be housebroken. Thank goodness for the

Electrolux carpet shampooer! At 11, Betsy is the youngest dog in the house and can both see and hear, unlike several of our other dogs who are slightly blind or deaf, or both. She's very sweet, docile and eager for affection. Once Sasha and Junior get over the "How long is *she* staying?" attitude, everything will be fine.

Over the years, we've learned to cope with dogs with different end-of-life needs. We keep good medical records so we know who's getting what, since when and how it affects them, good or bad. We've also learned when it's time to call the vet for the last time. All our dogs have come here because of some life trauma or another. We give them a safe place to live out the rest of their lives happily, with good food and loving care.

There are plenty of challenges in adopting a senior dog, and each one has something to teach us. It's hard work, but it sure is worth the effort. We love our senior poodles.

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Ace

WHO WE ARE

Newsletter Committee: Mahala Beams, Amanda Lion, Laura Klein Plunkett, Alice O'Connor, and Kim Rosen

Board of Directors: Merrilea Agostino, Amanda Lion, Sue Matre, Alice O'Connor and Laura Klein Plunkett

To contact any of us, please send e-mail to poodlerescue@poodlerescue.org.

For more information on Poodle Rescue of New England, please visit our website: www.poodlerescue.org.