

The LifeSaver

CPR's First Adoption

By Andy Bass

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Sydney, our first adoption in CPR, is a Cinderella story. Sydney came from a backyard breeder and went through six homes before he was two years old. Former owners had called him stupid and aggressive. But as foster dad, I knew that Sydney had potential.



Sydney's New Family
They are delighted with their new pet!

no time for me to see it was the right home. Sydney heard a noise and went to the door and howled. Within moments, the boys were on each side of him howling in three-part harmony while Mom sat laughing.

This May I received an email from the new owner: "Sydney has really blossomed! The boys

absolutely love him and you can see it is quite mutual. He spends about ten minutes in the morning bathing each one of them with kisses! He has been a complete joy. His playing stamina is still endless which is great for the boys. He is definitely one of a kind and fits in great with my crew."

There is one goal in rescue: to improve the quality of life for each rescue. Sometimes it's easy, and sometimes it's not. But in each case, Coastal Poodle Rescue will go the distance to achieve that happy ending.



"I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons."
--Will Rogers

In February, Sydney made a public appearance at the Yuppy Puppy Fashion Show and strutted across the stage. Soon, we were interviewing applicants and had a meeting with a prospective new mom at a Palm Beach dog park. She brought her boys and it was almost an instant match. We told them it would be another week before Sydney was ready, and to go home and talk about it.

In March, I headed to central Florida with Sydney. I asked myself, "Was this going to be the right one, or another mistake?" It took

A Story of Firsts

It has been an exciting beginning. Coastal Poodle Rescue was founded in February this year with just a handful of volunteers. We had no money. We had no structure. But we did have a dedication to rescue and a clear vision.

Immediately, we found ourselves with 17 dogs to care for and adopt out. In short time, we became incorporated and filed for our non-profit status.

In under six months, we've accomplished a great deal:

- Found loving homes for almost 50 dogs
- Saved nearly 80 dogs
- Elected our first board and officers
- Held several successful fundraisers
- Grown to over 50 working volunteers

We could not have accomplished this without the time and energy of our volunteers, the generous help of our local vets and the kind contributions of many donors.

To all, we say "thank you, we appreciate you!"

Did You Know?

In Florida, nearly 800,000 homeless cats and dogs are euthanized every year?

Coastal Poodle Rescue is 100% supported by contributions. We receive no government funds of any kind.

We are run entirely by unpaid volunteer staff—which means your donation goes to the care of poodles, not staff salaries.

Seniors for Seniors—Another First!

We began our Seniors-for-Seniors (SFS) program in June. In July, we had our first SFS adoption in Melbourne.

The Seniors-for-Seniors concept is used by many animal rescue/humane organizations, whereby an older dog can be successfully matched up with a senior citizen. Lifestyle requirements of an older person often mix well with the lifestyle of an older dog. It's a win/win situation, resulting in quality retirement companionship for both.

Seniors must be 62 or older, and able to properly care for an older dog. Requested donations for senior dogs are just \$50 to \$75, which includes spay/neuter and vaccinations.

Diamond was adopted by Camille and now lives in Trinity Towers Retirement Community. She has already made friends with most of the residents. Camille will sponsor our new program in the senior community in the Melbourne area.

Diamond and her new mom may be seniors but there is nothing old about either one of them. They are both active and in excellent health. Diamond looks forward to helping her new mom work in the beautiful flower gardens she has created for all the residents to enjoy. The flowers are a sight to behold and Diamond loves sniffing around and helping dig. They are also looking forward to their mile walk every day. And the people! There are so many people living in this new place Diamond can share her love with.



Camille and Diamond

We wish them both many happy years together!

Meet Your New Board

We had our first election in July, with an astounding 70% voter participation! Meet your board members:



President Prine, volunteering at the Kissing

President Harriet Prine. Harriet is a tireless rescuer, putting in long days arranging adoptions. She has taken on some of the most difficult dogs. Currently, she is nursing Buddy, whose jaw was broken from an attack by a pit bull. Harriet is a retired small business owner and has numerous community contacts to build awareness and grow our volunteer base.



VP Robyn and her husband, Eddy, at the Spring Fling

Vice-President Robyn Decker. Robyn rescues on a grand scale. For CPR alone, to-date, she has fostered 16 dogs and transported 27. Robyn was a former board member for three years, and was past-President. She was instrumental in the Expo in West Palm Beach. Robyn has built relationships with many of the animal control centers in her area.

Treasurer Corina Savela. Corina began her love of poodles in 1988 and has been rescuing in Florida since July 2003. She has four foster dogs, and is always ready to work a fundraiser or other event. Corina has been an officer for other volunteer groups in her community. She also set up the CPR book-keeping system, a big job for which we are grateful.

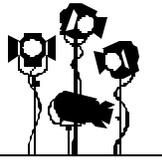
Secretary LeeAnn Bongiorno. LeeAnn has been rescuing since early 2003, and has fostered about a dozen poodles, including a blind senior female for nearly nine months. LeeAnn is the webmaster and has worked numerous fundraisers and community functions, and has hosted two yard sales this summer. She also helps with creative projects such as newsletters, brochures and other publications. She also has served in other office positions.

Board Member Andy Bass. Andy has been rescuing dogs since the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. He specializes in standards. Andy was instrumental in the success of last year's Expo. To date, over 70 dogs have passed thru the House of BaJa on their way to their forever homes. Andy's wife, Bobbi, is a groomer.

Board Member Lois Maki. Lois and her husband, Denny, have been generous contributors to CPR, and strong supporters of rescue. Lois is a retired secretary and lovingly fosters some of our older and special needs dogs.

Board Member Gerry Bechtel. Jerry and his wife, Carol, became inspired to rescue in memory of their last poodle, Bogart, who died suddenly about a year and a half ago. Jerry has transported scores of dogs. He also fosters and does reference checks and home visits for us.

You can email the board at info@coastalpoodlerescue.org.



Supporter Spotlight

It is a daunting task to build a new organization. We have been fortunate in the generous support we have received from so many. Here are just a few people to whom we'd like to say a special thank you.

We owe a debt of gratitude and the lives of our dogs—literally—to the skilled and generous **veterinarians** who provide us with their talent and services, often free of charge.

Many people immediately stepped forward with donations of \$10 and \$20, whatever they could afford. While there are too many to list here, each is appreciated for their kind gifts. Yard sale items arrived by the truckload, which helped us raise almost \$1600.

Lois Maki was our first big contributor, cheerfully donating \$500 for the corporate filing fee. **Harriet Prine** carried the vet bills on her credit card until we could get an account set up. **LeeAnn Bongiorno** invested over 300 hours in building the web site. And **Terri Kennedy** creates the wonderful Pet-finder pages, a major source of referrals. Our **transporters** spend hours on the road, paying for the gas themselves. Our **fosters** vet, feed and house our dogs at the expense

of their furniture, carpets and the occasional night of rest. **Reference checkers** make long-distance calls to verify vet records, often working nights and weekends. The **spouses** of our volunteers lend a hand and rarely receive any recognition. **Debbie Pugh** travels all the way from Hillsborough county to support events. **Teresa Scholfield** keeps all our records and validates the adoption information. **Linda Hilliard** makes receiving blankets for new adopting families. **Pat Cuomo** is busy crafting Halloween items to sell and hauls aluminum cans to the recycler. **Linda Pickett** makes belly bands for us and to sell. **Ike DeLuca** has given free professional photography services at our events.

Sometimes money comes to us serendipitously. One old friend, **Patti Connell**, had adopted toy poodle Angel - a serious case of separation anxiety if there ever was one. As Patti was traveling in the Georgia mountains, she was showing off Angel to a fellow traveler. When **Amie** heard Angel's story, she opened her wallet and gave Patti the entire contents. Patti, in turn, donated the \$60 to CPR in Angel's name.

All of these donations have been put to good use for the dogs. *We appreciate each gift, and each giver. Thank you all!*

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

—Anne Frank



Good Dog!

Special recognition for an outstanding volunteer, **Linda Ellis**

Linda Ellis has fostered just one poodle, Abby, but she has made extraordinary progress under trying circumstances.

Abby had never been loved or let out of her cage. When her abusive owner died, several days passed before she was found. Abby was so frightened that she wouldn't let anyone touch her as she cowered in the back of her cage.

Linda worked with Abby patiently. It took Abby two months to play with Linda's hands while Linda cleaned out her cage. Today, she sleeps nose-to-nose on Linda's pillow. Yet she still cannot walk outside without trembling. Abby has a dry-eye condition, which requires that Linda put eye drops in three times a day.



Abby "After"
See page 4 for a
"before" picture

Abby is not coping well with this and has begun to regress. Linda has been working with eye specialists to find a solution. To fix Abby's eyes will cost \$1000, and Abby will no longer need the drops.

Linda would willingly pay the costs herself, but her husband, Gary, is in "unplanned retirement". Linda's infant grandson also requires medical treatment, having been born with paralyzed vocal cords. Despite all this, the Ellises continue to give. Gary has donated four golf clubs to the tournament and plans to play. Linda also began work to help us set up an eBay account which we hope to start using soon.

Our thoughts are with the Ellis family, and Abby, along with our heartfelt thanks.

"Saving just one dog won't change the world but it surely will change the world for that one dog."

--Richard Clyde Call



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Our Mission

Coastal Poodle Rescue rehabilitates unwanted, abused and abandoned poodles and then places them in loving and responsible homes to live out their lives as cherished family members.

We Save Lives

Visit us at www.coastalpoodlerescue.org

Putting for Poodles

Come compete and have a great time at our charity golf tournament at the Great Outdoors.

When: Saturday, September 18th - Shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Where: Great Outdoors, Titusville

- Terrific raffle prizes
- Silent auction - great stuff, great deals!
- Bunko fun for non-golfers
- Buffet dinner



For More Information: Contact Joe Prine at happypoodles@cfl.rr.com or call 321-453-1617

We Need Your Help

As a small, recently-formed rescue, we have about 30 deserving poodles in our care, but few funds to support them.

Medical needs for most dogs are extensive. Many dogs have been seriously neglected or abused, and require



This is a "before" picture of Abby, a special-needs toy poodle who has required extensive medical treatments. (Turn to our page 3 to see the amazing changes in Abby in her "after" picture.)

longer periods of foster care in which to recover, which means additional medical expenses. Even routine medical care adds up fast.

Listed here are average medical costs for just a few routine treatments:

- Spay—\$200
- Neuter—\$175
- Dental—\$190
- Vaccinations—\$90
- De-Worming—\$15
- Basic blood work—\$80

Please go online to donate over the web at

www.coastalpoodlerescue.org/youcanhelp/donate.cfm

Or, send your check to the address shown at the top of this page.

Every little bit helps! Thank you!