

# Renaissance Poodles

The Newsletter of Poodle Rescue of New England

## Welcome Note... by Mahala Beams



In some quarters, poodles have a bad rap. Sadly, many think of them as froufrou creatures, with elaborate and sometimes silly hairdos, mere accessories for the overly fayne conscious and fabulously rich. For those of us who know the breed and our wonderful dogs, that's hard to hear.

Now a poodle convert, my husband provides a case in point. A dog lover and dog owner for many years, he never considered the possibility of having a poodle. He believed them too fancy and high strung to be "real dogs." Then, after the loss of our last lab, we began to consider a poodle because our son-in-law was terribly allergic to shedding dogs. One evening Triton appeared on our doorstep, visiting with his PRNE foster mother as we considered adopting him. Utterly charmed by Triton's wonderful personality and woolly good looks, my husband said without hesitation, "he's ours." Now he has become as fond of Triton as of any dog he ever had. In fact, he soon persuaded me to adopt a second poodle; he is now just as attached to Figaro, our feisty miniature, as to our standard, Triton.

One of the perks of having dogs is meeting and chatting with other dog owners at dog parks or on favorite walking trails. During these encounters, I often find that people who ask about my poodles are quite surprised to learn that they were surrendered by previous owners, and that at least one of them had suffered considerably in his previous situation. Further, they often seem surprised that a poodle rescue organization like PRNE exists. It is as if many don't perceive poodles as susceptible to the same vagaries of fortune as other dogs. Also, many do not realize that poodles require regular grooming - to maintain their good health - not just for appearance.

*Continued on page 2*



Lexie and Cassie with Claudia

## Lexie... by Claudia Olds Goldie

A year and a half ago, we adopted Cassie, a beautiful, blue standard poodle. She was quiet and loving and remarkably low maintenance from the start. She rarely demanded anything but to be close to use, and she loved to play, especially with other dogs. We had recently lost the second of our two fourteen-year-old poodles when Cassie joined our family. We wanted two dogs again... and a playmate for Cassie. Eight months later, Lexie pranced into our lives.

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Rich with Triton and Figaro

Still, when you see some of the images of poodles that abound, it is not hard to understand why people can forget that poodles are dogs too, just as vulnerable, dependent and subject to neglect or abuse as the humblest of mutts.

Indeed stereotypes of the pampered poodle are all too common. And no wonder. Recently a friend shared an article from the *Wall Street Journal*, "Fur Flies at Contests That Turn Pooches into Zombies, Pandas, Cows," September 14, 2012, by Ann Zimmerman. The article reports that, "Creative dog grooming has become a kind of sport..." Poodles (and sometimes other breeds) "have been dyed and clipped to resemble lions, cows, lizards, dolphins - even Yoda." (You can access this article on line by typing the title into your browser.) These "creative groomers" insist that their dogs enjoy the extensive grooming and resulting competitions, and that the human-animal bond is strengthened by their endeavors.



A "painted" toy poodle

However, it is no surprise that animal rights groups are up in arms about this new "sport." At issue particularly are the harsh bleaches, dyes and other chemicals that some groomers use to achieve their special affects. Certainly some of the images of these overly coiffed, and dyed poodles may contribute to some people's negative stereotypes.

One of Poodle Rescue of New England's functions is to dispel such negative stereotypes. The organization tells the true stories of the poodles that come into rescue, representing the reality of their lives. Whether on PRNE's website, in the community at such places as PETCO or at events such as Pet Rock or Whisker Walk, people get the real scoop about poodles and their needs. All of you who have been involved with PRNE educate others as well. With our continued efforts, we help to overturn some of the false notions about poodles and convert others, like my husband, to the cause of these wonderful dogs.

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Lexie... *continued from page 1*

Lexie, a stunning brown and white, two year old phantom standard with golden eyes and fur as soft and silky as a puppy (and the energy, the joyfulness, the curiosity, and the exuberance to match), came to live with us and turned our lives upside down. From day one the dogs played so wildly together that we feared for their safety, and the wild play didn't stop once they came inside the house. Lexie wanted to play all the time. She was having the time of her life. Her tail spun like a propeller. It never stopped wagging. She never stopped moving. She never stopped demanding. She actually argued with us, barking and vocalizing until she got distracted or got what she wanted. We were all exhausted—Cassie, too. After raising two children, we once again had a rambunctious toddler in our lives.

And then slowly Lexie started to calm down. We came to understand what a well-trained dog she was and how well she responded to commands. Not only had she been well trained, but also she had been well loved. Lexie seemed to trust everyone. She would make friends with everybody we met on our walks. She began to follow us around the house, insisting on wrapping her paws around our arms to keep us close. She jumped for joy when we came home from work. She snuggled close to us in bed. She watched us carefully to see what we expected of her.

Now that Cassie has Lexie as a canine buddy, she is much happier. The two dogs race around the yard together until they're ready to drop. They play tug of war with sticks and bits of rope. They run in the nearby field from one end to the other, rushing back to us when we call their names. They sit together by the toy box and pick out toys together. They swap their bones back and forth (or steal them from each other—depending on how you look at it). They nuzzle each other and bat at each other with their paws like two big cats.

After close to a year in our family, Lexie is still a high-energy dog who would play day and night if she could. She needs calm discipline and lots of exercise, and she's keeping us in great shape with long daily walks. She is so much fun to have around. There are moments when we all, including Cassie, say "Enough!" Then sweet, sweet girl that she is, Lexie wags her tail, looks at us with her golden eyes, and melts our hearts.

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## Pogo: A Very Special Blessing... by Edna Barron

Editor's note: Pogo came into PRNE after his owner, a breeder of Yorkies, lost the fingers of one hand in a terrible accident. As a result, she had to give up her twenty-some dogs. PRNE helped by taking some of them, even though they were not poodles or poodle mixes. Lucky Pogo was then adopted by Edna Barron.



Pogo plays with one of his toys

Pogo is a darling six and a half year old teacup Yorkie. When I first got him, he was ever so shy, and not used to playing with toys and people. However, with lots of love and patience, Pogo has blossomed into a fun loving little character who loves his new toys.

I can't always take Pogo to work with me, so sometimes he stays at home with a sitter. But when I come home, oh my! He comes running and jumps into my arms and snuggles under my chin. When he sighs contentedly, I know my little guy is a happy camper.

Pogo has no teeth, so I have to be creative with his meals and snacks. He does love scrambled eggs and bacon, hamburg and rice, roast chicken and of course, ice cream. Although he was not house-broken when he came to live with me, we are working on that, and he is making progress.

Pogo has a whole new wardrobe of hoodies and jerseys, and looks simply adorable prancing around in his new outfits. Laundry day in our home is quite something as you might well imagine.

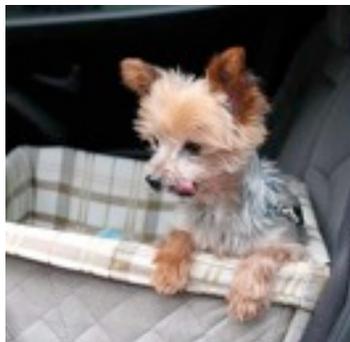


Laundry day



Pogo lounges in the sun

Pogo enjoys many activities. One of the things that he loves most is to bask in the sunlight that streams in through the window. He also enjoys riding in the car in his very own car seat. Pogo is a very attentive listener, but when he gets tired, he is happy to curl up in his fuzzy blanket with his big green Tweety Bird. Yes, he is spoiled. I just can't help myself.



Pogo goes for a ride



Pogo snuggles with Tweety Bird

For Halloween, Pogo will be wearing his new Penguin costume when we go "trick or treating." Later that night, we will hop on my broom and travel around the world. He's too tiny to sit on the end of the broom, so he sits on my lap. If you look up into the sky, you just might see us!

*Continued on page 4*

## Pogo... *continued from page 3*

In the "Gallery" on page 12 of this newsletter, you can see a photo of Pogo in his penguin costume. He looks very cute although he is not crazy about wearing a costume. If you would like to learn more about Pogo and see more pictures, you are welcome to visit my blog at:

<http://missednasplace.blogspot.com>

Opposite from this column is the poster that I made to post on my blog for Halloween.

Pogo has put the sparkle back into my life, and filled my heart and home with so much love and happiness. Every day brings new adventures for my little guy. I am so blessed to be his forever mommy.

I heartily recommend adopting your next furry kid from a shelter or a rescue organization like PRNE. You can't imagine the joy awaiting you.

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Edna and Pogo take to the skies on Halloween

## Thank You, Tony Richard!

If you have recently visited the website of Poodle Rescue of New England, [www.poodlerescuenewengland.org](http://www.poodlerescuenewengland.org), you have seen its sharp new look and user friendly design. Many thanks to Tony Richard, PRNE's volunteer web-master, for his hard work on streamlining and improving the site. Visitors can easily navigate and find what ever they seek in an instant.

If you haven't visited the site yet, take a peek. It looks fabulous!

*No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does. ~ Christopher Morley*



## Featured Foster: Maggie... by Susan MacDonald

In this new feature for *Renaissance Poodles*, we profile a dog currently in PRNE foster care.



Maggie when first in PRNE's care

Maggie was a breeding mother who hung up her fallopian tubes two years ago and was recently surrendered to PRNE. She is the sweetest, most cuddly foster I have ever met.

She has adjusted to a new life with very few problems. Loud noises startled her at first, but she soon began to run with her foster brother and sisters. A quick learner, she soon mastered bathroom rules and which food dish was hers. Maggie also figured out how to climb out of a four-foot high xpen to sit on the couch and wait for her foster mom. Poodles are so smart, anyway, and Maggie loves to please, looking up at her foster mom for cues and walking beside her.

Maggie may already have her forever home, and as soon as she recovers from her spay and dental surgery, she will be ready to meet her prospective family. It will be difficult to give up such a dear, sweet, compliant dog, but this wonderful home has another rescued poodle who is waiting for a loving sister.

It is amazing how easily we become fond of our foster dogs. No exception, Maggie, with her adoring gazes and personal charm, has stolen my heart. Her new family will be very blessed to have her, and I can let her go because I know she will be safe, happy, and loved.



Maggie, ready for Halloween

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## The PRNE - PETCO Connection Continues

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers like Susan MacDonald (Maggie's foster mother) who help to keep the PETCO PRNE connection strong and who represent PRNE's cause so well in the community.



Susan and Phoebe in September at PETCO in Topsfield

## Poodle Rescue of New England Picnic Sunday, October 30, 2012

This year's annual Poodle Rescue of New England Picnic was a rousing success enjoyed by many poodles and people despite the dismal weather which, sadly, was chilly, gray and rainy. However, the mood was bright in spite of the weather, thanks to all the special activities and games that PRNE volunteers planned for the Picnic. These valiant volunteers, who arrived early and stayed late, erected many tents and booths so that all could enjoy the gathering protected from the rain for the most part. Much socializing of dogs and people occurred along with oohing and aahing over raffle items, bingo prizes, doggie merchandize and yummy treats (for people too, thanks to the tasty goodies provided by Bonnie and Donna!). A special shout-out to Bonnie and Donna also for organizing a great game of "Poodle Bingo." Brightening the day too were opportunities to have professional photos taken of dogs, chances to treat dogs to massages, and offerings by vendors of jewelry, free dog food samples and other items. Finally, special thanks go to Kelly Wynne who prepared and donated the magnificent baskets for the raffle. They were attractive and appealing to say the least and certainly helped to raise a lot of funds for PRNE.

### Picnic Scenes

(Photos by Amy Moore)



Picnic Scenes... *continued from page 6*



## Blessing of the Dogs (Poodles)... by Marjorie Jacobs

Offered at the Annual Poodle Rescue of New England Picnic on Oct. 30, 2012

On this special day, the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Poodle Rescue of New England picnic, we bless all the dogs who have come into rescue and into our homes, whether as fosters or as our own companion animals. Many of these dogs have survived difficult and, in some cases, traumatic circumstances. But despite this, they have thrived with our commitment and loving care. We have chosen to share our lives with them, which means for most of us, sharing our couches and beds. We have learned to trust and love each other.

As stewards of poodles and other dogs in need, we provide our understanding, attentiveness, kindness, and resources so that they may live in safety, security, love, good health, and happiness.

We are grateful for the opportunity to nurture the human-animal bond and are so blessed by the unconditional love we give and receive from our dogs. On a daily basis, they teach us how to cultivate our compassion and generosity. They help us live more in the *here and now* with an attitude of gratitude and joy.

We are blessed by the dogs in our lives and wish for them a long life enjoying exercise, good nutrition, health, cuddling, and companionship. In this blessing, we vow to treat them respectfully as the precious, unique sentient beings they truly are. We support each other on our interwoven journeys of life, together growing older and closer.



Marjorie Jacobs with Dom Agostina after reading her touching "Blessing of the Dogs."

Thank you, Marjorie, for creating and sharing this wise and touching reminder of the many blessings our dogs bring to our lives.

## Update on Legislation

**Good News!** On August 2, 2012, Governor Patrick signed into law an important bill which will benefit dogs (and other animals) throughout Massachusetts. This bill, S.2192, "An Act Further Regulating Animal Control," includes a number of important provisions. The August newsletter of the MSPCA includes the following summary of the new law:

- Creates a statewide spay/neuter program to reduce the number of homeless animals in the Commonwealth and will, in turn, also reduce the cost to cities and towns for housing and sheltering these animals. This is funded by a voluntary tax check off.
- Adds enforcement provisions to section 139A (the spay/neuter deposit law for animals adopted from shelters and animal control facilities) to ensure these animals can't reproduce.
- Requires animal control officers to receive training. People are often surprised to learn that their local animal control officer is not required to receive training for the complicated work they do to keep the people and animals in their community safe. This is funded by the tax check off.
- Prohibits carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide gas as a means to "euthanize" dogs and cats.
- Reduces dog bites by improving the dangerous dog law in a breed neutral manner.
- Allows pets to be included in domestic violence protection orders to protect both animals and people.

To learn more about the details of this legislation visit:  
<http://www.mspca.org/programs/animal-protection-legislation/>.

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## Spotlight on a Volunteer: Marcella Stasa... by Kim Rosen

In this regular feature of our newsletter, we shine light on the work of individuals who don't seek the spotlight, but who deserve acclaim for their special dedication and long-term commitment to the work of Poodle Rescue of New England.

Marcella Stasa has been a Poodle Rescue of New England volunteer for four years. Her story is one we hear often: grateful PRNE adopter finds herself falling so in love with her new family member and the joys of rescue that she can't help but get more involved! We at Poodle Rescue of New England are so grateful to volunteers like Marcella who open up their homes to our deserving fosters. Marcella says about her initial experience fostering, "We adopted our first PRNE Poodle in 2008. I wanted him to have a buddy, so Picasso came to us as a foster with the idea that I might adopt him if he worked out. He worked out." She goes on to say, "At that point I was happy to take in more fosters. If I have room, why not save another dog?"

Marcella tells us how incredible it is to see dogs get healthy, start to trust and open up enough to begin to show their real personalities. She finds comfort "knowing that the dogs I foster are no longer lost, abandoned, hungry or destined to be euthanized. Each in his or her own way is loved deeply, and will get the best care I can offer."

But as we all know, as satisfying as fostering and volunteering is, there are some challenges. Most challenging to Marcella is "giving them up to their forever homes. You get attached. I have often thought that it is a clever scheme on PRNE's part to have foster parents interview the adopters and do home visits. This insures that the dogs go to good homes; what good foster mom would send one of her dogs to a bad home?"

Other than the anxiety about placing a foster dog in the right forever home, the hardest part of fostering for Marcella is "waking up to a pack of hungry, whining, barking dogs! They always seem to start up about half an hour before I'm ready to wake up!"

In addition to fostering, Marcella screens potential adopters, does home visits, and acts as a Poodle Ambassador at PETCO where she has the opportunity to "talk poodle and encourage adoption and fostering."

During the course of our interview when asked about any favorite volunteer experiences or moments, Marcella said, "this moment now. There are five dogs in the office with me, all sleeping. They aren't always this peaceful, but when they are, it is magic."



Marcella and Picasso at PETCO  
Photo: Cathi Holmes

All five of the dogs currently sharing Marcella's home are either poodles or poodle mixes! And in addition to the dogs, they have cats, ducks, fish, chickens, and a lone hamster!

Marcella estimates that each week she might spend as many as 15 – 20 hours helping out Poodle Rescue. Her work involves taking care of the dogs, interviewing applicants, doing home visits and going to the vet when needed.

As if she weren't busy enough, Marcella also volunteers her time and energy to several other local organizations. We can only imagine how appreciative they must be of her help! So, here's a shout out to those groups! They include:

- Upton Land Stewardship Committee
- Upton Open Space Committee
- Friends of Upton State Forest
- Upton Conservation Commission

In closing, we asked Marcella if she has any advice for people thinking about volunteering. We love her response! "Do it! Do it! Do it! There are a thousand reasons that it is a good thing! PRNE's commitment to these animals, often with medical and behavioral issues, is amazing. Any dog that comes into PRNE is spared nothing, surgeries, medication, special foods, behavior management and vet visits."

And our final question as always is: What is your greatest wish for PRNE?

"Cash, money, moolah, bread, mean green, big checks, grants, endowments, trust funds, Fort Knox - every dollar helps save a dog."

Thank you Marcella!

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## Buyer Beware by Nancy Kay, DVM ©

(October 7, 2012)



Dr. Kay and Lexie

Dr. Kay, author of *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life* and of *Your Dog's Best Health: A Dozen Reasonable Things to Expect of Your Vet* has graciously granted permission for PRNE to reprint one of her informative articles in each issue of *Renaissance Poodles*. Dr. Kay's extensive credentials follow:

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine; Recipient, Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award; Recipient, American Animal Hospital Association Animal Welfare and Humane Ethics Award; Recipient, Dog Writers Association of America Award for Best Blog; Recipient, Eukanuba Canine Health Award; Recipient, AKC Club Publication Excellence Award. For more information, visit her website: <http://www.speakingforspot.com>.

Prescription medications can be just as expensive for dogs and cats as they are for us. For the pricier drugs I prescribe for my canine and feline patients, or those that will need to be given long term, I am in the habit of encouraging my clients to "shop around" both locally and on line.

I'm always happy to provide the prescription to the pharmacy of my client's choosing, so long as it is a pharmacy I deem to be reputable. That being said, I admit that the reputability of an online pharmacy can be difficult for me to determine. This is why a recent warning by the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) was of particular interest to me.

The FDA claims that the vast majority of Internet pharmacies are selling counterfeit drugs. Not only are some patients receiving a medication different than what was prescribed, they may be in fact be taking something harmful. According the FDA, there has been documentation of Internet pharmacies providing expired medications, placebos, the wrong amount of the active ingredient, and even toxic substances such as arsenic and rat poison.

Research by the [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy](#), which represents the state pharmacy boards, found that of thousands of online pharmacies it reviewed, only approximately three percent follow state and federal laws. Scary stuff, eh?

Pertaining to their recent warning, FDA Commissioner, Dr. Margaret Hamburg was quoted by The Associated Press as stating, "Our goal is to increase awareness, not to scare

So, how can you and I be more confident that an online pharmacy has the best interest of our pets at heart? The FDA advises us to make sure that any online pharmacy we use meets the following criteria:

- It is located in the United States.
- It is licensed by the state board of pharmacy where the website is operating. A list of these boards is available at the website of the [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy](#).
- It is staffed by a licensed pharmacist available to answer your questions.
- It requires a valid doctor's prescription before medication is dispensed.
- It provides contact information and allows you to talk to a real live human being if you have problems or questions.

Conversely, here are some signs that you may be dealing with an unsafe Internet vendor:

- It offers prices dramatically lower than the competition.
- No telephone contact number is provided.
- It offers to sell prescription drugs without a valid prescription.
- It does not clearly state how your personal information will be protected.
- The appearance of the medication (color, texture, shape, smell, packaging) is different than the characteristics with which you are familiar.

For more information on avoiding online pharmacy scams, I encourage you to visit the new [BeSafeRx](#) website launched by the FDA.

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Have you used an online pharmacy for you or your pet? Any concerns about the quality of the medication you received? If you would like to respond publicly, please visit: <http://www.speakingforspot.com/blog/?p=3624>.

## In Memoriam

### Arthur... by Diane Lonardo

Arthur came into my life in October of 2005 as my first foster. He was nine years old, frightened and in poor health, weighing only seven pounds. He was so underweight that he had a cat collar on his neck. On the first night that he was home, I'm not sure who was more nervous, Arthur or me. We sat together on the kitchen floor for three hours, and Arthur just shook from fear. He must have been wondering what was happening to his world as he knew it. For the first few weeks that I had Arthur, he would just howl at the door whenever I left for work, still not sure that he was safe and that I was coming back to him.

Soon Arthur and I both realized that we were meant to be together and we became inseparable. As his health improved and he grew confident that he was now cared for and loved, his sweet and funny personality emerged. Arthur loved his tennis ball and took it everywhere with him including on all of his walks and to bed every night where he had to tuck it in with him.



Arthur eyes his beloved ball

Arthur loved outings like rides in the car where he sat right up in the back seat in his bed with his seat belt on. On our long daily walks together, if a fire engine went screeching by, Arthur would abruptly stop whatever he was doing, stand up very tall and howl right along with the fire truck's sirens! In the yard, Arthur and I loved to work in the garden. After I planted flowers, Arthur would delight in digging them up! No matter what, he never complained and was always the perfect gentleman where ever we went.



Arthur and Diane

Every year that we were together, Arthur had a major medical issue that required surgery. We just couldn't seem to catch a break. He even lost his vision in one eye. But these health problems never dampened Arthur's bright spirit. Arthur was my miracle dog because nothing seemed able to stop him from enjoying his new life and playing with his ball.

Sadly on May 18, 2012, Arthur's miracles ran out, and with a broken heart I had to make the decision to say good bye to my beautiful sweet boy. Arthur truly was my special and beloved dog, and I am so grateful for the time we had together. I know that Poodle Rescue of New England rescued Arthur from a dire situation. But the truth is that I was the lucky one to have shared my life with him, even if only for a short time. I will always cherish my memories of all the times my sweet boy made me laugh and the smile he put on my face everyday.

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Arthur enjoys the outdoors with his ball

# AUTUMN SCENES

## GALLERY



Micah



Carlo



Bongo, posing with the pansies



Dexter



Suzie



Petunia, proud graduate of puppy kindergarten

# BOO!



Pogo the penguin



Charlee, posing as a stuffed animal



Silly the ram

# TRICK or TREAT!



In Halloween finery, Roxanne, Michael, Monet and Maggie

## Notices

Get your 2013 PRNE Calendars now in time for the Holidays.



Full of charming and endearing poodle pictures, the desk or wall calendar makes a wonderful holiday gift!

To order, visit: [www.poodlerescuenewengland.org](http://www.poodlerescuenewengland.org)

## Tickets for the 2013 PRNE Raffle Available Now! All proceeds benefit Poodle Rescue of New England

- 1st Prize: Seven Nights at the beautiful Summertime Cottages in Bar Harbor, Maine (6/15-6/22)
- 2nd Prize: Two Nights for two people at the charming Two Carts Bed and Breakfast in Bar Harbor, Maine
- 3rd Prize: Two Nights (May/June) for two people at the lovely Inn at Bay Ledge in Bar Harbor, Maine
- 4th Prize: Two Nights during May at the Moseley Cottage Inn and Town Motel in Bar Harbor, Maine

For more information, visit: [www.poodlerescuenewengland.org](http://www.poodlerescuenewengland.org)

### WHO WE ARE

Newsletter Committee: Mahala Beams, editing and layout; Amanda Lion; and Kim Rosen

Board of Directors: Merrill Agostina, Anne Aronson, Amanda Lion, Amy Moore, and Gayle Morelli

For more information on Poodle Rescue of New England, please visit our website: [www.poodlerescuenewengland.org](http://www.poodlerescuenewengland.org)

Please email suggestions and photos for *Renaissance Poodles* to: [beamsm@verizon.net](mailto:beamsm@verizon.net)



Carlo