

# THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"May and October, the best smelling months?  
I'll make a case for December: evergreen, frost,  
wood smoke, cinnamon."*

~ Lisa Kleypas



## Dog of the Month – Poodle

Poodles are clever, affectionate pets well-known for their curly coats, elegant look, and friendly demeanors. Poodles come in three sizes: standard (15+ inches at the shoulder), miniature (15–10 inches), and toy (under 10 inches). They come in white, black, or apricot and are unique in that they have a low-allergen coat, meaning they are usually better tolerated by people with dog allergies. Their lovely coats require daily brushing to prevent matting. These beautiful dogs are often bred with other types of pups, which is how we get prized pets like labradoodles and golden-doodles.



Poodles make excellent companions, are good with children, are quite smart, and have agile, muscular bodies. They are easily trained and enjoy activities like swimming and running. As they were bred as hunting dogs, they have keen retrieval instincts and like playing fetch. They have also been used as lively performers in the circus.

## Special Days

**Hanukkah**  
**Begins at Sundown**  
December 18

**Winter Solstice**  
December 21

**Christmas**  
December 25

**Kwanzaa**  
December 26

**Boxing Day**  
**(UK and Canada)**  
December 26

**New Year's Eve**  
December 31

## Flower – Holly



December's flower is the joyful holly plant. Its bright red berries and deep green leaves have come to symbolize the holiday season. Holly also symbolizes truth and protection and is commonly used to make wreaths and other decorations. It grows well in temperate and subtropical climates. Holly berries can be red, brown, black, green, or yellow; they are slightly toxic to humans but can be safely eaten by birds. Some types of holly leaves are used to make tea.

## Birthstone – Turquoise



Turquoise is prized for its beautiful pale blue color and black veins. First brought to Europe from Turkey (for which the mineral is named), turquoise is mined around the world, from Iran and Egypt to the southwestern United States. Since its discovery, many cultures have considered turquoise to be a holy stone or talisman. The Aztecs believed it would change color with the wearer's health, while the Apache thought it would increase an archer's precision. Turquoise is even a part of the architecture of the Taj Mahal and other famous structures.