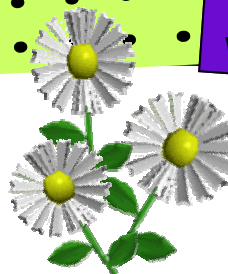


It's a dog's life....



Bichons Bits & Bytes



Maryanne Dell: An Angel Among Us

Angels come in many sizes and shapes. Sometimes we don't recognize them in the moment.... and sometimes we do. In the case of Maryanne Dell, we found a very special angel - one whose thoughts, deeds and actions make an impact on animals, day in and day out.

Maryanne grew up in New Jersey on the "non-Soprano side" of the state in a town of 5000 people. It was an idyllic existence with rolling hills and beautiful farmlands. Looking at the family photos album you would see pictures of Maryanne as a child in a baby carriage surrounded by stuffed dogs, rather than dolls. Her innate love of dog had its origins very early in Maryanne's life.

When she was able to read, Maryanne devoured the AKC breed book, not the typical reading material for a young girl. Always an avid reader, by the time she reached junior high school, Maryanne discovered that she also loved to write. Starting with a diary, then keeping notebooks Maryanne wrote about her life experiences and, ultimately, applied those writing talents to a journalism degree at Penn State University.

After graduating from Penn State, wanting to become a news reporter and with no solid experience at a real newspaper, Maryanne found herself in the middle of the desert in west Texas, five hours from Dallas and five hours from El Paso. Midland, Texas, (nicknamed, ironically, the Tall City) boasted 200,000 residents and a 25 story skyscraper. It was a real oil town. Maryanne expected to work on the paper for about one year, hone her journalism skills, and then move back East. She ended up meeting the man she married, however, and moved instead to California, where she has lived ever since.



Joining the staff of the Orange County Register in 1985, Maryanne has become an institution. She has been an editor, designer, manager and writer - and is currently responsible for the Features Copy Desk.

As early as 1991, Maryanne began volunteering in a local animal care center. It was a "no kill" shelter and Maryanne did everything she could do to help - from scrubbing the dog runs, playing with and feeding the dogs to talking with the public and handling adoptions. Ultimately Maryanne became a Board member at this center. Along the way she adopted dogs - in fact Maryanne has had at least three dogs since moving to Orange County in 1992.

One of the dogs that Maryanne first adopted was, well, not her first choice. Of all the dogs that were in the shelter at the time, Griffin had been there a very long time (22 months) before finally being adopted. He was brought back soon thereafter for being aggressive. According to Maryanne, "Something compelled me to want to save this dog. The shelter rarely took dogs back and, because of his aggression, it looked like he was going to be put down. I was not fond of Griffin at the time - but decided I needed to save him."

Maryanne started working with a trainer, only to find that Griffin wouldn't respond. His aggression was fear-based which caused him to do many things without thinking - things that made him a less-than-desirable companion. The trainer with whom she was working had just started an apprenticeship program - and Maryanne soon found herself becoming a trainer, finding homes for dogs whose owners did not want to train them, consulting with a group that provided funding to board dogs and pay for their medical costs. She began to influence the lives of the dogs with whom she came in contact, gently, lovingly and consistently.

Over time, Maryanne became an evaluator for the Delta Society based in Washington State which strives to further the human animal bond through education and programs. She now also teaches a Therapy Dog class and does some in-home training for clients, when time permits. One of her dogs, Jitterbug, is a therapy dog. The two of them visit skilled nursing facilities with long term and hospice care - as well as participating in the Reading Education Assistance Dog (READ) program. Through that program children who are reading below grade level can read to a dog in a non-pressure environment, improving both their reading and social skills - speaking up more and interacting with the people around them. "This program is one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life," remarked Maryanne. "Jitterbug is the newest of my dogs to participate in this program, following in the

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- The BASH is scheduled for July 14, 2007. Plan to join us!
- We are planning an on-line auction in August! Donations are now being accepted!
- Would you like to see your Furkid featured in our next calendar? E-mail AND LET US KNOW!
- Do you have a heart to contribute your time, talents, or financially?

info@bichonfurkinds.com

As part of training your furkid, one of the most helpful tools that you can give your dog is to teach him or her to come when called. Two of the trainers with whom Bichon FurKids work have provided their insights and training techniques to teaching your dog to come when called. We offer this information to you as a tool - one that will make your life with your furkid happier and better! ~~~The Editor

From the Trainer's Desk:

How to be SURE Your Dog will Come When Called

Does your dog always come to you when you call him? How about in a dangerous situation? Have you ever had your dog run out your front door while you ran after him trying to make sure he didn't run into the street? If you have ever experienced this, you know why teaching your dog a solid recall (teaching your dog to come when called) is extremely important. In my opinion, I feel it is the most important thing you may ever teach your dog. So let's start training! This isn't for calling your dog on a regular basis, but to use in an emergency situation. Think fire drill at school.

Start off with a fun and happy word that you don't normally use in conversation. I use the word "Aloha!" You will need a good sized amount of extra special treats cut up into small pieces. Something your dogs never gets, but loves. Think liverwurst, cheese, steak; something along those lines, not Milkbone dog biscuits. You need to have enough treats because you will be giving your dog those treats ONE AT A TIME for 30 seconds straight.

When you first begin the training you want to start in the house with your dog just a few feet away from you. Say your dog's name and then "Aloha!" As soon as your dog gets to you, begin giving the treats one at a time for 30 seconds straight. This is key! Make sure you give the treats for the whole 30 seconds. It's great if you can find someone to help you because after getting those treats for that

amount of time your dog will not want to leave you. If you can get a helper have them hold the dog in the next room. Then you say dog's name and "Aloha" and do the exercise again. If you don't have a helper, wait a few hours and try again.

Practice in the house for the first few days slowly increasing the distance away from your dog. After a week of practicing in the house move to the backyard and practice the exercise outside. The more you practice, the stronger the recall will become. When your dog is fluent and will do the exercise quickly and without falter, you do not need to practice everyday. In order to keep the exercise fresh and in your dogs mind, continue practicing with treats every 2 weeks for the life of your dog.

If you ever have to use your no fail recall in an emergency, make sure to practice as soon as you get home with your treats to keep the recall strong. I hope you never have to use this tool in a real life situation, but it can be a life saver if you do.

Jamie Lurtz is the founder of Solutions! Pet Services and offers training and solutions to Orange County residents. You will find more information at:

www.SolutionsPets.com

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SolutionsPets@aol.com

Positive solutions for all your pet needs.

How to be SURE Your Dog will Come When Called

Probably the most important command your Bichon, indeed any dog, can learn is to come when it is called. All the rest is gravy, but how many times have you begged your dog to please come and stay out of the neighbors yard? Or the ever famous waiting in the freezing cold doorway because Fluffy decided that she's "busy" and refuses to come in?

First of all, it is important to make sure your dog understands what exactly "Come" means. Unfortunately, many dogs either simply have no clue and are responding to your inviting body language, or they have learned that come means to run away quick, cause you're getting put to bed!

There are several important things to remember when teaching your dog to come to you.

- 1) Never, Never call the dog to you for anything unpleasant - get medicine, to get in trouble, go to the vet.
- 2) Always reward your dog BIG TIME for coming to you - have its favorite treat, a toy to give them - or at the very least lots and lots of hugs and kisses!
- 3) The more stern and angry you sound calling your dog, the less likely they are to come - get happy - make her think you have Something Special, just for her.
- 4) Practice the game - toss a treat away from you. Then, after your dog gets that, start backing up and calling him and give him more treats for responding.
- 5) Have family members stand in different areas of the house and call the dog back and forth, getting treats each time.
- 6) Use a crisp and clear word with their name first "Fluffy, Come!", and make it happy, happy, happy.
- 7) I always reward my dogs with treats when they come, so when I don't have one - they come anyway!
- 8) When you feed your dog, rattle the dish and say "Fluffy Come" - they will start to associate "Come" with dinner - and what could be better than that?
- 9) Never, never chase your dog. If she take off, run screaming in the other direction. She will usually follow you to see what is going on. If you chase her, they will only learn that you are slow and how to best dodge you.

Keep practicing. Remember to make it fun! Teaching obedience is great for any dog, and really helps reinforce your bond with your dog. Get out and take a class, you might be surprised how much your dog can learn and how much you will enjoy it!!

Michell Durrant is the founder of KinderPaws and offers training and solutions to San Diego residents. You will find more information at:

www.kinderpaws.com

619-820-4091

PET RULES...

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate of food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion." ~Unknown



Raisins and Grapes: TOXIC FOODS

By Lurinda Morris DVM, Danville Veterinary Clinic



This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen at MedVet. My patient was a 56 pound, 5 year old male neutered lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1 am on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7 AM.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me - had heard something about it, but....Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at 1 ½ times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.

The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5 PM and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At the point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure I sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on 3 different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220.. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize.

This is a very sad case - great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk. *Poison control claims that as few as 7 raisins or grapes can be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats including our ex-handler. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.*



What's Coming Up: BFK Happenings

* There are rumors that this year's **BASH** is going to be the BEST one ever! We will be located at a new venue, yet to be decided upon. The target date is July 14, 2007. Mark your calendars, and plan to attend! More information will follow as the event plans unfold! Contact Diana at, selewynnb@sbcglobal.net or Cheryl at cherylthomason@cox.net.

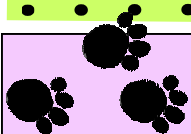
* We are planning our first on-line fundraising auction! We are collecting items for this worthy event. Anything donated will be considered a tax-deductible item for you!

For more information, contact Eileen, at eileend@speakeasy.net.

*BFK has its infrastructure on Yahoo Groups! <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/bichonfurkids>. We are in the process of making our forms and information available to all our volunteers.

*Would you like YOUR Furkid to be featured in our next calendar? Send us their pictures! For more information, please contact Kendra at kwilli1234@yahoo.com.





WHAT IT MEANS TO FOSTER

By Barbara and Paul Riggs



"Fostering".....Webster's Dictionary defines fostering as, "encouragement; aiding the development of something or someone." It means that and much more to our little fur faced friends who everyday wait for a caring human being to take them into their homes, love them, nourish their bodies and soul, and find them a forever home.

When we lost our little fluff Zachary to pancreatic cancer, our first thought was to find a new little Bichon just for us. Zachary's passing left a huge void not only in our home but in our hearts. Our Lab Lily walked through the house looking for Zachary everyday. She was sad and lethargic. We contacted Bichon FurKids wanting so badly to adopt a little Bichon to fill that hole. What we got was far more than we ever expected.

Lucy and Ricky were two little bonded Bichon mixes, most likely Bichi- Poos (Bichon and Poodle mixes) who, through no fault of their own, were left to exist day and night in someone's back yard. When they arrived at the local shelter, they were unrecognizable as Bichon mixes. Their fur was so tangled they needed to be shaved completely to relieve them of the pain from the matted knots that formed their coat. Beneath the mess of fur were sores brought on by the neglect of some "human" who ignored their most basic needs. Once shaved, their little bodies revealed how malnourished they were. Weighing only 9 pounds each, their little ribs showed the unmistakable signs of total neglect.

Bichon FurKids rescued Ricky and Lucy from the shelter and asked us if we'd foster them until their forever home could be found. After being checked by the vet, spayed, neutered, shaved, and vaccinated, my husband and I, along with our Lab Lily, brought Lucy and Ricky into our home. In just a few short days - with baths, good food, a warm, safe place to sleep (in our bedroom) and lots of love from all three of us - both little dogs were running through the house chasing and play wrestling with Lily. Ricky and Lily became best friends.....little Lucy however was still somewhat stand-offish and skittish. Ricky, whom the vet thought was about two years old, was truly the "old soul" of the pair. He looked at you with what seemed to be 100 year old eyes that knew the meaning of life. He touched our hearts with his love, tenderness and gratitude.

Sadly, many people are afraid of adopting a "rescued dog". They are fearful that it could be hostile or aggressive. I can tell you that the majority of these rescued dogs are so grateful to have been rescued, they are fearful to do anything wrong because they don't want to be returned to their old life.....*they become perfect dogs.*

Our experience with Lucy and Ricky was gratifying to say the least. I could go on and on with more accolades of the merits of fostering, e.g., heartwarming, rewarding, satisfying, etc. , but I think you're getting the picture. It's just a wonderful feeling to know you were partly responsible for helping a living creature who was once suffering to now find contentment. Lucy and Ricky found an extraordinary home with the help of Bichon FurKids. After many conversations back and forth with their prospective new mom and dad, the moment finally arrived. When they met their new forever family, they truly had smiles on their faces.....the dogs as well as the new mom and dad.

That same day we became the proud parents of our little forever fluff, Higgins (the wonder dog, as we like to call him). His foster Mom and her son took great care of Higgins while we fostered Ricky and Lucy. Higgins too had suffered a tough beginning, living (or should I say surviving) on the streets of San Diego. At all of nine pounds, he had been labeled 'an aggressive dog' by neighbors who saw him wandering around their neighborhood looking for food and water. They then called animal control and he was picked up and taken to a shelter. Because of his aggressive behavior, Bichon FurKids was contacted - and believed that he could be turned around.

Our "aggressive" little dog is the love of our life. He is the sweetest, kindest, not to mention, most grateful little dog. Higgins greets all our guests with doggie kisses. You would never know he had once been homeless or considered aggressive. He was just a scared little guy who was only trying to survive on the streets - and using every instinct he had to stay alive.

If you are thinking about bringing a dog into your family (and I recommend two dogs so they can keep each other company, especially when you're away) please consider adoption. Before being adopted, Bichon FurKids makes certain these rescued doggies are healthy, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and generally micro-chipped. If, for any reason, your adoption does not work out or you are unable to care for your dog due to unforeseen circumstances, Bichon FurKids insists that you return the dog to them so they can find a new home.

If you're not sure you are completely ready for your forever dog, fostering may be the answer.....you will find you get as much if not more out of the experience as the little pup you care for. Bichon FurKids is always looking for foster homes for their rescued dogs. It feels so good to bring some joy into the lives of these grateful dogs.....and the side effect of that is....you'll feel the joy as well!!!!

God Bless Bichon FurKids and their volunteers for their dedication to these fabulous little animals. Our lives were changed by our experience.....and we hope you choose to experience the same.

Chef Emeril Le Bichon's Doggie Deli



Hey everyone! Thank you, for visiting, again! Here is another recipe for PEANUT TREATS. All my friends loved these when I made them. I hope you do too! Remember when baking for your furkids, be sure there are no ONIONS, CHOCOLATE, GRAPES or RAISINS in any recipe you use. They are TOXIC to us!

BAM!

Sending Bichon Waves~~~*Chef Emeril Le Bichon*

Peanut Treats

2 1/4 cups whole wheat flour

3/4 cup all purpose flour

1 1/4 Tbsp baking powder

1 1/4 cup peanut butter

1 cup milk

Combine flour and baking powder in a large bowl.

Combine milk and peanut butter in a separate bowl and mix until smooth.

Gradually stir peanut butter mixture into flour in the larger bowl.

Knead dough by-hand and roll-out on floured surface to desired thickness. Cut-out treats.

Place aluminum foil on cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes at 400°F.

Cool before storing. Note: cooking time may vary depending upon thickness.

(Continued from page 1)

tradition of Piper, my first Delta dog, who retired a year ago."



Another of Maryanne's personal pets is Fly, who is involved in weekly agility classes. Maryanne has completed four trials with him. On Fly's very first run he qualified, earning points toward a title.

While she has her fingers in a lot of pies, Maryanne is responsible for running the Features Desk for the Orange County Register. She is also a Pets Columnist, sharing her experience and observations about pets.

We first met Maryanne in November when we had an opportunity to work with her and introduce Jay Jay, a very active, healthy bichon mix, to the readers of the Register. Maryanne helped us to make Jay Jay's life story more visible, leading to him find his Forever Family. We subsequently were able to feature Jordy who also found a wonderful Forever Family. Probably nowhere was Maryanne's angelic influence more keenly felt, however, than when we were able to feature Timmy as the Pet of the Week. Timmy was 'not your average bichon' and, although his story was a compelling one, it could not have been told without the help of this angel. As a result of describing Timmy's life and needs, Kate and Leon Swails read the article, called and adopted Timmy. Maryanne was cheering for Timmy, along with all of us at Bichon FurKids.

Maryanne would like to do more writing and even some short training videos. "Somewhere in me, I have a book I want to write. I now feel myself drawn to the topic of bereavement as so many people love their animals but, when it comes to the end, they want to run away. While there is sadness at the end, you go through it because you had such marvelous times," she reflected. As she looks back on her relationships with the dogs she has known - and loved - Maryanne knows that, "The love of a dog is as deep as it is between humans, maybe deeper. I truly believe that dogs are completely and utterly Zen. They live in the moment and only the moment. And that is what they share with us. My nightly unwind ritual consists of getting into bed with my canine crew and pulling one - or all them - into my lap while I read or watch TV. No matter how frustrating, stressful or long my day has been, at that point it all disappears amid kisses and soft fur."

We feel that way, too - and thank Maryanne for making a difference - as a writer, a trainer and as a wonderful and caring human being. She is truly a very special angel.



From Marti's Desk

Welcome to our third issue. And thanks to our newsletter editor and designer, Eileen, for making our newsletters so timely, interesting to look at and fun to read!

One of our goals in this wonderful activity we call rescue is to build a community (of bichon owners who can share information about our breed and help to protect bichons.) And one of the ways we can do that is to share resources. In the next few moments I will share some of the ones we have - and invite you to contribute and share yours - so we can build an even better, more informed community.

One of the resources we like to 'consult' is a monthly newsletter called The Whole Dog Journal (www.whole-dog-journal.com) which is available either online or in print. From dog food ratings (a very timely article now) to clicker training, from removing ticks to bolstering your dog's immune system, the answers to many questions can be found in this unique publication. In this month's issue, for example, there are articles on Cancer Prevention, Heartworms, Ways to Get your Dog to Stay, a look at the dog's brain and training techniques. And speaking of training techniques, we are continuing to add trainers to our list of resources. In this issue you will have a chance to read articles by two of our trainers, Michelle and Jamie, who take the issue of 'come when called' and give all of us tips on how to do this successfully. I learned a few new tricks - perhaps you will as well. (And please check the Resources tab on our web site from time to time as we continue to add new contacts and information there as well.)

We are embarking on a number of exciting projects for Bichon FurKids. Our fourth annual Bichon Bash is in the planning stages (mark your calendars for July 14th please - details to follow) and we will be doing our first online auction in August. If you want to help with either of these two projects, please let us know. Cheryl and Diana can use lots of help with the Bash - and Eileen would like to have help with many aspects of the auction. If you are an expert auctioneer, know how to find your way around online auctions, have a knack for finding great things to auction off and 'everything else', please share your talents and expertise with us. Our third major project is our second annual rescue calendar. If you want your fur kid or fur kids to be a part of this calendar, please start 'snapping', and sending, your photos as soon as possible. Kendra and I will be assembling them between now and June. We'd like to make them available to all who attend the Bash in July.

March also represents the start of our Jr. Volunteer Blanket project. Emily, Jennifer, Anna and Aria are going to help make blankets for our incoming rescues - something that will help them to feel more secure from the very beginning of their rescue experience. If you or someone you know wants to join them and become a Jr. Volunteer, please let us know. We are also working with local schools so that our Jr. Volunteers can receive credit for their contributions.


Since January we have rescued and re-homed more than fifty fur kids - ranging from six months to 12 years. While it still seems unbelievable that bichons can end up in shelters, it continues to happen every week. Thanks to you they are welcomed into loving foster homes - then on to lives with wonderful adoptive families. We thank our many new fosters - Jacque, Lynda, Vickie, Susan - we all know the difference you have made for these little fur kids.

And with a grateful heart I can now say that our little Timmy has found his Forever Home, too - and had cataract surgery on both eyes on March 26. The vets expect Timmy to regain eyesight in BOTH eyes... a wonderful outcome. Thank you, Kate and Leon, for being the incredible Forever Home that Timmy so needed and deserved.

Until next time,


Marti

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We LOVE to hear from our family of bichon owners, adopters and fosters. If you have photos, anecdotes, stories you want to share, questions you want to ask...please email: info@bichonfurkids.com and we will be happy to respond!