

April ~ May 2009

BICHONS BITS AND BYTES

Editor: Judy Mondero

Growing Up With Bichons ~ Their Contribution to Our Family

By Kari Ehringer

Six years ago, we lost our cocker spaniel, Asti, to liver cancer. Asti had been a member of our family for fourteen years. Eight of those had been before we had our two boys, Nicolas and Cameron. Over the past six years, the boys have begged for a dog. Each year for the past four years our youngest son, Cameron, has included his request in his letter to Santa. Our reluctance to replace Asti stemmed from a variety of reasons. We grieved his loss and the place that he had in our hearts! (For those of you who have lost a pet, especially one that helped you to grow up, you know how heart wrenching it can be and how difficult it is to replace him or her.) Our other concern stemmed from having young children and the responsibility of having a pet to also take care of. At the time we lost our cocker spaniel, Cameron was four, and Nicolas was six. Over the next few years, both boys became very active in all sports, and time was spent driving the taxi around town to get them to school, practice and games. We knew that we wouldn't be able to be as attentive to a pet as it would deserve. We also had concerns as to what role the boys would play in "raising" a pet. We knew they would help, but the capacity of that help was in question.

Upon relocating to California last August, we all decided we were 'about ready' for a dog. We still had concerns about the responsibility of pet ownership - but decided that the benefit of having a dog outweighed those concerns. We began researching the type of dog we wanted. Amazingly, both boys Googled dog types and dog names. We began watching a show on Animal Planet called "Dogs 101" which described various dog breeds and provided information on tempera-



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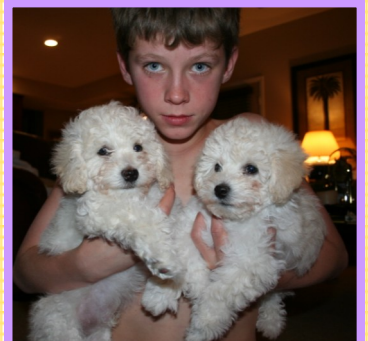
ment, health issues, and training. Again, both boys began to approach our decision with more excitement and exuberance than we would have anticipated!

As part of our research on all breeds of dogs, we were led to websites for rescue adoption. We decided that we could not only adopt a pet, but would teach another valuable lesson to our sons about the need to help those less fortunate. Over the months, our research led us to Bichon FurKids. We really wanted a newborn puppy but were interested in looking at our options for a younger dog as well.

During this time, Bichon FurKids had just rescued three female dogs that were pregnant. Luckily, we submitted our application and were approved. Not only did we adopt one Bichon, but we actually adopted two Bichon puppies!! (We had previously made a decision to adopt two dogs as a bonded pair because of the companionship - they would provide to each other, and to give each boy an opportunity to have responsibility for a dog). On January 19, 2009, we brought our two brothers home! We named them Coach and Cotton.

In very a short time, these pups have changed our world and brought such enjoyment into our lives. Our initial concern regarding the boys and the roles they would play in "raising" these puppies, has been relieved. Both boys have jumped in whole heartedly to contribute to the responsibility of pet ownership. When the puppies need to go outside, each boy grabs a leash and a dog and - off they go! When Cameron comes home from school, one of his first activities is to take both dogs outside. We have also been able to establish several routines. The puppies love to wake the boys up in the morning and will rush upstairs each morning after they have been outside. They will wait anxiously at each bedside until they are able to get onto the bed for the morning 'wakeup call'. Once everyone is awake, the boys and the puppies usually head downstairs to have breakfast. Both Nicolas and Cameron have become very adept at preparing their own breakfasts and in preparing breakfast for Cotton and Coach too.

During the day, the puppies may have to spend time in their crate or inside the utility room while we are away. Once the boys come home from school, however, they not only get the puppies outside as needed -- but clean up any messes the pups may have made while we were gone. Each day one of



Growing Up With Bichons ~ Their Contribution to Our Family

the boys cleans up the yard, mostly without prompting. Finishing off each day preparing dinner and giving our FurKids fresh water.

Both boys play an active role in assuring that the Cotton and Coach are taken care of. Each has been excited about the "trick and treat" game we play with the pups where we are teaching basic "trick" commands, such as sit, stay, down, and shake. We bathe the dogs every week and each boy is responsible for drying off a puppy and helping with grooming.

It has been extremely interesting to watch the relationship between the puppies and our family play out. Everyone is involved, and surprisingly, the responsibility that our boys have shown with these puppies is amazing.....far more than we ever expected. Coach and Cotton have not only brought fun and excitement to our lives, but have really helped us to develop responsibilities for our children that they readily accept and do every day! They are truly a part of our family!

"I know it
all. I've
seen it all."

Beanie



Words of Wisdom from the
LEGENDARY GREAT ZOM~BEANIE
GYPSY FORTUNETELLER AND SEER

- * If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
- * Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
- * When every thing seems to be coming your way, maybe you are in the wrong lane.
- * I intend to live forever...so far, so good.

A Special Note for Orange Country Pet Owners Who May be Facing Foreclosure

BFK has printed a comprehensive article regarding the options available in Orange County for people who are facing Foreclosure. Pet owners have an additional heartbreak to face since many rentals do not allow pets. If you are in this circumstance please access our website at www.bichonFurKids.org and read the important information provided. **Please Do Not Abandon Your Pets.** There are options available to avoid this. It is cruel and inhumane, and it is also illegal.



BFK Happenings



Mobile Dog Heart Health Tour

4/2, Saturday, Ocean Beach Dog Beach (W. Point Loma Boulevard & Voltaire Street), San Diego, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



Don't miss this opportunity to have your dogs screened for heart disease. Veterinary cardiologists will offer FREE dog heart screenings. Inside a special soundproof mobile exam room, they will listen for murmurs and other abnormal heart sounds using a stethoscope, as well as assess other signs of heart disease. In addition to performing free heart exams, veterinarians will be available to answer questions about heart disease. The tour's goal is to raise awareness about heart disease in dogs, the symptoms, treatment options and benefits of early diagnosis. Knowing what to look for and catching it early are keys to prolonging and improving the quality of a dog's life.

Orange County Pet Expo

4/17-4/19, Friday-Sunday, Orange County Fair and Event Center

Fri 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



America's Family Pet Expo® is the world's largest consumer pet expo, including manufacturers, retailers, groomers, veterinarians, hobbyist groups, rescue organizations, breeders, etc. Bichon FurKids will have a booth (located near the entrance - If you turn right when you first enter, we are on the first aisle to your left, second booth from the end) where you can meet some of our current FurKids that are in foster care and ready for adoption.

See the following page for info on [The 7th Annual Bichon Bash ~ the premier event of the year!](#)



Additional Happenings of Interest For your Information.



Non-BFK sponsored or attended - but they sound like fun.

Haute Dog Easter Parade

4/12, Sunday, Livingston Park, Long Beach, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. (more info)

Bichon FurKids will have a booth where you may meet a few of our FurKids attending with their families. Approx. 300-400 dressed-up dogs are expected to walk the 8-block sidewalk parade route at 2:30 p.m.. The parade is expected to last one hour.

Best Friends Pet Adoption Festival

4/26, Sunday, North Hollywood Recreation Center (more info)

Southern California's largest Super Adoption event. This Adoption Festival unites 70 local rescue groups and shelters with their animals and dozens of vendors. The festival is a high-energy community event that draws the public together in a spirit of common purpose and cooperation.



Bichon FurKids

cordially invites you to join us

at the

7th Annual Southern California Bichon Bash!

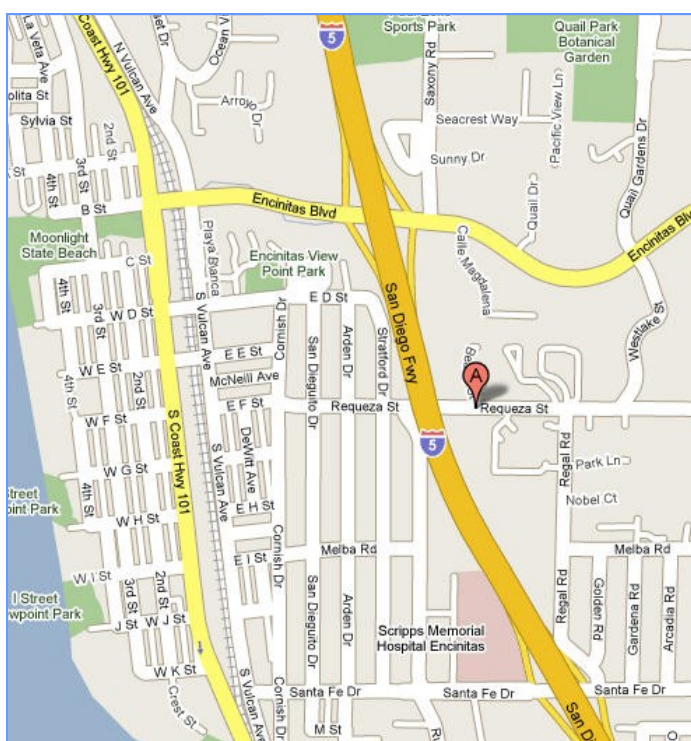


Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2nd, 2009, anytime from 10 a.m. through to 3 p.m.

The celebrations will include games, demonstrations, contests, recognition ceremonies, a raffle, and best of all, you will meet many of our wonderful foster parents, volunteers and lots and lots of fellow Bichon lovers and their FurKids. Be sure to reply to your email invitation as early as you can, and since parking is limited to 250 people, you may want to arrive a bit early as well.

As always, the Bash is a truly special event. There will be educational demonstrations, photographs, an auction, vendors offering both human and FurKid foods and products for your FurKids' pleasure, enjoyment and well being.

The 7th Annual Bash is BFK's primary fundraising event of the year. Last year we had over 150 FurKids visit and more than 200 of their human friends. As you all know BFK is dedicated to rescuing, restoring and re-homing Bichons and other small breeds. In 2008 we placed over 400 lucky FurKids in new and loving forever homes. We provided medical treatment, spaying/neutering, and grooming to each dog prior to placement. If you would like to volunteer to help us there are opportunities for all members of the family. Check our website at www.bichonFurKids.org and click on Bichon Bash to find out how you can help.



It's a wonderful day of puppy play and much more, including an opportunity for mixing and meeting with new friends. You and your FurKid will have a wonderful time. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 2nd. Here are directions to help you to find your way.

Driving directions to Cricket's Corner Community Dog Park ~ 389 Requeza St., Encinitas, CA 92024:

From the South: take I-5 to Santa Fe Drive. Go straight through the light and follow Regal Road to the stop sign. Turn right on to Requeza St and follow to the bottom of the hill. Turn left at the driveway marked by a Rancho Coastal Humane Society sign.

From the North: Take I-5 to Encinitas Blvd and turn left. Follow to Westlake St. and turn right. Follow to Requeza St. and turn right. At the bottom of the hill,



A Letter from A FurKid Friend



This is a note sent to us by Emily, a teenager whose family recently added a new FurKid from BFK to their Bichon family

Hey Everybody!

Our names are Chris and Angel - and we are two happy and well loved Bichons. While we are not FurKids ourselves, our humans found you guys and we are always willing to lend a helping paw to our fellow fluffs. This past January, our humans adopted a puppy (formerly known as "Snowball") now lovingly called "Bixby" from BFK. While at first we found our new little brother completely annoying, we have grown to love his sweet nature and playful personality. It is very hard to keep



Chris, Bixby and Angel

up with this little energizer bunny, but we manage to keep up for a while at least. Chris and Bixby will chase each other for hours, conversing with each other on various topics of interest.

We are still able to knock Bixby over, but he is growing so fast that pretty soon he will be able to take us down. (Don't tell him that of course!) After Bixby is all tired out, (which almost never happens) we all curl up together. He's pretty smart and already knows how to sit. In the mornings, Bixby

loves to help wake up our human girls with a complete face-wash. He has already become overly attached to food, and insists on hopping up and down like a bunny rabbit while mom fixes it.

Dad says that Bixby is the light of mom's life. While life was pretty ordinary before we had Bixby, we're on our feet from the time he gets until the time he completely passes out in front of the T.V. Our entire family loves Bixby, and none of us can imagine life without him.

Love,

Chris and Angel

P.S. Don't show this to Bixby! We don't want him to get too full of himself!



Bichon FurKids Presents Our Latest Fundraiser

Turn Your
Favorite Pet Photos
into Works of Art



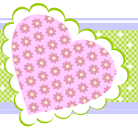
Pets on Canvas USA is dedicated to helping rescue groups raise the funds they need to continue to rescue. Working with your own photos of your favorite FurKid, **Pets on Canvas USA** will turn those digital photos into timeless works of art. You will accomplish two things: First, you will capture your pet's image on canvas for a lifetime of loving memories. Second, you'll help Bichon FurKids raise money - because 25% of proceeds from all artwork created for BFK families will be donated, in your name, to us.

The quality of the art, whether you choose to have it framed or unframed, is comparable to any canvas transfer you can find in art stores, framers or on the Internet. And the prices with **Pets on Canvas USA** are significantly lower than you will find anywhere else.

Please check out the web site at www.petsoncanvasusa.com\bichon for more information. And remember that, while you enjoy your new piece of art featuring your own FurKid, BFK will receive a donation that will enable us to help other bichons.



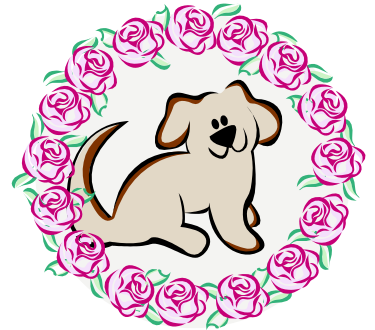
Estate Planning for Pets



Leona Helmsley, the infamous New York hotel queen who died in August, left her Maltese dog, *Trouble*, \$12 million dollars in her will. But at least one person, a former worker for Mrs. Helmsley who claimed to have been bitten by the dog, is challenging the dog's inheritance. Leona Helmsley apparently wasn't the only one enamored of her dog. The late Judge Earl Morgan of Lincoln County, Nebraska, enjoyed a successful career as an attorney and judge. He left an estate worth \$3.2 million, not to mention two surviving children, 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. To the great surprise of those children, Morgan's will wasn't of the normal variety. He did leave \$100,000 to each of his kids, as well as the use of his money for the rest of their lives for support, maintenance, medical expenses, and more. But once they died, instead of passing the money onto grandchildren, it all went to a local humane society called Paws-itive Partners.

Over the past two decades there has been a dramatic change in the importance that we, as a society, place on our relationship with the animals with whom we share our lives. We only have to follow the stories in the news of people living in the path of hurricanes and floods who refuse to be evacuated without their animals. A recent survey by the American Animal Hospital Association found that the majority of pet owners would risk their own lives for their pets. The results of this survey confirm what many of us already know: Our companion animals are considered less and less as property and more and more as beloved family members. No wonder then that persons with companion animals want to ensure that their animals are well-cared for after the owner's death. However, if a pet owner does not plan for the continuing care of his or her pets, those pets could end up in a shelter or on the streets after the owner dies.

As rescuers, each day we hear about beloved companion animals ending up at shelters. To avoid this happening to your precious pet, make a resolution to plan for the care of your pets.



Here are some things you can do:

Make a Bequest of Your Animals To a Caretaker

One of the simplest means of providing for the care of your companion animals after your death is to find a friend or family member willing to care for them—then have your attorney draft a Will leaving the animals to that person. (You should find alternate persons to be named in the Will, as the first-named person may be unable to take the animals when the time comes.) Alternatively, the Will could be drafted to give your executor the discretion of selecting from amongst several persons named by you to take your animals. When possible, you should designate a sum of money to the person who will be taking your animals to defray the costs of their care.

If you have no one who is able and willing to take your pet, your executor can be given the authority to find suitable adoptive homes for them. If you do this, it is wise to select an executor who has some knowledge of and concern for your animals.

Another alternative is to search for a good local animal rescue and placement organization and make arrangements in advance with the charity to take the animals and find homes for them after your death. The charity should be named in your Will to take the animals and to receive a cash legacy. Obtain detailed infor-

Estate Planning for Pets



mation about the charity's adoption procedures and be comfortable with such procedures before you make such arrangements.

Anytime animals are bequeathed to a person or charity, the Will should include a statement that you are bequeathing all the animals owned by you at the time of your death. If you name specific animals in your Will, it will not cover animals adopted later.

Create a Trust for Your Animals

Most states now have "pet trust statutes." These statutes allow you to create a trust for your animals. You can create a pet trust and name a trustee and a caretaker for your animals.

There are two methods of creating a pet trust. First a trust under the Will, called a testamentary trust, can be created or, an 'inter vivos' trust, which is created during the life of the pet owner, can be created. The 'inter vivos' trust has the advantage of being immediately available for the care of an animal if the pet owner, for example, has to go into a nursing home or becomes incapacitated.

A pet trust can be funded with a specific amount of cash or with assets other than cash. Some people also take out life insurance policies and make the pet the beneficiary of the policy to assure ongoing care of their pets.

An alternative to the trust for animals is to find a sanctuary and leave the animals (and funds for their respective care) outright to the sanctuary on condition that they care for your pets for life. If no trust would be created your pets would go directly to the sanctuary as an outright bequest.

Preplanning with a Will or a Trust can also make things easier for friends and family at a very difficult time. It is a way to benefit family, friends, and if you choose, you could also help Bichon FurKids. There are several ways this can be done:

- Gifts through life insurance
- Gifts through your Will or Trust
- Gifts of money or property



If you are interested in having Bichon FurKids care for your bichon as its caregiver when you no longer are able to do so, please notify us of that request when you draft your Will or Trust.

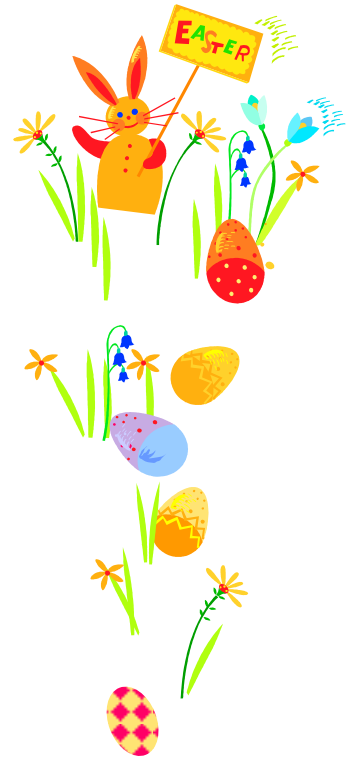
If you choose to help Bichon FurKids, please know that your gift will ensure that homeless Bichons and Bichon mixes will continue to be cared for until they find forever homes. Through gifts such as yours, and other contributions, we can continue to save lives everyday.

Web sites you can refer to for more information include:

<http://www.animallaw.info/topics/spuswillstrusts.htm>

<http://wills.about.com/b/2008/10/06/basic-estate-planning-dont-forget-about-your-pets.htm>

Special Thanks to Brownie Troop 850 of Laguna Niguel



Brownie Troop 860 from Laguna Niguel made doggie blankets to donate to your dog rescue group. Attached is a photo of the girls and the blankets for your website. The members of Troop 860 are Faith, Alyssa, Hannah, Sophie, Bella, Grace, Tori, Kaylee and Nicolette. Thank you, Carol Burke, Leader/Troop 860

And in a note from Regina and Ralph...

"P.J. and Katie are very happily snuggling in their new blankets. These fleecy dog blankets give our FurKids a place to find warmth, comfort and security."

Thank you to all our junior volunteers who have taken the time to tie together a little love for the FurKids.





Sadie's Story

By Tiffany Wu

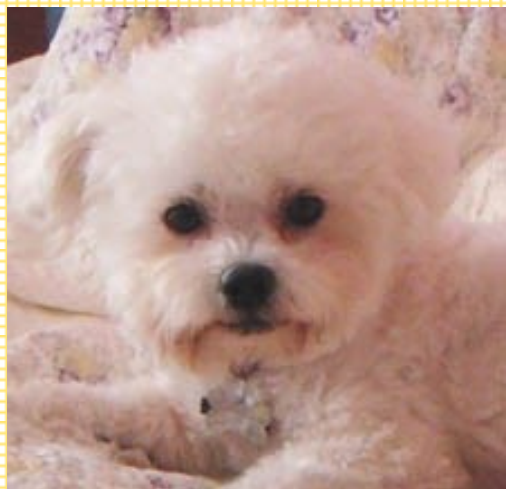
A week before Christmas, I received a phone call asking if I would take in a little girl who was too sweet to spend the holidays in the shelter. Since joining Bichon FurKids, all my fosters had been males, and I jumped at the opportunity to finally get a little girl for my Taffy to play with. You see, my original purpose of fostering a FurKid was to help my Taffy overcome her fear of dogs, due to a very traumatic experience. Like people, the best way to overcome your fears, is to face them and we found over the years that she was much more relaxed around her own "kind."

Sadie was a tiny girl, about 7 pounds and she'd been shaved down to the bone. She came to my doorstep wearing a pink sweater two sizes too big for her. Immediately, she hopped into my lap and put her beautiful face right in front of mine and "kissed" me by putting her nose up against my lips. She stole my heart.

I took Sadie everywhere with me. No matter where we went, she would rush over to people, children, dogs and even cats to say hello in her own special way...with a "Sadie-kiss." However, she would always come right back to me to say, "Mommy, don't worry, I still love you! You're still the best! I just had to go make that person smile!" I was in total shock at how loyal she was to me.



Tiffany with Taffy and Snowball and one of her many foster kids.



Sweet Sadie

Sadie was sweet as sugar and wanted nothing more than to please. On our walks, she would trot ahead, but turn around to check and make sure I was coming too. I was even able to take Sadie for walks without the leash, knowing she would never run off.

The first time she had an accident in the house was also the last time. With a firm "No", she realized that she was not going to earn a "tummy-tickle" like she did when she went outside. I was utterly speechless that a dog that was abandoned and unwanted could trust and be so eager to please as much as this little girl did.



Sadie's Story

By Tiffany Wu

Surprisingly, both my Bichons knew she was special too. I would constantly find Taffy batting Sadie with her paw saying, "Hey you! You! Come chase me!" or enticing her with toys. I have never seen her so attached to another dog. Taffy would look up at me and say, "I like her!" Snowball was a real gentleman too, and always allowed Sadie to eat from his bowl because he knew she was so hungry and underweight. I was thrilled and amazed at how truly happy the three of them were together... they honestly brought out the best in each other.

One night, I received a phone call that there was a strong interest from a fellow volunteer that was looking for a petite girl. She was absolutely ecstatic to come and meet Sadie, while I was absolutely dreading the moment and squelching the urge to cry. Sadie was allowed to sleep in the bed with me that night. She wiggled her way under my arms, and with a sigh of contentment, drifted off to sleep. I wasn't sure if she knew what was happening.

The moment finally arrived. To my surprise, the prospective adopter turned to me and said, "As precious and perfect Sadie is, she is not my forever dog." What I had anticipated as a heartbreaking moment was suddenly one of relief! I took this as a sign that Sadie was supposed to be MY forever dog.

But soon BFK called me about another approved family interested in Sadie. This family had a daughter who wanted a little lapdog to call her own. That reminded me of myself when I was a little girl and got my first Bichon, Snowball. Every single day when I left the car to go to school, he would stick his head out the window as if say, "I'll be at home waiting for you!" He also was always there to comfort me through the hard times as I matured, and I never felt alone as long as I had him nearby. Even though he's much older now, we still share an irreplaceable bond. As much as I wanted to keep Sadie all to myself, a voice in the back of my mind told me that perhaps, Sadie would be able to grow old with this little girl and be her best friend, creating memories that will last the two of them for a lifetime.

When Sadie's adopting family came that day, I saw pure happiness on the little girl's face. Sadie gave the little girl her signature kiss, and I

Tiffany is a busy BFK Foster Mom. She sent us a few pictures of her successfully adopted 'kids'.



Chance (Rory) and Simba (Biscuit)



Biscuit (Simba) brushing his teeth



Snowball, Becket and Taffy



Savannah (Chloe)

Sadie's Story

By Tiffany Wu



remember the girl saying to her parents, "She's the one for me! She's the one the one I'm meant to adopt!" It took every ounce of willpower to let Sadie go, but I knew that Sadie would be loved and taken care of, which was ultimately the most important thing. So there she was, leashed to her new family, ready to go. She turned, wondering why I was not going on the "walkie" then came back to give me one last kiss. No one ever warned me that doing a good deed could be so difficult or prepared me for what I felt that day as I watched her drive away with her Forever Family.

For the next few days, I received tons of phone calls and e-mails from other BFK volunteers and fosters, many of whom had also experienced a loss like mine. They assured me that I had done the right thing - and I knew they were right. I thought about the many pictures I had seen of potential FurKids; matted, dirty and barely white, lying in cages wondering when they would ever be able to be free and loved again and needing what I could provide: A loving foster home. I realized that had I adopted Sadie, there would be at least one more dog that would continue to suffer - one more dog that I could have fostered, if I had the room and time. What I know now is that it takes a heart to foster them, but an even bigger heart to let them go .

Needless to say, I often wonder how Sadie is doing. And I do miss her. But sitting here today with two of my current fosters, I realize that I wouldn't have the joy that they have brought me had I kept Sadie. Most importantly, I would not have had the opportunity to help the six FurKids I have fostered since Sadie - or watch them unite with the most loving families I have ever met.

It's been a little over three months since I joined BFK, and I am proud to be a foster parent. Whenever I take my little pack of FurKids out, people ask me how I can ever let them go? My answer is simple. It's because I know that each FurKid is going to be with a family that understands that they are more than just pets - they are family members. Their happiness is the most important thing, and for the most part, these FurKids just need to love and be loved in return.

I am finally a part of something bigger than myself and my love for these FurKids translates into a good deed. When you foster, you save a life, but you also bring awareness to the people around you. People are often surprised that bichons have been abandoned, neglected or unwanted, yet can readily forgive and open their hearts again. There has been no experience in my life to compare with the satisfaction and fulfillment that I have gained working with dedicated BFK volunteers who understand and share the same passion and love I have for these Bichons.

BFK thanks Tiffany and all of our loving volunteers who give of their hearts, their time, and their talents, to better the lives of FurKids—without their contributions we would fail and many little lives would be lost.

A Letter from A FurKid Friend

BFK often receives letters from our members, thanking us for bringing their FurKids into their lives. We received this note from Joy Chang, regarding her little Calie:

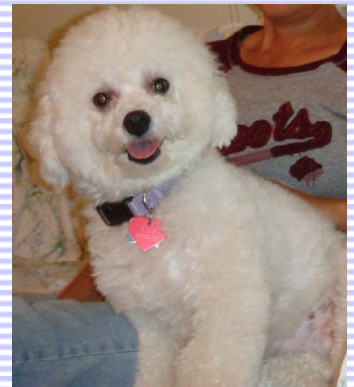
I'd like to thank BFK for the good work you do -- and for allowing me to adopt my little FurKid in January. You have given me this wonderful chance to own an adorable and lovely dog.

I have two other dogs, a Westie and a Bichon, as well as four cats. I was pleased that Calie could join our family - and even more pleased that they all get along so beautifully. Calie has become a beautiful little girl.

I am originally from Taiwan and write a Blog in Chinese and many articles about my Calie. While there are many adoption agencies in Taiwan, sadly very few people want to adopt. They say they want a beautiful and cute dog. They don't think that the dogs in the shelters are 'pretty enough.' I want them to know that with a little love and care, they can have the cutest dog in the world! Just look at my Calie and how she looks now!

In my blog I wrote: Please do not pay too much attention to their looks when you adopt them. With plenty of love, a frog can turn into a prince, and an ugly duckling into a princess.

I have told everyone about your great organization and the work you do. Please keep helping little bichons to find forever families. That is Calie's wish - and mine!



DOG

There is no psychiatrist in the world
like a puppy licking your face.

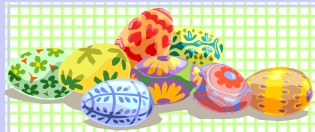
-Ben Williams



LOGIC

If you think a dog can't count,
try putting three dog biscuits in your
pocket and then give him only two of
them.

-Phil Pastoret



From Marti's Desk



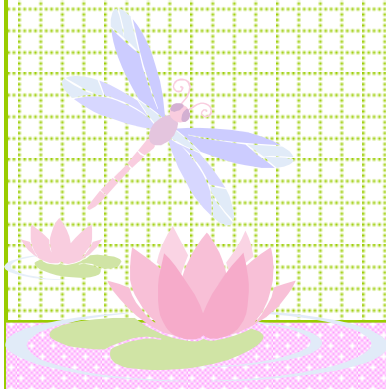
Welcome to our Spring issue. That means the Bichon Bash and Pet Expo are coming up soon - so it is a very busy time for Bichon FurKids. Please check out the page called Our Happenings in this newsletter (and the Events page on our web site) for dates and information. We look forward to seeing you at these events because connecting with you (and your FurKids) is what we like best!

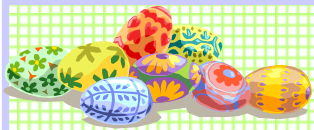
Because we are often asked for recommendations, we continue to add to the People We Recommend section on our web site - and we have also added a Products We Recommend section as well. Please take a look at those pages and let us know if you recommend toys or treats your FurKids like and enjoy -- or groomers, vets, dog sitters or trainers that you recommend. You can send your recommendations to info@bichonFurKids.org.

Speaking of trainers, more and more of you have been mentioning the name Victoria Stilwell to us. Her show, called "It's Me or the Dog" airs on Animal Planet every week. Stilwell visits the homes of dogs exhibiting behavior problems - and talks with owners who are often at their wit's end (and sometimes amazingly unaware of how they are contributing to the behaviors they want to go away.) She then discusses the situation she has observed, describes how to correct it, demonstrates positive solutions and teaches the owners how to work with their dogs going forward. Stilwell does this with positive, reward-based dog training - and gets great results. Her two best-selling books, *It's Me or the Dog: How to Have the Perfect Pet* and *Fat Dog Slim: How to Have a Healthy, Happy Pet*, have been well received and detail her reward-based training philosophies: "think dog" and develop "clear, consistent communication between owner and dog." For more information you can go to www.victoriastilwell.com - or read her column in American Dog.

By the way (and not coincidentally) the trainers BFK works with and recommends all support positive, reward-based training. So if you happen to run across a trainer who espouses forceful, dominance-based training techniques (leash jerks, alpha rolls, flicking and sometimes even hitting) please think twice - then think again! These techniques may result in 'quick fixes' but ultimately cause more long-term harm than good. There are lots of good trainers who are willing and able to help - and believe in continuous, variable and/or intermittent reward systems. The ultimate aim is to have an obediently trained dog who responds to you in all situations as a result of a relationship based on trust and kindness.

We hope you enjoy the articles fellow bichon owners have written, learn about the joys of adopting, the challenges and rewards of fostering, and enjoy this issue's new recipe (thanks Chef Emeril and Judy!) We invite you to share photos you have taken of your fur kids -and interesting stories about them as





From Marti's Desk

well. Got a cute or funny photo to share? Please email it to info@bichonFurKids.org - and we'll get it Editor Judy right away!

For all of you who have adopted a fur kid or two... THANK YOU!!! May you and your FurKid share many healthy, happy years together filled with doggy kisses, belly rubs, long walks in the sun, breezy rides in the car, happy bichon buzzes and all the love you ever wanted.

Until next time,

Marti

Happy Birthday Spuds!!



Jennifer Medina sent us this photo of Spuds, their FurKid, celebrating what the family had designated as Spuds' official birthday; March 21st.

This makes Spuds an Aries: Quick witted, adventurous, and daring. Good choice.



Attending the gala event were Jacob and Jillian Medina and the rest of Spuds' Forever Family. "Isn't he precious! We just love him!" Jennifer proudly enthused.

Spuds was thrilled and excited by the Doggie Ice Cream cup that sported a candle. Unfortunately, dogs can't pucker, so the guests had to help him with his wish. We suspect that the wish involved more frequent parties in the future. With ice cream!

*If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can get going without pep pills,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs ,
You are probably the Family Dog.*

*I wish I were a beautiful
Bichon Frise!*





What We Are All About



Last year, BFK was able to place 420 lost and loving Bichons with Forever Families. You have read a few of the letters that came in expressing the happiness these little lives have brought to their new homes. We ended the year with three special little FurKids in various stages of convalescing. Each of them has now recovered and is ready to go to a Forever Family. Here are their stories, reduced to a few words, but each tells a tale of strength, courage, forgiveness and hope that these sturdy and wondrous little dogs displayed. They are all ready to fly to their Forever Families.

My name is Dannica and I'm a very petite and adorable bichon girl of only seven pounds and about five years of age. I'm a very delicate girl who loves to be held and caressed - and I'm as sweet and loving as I can be. I'm also a very determined little girl.



When I first became a FurKid, I walked around like a circus dog, on my two front paws, not using my back legs at all. I was perfectly balanced, too. The good people at BFK found out that I needed an operation so that I could use all four of my legs. I thought that was a pretty darn good idea (why I could probably do even more tricks then) so I signed up and had the surgery. Now I'm recovering beautifully and learning new things every day.

The vets at Stonecreek were the first to discover how smart I am. They said I would gobble up my food, then tip the bowl and let out a cry. All the nice people would feel bad -- and would give me more food. One day they got together and realized I tricked them! (What? A

girl's gotta eat!) They laughed and laughed at how smart and sweet I am (and said it was ok because I do need to add a pound or two to my weight.)

My Foster Mom says it's very obvious that I'm a very bright girl who knows how to use her wits and am very smart when it comes to getting my cuddles and loves. I dig under the covers so that I can get nice and warm and snuggle nice and close to you! There's no better feeling than being close to people who care so much about you.



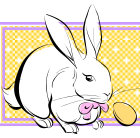
Mom says she's touched by how grateful I seem for having been saved and getting a chance to live a normal life. The only thing missing is my forever family! She says I'm the perfect girl and all I need is a family who is willing to love me until the end of time!. So if you're looking for a little love-bug who will love you unconditionally, look no further! Just ask for me! Darling Dannica



My name is Sophie and I'm a sweet, gentle, smart and very loving little Bichon girl. Mom says I'm a well behaved and mellow girl who LOVES to walk! She says that I walk beautifully -- and actually prance when I walk. (Mom says I walk so well and so elegantly that I could give those show dogs a run for the money!) When she takes out the leash, I walk



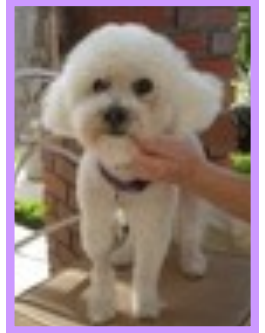
RIGHT next to her and let her lead the way. Sometimes Mom also takes me for car rides! I sit quietly and peacefully until we reach our destination! (See why Mom says I'm so well behaved?)



What We Are All About



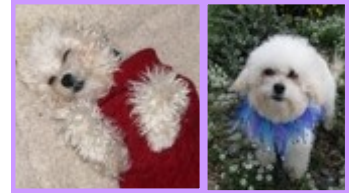
Mom says as pretty as I am, I am also special - and that I will need a special person or people who will appreciate me. My vision is limited (the vet says it was in my genes. I don't know what that means but I think it has something to do with a thing called heredity) and I don't hear very well. Dad thinks I should be named Helen (after Helen Keller) because I'm so bright and have learned to get along very well. Mom wants you to know that I know exactly how to find my way around the house, and that I automatically go outside when I need to go potty! Sometimes she forgets to leave the door open for me, which means that I need to use the doggie door - and I'm so smart that even though I cannot exactly see the door, I'm still getting the hang of it! At night I like to snuggle up on the sofa, or in my crate, and I never ever make a peep. If you're looking for a gentle and loving companion Mom says that I am the perfect little girl. So if I sound like your kind of girl please ask for me, I'm Sweet Sophie.



My name is Tinker -- and I'm a beautiful, bouncy and extremely happy Bichon boy of 8 months old and all of ten pounds. You may have seen my picture before on our web site under Help Me Heal. Well the great, fantastic and absolutely amazing thing is I'm healed - and ready to go to my very special forever home. When I'm there I need to stay on my dry kibble (you can get it from your local pet store) and take two little pills that that Mom adds to my food to stay healthy. (I like all of this and eat really well and with no problem.)



I'm quite an little active guy who loves just about everything. I'm so curious and loving that no one's ever a stranger to me - why I even love kitties. Best of all, though, I love to play chase and tag with my foster doggy brothers and sister (even though they are many times my size...I'm undaunted!) but my favorite game is tug-o-war! Mom says the funny sound I make when I'm playing is actually me "talking" and it's absolutely adorable. When I don't have a buddy, I also love to play with squeaky toys, balls, and most of all, cardboard paper towel tubes! Those things are so much fun to chase and roll. When we get together I will show you!



Mom says I am ALMOST too smart for my own good (because I pick up on cues that she's not even aware of.) I'm not quite sure I understand her, but I just know that if you watch carefully, you'll learn things very easily! I've learned that when Dad goes to get the leash, we're going to go on a "walkie," which is always so much fun and exciting! I also know to go potty only in the backyard or when I'm outside—how's that for a smart boy? And if you put my 'blankie' in the car, I'm ready to ride and ride and ride! I'm a very joyful, playful, easy-going, bright and sweet boy who deserves a home where I can love and be loved unconditionally. Like all puppies, I need to be in a home where someone is around most of the time to love and continue my training. And my forever home should include at least one other dog or puppy. So if I sound like your kind of guy, ask for Tinker! I'll charm your socks off!

A Letter from A FurKid Friend



I love my dogs, Mel and Daisy. They are so smart, sweet and cute—and some of the things that they do are so funny. The funniest thing that they do happens when my mom is trying to put me to bed. They wait downstairs and just as I get into bed to relax they run down the hall (wood floors) as fast as they can, jump onto my bed and start fighting with each other. While that is a lot of fun for Mel and Daisy, it makes it hard for me to relax.

Although Mel and Daisy are both Bichons, they are very different from one another. Mel is very calm and loves to sleep all day, and, instead of sitting on your lap, he stands on you like he is the King of Sheba. Daisy is a lot younger, more energetic and has few social skills. (We're working on that!) She lies on the back of the couch by herself while my family and I are watching TV—when she could easily find herself in one of several ready laps.

Daisy is always trying to play with Mel even though Mel may not feel like it. (She doesn't discourage easily, either!) When we first got Daisy she was afraid to go up the stairs, so Mel would sit on the third stair where Daisy couldn't reach him. Time has passed and Daisy isn't afraid of the stairs anymore, so Mel has no safe spot where he can get away. Daisy goes up the stairs and tries to pull him down by the hairs on his chin.

Above everything else we know for sure that even though Daisy still needs to work on her manners, she and Mel are the best of friends. They are also the best dogs we could ever have adopted—and we love them dearly.

Savannah Gannon, 11 years old. Carlsbad



Fun Page

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com

HERE'S THE AWKWARD PART OF THE DATE... DO I SHAKE HER PAW OR SNIFF HER GOODNIGHT?



Atlantic Feature Synd. © 1998 Mark Parisi



This is another in our series on extraordinary doggie houses. This one is air conditioned and has storm windows. But, it IS still outside. Sorry not good enough for BFK standards.



Yummy Chicken Tummy Fix

A nice plain meal to get your baby 'firmed up.' Keep any leftovers in the fridge.

ingredients

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 cup cooked plain white rice
- 1 cup cooked plain carrots
- 1 cup non- or low-fat cottage cheese

directions

Boil chicken breasts in a small amount of water until done; chop.
Cook carrots in a small amount of water until tender but not mushy.
Mix both with the rice and cottage cheese. You may want to add some broth from the meat or carrots if it seems too dry.

Optional flavorings (add 1 if desired): 1/4 cup mashed banana; 1/4 cup mashed or chopped plain potatoes; 1/4 cup low-fat cheddar cheese.



People We Recommend

There are many talented resources that Bichon FurKids calls upon to guide and help us with our own Bichons, as well as those we rescue. Feel free to contact the people below and on the next page, as they have proven themselves to be wonderful and caring resources.

VETERINARIANS



Animal Medical Center—East County

600 Broadway, El Cajon, CA 92121
619-444-4246

amcofeastcounty.net/default.aspx

Carlsbad Animal Hospital

Dr. Lauren Bauer & Associates
2739 State Street, Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-729-4431 carlsbadanimalhospital.com

Cypress Avenue Animal Hospital

1400 E. Cypress St.
Covina, CA 91724
626-331-0775

Drake Center for Veterinary Care

195 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA 92024
760-753-9393
drakecenterforanimalhealth.com

Estrella Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Michael Ontiviers & Associates
26925 Camino De Estrella, Capo Beach 92624
949-496-6661 estrellavet.vetwuite.com

4 Paws Animal hospital

Dr. Bruce Barnes
16625 Dove Canyon Road, San Diego, CA 92127
858-487-PAWS (7297) my4pawsvet.com

Oceanside Veterinary Hospital

Geoffrey R. Smith D.V.M.
2960 San Luis Rey Rd, Oceanside, CA 92058
760-757-1571

Pacific Beach Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Benita Keiss
1361 Garnet, San Diego, CA 92109
858-272-6255

Pearson Animal Hospital

Dr. Dorota Pearson
1903 W. San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos 92078
760-598-2512

Pet Vet Animal Health Care Group

Dr. Howard Brown
9748 Sherman Way, Canoga Park 92306
818-346-2455

VETERINARIANS (continued)

Rancho Santa Fe Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Deirdre Brandes
6525 Calle Del Nido,
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
858-759-8797 rsfvets.com

Stonecreek Animal Hospital

Dr. Jeffrey Glass, Dr. Brandie Melville, Dr.
Lisa McDonald
4178 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604
949-726-1800
myvetonline.com/website/stonecreek

Telegraph Canyon Animal Medical Center

Dr. Lynette Henderson & Associates
577 Telegraph Canyon Road, Chula vista,
92920
619-421-1323

GROOMING



AAA Pet Professionals Terry

508 Nautilus Street, La Jolla, CA 92037
858-456-1552

Alcala Pet Care

Alison
1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024
www.alcalapetcare.com 760-436-6619

All About Animals

Lenise
5622 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037
aalajolla@gmail.com 858-459-4583

Angel Grooming

1903 Placentia, Placentia, CA 92870
714-996-1563

A Pet's Best Friend

Chris & Diane
3251 Greyling Dr., San Diego, CA 92123
apetsbestfriend@sbcglobal.net
www.apetsbestfriend.biz 858-278-1909

Bostone's

Cathy
8781 Cuyamaca, Santee, CA 92071
619-449-6400

GROOMING (continued)

Classy K -9 Clips

Yvonne
3320 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92123

DawgyStyle

Christian
34085 PCH #112 Blue Lantern Plaza
Dana Point, CA 92629 949-496-3315

Dog Gone Pretty

Melodie
15053 Goldenwest, Huntington Beach, CA
714-892-0171

KM Dog Grooming

Kaoru—Kay
316 E Street, Chula Vista, CA 92058
www.kmdoggrooming.com 619-427-0341

Karen's Custom Grooming

Karen
7130 Avenida Encinas, Ste 100
Carlsbad, CA 92009 760-431-7553

La Paws Grooming

22912 Pacific Park Dr. Ste B
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 949-716-8800

Puppy Love Pet Grooming

Barbara
191 N. El Camino Real, Ste 211, Encinitas,
CA
760-634-1559

Raining Cats & Dogs

Patrick
1911 Sunset Dr. Ste 1
Escondido, CA 92025 760-743-0136

South Paw Dog Wash

Telly
34155 PCH
Dana Point 92629 949-248-9910

Tails A Waggin

Lisa
612 S. Coast Highway,
Oceanside, CA 92054 760-722-0811

Villa La Paws Resort

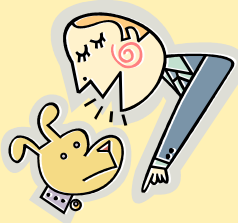
Laura
2734 W. Bell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85053
602-588-7833

People We Recommend (Continued)

CANINE BEHAVIORISTS

TRAINING — OWNER EDUCATION

Problem Solving & Behavior Modification
Group and Private Lessons



Doggie Tech

Shannon Schaefer 760-745-1011
10365 Old Castle Road, Valley Center, CA
Training including Therapy Dog classes

K-9 Connections: Training by Nicole

Nicole Andrews 760-438-3644
Behaviorist, Agility

My Canine Coach,

Stephanie Houfek, BA 714-234-1111

Pawtopia Dog Training

Colleen Demling, CPDT 858-361-8962
www.pawtopiatraining.com

Smart Dog, Training and Owner Education

Jamie Bozzi, CPDT 619-246-5634
jamie@smrtdog.com

Solutions Pet Services,

Jamie Lurtz 714-404-9314
www.solutionsPets.com

The Uncommon Canine, Inc.,

Joella Cunningham, CPDT 858-679-5861
theuncommoncanine@cox.net

Mild to Wild

David Feliciano 714-333-6770
Anxiety, aggression, behavior, housebreaking, good manners.
Troymcclureog82@yahoo.com (Put Attn:David on the subject line)

Cool Dog Training and Doggy Day Care

Lynne Sorrentino 951-676-9677
35581 Glenoaks Rd, Temecula, CA
Positive training and loving day care
Cooldogtraining.com

CARPET CLEANING

Upstairs/Downstairs

Malcolm Widdison Owner/Operator
760-726-3093 or 760-471-9569

DOG SITTING

Mimi's Pet Sitting Service

Ruth Clifford
Oceanside, CA 760-757-0940

Sun Dawn Pet Care 858-722-6191

Licensed—Bonded—Insured
Serving Scripps Ranch & surrounding areas
sundawnpetcare@att.net

The Animal Keeper 760-753-9366

Encinitas
www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_encinitas.htm

The Animal Keeper 760-941-3221

Oceanside
www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_oceanside.htm

The Animal Keeper 858-748-9676

Poway
www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_poway.htm

The Ritz 4 Pets

Vista serving North SD County
Kim Cyr 760-598-3368

Lil' Friends Obedience Academy and Pet Sitting

Pat Fraus 909-994-3277
Serving Simi Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Lancaster, Acton, Temecula, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Montclair and Upland. Will serve San Diego County for extended stays.



Love Bichons?

Why not join the Nannie's Network?
A cooperative group of fellow Bichon owners and foster parents who trade dog sitting favors with each other.

The Nannies are located throughout San Diego County and hope to add new members in surrounding counties.

Contact Hilary Cramer at
hgcramer@yahoo.com

Membership is free.