

POODLE DAY: A Celebration of Poodles

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST POODLE EVENTS ARE:

- **The Poodle Club of America National** - April 2011, Salisbury, Maryland - 734 Poodles entered
- **FCI World Show** - July 2011, Paris, France - 447 Poodles entered
- **Crufts Dog Show** - March 2011, Birmingham, England - 421 Poodles entered
- **and Poodle Day** - October 2011, Carmel, California - 307 Poodles entered!

More than 350 Poodles and Poodle mixes gathered in Carmel for a day filled with festivities and fellowship.

by Allison Cain

The second annual Poodle Day took place on Oct. 1, 2011, in Carmel, California, which consistently ranks as one of *Dog Fancy's* top ten most dog-friendly cities in America. With 347 dogs and 573 people registered for the parade, and 35 more Poodles watching from the sidelines, Poodle Day is the second largest Poodle event in the United States and the fourth largest in the world. Eighty-five percent of Poodle Day attendees traveled to Carmel — from as far as Texas, Nevada, Idaho, Illinois, and British Columbia — which demonstrates the love for and devotion to the breed.

A parade for dogs and their human companions kicked off the festivities, and Poodles and Poodle mixes, along with their human companions, strutted down the parade route when announced. Some Poodles came dressed as jack-o'-lanterns, lobsters, bumblebees, and ballerinas, while others sported Hawaiian shirts, cowboy hats, berets, Mohawks, and hair dye — but most showed off their natural looks and basked in the attention from excited on-lookers. Poodle Day judges awarded fourteen Poodles and their humans prizes in several categories, including most outstanding au naturel, best costume and enhanced color, best handler, and best affinity group.

The Monterey Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross concluded the morning's

events with a pet first aid presentation, and Poodle Day attendees then headed to Carmel Beach to play. The beach was dotted with all sizes and colors of Poodles and Poodle mixes, and passersby marveled at the dogs' athleticism and spirit.

"The beach play was a blast!" says Kris Benson, who attended Poodle Day with her Standard Poodle. "What struck me most was the variety — of people, Poodles, Poodle mixes — everything! I can't wait to go back next year."

"When I arrived at the beach about a mile away, I looked down and saw about 80 (!) Poodles running loose on the sand at the same time. It was quite a sight!"

Later, the dogs dusted off the sand and accompanied their humans to cocktail parties at Bistro Beaujolais, the Cypress Inn, and Forge in the Forest. The Poodles lounged as their human companions gathered for drinks and conversation.

"We had a wonderful time," said Meg Patterson, who attended Poodle Day with her

Toy Poodle, Ellie. "It's already on our schedule for next year."

Proceeds from Poodle Day benefit NorCal Poodle Rescue, which has been a haven for Poodles and Poodle mixes in Northern California and Southern Oregon for more than a quarter of a century. NorCal's philosophy is to help the dogs while also enriching the lives of the people who adopt them.

Anyone familiar with a volunteer organization knows about the long hours and hard work necessary to help it reach its goals, but the hours are particularly long and the work hard in breed rescues. Although volunteers are the backbone of NorCal, the organization relies heavily on financial contributions from its supporters and Poodle friends to continue caring for Poodles until they are placed with loving families. To help with operating expenses, NorCal charges nominal adoption fees, but it also raises funds through special events, such as an annual obedience workshop in September and an annual holiday luncheon. However, friends of NorCal Poodle Rescue and Standard Poodle owners, Sue and Don Rose, organized what most surely ranks as NorCal's major fundraiser to date — Poodle Day. The funds generated by Poodle Day are used for ongoing expenses, such as boarding and medical care, as well as for NorCal's kennel renovation project.

"Carmel is kind-of like 'Poodle town,'" says Sue Rose. "And because it's such a great town and dogs can go almost everywhere, I thought it would be nice if we had just one day for Poodles where the whole day focused



around the actual breed but wasn't a show — just a fun day.”

NorCal's current president, Sue Cooper, attributes the organization's strong foundation to breeder Patty Moulthrop of Blue Skies Standard Poodles in Lafayette, California, who founded NorCal Poodle Rescue.



Above: Waiting for the parade to start. Below, left: Bud and Patty Moulthrop lead the Blue Skies group; center: matching bee costumes; right: Rick and Kim Bates's Penndragon group.

Patty, a lifelong dog lover, began her relationship with Standard Poodles in 1980 through a bulletin board notice at her vet's office advertising puppies for sale. By 1983, Patty was on her way to breeding champion and companion Poodles that delight anyone who crosses their paths. Patty feels she has been blessed in her breeding program with wonderful temperaments, “pleasing to look at” Standard Poodles, and an amazing extended family with which her Blue Skies Poodles live. The excitement of ring competition has allowed Patty, throughout the years, to have five multiple all-breed Best-in-Show winners as well as the fun and pleasure of more than 100 AKC champions.

Although Patty enjoys raising top-quality litters, she says she couldn't justify breeding Poodles when she knew there were Poodles in shelters that needed homes. “My passion is Poodles—breeding them, raising them, showing them, loving them, and rescuing them.”

And with that, Patty soon found herself passing out cards with her home phone number to animal shelters, veterinarians, groomers, and pet stores. For several years, Patty successfully united countless homeless Poodles and Poodle mixes with new families, but when the demand began to outweigh her resources, Patty called on a few friends to help out and officially founded NorCal Poodle Rescue in 1985.

More information about Poodle Day 2012, which will take place on September 29, is available at www.Poodleday.com, and NorCal Poodle Rescue provides adoption and donation information at www.norcalpoodlerescue.net.

Allison Cain is an Oakland, California-based writer and editor. She blogs about life with her sassy Standard Poodle, Dixie, at [cainbot & canine](http://cainbot.com) (www.cainbot.com).



by Paul Lepiane, Editor of Poodle Variety

Poodle Day? The first time I heard those words was a little over a year ago when Patty Moulthrop asked if I could attend the 2010 event. I already had other plans, but asked her for a report. We printed a very interesting article about the first Poodle Day in our Oct-Dec 2010 issue.

This year I made sure to attend this event myself... and was I impressed! The whole day is a celebration of Poodles, and it's unique in that it includes Poodle lovers of all types, from serious, competitive breeders to the pet owner with just one dog.

The day starts with a short parade. Participants arrive early to get their registration numbers which tell them where they are placed

introduced as an "affinity group" first, before their individual introductions, and were all grouped together for the parade.

We "show people" forget that most people don't see large numbers of Poodles on a regular basis. We all go to lots of shows and see lots of dogs, but I heard many, many spectators saying things like, "Look at all these Poodles! So many different colors! That one's so big! That one's so small! Look at the big



Clockwise from left: Just a few of the 80+ Poodles loose on the beach at one time; Winner of "Best Enhanced" Poodle and owned Sarah Poling; Spectators along the parade route; Poodle Day organizer Sue Rose being hurried down the parade route by her enthusiastic Standards!

in the parade. They then line up and the name of each dog and owner is announced over a loudspeaker as they start their promenade past the audience lining the sidewalks. If there were multiple dogs from one breeder, they were

moustache on that one!" And so on.

Funnily enough, the dog that drew the most gasps of admiration from the crowd was a very large gray Standard male in a sort-of

Sporting clip with a huge moustache... people loved that!

The other interesting thing to me was the number of apricots, reds and browns... a far

Below: On the patio and in the lounge of the Cypress Inn



higher percentage of the total than we are used to seeing at dog shows.

With almost 350 dogs in the parade, it took well over an hour for all of them to be introduced. Afterwards there were awards for various categories such as best groomed, best enhanced color, best costume, etc.

The parade ended with a talk on first aid for your dog and the introduction of the committee members. Then it was time for a lunch break before people gathered at the beach for off-leash play time.

When I arrived at the beach about a mile away, I looked down and saw about 80 (!) Poodles running loose on the sand at the same time. It was quite a sight! It was a bright, clear day in the low 70s and the dogs were having a great time, with not a growl or grumble to be heard. It's amazing how civilized Poodles are when they are on their own! The beach-goers who were not Poodle people were thrilled at seeing them all and very curious, as in, "What's with all these Poodles?" People and dogs came and went during the three-hour beach-play time, but we had to leave to get ready for the Poodle Day parties!

There were three designated hotels and restaurants that were hosting Poodle cocktails

parties and dinners. Reservations were needed as the space available filled up fast. It was so great to see all the Poodles casually "hanging out" in the lounge and patio of the Cypress Inn, knowing full well they had every right to be there! Once again, non-Poodle hotel and restaurant guests loved asking questions about the Poodles, and it was obvious the dogs' owners loved answering all these questions.

Because of the tremendous response last year, and even more entries this year, the organizers started charging to participate in the parade. This entry fee raised thousands of dollars for NorCal Poodle Rescue, so not only is this a fun day out for owners and Poodles, it supports a great cause. A huge additional benefit is that it keeps purebred Poodles in front of a very receptive public. One breeder told the organizers that all her puppies from her next three litters are reserved by people who saw her dogs in this year's parade! This day really is the right atmosphere for families to select their next pet.

Although Poodle mixes are also allowed in the parade—and there were 45 this year—the day is all about Poodles and it is all positive. And since this is a fundraiser, the organizers are thrilled to have them all participate.

I encourage Poodle breeders to attend and participate in this very good cause. If you're within driving distance, use this day to gather your puppy buyers together so you can all participate. If you live farther away, why not take a California vacation this weekend and see the beautiful sights the California central coast has to offer? See you there next year!

Photography by Dasja Dolan Creative Photography & Design. More Poodle Day photos can be viewed and purchased by visiting: www.dasjadolan.com

