

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



Bichons Bits & Bytes

My Very Special Bichon FurKids Story

By Branden Belford, Mom Of Four Kids and Three Furkids

Just over a year ago my husband and I decided that we wanted to add a new canine companion to our family which consisted of three young daughters (the fourth was born this August) and our yellow lab named Tanner. I am a huge dog lover, the daughter of a veterinarian, and had grown up with seven large dogs in my home (seven at the same time, that is!) so having more than one dog seemed very natural to us. My middle daughter, who was three at the time, had fallen in love with every small dog she ever saw - so we decided to get a smaller sized dog. Although we had never owned a small dog before the moment we made this decision my husband, Mark, and I knew: it had to be a Bichon! (We had known quite a few people who had Bichons, and we knew they were great dogs!!)

When we were looking initially for a Bichon we thought that our only option was to purchase a puppy. As a young girl growing up, my father would always bring home "rescue" dogs and cats for us - and most of our pets were acquired that way. Rescuing a pet was something I would have loved to do. But I didn't know that Bichons found their way into rescue, too.



One of the biggest concerns that Mark and I had, however, was whether anyone would adopt a small dog to us, as we had three young children. In fact, even though we knew we



would be great dog owners, we assumed that no one would consider adopting to us because of the girls (and they are well behaved, good little girls!). Sadly, we had several friends who had previously tried to adopt dogs and who had been turned away because they did not pass the screening process. At that point our opinion of animal rescue groups was that they were extremely harsh, strict and would NEVER adopt pets to households with young kids.

When we came across the opportunity to purchase a six month-old Bichon from someone who was no longer able to care for him we jumped at the chance. We would be giving this little guy a better life - and we would be getting a dog who had already outgrown the brand-new puppy phase! It was perfect, or so we thought.

After having the new little guy, whom we called Mr. Beaux Jangles, for a few days we realized that he was afraid of kids! He was afraid of all kids- my kids, my neighbors' kids, and even friends of my kids. No matter how nice the kids were, Beaux was frightened by them. He would cower, try to get away from them and would even growl softly at them whenever he saw them. This was not what we had expected - or hoped to find.



Mark and I knew that Beaux Jangles had not met any children before, so we figured that he just needed a little time to get used to them. We knew that he was a sweet little guy, too... because as soon as the kids went to bed he became a lover and a cuddler! Beau had quickly found his sleeping place in our bed snuggled up to our legs.

I tried everything I could think of to make him comfortable around the kids. Over the course of three months I searched the Internet and investigated books. Since most of what I read specifically dealt with new puppies I decided to consult an in-home dog trainer who could help me deal with my specific problem.

After a few sessions with us as a family, the trainer she told us something we did not want to hear: that the best thing we could do would be to find a new child-free home for our dog. I was heartbroken. We had already had him for four months at that point and were attached to him. Beaux Jangles was part of our

| | |
|--|--------|
| *My Very Special Bichon FurKids Story | 1 2 |
| *The Best Christmas Present | 3 4 |
| *BFK's Junior Volunteer | 4 |
| *10 Things Your Dog Wants To Know | 5 |
| *The Unexpected Gift | 6 |
| *From Marti's Desk | 7 |
| *What You Must Know About The Rabies Vaccine | 8 9 |
| *We Love Mr. Beaux Jangles | 9 |
| *Emeril Le Bichon's Doggie Deli | 10 |
| *BFK Happenings | 10 |
| *Thanks to those who support us! | 11 |



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

PURCHASE
info@bichonfurkids.org

family - and I didn't feel right about giving away a member of the family. I didn't want to give up on him, but I knew he was having anxiety around the kids -and that wasn't healthy for him.

With the dog trainer's encouragement I went to the Internet looking for a Bichon rescue and found Marti and Bichon FurKids. Calling Marti was the hardest and best thing I have ever done. I called and hung up on her voicemail several times (she did not know that!) before I was able to leave a message. Once the words came out of my mouth that I wanted to surrender a dog I started to cry. I wanted to convey to her that I wasn't someone who would abandon a dog- rather, that I was someone trying to do what was best for him.

The whole situation made me very sad. When Marti called me back I started to cry again. I couldn't believe I was making arrangements to give my dog away. I felt like such a bad person. Marti was so kind to me and understood my situation. She didn't judge me or make me feel like I was a horrible person. She promised, instead, to actually help me find a new home for our little guy. Just for good measure, I told Marti that if she ever came across a Bichon that liked kids we would love to have the opportunity to adopt him. Marti said she would find us a dog to adopt - and I thought she said that just to be nice to me since I was crying. (I still had the opinion that rescue groups didn't adopt dogs to families with kids.)



Marti helped us find a wonderful home for our Bichon. We talked to the prospective adopters (who had already been home checked, sounded great and did not have, nor want, children. We exchanged information and made a plan to meet on the week-end.)

While we were waiting for that meeting Marti told us that she found a dog she thought would be perfect for us. I was SHOCKED. I couldn't believe it. We were soooo excited. We all really wanted a Bichon and couldn't believe we might be able to adopt one!! We fell in love with his photos and couldn't wait to meet him. When we went to meet Bentley I couldn't believe how happy he was to meet the kids and Tanner. We were ecstatic that we could adopt him and bring him home with us.

As soon as we got in the car Bentley jumped out of my lap and into the lap of one of my daughters. As he kissed her all over her face I knew he was the perfect dog for us. We were thrilled. We had our bichon at last - and he was one that loved kids. Wow! (And the couple that adopted Beau let us know that he was doing beautifully, had adjusted nicely and was the perfect addition to their family!)

Just when we thought our story had a happy ending Marti called us again. She had a new dog that needed fostering - and that she thought would be a perfect match for our family.

We were not looking to adopt a dog or even to foster at that point however something amazing had happened. Marti had received a call from a lady who had bought a beautiful bichon from a breeder then two years later had to move into a skilled nursing facility - from which this young bichon kept escaping...every chance he could. And that dog's name was....



Mr, Beau Jangles (yes, there now were two!) Marti thought that was a sign... and so did I.

Mark was not so sure....

We agreed to meet the new Beau. The moment he met Bentley and Tanner the two little bichons ran off together- instant brothers! I knew right then we could never separate them. It would be cruel. Lucky for us this little Beau was a sweetie-pie of a bichon who also loved my kids- instantly!!

This January will mark one-year since we had to give up one sweet Bichon and our wonderful two Bichons entered our lives. Our story does have a very happy ending. Our first Bichon, Mr. Beau Jangles with an 'x' in his name continues to be loved and is happy with his Forever Family. And we have been blessed with our two little Bichon boys. They love our kids - and we all love them so much. They love being part of our family and we couldn't imagine life without them. The girls all share in taking care of Bentley and Beau and share in all the love and cuddles. This summer we had a new baby, and both Bichons welcomed her into the family with the utmost of love. In fact, when I hold our baby the "boys" jump up in my lap and cuddle up against her.

I am so grateful to Bichon Furkids for bringing the "boys" into our lives and for finding a loving home for our first little Bichon. It was meant to be - and we can't thank the organization enough!!

Happy Anniversary to our bichon boys - we love you, Bentley and Beau Jangles!

Editor's Note: In addition to being wonderful parents to Bentley, Beau, Tanner and their four girls, Brendan and Mark recently fostered two bichons. Bichon FurKids is indebted to them for their love and support of new fur kids deserving of homes as wonderful as theirs. Thank you Branden and Mark!!!!

Don't miss the rest of the story on Page 9!



THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT

by Brenda Looney



It was Christmas, 1990. My son, David, was just 13 years old. He had been working very hard on his newspaper route and saving his money. We had lost our poodles, Misty and Mandy just a year apart. It had been six months since Mandy had died. I had said I didn't want another pet. The pain was just too great. As time passed, I found myself checking the ads in the local newspaper. I was just looking though. I didn't really plan to get another dog. My son knew how sad I was and how much I missed having a dog. He picked up the phone and called on an ad for a six month old bichon frise that was housebroken. The lady on the phone said she didn't want to sell to a family that had small children. My son told her we had no little kids and that he was 13 and would take good care of a dog. He explained that the dog was for his Mom who was broken hearted over the loss of her dog. The lady agreed to let us come see the little bichon for sale.

It was dark as we drove along the road. I was afraid we'd get lost but somehow we managed to find the house. When the lady opened the door she was holding the little white fluffy dog in her arms. She was beautiful. When we entered the house I exclaimed, "Oh what a cute puppy". The little dog just jumped right into my arms. The lady said that was very unusual for her to do as she wasn't really good with strangers. My heart was set on getting this little dog. Money was tight at the time, but my son insisted he was to pay for her out of his paper route money. It was his Christmas present to me. He counted out the money and after some instructions on the puppy's care we left. The puppy sat in David's lap on the way home and didn't seem in the least bit stressed about leaving with us.

When we got home I set the dog's crate down in the living room. It was late. After letting the little dog out to relieve itself, we headed for bed. David was so proud of his wonderful Christmas gift to me. I think he could tell I wasn't so sad any more and how much I loved this little white ball of fluff. We decided on the name, Buffy. She wiggled next to me in the bed and licked my face. It felt so good to have this puppy to snuggle with. When my husband came home, he spotted the cage. He opened the bedroom door and up popped Buffy barking at him. He was so thrilled with Buffy. We only had one problem. She would not let him get in bed with me. For months Vern would have to stand at the foot of the bed and beg and ask permission to get in. I'd hold Buffy while he crawled in and once he was situated, Buffy would curl right up around his head and we'd all go to sleep.

Years went by. Our son grew up, graduated high school and eventually moved out into his own home. Having Buffy with us somehow made that transition easier. Even though David was gone I still had my baby Buffy. She was plagued with many health problems. She had glaucoma that took her vision and even one of her eyes. She suffered with pancreatitis, hyperlipidemia, diabetes and seizures. I didn't know how much more my little Buffy could take. She was such a champ. Through all the illnesses and surgeries, she never gave up loving life and being with us. She adjusted to everything and was so brave to endure all she did. She brought so much pleasure to others. She was quite popular at the nursing home and was the star of the garden party I had for the elderly residents. Even though she was blind, you would never know it. She could maneuver the house and the yard perfectly. She didn't let anything get her down.

With all the medical problems Buffy had, I spent a lot of time taking care of her. She had a special diet and many medications along with two insulin shots daily. Taking care of her took up a lot of my time but

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

I didn't mind. She was so grateful and so special. There wasn't anything I wouldn't do for her. I knew though that her days were numbered and that her little body couldn't endure much more. She made it to her 14th birthday. The years had flown by.

Buffy especially loved wandering around the old farm we had just bought. She was free. Even though she was blind, she would wander all over the fields. She never grew tired of it. We didn't rush her. We let her wander to her heart's content and then it was time to pick her up and put her in the van and go back home. Sometimes she would steal a bite of my ice cream cone when I wasn't looking. I thought she was so smart to do that. She made us laugh at some of the things she could accomplish. I swear she could smell a piece of Kleenex a mile away and figure out how to get it and drag it under the dining room table to shred it into a million pieces.

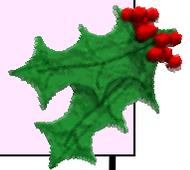


On that last night, I held my Buffy for hours in the emergency room. I knew there was no hope that she'd be going home with me. I closed my eyes and let my mind wander back over the years. Oh, how wonderful it felt to hold her and stroke her back and reflect on all the precious moments I shared with Buffy. She was the greatest Christmas gift ever. She was tiny but she was able to mend my broken heart. How will I ever live without her?

"Mom. Mom, she's gone." I opened my eyes and looked down at the tiny body on the table in front of me. The doctor put her stethoscope up to her heart. It was no longer beating. She was gone. My son was crying and had his arm around me. My son.....no longer a little boy... but now a grown man. He was by my side to comfort me. I couldn't breathe. I wanted so much to swallow that huge lump in my throat. I put my hand on Buffy's head and kissed her goodbye. I turned to walk out of the room and I looked back one more time. How could I leave her? How will I go on without her? My Buffy was gone.

Just as Buffy had come into my life to help heal the hurt of losing my other pets, I knew that somehow she would send me another to love. It didn't take long before Juliet came into our lives and into our hearts. She is a treasure and I know from somewhere beyond the Rainbow Bridge my Buffy is rejoicing along with my dear Misty and Mandy. Buffy will always be my greatest Christmas present from my wonderful little boy who loved his Mom so much that he gave all he had to make me happy again.

Buffy will be home for Christmas.....if only in my dreams.



Junior Volunteer Of The Month



Bichon FurKids is blessed with a number of volunteers who help our FurKids in many ways. One of the ways that our young dog-loving family members can help is by making the soft fleece blankets that our newly arrived fur kids get to call their own. They snuggle on them, nest on them, often take them wherever they go - and it also helps them when they transition to their Forever Homes.

Over Thanksgiving vacation and the first part of December, Breanna gathered together some fleece and some friends and made almost twenty blankets for deserving fur kids. We want to thank her, and her wonderful mom, Shannon and her bichon, Comet (who personally put his paw of approval on each blanket.)

Breanna: you are our Jr. Volunteer for this month and we thank you for your generosity!



The Ten Things Your Dog Wants You To Know

by Diana Hollister

If your dog could talk, these are some of most important things he/she would like to tell you...

- 1 - My life will probably only last 7 to 14 years. It will hurt me more than you know if I have to be away from you for longer than a day or two.
- 2 - If you have patience with me and give me time to learn what you would like from me, I can promise you, you will never be disappointed.
- 3 - Trust me with your life and have faith in our future together. If I don't feel that you honestly believe in me, I will suffer great emotional stress. My sense of self-worth is totally dependent upon your confidence in me.
- 4 - Don't stay mad at me for long or confine me to a cage to punish me. You have your friends, your job, and your recreation. I HAVE ONLY YOU!
- 5 - Talk to me about anything you want as frequently as possible. Even if I can't comprehend your precise words, I can understand the meaning of what you're telling me by the tone of your voice.
- 6 - Remember no matter how you treat me, I will NEVER forget it.
- 7 - When you consider raising your hand to hit me, remember I have teeth that could break the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
- 8 - Before you scream at me for failing to respond to your commands as I usually do, take time to think about what might be wrong with me that would cause me to treat you differently. Maybe I haven't been eating right or drinking enough water. Or maybe my age is catching up with me and I just can't do what I used to do.
- 9 - Take good care of me when I get old. Someday you will be as old as me and you will see how it feels.
- 10 - Be there for me through good times and bad. Never say you can't handle taking me to the vet for stitches or surgery. Nothing could make me feel worse. Everything in my life is easier for me to deal with when I have you standing by my side. Remember my love for you is unconditional and it will last

PET RULES



- The dog is not allowed in the house.
 - Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
 - The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
 - The dog can get on the old furniture only.
 - Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
 - Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
 - The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
 - The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only
 - The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
- Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

"If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience." - Woodrow Wilson



The Unexpected Gift By Barbara L. Gilliam



When the last of my three bichons died in July of this year, I thought my heart would remain broken forever. My husband gave me my first bichon frise puppy in the Christmas of 1987. We purchased two more, all three years apart. Although I loved each of my dogs, I was particularly bonded to the last one, Parker.

In August, I registered with Bichon FurKids Rescue to possibly provide foster care. On July 22nd Marti e-mailed the story and picture of a FurKid who was in deplorable condition. I was immediately touched and agreed to take her.

Marti took the dog to the Stonecreek Animal Hospital in Irvine, after picking her up at a San Diego shelter.

That night, Dr. Jeffery Glass, from Stonecreek called me to say he had never seen anything like this dog's condition. He said it is a miracle that she is alive! He needed to do surgery, and discovered she had been pregnant at one time and still had parts of the puppies in her. Scar tissue was choking her intestines and other vital organs. Her uterus was completely torn. He said she had about a 30% chance of surviving. It depended on her will to live and her fight. By this time, I was crying. He concluded by saying, "I hear you're a Pastor" I said, "Yes, I am" He said, "We've done everything science can do, you better pray!"



I called prayer partners in New York, Missouri and the wonderful prayer workers at my church. It was a restless night. I woke up and told the Lord if she lived, I would share her story and her life with those who are ill and hurting. I nervously called Dr. Glass around noon the next day. He told me that he sat with her until about 11:30pm, when she seemed to take a turn for the better! He asked me if I wanted to come get her the next day, as he believed she would recover better in a loving home.

I am happy to say, Tabitha is doing great! She has put on a few needed pounds, and loves her new life! She has been to the nursing home; she has snuggled up to some inner city children, and given smiles to some lonely senior citizens.

Tabitha has a younger brother who came from a shelter in Los Angeles. She loves to play with him and shows him how to greet the dog next door through a small slit in the fence.



Whenever I am stressed or feel discouraged and overwhelmed, I look at Tabitha, pick her up, and say, "If you can do it, I can do it!" Somehow, life seems easier, and all I can do is smile.

Tabitha *loves* to go to new places and meet new people. I think she could become a workaholic if I let her!

Perhaps she is just so grateful that the Bichon FurKids rescued her that she wants to share that love and hope with others.

Thank you Marti and everyone at Bichon FurKids!





From Marti's Desk

Welcome to our holiday issue! We are always amazed at how quickly year end arrives... and it is always a very hectic and exciting time for rescue!

At one point in mid November we stopped long enough to count the number of bichons in foster care... and discovered (well, maybe not discovered as much as confirmed!) that we had 27 small, medium, long legged and short legged, white fluffy fur kids in loving homes. This seems like, and IS, a lot... and especially so when we look at the fact that there are a 'core' group of fosters for Bichon Fur Kids... and that core group is five families! Thanks to each and every one of you who opened your hearts and homes to help us. ALL of these little ones were adopted - only to be replaced by the next group. Today with 'only 11' in foster care we feel as though we don't have 'that many' in rescue. My prayers will truly be answered when we have NO bichons needing to be rescued!

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 (You can see some of them and their handiwork on our web site and please read the article on our Jr. Volunteer of the month in this issue too).

If you would like to volunteer with Bichon FurKids (as a driver, foster, blanketer, to do administrative tasks, foster and more,) please let us know. We will be holding our New Volunteer Orientation meeting in January and would love to welcome you and your expertise into our group. Email info@bichonfurkids.org for more information, date and time.

Another of our goals in this wonderful activity we call rescue is to build a community of bichon owners who can share information about the breed and help to protect bichons. And one of the ways we can do that is by sharing resources. In addition to information we share in our newsletter and on the web site, we invite you to contribute and share what you know and learn - so we can build an even better, more informed community. Please feel free to email us with comments, recommendation, resources, recipes, training or grooming tips, pet sitters you like, groomers you use etc. We will all benefit from this shared knowledge.

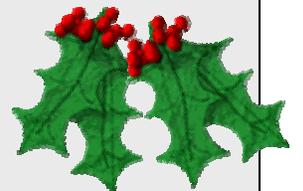
We hope you enjoy the articles our volunteers have written the wonderful holiday recipe (thanks Chef Emeril and Eileen!) and will plan to join us at the Bichon Bash (Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3rd^h please!) and let other Bichon owners know that they are invited as well!! We will have lots of goodies for furkids and owners, a Rally event, a parade of rescues and a few surprises, too! Our second annual BFK Rescue Auction will also be taking place in the spring - and we'll be sending out information to you in Feb.

Please consider joining us for our Annual Holiday Ball. Your contribution WILL make a difference for a fur kid or too, I promise! [Click here!](#) 

Thank you for being a part of Bichon FurKids! May your holidays be joyous - and your bichons bring you much happiness and enjoyment.

Until next time,

Marti



What You Must Know About The Rabies Vaccine

By Jan Rasmusen

SIDE EFFECTS

The rabies vaccine is the *only legally-required vaccine* for companion animals in the United States. **It's administered primarily to protect humans** from their pets should those pets be bitten by rabid bats, coyotes, raccoons, foxes or other animals. This is all well and good EXCEPT that the vaccine is known to cause serious side effects, and even death, in cats and dogs.

Possible adverse side effects include, but are not limited to:

- Aggression, destructive behaviors, separation anxiety and odd obsessive behaviors (like tail chasing and paw licking)
- Autoimmune diseases, including organ disease, allergies and skin problems
- Chronic digestive problems
- Fibrocarcinomas at the injection site (particularly in cats)
- Muscle weakness
- Seizures and epilepsy

Most of us are not warned about these possible adverse effects, and even when our dog develops them, we remain unaware of the connection.



YOUR DOG AND THE RABIES VACCINE

If your dog is due for her rabies shot, consult a vet who is trained in homeopathy. A homeopathic remedy given with the shot will lessen the chance of ill effects. Find a referral list for holistic vets at www.holisticvetlist.com or check http://www.drpitcairn.com/referrals/referrals_intro.html for vets trained in homeopathy.

Repeated vaccination does not make an immune dog MORE immune. They're either immune or they're not. Furthermore, if they're immune to a virus, they're also immune to the virus in the vaccine!

If your dog is ill or immune compromised, he or she may be able to receive an exemption to rabies vaccination. You will likely still have to pay license fees, but your dog may avoid the shot either for the licensing period or life, depending on the situation, or least delay it. Your veterinarian will have to apply for exemption giving reasons and providing documentation. If your vet won't do it, change vets.

*****Have your vet document ALL reactions to ALL vaccines** in case you want to apply for an exemption in the future. Make sure these reactions are recorded in your dog's chart and get a copy for your records.

If your dog is at *high risk* for rabies, know that **the only way to guarantee that your dog is immune to the rabies virus** is to have his or her antibody titers tested. Your veterinarian can perform this simple blood test. An animal may be repeatedly vaccinated and yet never develop immunity if his/her immune system is malfunctioning.

Even though your kennel, groomer or doggy day care facility may require proof of rabies, **more and more establishments will accept titer testing.** If they require vaccination more frequently than the law requires, we suggest you try to educate them or find another establishment.

Flying within the Continental U.S. may or may not require proof of rabies vaccination. Check the website of the airline in question. Flying internationally is more complicated and may require antibody titer testing, a vaccination linked to a microchip or tattoo, and/or vaccination within a certain period. Visit www.pettravel.com for details.

Do not vaccinate within a week of travel. Your dog may experience life-threatening adverse effects and may die without immediate medical assistance.

Keep copies of your vaccination records in a safe place in your home, in all your automobiles and in your dog's travel bag. You don't want to have to revaccinate unnecessarily if your dog bites someone or you have to board her unexpectedly.

Continued on page 7

If you suspect your dog is suffering adverse effects from a rabies vaccine consult a holistic vet. Among other things, they may recommend a homeopathic remedy to clear the vaccine from your dog's system. If you continue to treat your dog's symptoms without treating the cause, your dog's health will likely worsen.

CHANGING THE LAW

Blood antibody testing provides good evidence that the rabies vaccine protects for five to seven years, yet most laws require vaccination every three years and some locals even require *yearly* vaccination. Renowned veterinary vaccination experts Drs. Jean Dodds and Ronald Schultz (Chair of the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison) are volunteering their time (and the University is waiving its usual 48% overhead fee) to conduct five and seven year tests to prove how long the vaccine protection lasts and to increase the time between shots. They will also test the safety of the shot's ingredients and will establish an adverse effects reporting system--something desperately needed.

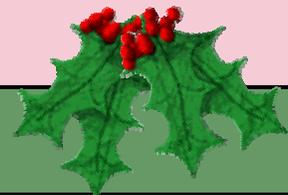
Learn more, or donate, at <http://www.rabieschallengefund.org/page4.html>. (Recognize my dog Chiclet in the photo?).

By the way, the term *Challenge Study* does NOT mean that the need for the vaccine is being challenged. It merely describes the type of testing done: vaccinated dogs are exposed to the disease to see how long the vaccine is effective. It is the Gold Standard of testing and necessary if we are to change laws.

Find more information on vaccination (which ones to give; which ones *never* to give; how to vaccinate puppies and adults safely) plus information on nutrition, parasite control, anesthesia, and more, in *Scared Poopless*, an award-winning book "narrated" by Chiclet, an opinionated Maltese. When you order it at www.Dogs4Dogs.com, mention Bichon Fur Kids and we'll give a large portion of the proceeds to this wonderful organization. You can buy holiday gifts (with big quantity discounts) and help BFK at the same time! Sign up for our FREE health and safety e-newsletter while you're there.

© 2007 Jan Rasmusen

Author, *Scared Poopless: The Straight Scoop on Dog Care*
WINNER, Ben Franklin Award for the Best Health Book of any kind
WINNER, USABookNews Award for the Best Pet Health Book



We Love Mr. Beaux Jangles!



We're the happy couple who welcomed Mr. Beaux Jangles into our lives in January. We had been looking for a puppy for several months, and found Bichon FurKids on the Internet. After

meeting Marti, I knew she would find the perfect puppy for us, and she did! We love Beau so much, and are thrilled that we have such a special new family member.

When we take him to the office, he sits quietly in the corner or plays with his toys. At 5 pm, he comes over and



tugs on my jacket - time to go home, Mom!

At home, he cuddles with us on the couch and watches TV. He loves to play with his squeaky toys and does a great bichon buzz too! He has such a sweet and mellow personality. He's still intimidated by small children, but fortunately he only has to deal with kids when we go to the mall!

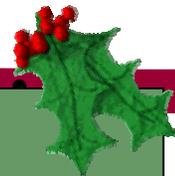
We're so blessed to have found Bichon FurKids and Marti and Mr. Beaux Jangles. Many thanks to Brendan and Mark and the girls for giving us the opportunity to adopt such a well-loved dog and a great bundle of joy!

Bryan and Donna Williams





Chef Fmeril Le Bichon's Doggie Deli



BAM!

Sending Bichon waves to my fellow Fur Kids! Here is my latest recipe find. Have you ever had a Christmas cake? It's the perfect way to celebrate for the Holidays! Give it a try!

Happy Holidays~~~*Chef Fmeril Le Bichon*

Doggie Christmas Cake

Ingredients

- ¼ cup of wheat germ
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- 1 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 1 cup of molasses
- ½ cup of canola oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1 apple, cored and chopped

Preparation

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Oil a 12-cup bundt pan with vegetable oil and flour.
 2. In a bowl mix the flour, wheat germ, baking powder, and cinnamon together and set it on the side. Then in another large bowl mix together the molasses, and oil, then add in the eggs one by one, and beat them until they blend in. then add in the vanilla along with ½ cup of water. Add the flour mixture to the wet mixture and mix it well until it becomes smooth. Then fold in the chopped apple pieces.
 3. Put the batter into the pan and place in the oven. Bake for around 30 to 40 minutes or until when inserting a toothpick in the center of a cake it comes out clean.
 4. Once done, allow the cakes to cool completely before serving.
- Store leftovers in an airtight container for no more than 3 days, or wrap in freezer wrap and store in the freezer for up to 60 days.



BFK Happenings



*Save the date: May 3, 2008 will be the date of our next bash! Our Sixth Annual Southern California Bichon Bash will again be at Cricket's Corner, located in Rancho Coastal Humane Society, in Encinitas. Our auction will run simultaneously! Anyone who would like to help with either the bash or the auction, please contact eileen@bichonfurkids.org.

*BFK is going to hold an "Aromatherapy for You and Your Bichon" class early in 2008. The class will include hands-on massage training using Young Living essential oils, massage techniques

(for you and your bichon) and a starter kit with seven essential oils. The class will be conducted by a licensed massage therapist who has provided this training to a local grooming school. If you are interested, please email marti@bichonfurkids.org for more information.

*Our new website, www.bichonfurkids.org, now has a shopping cart for you to purchase your favorite Bichon items or to make a donation to our cause. Select the link: Shop BFK Rescue. Remember all purchased items and donations are tax deductible!

Thank all who support us with your services!

Here are some of the people we recommend:

kinderpaws 

Professional Dog Training



Michelle Durrant • 619.401.6594
www.kinderpaws.com

kinderpaws 

Professional Dog Training

- Boarding School
- Private Lessons
- Behavior Modification
- Problem Solving
- Group Classes

Whether it is training a new puppy, solving problems with an adolescent dog, or teaching an old dog a new trick or two - we can help! With over 16 years of dog training experience, we have taught dogs of all ages and breeds. For a gentle, realistic, and effective approach to dog training that is fun for you and your dog, call Kinderpaws today!

Michelle Durrant • 619.401.6594



Stone Creek Animal Hospital
4178 Barranca Parkway
Irvine, California 92604
(949) 726-1800



Pearson-Nespor

1903 W. San Marcos #140

San Marcos, CA 92069

(760) 598-2512



www.pearson-nespor.petplace.com

Telegraph Canyon Animal
Medical Center

577 Telegraph Canyon Rd
Chula Vista, CA 91911
(619) 421-1323



Solutions!

Pet
Services



Dog Training,
Problem
Solving
& More

SolutionsPets.com
714-404-9314
SolutionsPets@aol.com
Jamie Lurtz

Carlsbad Animal Hospital

2739 State Street

Carlsbad, CA 92008

(760) 729-4431



www.carlsbadanimalhospital.com

TAILS A WAGGIN'

Dog and Cat Grooming
812 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, CA 92054
760 722 0811



Pamela Kramer Glickman
Vet Tech, Horse Trainer
Pet Sitting, Dog Walking
Sleepovers, Homesitting
Dog Birthday Parties
(760) 438-7862



Would you like to have your very own "Dog Whisperer"? Does your pup need extra love when you're away? Could a bit of Canine Charm School help while you are gone?

Safe, secure and well-schooled in canine behavior, grooming, medicating, and 'old fashioned' unconditional love. I would be happy to speak to you about your particular needs. References available.

Call Carol 760-529-4004.
Let's keep our dogs happy!



The
Fleece
Lady

www.fleecelady.com
909 223-3533

