



The Poodle press

The Newsletter of the Poodle Rescue of Vermont

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

For Each Heart, Many Hands

Another year has passed in the blink of an eye, and PRVT has welcomed another 40 Poodles to safety.

When I look at the faces on our *New Families* page, I see a happy ending— and new beginning— for the Poodle and their adoptive family. What comes to mind for me when I look at these photos is all of the hearts, and hands, and donations it takes to rescue just one Poodle.

Each Poodle begins its journey into rescue with loss: the loss of their original family. Whether it's due to the death of his owner, his owner has lost a job or home, or there's been a divorce in the family, his surrender seldom has anything to do with the Poodle. Some fortunate Poodles have an owner that will call Poodle Rescue of Vermont to help. Some Poodles don't have that luxury and get driven to a kill shelter or worse, dumped on the street to fend for themselves.

This turn of events is where something remarkable happens. People— many ordinary people who live ordinary lives— decide to do the extraordinary. They work or volunteer to save lives of animals.

Once shelter employees and volunteers greet the Poodle, the lucky ones have a rescue coordinator who calls us, and an entire chain of events begins to unfold. The Poodle is examined by the shelter Veterinarian and staff. The shelter volunteers transport the Poodle to appointments and foster care.

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Seniors Seek Second Chance at Forever Homes

So often, the search for a pet centers on puppies or younger dogs. People rarely stop to consider welcoming a senior pet into their hearts, assuming that an older dog would somehow have less to give. Nothing can be further from the truth! It's time to stop and really consider adding one of our sweet seniors into your family, your forever home.

Senior pets offer a special kind of love that never quits. They are sweet, loyal, loving, and surprisingly adaptable to new environments. And unlike a puppy, these dogs already know their manners! While they will make a mellow addition to your household, most will also enjoy long walks, car rides, or an energetic game of fetch. When the time is right, they can curl up beside you or— better yet— on your lap, for quiet snuggle time.

Poodles, in particular, can live long, healthy lives. Is not uncommon to see toy Poodles live to the ripe old age of 20 years. Too often, these wonderful, older animals wait and wait in foster homes for someone to take a chance on them. Maybe you will be the next one to offer them a second chance at a forever home? Read on to hear what some of our adopters have to say about their decisions to adopt an older companion. On Page 2, you'll find some of the adorable senior Poodles that are currently available for adoption.

★ ★ matt & kiko



I had never had a dog in my family. As a child, I loved going to the homes of friends who had dogs, and always envied the relationship they had with their furry family members. At some point I needed a dog of my own.

As friend after friend would get a puppy, I watched as the dog grew into their families, and observed how each of my friends approached training. I picked up on things I would do the

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maggie & lilly ★ ★

Adopting a senior dog wasn't something I set out to do. I fell in love with Lilly from her pictures and from PRVT's description of her sweet disposition, and she just so happened to be 13 years old. To me, this meant no surprises. Lilly is quiet, sweet as can be, house trained, and good with other animals. These qualities were important to me. So many dogs are given up by their families because they are not able to conform to a certain ideal that their humans have for them. If these families were open to bringing older dogs into their homes, they would find much less left to chance, they would bring a tried and true, grateful friend into their lives.

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meet the seniors



PRVT has many wonderful senior Poodles available for adoption. Remember, when choosing your next companion, it is important to consider your lifestyle in order to pick the perfect match. Not all seniors have the kind of energy that Kiko and Lilly (see Page 1) have. Some seniors have slowed down and traded chasing balls for catching zzz's. There are also those seniors needing more specialized care for their last years.

The median lifespan of a toy or mini poodle is over 14 years, with many living to over 20. **No matter their age, these little darlings definitely have lots of love left to give.**

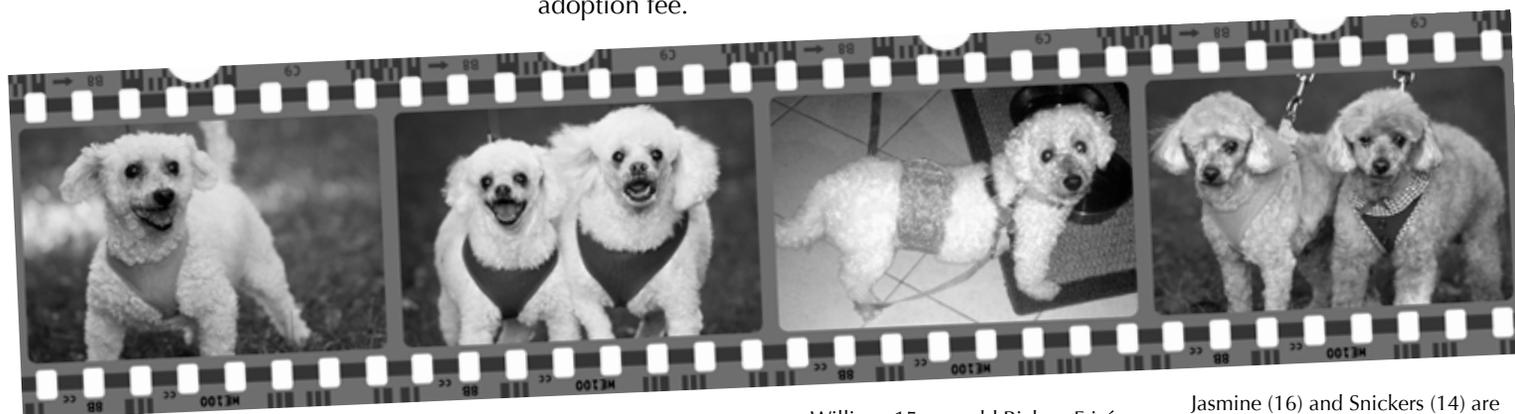
PRVT considers a Poodle to be a "senior" at the age of 11. All of the seniors adoptable through PRVT are completely up to date with medical care, dental cleanings, grooming and are ready and waiting for their forever homes.

To help these seniors find their forever homes as soon as possible, PRVT has several options for adopting senior dogs. **Adoption fees for seniors are much lower** than for younger Poodles and, through the **Senior-to-Senior Program**, the adoption fee is waived for humans 70 years old or older adopting a senior dog or bonded pair. Additionally, all bonded pairs have a reduced adoption fee.

If adoption is not for you, PRVT now offers the option of **permanent fostering** for any of these seniors. This means that while you offer your home and love to a senior, as "permanent foster" parent, PRVT will continue to cover the costs of caring for the dog(s) (see below).

Just look at these sweet seniors and if you find yourself falling for them, go to our website, at www.poodlerescuevt.org/available.html, and fill out an application to adopt one.

All photos except Willie generously donated by talented photographer, Daria Bishop. <http://dariabishop.com/>



Henry, a happy, healthy, 15 year-old Bichon Frisé, just looking for a lap to call his own.

Popcorn (11) and Cracker Jack (15), the very best of friends, hoping to share their love with you. Must be adopted together.

Willie, a 15 year old Bichon Frisé, looking for a patient, slow and relaxed pace of life.

Jasmine (16) and Snickers (14) are looking for that perfect couple so they don't have to share the love. Must be adopted together.

What is "Permanent" Fostering?

Have you considered adopting a senior Poodle, but hesitated because of the potential expenses of caring for one? Senior pets do sometimes require more medical care than younger dogs, but are no less deserving of a forever home, filled with love!

For this reason, Poodle Rescue of Vermont offers the option of "permanent fostering," in which a caregiver commits to caring for a senior Poodle for the remainder of its life, with

the agreement that **PRVT will cover all of the costs of caring for the dog, including veterinary expenses, medication, food and grooming.**

All of the dogs above are available for permanent fostering arrangements— just go to www.poodlerescuevt.org, fill out an application to *adopt* the animal you're interested in, and specify that you're interested in the permanent fostering arrangement. Call 802-497-4144 for details.

**want
to help
a senior**

but unable to adopt or foster? **Make a donation** toward food, supplies and medical care for our senior dogs on our web site, or send in a check with the form on Page 3 today!





Happy Endings



Poodle Rescue of Vermont congratulates its newest families on their recent adoptions. Nothing brings more happiness to PRVT and its families than adoption day!

It's clear: **Luna** is exactly where she is supposed to be. Amanda, Dennis, Abby and Lindsey (far left) couldn't be happier. Abby and Lindsey even started a dog walking business to prove they would be responsible pet owners. And that they are— great work girls! A loving home for a sweet, 5 year-old Luna.



BREWSKI



Six year-old Yorki-poo, **Brewski** is settling nicely into his new home with mom, Paige. "It's a match made in heaven," Paige tells us. And the smiles are proof that these two are a happy family.



Maggie (being held), 4, has the whole family smiling. Susan, Laura, Gabriel, Bryan and brother Buddy are thrilled to add Maggie to their family.



Paulette, a senior, with limited vision, has found a soul mate in Yvette. Paulette came to PRVT in horrible condition, but she's living the high life now, with plenty of snuggles!

Yes, I want to help!



I'd like to support the efforts of Poodle Rescue of Vermont with a tax-deductible contribution, and help them rescue even more Poodles in 2014.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my check for:

- \$15
- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- Other _____

Please make checks payable to:

Poodle Rescue of Vermont
c/o Susan Johnson, Treasurer
390 Webster Rd.
Duxbury, VT 05660

*The Poodle Rescue of Vermont is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are deductible to the extent allowable by law.*

Thank You for Your Support!

PRVT Partners with NYC Shelters

Poodle Rescue of Vermont is excited to announce that it is now an approved NYCACC, New Hope Partner, which enables PRVT to rescue Poodles and Poodle mixes from shelters in New York City, some of the largest— and most crowded— in the nation. This new designation means that PRVT will be able to have an even greater impact in this geographic region, rescuing even more unwanted animals from the Northeast.

Poodle Rescue of Vermont is celebrating its 3rd birthday!

In 3 years, PRVT has rescued

120

Poodles... and counting!

Thank you for your support!!



(Matt & Kiko, continued from Page 1)

same or do differently. I was sure that when I got my dog, it was going to be the perfectly-trained pup, raised entirely by me. Everyone was going to be jealous of my dog. After Christmas last year I decided it was time to welcome a dog into the family.

I got to searching online and came across Poodle Rescue of Vermont. I looked through their adoptable dogs I couldn't keep from clicking on one in particular, but he was 11 years old. That's old! He's not going to be very active, I thought. He won't play fetch. He's going to go to the bathroom in the house. He is going to need medication. He isn't going to be trainable. He isn't going to live much longer.

Fast forward 9 months, and I wouldn't change my decision to adopt 11 year-old Kiko for anything. I went against what most people suggested and adopted Kiko in January. Since then we have developed a tremendous bond: I can't wait to see him when I get home just as much as he can't wait for me to walk through the door. He is just about as sweet as they come. He is an absolute hit around the apartment complex— everyone LOVES him. We play fetch and if it wasn't for me calling it quits, he would play fetch until he collapsed. We go on runs. During the summer we were going on 2.5 miles runs, multiple times a week. We take trips to PetSmart; man does he love riding in the car. We go to cookouts. We go to the park. We nap on the couch. I couldn't imagine not having him in my life.

We are the best of companions and perfect for one another. When the day comes that we have to part ways I can stand proud and know that I made the last years of his life the best years of his life, and loved him as much as I could. I will always consider a senior dog for adoption for as long as I live and if the dog I adopt is half the dog Kiko is, I couldn't ask for anything more.

(Maggie & Lilly, continued from Page 1)

Lilly's age is not something I think about often. When I tell people she is 13, they are usually in disbelief. She and I roll around, playing like puppies together. She wakes every morning, wagging her little nub of a tail, excited for her morning walk. She is never too tired to take a walk with me and then, when it is time to sleep, she is happy to settle down and get some rest.

I do not feel that I have missed out on anything by not raising Lilly from a puppy. Lilly has shown me how to truly live in the moment, and it is in this present moment that I have my sweet friend always by my side. Not long ago, she was unsure about her own future, but now she is certain about her home, her life, her human. Her place in this world. Being the person to provide her with this love and security is an incredible feeling, and this is the absolute happiest I have ever been.

So, the next time you are searching for your next best friend, stop and look into the eyes of a senior dog and no doubt you'll fall in love.

(One Heart, Many Hands, continued from Page 1)

PRVT and shelter volunteers work with ground or air transport teams such as Pilots n' Paws, to arrange a trip to Vermont. Volunteers drive the Poodle to the airport or drive to meet the next person in the driving chain. Sometimes as many as 3 pilots and 17 drivers will give the Poodle a lift to Vermont.

Upon arrival to VT, the Poodle is greeted by a PRVT volunteer, visits the groomer, our veterinarian and staff, and finally joins its PRVT foster family as a cherished family member. Volunteers post the Poodle on adoption web sites, others take him to PETCO to meet the public, still others do fundraising, and write newsletter and grants to help cover the soaring costs of vet care. Photographers take pictures, applicants are interviewed, home visits are done... And when the match is finally found, the photo you see on our website is taken.

Did you lose count of all the hands and hearts it took rescue one single Poodle? **Let's safely say twenty people are involved with one rescue Poodle and on average \$700 is spent to fully vet the Poodle and prepare it for adoption.** Multiply this by the 40 Poodles we have rescued this year, and the 120 we have rescued in total, and you'll have an idea of how many hands have been involved in this work over the last 3 years

Take a moment to scroll down the *New Families* page on our website. Look at the Poodles in foster care. Each and every one is being cared for by an ordinary person, living an ordinary life, doing something extraordinary. They are volunteering to help save the lives of animals.

Thank you to all the hands and hearts who help make that final photo possible.

*Terri Gerard,
President, Poodle Rescue of Vermont*

There are many ways to volunteer for PRVT! See <http://poodlerescuevt.org/volunteer.html> for more details. To volunteer, please call 802-497-4144.