


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

Bichons Bits & Bytes

My Name is Cookie

By Hugh & Carol Stedman

My name is Cookie. Though my adoptive dad calls me his "17-pound Sheepdog". I'm really a rescued Lhasa mix. When I was introduced by the "rescue lady" to my prospective new parents at a park in West Los Angeles, I knew immediately that these were the folks I wanted for my "forever parents" and I pulled out all the stops. I mean I flirted with every cat, dog, squirrel and human in the park just to show them what a sweet natured and friendly pet I would be. It worked ... by the time we made the forty-mile drive home to Orange County, they were already telling me I was "the best dog they ever owned".



My people have a really neat place for pets, with a nice big secure back yard with plenty of room to run and explore. The only problem is that my dad has his own business and is gone most of the day and my mom has a very active volunteer schedule which meant that I had more time alone than I really liked. My folks

sensed this and responded to an article published in our local newspaper by Bichon FurKids. That's where we acquired Max, who is just about as Bichon as a Frise can get. They were smart and let me have a say on which dog we got as my companion. Max truly is my little brother ... little because he weighs only 14 pounds ... brother because if you want to start WW III, just put a barrier between us. He and I spend a good part of each day "rasslin", a form of workout where nobody gets hurt, everybody gets lots of good, clean exercise and the Bichon Blitz is elevated to an art form.



Max has loads of energy, thinks life is to be enjoyed to the fullest,

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***The on-line auction through cMarket, was a success. Thank you all for your participation!**

***Our 2007-2008 BFK calendar is available! Let us know if we can send you one for a tax donation of \$24.50.**

***In our next issue, we will have a new column: Meet The Board. You'll get to know BFK's Board Members!**

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has a permanent smile on his face and thinks the entire world is his personal pull-toy. His personality is quite different from mine. When my folks tell me to do something, I just say "Yes Sir" or "Yes Ma'am" and do it the best I know how because that pleases them and I like that. Max's response however, is more likely to be, "Hold it right there, Buckshot! Not until we negotiate!"

When we first got Max, he made a play to be the "Alpha" male of the house by ignoring Dad and "rasslin' for keeps" with me. The day after we brought him home, all four of us were on the bed during "reading the Sunday morning paper" time and Max was fine tuning his super aggressive "Alpha" routine on me. Dad sharply commanded "No!" and put his hand between us. We both stopped and looked at him. Then, using a sense only we dogs understand, Max crept toward Dad until he was within "lickin'" distance. He then rolled onto his back and when Dad began rubbing his tummy, Max started to lick his face. Dad just melted and Max has been "Dad's dog" ever since.

Keeping Yourself And Your Children Safe Around Dogs

By Jamie Lurtz

Here a few safety tips for being around dogs. Teach your children to always ask for permission before petting or going near someone's dog. Young children should never be left alone with a dog. Children shouldn't grab hold of a dog's face or neck. They should never put their face in the dog's face. If you are approached by a strange dog you should never run or scream, this only provokes the dog into chasing you. Rather, stand very still, remain calm, and allow the dog to sniff. Never approach a strange dog that is tethered, caring for puppies, sleeping, eating or that appears ill. One of the best ways to make sure people are safe around your dog is to be a responsible pet owner. Neutered dogs are less likely to bite. Make sure your dog is healthy, well socialized, has plenty of exercise and is well trained. For more dog tips, go to www.SolutionsPets.com.



Dog Attacks—Be Prepared

By Carla Fountain



Like many of us, I have my pleasant route I walk daily with my three Bichons, Bobby, Bentley and the newly- adopted Dino. We usually just encounter other friends walking dogs that like to socialize and rarely is there a problem. So I became a bit complacent about carrying things like Direct Stop or an Air Horn which people have previously suggested that I carry to ward off unfriendly dogs.

Two weeks ago, I passed a teenager with a Black Lab, a very friendly breed some say. We smiled and said hello then suddenly her dog shot out from the girl's grasp and attacked Dino, my newest and smallest bichon. Her lab picked Dino up in his mouth like a chew toy. I reached for my horn but it wasn't there so I had to scream to get the dog away. The teenager seemed incredibly slow getting her dog, and I did everything you are not supposed to do including reaching in to grab him. But what else was there to do? I got Dino away and then the lab went after Bentley, then Bobby. Finally the teenager got a hold of her leash and her dog.

Luckily I couldn't find any puncture wounds on either the dogs or myself. The dogs seemed to have actually recovered better than I did. I have now taped a bottle of Direct Stop AND an air horn to two leashes. Over the past six years I

never had to use them but you can't be too careful. These little dogs look like fluffy, tasty rabbits to some big dogs.

Needless to say we were quite shaken up. I called my dog trainer friend, Jamie of SolutionsPets (www.SolutionsPets.com) after the incident and she had some good suggestions to get us back on track. She suggested that I have my husband walk Dino for the next couple of walks so that he wouldn't pick up on my fear - and that I clip the Direct Stop to my belt for easier access should there ever be another incident. Jamie also noted that we were lucky to have been grabbed by a lab since they are bred to be retrieving bird dogs with a soft mouth that won't mangle their prey. Another breed might have just clamped down on my bichons with its teeth.

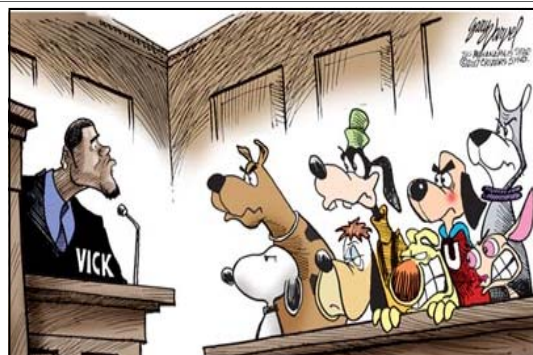
So remember to be proactive and carry something with you like an Air Horn, Direct Stop (a citronella spray), or a whistle. Even if you never had an occasion to use it in before, the one time you do you'll be glad you have it. You can purchase Direct Stop at many pet stores. Air horns can be found at party and sporting goods stores.

Editor's Note: We all hope that none of you will experience the scary, heart-pounding situation that Carla did. Being prepared is an excellent way to avoid this happening to you or your bichon.

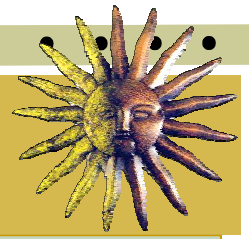
PET RULES

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."

~Author Unknown~



Goldie Oldies: Mature Pets Can Be Great Companions



If you're looking for a good pet companion, think old -- consider adopting one with a little gray around its muzzle.

Puppies and kittens, although irresistible at first sight, can be a handful. Soiled carpet, chewing, whining, and jumping are just some of the behavior challenges new owners may confront. "Many times, older pets are available for adoption and are in need of homes," says Dr. Lore Haug, a veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. "They can make excellent companions, but are often overlooked."

Older pets are defined as mature animals that have reached approximately two-thirds of their life expectancy. Before choosing a pet, each person should analyze his or her specific needs and desires, recommends Haug.

"For example, older pets can make excellent companions for senior citizens by improving their mental attitude, overall well being and keeping them physically active," she explains.

There are many advantages to adopting an older pet. One significant advantage is that the new owner will already know the size and basic temperament of the pet. "Many mixed-bred, and even purebred, puppies and kittens attain sizes that are unexpectedly larger or smaller than predicted. With an older animal, the mature size of the pet is already known," Haug explains. "Even when the pedigree of a puppy or kitten is known, the adult temperament and behavior is still difficult to predict. An older pet's behavior around children, seniors and others may be more easily identified," according to Haug. "Because of desired lifestyles, cats are sometimes more suitable than dogs. Cats tend to require less exercise and are more independent in nature."

Although many older pets still demand a significant amount of time and energy (normal feeding schedule/maintenance, regular exercise, bathing, etc.), puppies and kittens generally require more (behavior training, housetraining, playful interaction, etc.). "For instance, all pets require regular exercise, but puppies generally need much more," says Haug. "Most older pets are usually already housetrained and may know simple behavioral commands. If they have not been previously trained, older pets can learn new behaviors."

One reason why older pets may not get adopted is that people feel they have more health problems and require more money to maintain. While this can certainly be true, it isn't always the case. "Although older pets often require more preventative health care and screening, the expense of routine puppy/kitten care is typically comparable," Haug explains.

Potential adopters may also feel that older pets may have some other undesirable quality, but there are many reasons why healthy older pets are available for adoption. "There may be structural changes in the family such as a death, birth, etc. which leave an animal up for adoption," says Haug. "Moving or a change in renting policies can also force owners to relinquish pets for adoption. Other times, animals may develop specific behavioral problems unsuitable for the current owner."

Before adopting an older pet, Haug recommends a few simple steps to maximize the likelihood of a good match. "Interacting with the animal before adoption may help a new owner become acquainted with the personality and unique behavioral characteristics of the pet, but keep in mind that the pet's true character may not be apparent at the adoption facility," she says.

"Additionally, the pet should receive a thorough veterinary exam before being taken to its new home if at all possible. You might consider adopting an older pet because it can bring much joy and companionship."



From Marti's Desk



Welcome to our fifth issue - the first issue after our world famous (well, southern California famous) Bichon Bash. And what a Bash it was. We had more than 150 people registered to attend and almost as many bichons. This year's Bash was the first one we held at Cricket's Corner - and it was an excellent facility. Our furkids were able to run, romp and frolic with one another - and to keep all of us entertained. We 'two legged types' had an opportunity to share and compare notes with other bichon owners, buy products ranging from jewelry to doggy goods and books from vendors who participated in our first vendor fair - and to enjoy lots of food and beverages. The fleece blankets made by our Jr. Volunteers and purse 'charmies' were also 'hot ticket' items and the training class was very well attended. As a result we have a lot of ideas of what we can do to make next year's Bash even better... so stay tuned as we start to look at dates and locations. One thing to note: we plan to do an agility class at next year's Bash - and a whole lot more!

No sooner (it seemed) did the Bash end than we began our very first online auction. With the dedication of Eileen Davinroy, more than 115 auction items were classified, photographed, displayed and auctioned off. We thank you for bidding on the items in our auction and helping us to raise almost \$4,000. All items have been mailed to the winners - so keep an eye out for your 'goodies' as they make their way to you.

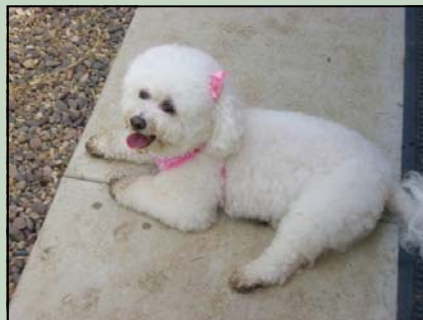
It has been an incredibly busy summer in terms of rescue. As we rolled in to August at one point we had more than 20 bichons and maltese in rescue. That number is particularly amazing when we reflect on the fact that we truly have about four 'on-going' foster homes - which means that a lot of wonderful people agree to foster at times of need - for which all of us at Bichon FurKids are truly grateful! We have also had a record number of bonded pairs - which means double the pleasure and double the fun (and sometimes a little more work to find Forever Families.) We also have had a record of 11 puppies under six weeks of age in the past three months. Hats off to Daria and Randy Roth for taking four of the last six pups and loving them through the adoption process. (Daria and Randy had thought they would take one puppy.... You get a sense of how things change around here. They did a wonderful job. Three of the four (Mork, Mindy and Kelli) have found terrific homes and Shelby's perfect home is awaiting him (the Roths will not let him go until they have secured it!). A big thanks to Babette and Keith, Mike and Nora for fostering Julius and Lucy. (Congratulations on 'flunking fostering.' Those pups are very lucky!)

At this point in the year we have rescued well over 130 dogs and have met some amazing families along the way. We thank each and every one of you for wanting to rescue a furkid and save a life! An ongoing goal in our rescue is to build a community of bichon owners who can share information about the breed and help to protect bichons. Starting with our next newsletter, we would like to introduce you to the wonderful people that comprise our Board. They give selflessly of their time - and their love for bichons permeates all that they do. The Bash would not have happened without the focus and determination of Linda Rowe; adoptions would not happen without the outreach of Phyllis Hoag; the home checks in Orange County are directed by Cheryl Thomason (who does a lot of them herself); and we rely on the on-going support and attention of Diana Ashkenasy, Karen Liu and Eileen Davinroy (who designs and produces our newsletter!) Please watch for that column in the October-November newsletter as these people are the energy behind BFK and resources for all of you.

We hope you enjoy the articles our volunteers have written, the training tips our wonderful trainers

(Continued on page 9)

The Bash



Chef Emeril Le Bichon's Doggie Deli



BAM!

Hello, fellow fluffs! Here is my latest recipe find! It's easy, and tasty! If you try it, let us know what you think!

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



Doggie Meatloaf for Milo (makes two large loaves - 24 slices)

- 1/2 pound Ground Beef or Chicken
- 1 cups cooked & pureed Beans and/or Lentils
- 1 cups fine Corn meal or Masa Harina Flour
- 1/2 cup Rolled Oats
- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 /2 cup wheat germ
- 1 - 2 cups liquid (water, milk, or stock, etc) This amount will vary depending on the moisture content of your other ingredients.
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup vegetables, pureed - You can use any vegetable, cabbage, carrots, and frozen peas. (You can buy large bags of mixed frozen vegetables.)

It is important that your dog should also receive a good dog multi-vitamin each day (a vitamin formulated specifically for dogs, not humans), either as a powder mixed into this loaf, or a tablet given as a treat.

- In a very large bowl. Using your hands, mix all the ingredients together very well.
- (Since ground meats differ in consistency, you may need to add more liquid).
- Put into two *large* loaf pans or 9 x 9 Pyrex baking dishes and spread out evenly.
- Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Cool and store in the refrigerator/freezer.

Makes 6 slices per loaf. To serve, slice and cut into bite sized chunks. You can also slice off servings, put in zip lock bags and freeze them for later use.

Serving amount~

For fluffs 10 ~ 20 lbs. $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ slice twice per day.



BFK Happenings

* The BASH was a huge success! A special THANK YOU to Barbara Bird, who held the grooming class. Barbara and Diva came from New Mexico to participate, and teach us about Bichon grooming.

*Our first on-line auction was profitable for our fur kids! It started slowly, but picked up momentum at the end!

*We would like to acknowledge those who donated items!

Leon & Kate Swails	Betty Ribble
Melissa Swonger	Judy Nugent (for The Hilton)
Jimmie Trotter	Jan Rasmusen
Kimberly Malasky	April DeJong
Julie Stogsdill	Wet Nose Boutique

Susan Mercado
PoLee Mark
Karen Liu
Sandy Philips
Fuzzy Nation
Charlie Chase

Lysa Solomon
Brandon Belford
Linda Rowe
Popcornopolis
Sally Thompson

We thank everyone who generously placed their bids and were able to raise almost \$4000!


* We would also like to thank Mel, The Fleece Lady, <http://www.fleecelady.com>, for her generous donation of fleece fabric used to make those wonderful rescue blankets our little ones love so much! Mel...you are wonderful!

Thank all who support us with your time and talents!
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Call Carol 760-529-4004.
Let's keep our dogs happy!




(Continued from page 5)

provide and the recipes from our doggy chef.

Our second annual BFK Rescue calendar is now available, It runs from August 2007 through December 2008. The proceeds from the calendars help to defray the cost of vetting our little furkids,



Bichons are smart (ok, we are biased), playful and, sometimes, pretty good escape artists. Two of our newest furkids, Shayna and Mikey, did such a grand job of escaping that they were unfortunately hit by cars. Their owners could not and would not pay for their surgeries—yet they deserve the chance to have loving, happy, normal bichon lives. Another little dog, Bonnie the brave, was attacked by a coyote and survived – however her owner took her to the shelter and told them to put her down. We can happily report all three of these dogs are on their way to being healthy once again. We thank Dr. Jeff Glass and his team at Stonecreek Animal Hospital in Irvine for the loving care they have provided Shayna and Mikey and Jim Lockwood of Alcala Pet Care in Encinitas for helping to nurture our little Bonnie.



Shayna

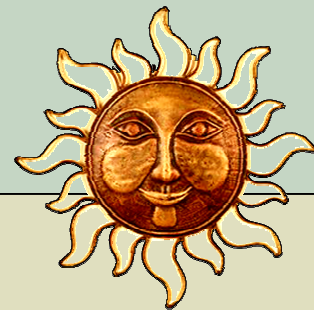


Mikey

We enter the fall with the hope that bichons needing rescue will slow to a trickle. And we hope, as the summer closes, that it has been a good one for you and your furkids.

Until next time,

Marti



Bichons Need Rescuing?

That is the question we are asked almost every day – and the one to which we would some day like to say.... No, there are no bichons that need to be rescued. Until then, Bichon FurKids is looking for volunteers with a heart who can help care for our little furkids. In rescue, each of us does what we can – some volunteers work with safety checks for families who want to adopt, others help to transport dogs, some purchase and deliver supplies where they are needed.

Our talented and loving group of Junior Volunteers contribute by making beautiful fleece blankets and beds for our fur kids so that they have a soft and gentle start to their new lives and we also have loving families that foster our dogs while they are in transition. Fostering is a critical part of what we do – as we can only save as many dogs as we have foster homes. Bichon FurKids pays for the medical expenses and supplies associated with fostering – we ask that our fosters provide love and socialization.

The biggest concern we usually hear regarding fostering is “How will I ever be able to love a dog then give it away?” That is a challenge – although when you help to choose the family that becomes your rescued furkid's Forever Family there is a deep sense of satisfaction. And when you are not able to let them go we call that “flunking fostering.” About 90% of our fosters do end up keeping at least one of the dogs they have fostered – but in the meantime they have helped us to save a life and make a difference.

If you are interested in helping in any of the ways we described – or have an interest in doing something we may not have discussed, please email info@bichonfurkids.com or call 858-408-1937. We would love, and be grateful for, your help.