August—September 2009

BICHONS BITS AND BYTES

Editor Judy Mondero

Three Times the Fun

by Susan Mercado

I have always been a dog lover, as far back as age eight, when I convinced my parents to adopt our first teacup poodle named "Gidget." I remember going to a pet store and looking at several dogs before I saw a little chocolate brown puppy, 6 weeks old, right in the middle of four or five others. All behind a glass case, scratching and yelping, begging for attention, waiting to be sold. It seemed so sad that so many dogs were in such a small enclosure. Where was their mother? They didn't seem old enough to be weaned. Even as a young child, the feeling came over me that it was not right. But - a Pet Shop was where you went when you wanted a pet.

We brought "Gidget" home and she lived a long life with our family. When I got married, my father told me that just because I got married didn't mean that I could take the dog with me. Hmm.. trumped by my own dog. I could see how it was going to be! Gidget lived out the rest of her life as my Dad's pride and joy. She was spoiled rotten. My Dad cried like a baby the day she passed away because Gidget was more than a pet, she was a member of the family.

Fast forward. We had several more family pets, always from pet shops. They did not generally live very long lives and were very expensive as well. I never realized how over-bred many breeds had become, nor the deplorable conditions they were raised under, before being transported to the pet shops. My husband and I wanted another dog, but without supporting the "puppy mills".

We learned of an elderly lady that had to give up her senior teacup poodle, but the dog had some health problems and would require some medical attention. We went for an interview, and

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decided that we would take care of this charming little red teacup poodle, named "Candy." After a trip to the vet, the problem was taken care of with daily medication and a lot of TLC. We decided at that time we would never buy from a pet store or breeder again, but look to rescue and give a home to pets in need.

One summer afternoon, we lost Candy to an epileptic seizure. My husband and I went down to the Orange County Humane Society in Huntington Beach, a no kill shelter, and decided to take a look around and see if we could rescue another dog. A little male bichon, named "Pele" caught our eye. We learned that he had been badly abused, and looked like many other dogs at the shelter, in need of a bath, shots and lots of TLC. Something about his personality was appealing to us. We could see through the matted hair and timid demeanor to a little dog that desperately wanted another chance. We wondered if he would be able to be socialized and get along with children? Our daughters were in grade school and junior high and what would they think? We actually went to the shelter when they were away at camp and made the decision without them, (I would not normally recommend this). My husband and I decided to adopt Pele, and took him home with us that afternoon. We took Pele on his first road trip to meet the girls when we picked them up from camp. Pele was all shaved down with several hot spots, and looked pretty sad, but the girls saw through his looks and into his heart.

It took a little more time to bring Pele around. He was snappy at first and not very trusting of us. We read a lot about bichons and how smart they are. Before long, Pele had warmed his way into our hearts and lives, and we knew we had made the right decision. We talked to our girls and decided as a family, that we would like to adopt a second dog. We called the Orange County Humane Society and were put on a wait list for another bichon. We had kept in touch with the OCHS and they were very excited about Pele's success story, and had even posted his picture at the shelter with us under "Happy Adoptions."

Before long, they called us, with the news of a 12-week female bichon that had been surrendered. Would we be interested? Yes! This time we loaded up the car with the girls *and* Pele, and went down to see if the puppy would be a good match for our family. This is the recommended way of making a decision: as a family, including other fur friends. It helps to reveal the dynamics that will be in motion within the family. That was 14 years ago. "Abbie," was that little bichon, and she has been a little doll. We learned that there was much more fun having two bichons around.

We lost Pele a few years ago, in our own backyard. A hungry coyote scaled the fence and attacked him. Abbie had been present and was spared. Abbie was listless and we feared we would lose her as the vet

Three Times the Fun

feared, due to the traumatic loss of Pele. We began another search for a bichon to be a companion for Abbie.

I started an online search and discovered Bichon FurKids. After dozens of calls, interviews, and a house check, we adopted "Diego". *And*, we began our quest to promote animal rescue, developing a wonderful relationship with Founder Marti Colwell. I have learned so much from Marti, as she worked with us in training our two furkids. How could two dogs, of the same breed look so much alike, and have such different personalities? By looking for the best in both of our pups, watching them bond as a "pack", and letting them grow in our hearts, they have become a part of our family. And now, last year, after fostering another little male, who moved on to his own Forever family, we added our third bichon to the mix. Our little "Jake" is definitely the comedian of the group, and keeps us all laughing. The three dogs are a handful, but with both of our daughters grown and married, it has added a wonderful dynamic to our family.

My husband and I have learned a lot about ourselves through the eyes of our bichons and would like to share with you:

* Take time each day to play a little.
* Routine feeding, watering, grooming and exercise are good for bichons and people alike.
* Fur friends respond to love and attention…don't we all?
* At the end of the day, a little belly rub, eye contact and an "I love you" makes all the world's problems seem so small.

I believe in the work of Bichon Fur Kids Rescue and will continue to support the work that provides for so many dogs that need a second chance. There are so many dogs coming into rescue every week and not enough foster homes to support them. It is a short-term commitment, but the payoff is huge.

Fostering provides a way for "bichons in rescue" to be better prepared for their "new forever home". And you could be the one who provides a temporary home to a little one who needs to learn to trust again before going on to his or her forever home.

Who knows? You may want to adopt them before they ever leave your home!

From Marti's Desk

Welcome to our end of the summer issue and the wonderful world of bichons,

For those of you to whom it applies, we hope that you are enjoying the busy weeks leading up to the start of a new school year. We have experienced an amazing number of families adopting in August, looking for some extra time to devote to the newest members of their families.

If you are a recent – or not so recent- adopter we have a request. PLEASE get a name tag made for your FurKid with your bichon's name, your name, phone number and address. While you are required by our contract to keep the BFK tag on your new FurKid, you also need your own tag on your new family member. Since my phone number is on the BFK tag, there is not a week that goes by without my receiving a call that starts with, "Hi. I have your little white dog (or I have your poodle :>)) Can you come and get it?" I then have to ask "Where do you live please?" That gets followed by "What? You don't know where you lost your dog?" Then I get to explain that we are a rescue group and that one of our adopters probably has forgotten to put an identifying tag on the dog. At that point we query our database to figure out which of our adopters it could possibly be, based on the city or on the street where the dog is found. It's a great exercise for sharpening our detective skills (and we have always been able to find the 'missing owner' – but we would appreciate if all of you could please add your own tag next to ours on your FurKid's collar. Thanks! (By the way, there are name tag making machines at PetSmart and PetCo or you can order them on the Internet.)

With adoptions come new homes, yards, routines and wonderful experiences for FurKids and their new families. Two questions that we are often asked with new adoptions are: How do we potty break our new fur kid – and what do we do if/when an accident occurs? One of the best articles on this topic appears in the August issue of one of my favorite magazines – so here is a shameless plug for the Whole Dog Journal (www.whole-dog-journal.com) (BFK has no affiliation with WDJ other than that a lot of us read and appreciate the publication.) Each time an issue of Whole Dog Journal arrives I always learn something new – or am reinforced with information about something I thought I knew. In addition to the article on potty breaking, the August issue includes how to introduce and get your dog ready for kids, grandkids or the new baby; updates on heartworm and canine influenza – and a fun article on a new sport called 'Fun Nose Work.' And the September issue will be packed full of timely articles as well – of that I am sure.

We are now preparing to officially launch our online auction and fundraiser on eBay. Mary Anne Wilson, our terrific chairperson and an eBay power seller, has just collected the first car-full of items for the auction. She will be posting the items on eBay and the auction will run continuously. (Several of us have items already 'in wait' for the next trip to Mary Anne's. If you have items to donate please email info@bichonfurkids.org -- and we'll be in touch to let you know when we are officially posted. From that point on, we will be adding items as Mary Anne has time to do so – and we appreciate her help and your support. There are some great items (I stole a peak at some before they were listed) so please think of birthdays, housewarming, anniversaries and holiday gift requirements that you might be able to buy while shopping on eBay with BFK.

From Marti's Desk

Two things that I wanted to repeat from a previous newsletter are that BFK is now an approved charity of Chase Bank and Washington Mutual. JP Morgan Chase, the parent corporation, is committed to philanthropy and gave more than $100 million to thousands of not-for-profit organizations last year. That means that any Chase or WaMu employee can make a donation to BFK -- and those companies will make a dollar for dollar matching funds "match" up to $1000 per year per employee. Please share this information with friends, family and people on your email distribution list. We appreciate the opportunity to earn these matching funds.

And another way that you can help BFK earn money is if you shop at Amazon.com for ANYTHING, Start your shopping experience by clicking on one of the Amazon banners on our web site. (There is a banner on each of our pages.) Your shopping doesn't have to be for doggy supplies or goodies. As long as you start your Amazon shopping session from the BFK web site, we'll receive a donation from Amazon. Look for the square Amazon.com button on the left hand side of any page. Click on a page (www.bichonfurkids.org for example) then shop for your books, music, home goods … anything.

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

We Need A New Place to PARTY!!

After only five years, the annual Bichon Bash has burst the seams of Cricket's Corner! We are searching for a new place to hold our celebrations in the future. If you know of a park or public meeting place that offers lots of parking and a safely enclosed area where the Furkids can run about without escaping into traffic or other dangers, please contact Michele Olivier at micheleoliver@gmail.com or 714 401-0932. We are particularly focused on North San Diego County or South Orange County. This would be central to nearly all our members.

Cricket's Corner was double fenced, and provided a safe environment for the dogs, allowing their families to interact with confidence and ease, knowing the 'kids' were safe. Parking should accommodate at least 300 vehicles. We will need to begin negotiations to reserve the new spot soon to allow us time to plan for next year's extravaganza! We deeply appreciate any ideas you may have. Thank you as always, for all that you do.

Bichon FurKids New Program

The Need:

If you are a member of Bichon FurKids Rescue, you are aware of the number of injured, abused and ill bichons, and bichon mixes, that we take in each year. The conditions under which they are found, the pain that they endure, and their trusting appreciation of any affection and care that they receive makes it imperative that we reward that trust with our best efforts to ease them and offer them a chance at a new and better life.

The costs of their medical treatment runs very high, and the idea of denying treatment to even one of these dogs is just impossible. We are always fund-raising, holding auctions, and trying to be creative in our methods of continuing our purpose of saving and placing healthy happy dogs into loving families. But it is exhausting. Last year we saved over 400 bichons. Every year we gain more name and mission recognition amongst the community, and the number of rescues grows. Which is wonderful - except for the fact that our cost grows but our contributions don't match those amounts.

The "Sponsor a Bichon Program"

That is why BFK is starting a new program especially for the medical costs involved in our endeavor. It's called "Sponsor a Bichon" and it is a program that allows you to pledge an amount of money that would be a recurring monthly contribution to this fund. You can make an enormous difference in the life of a specific dog, or to the care of any of the bichons we rescue.

Our first such sponsor, Cynthia, out of her love for her own FurKid, Lucy, felt that she wanted to make a donation to help with medical expenses for other bichons. She set up a payroll deduction that sends a set amount of money directly to BFK every pay period. Two others of our members, Charlotte and George Ball, make regular donations for bichons in need. This led us to come up with the concept of periodic, set donations arranged thru your bill pay feature, or payroll deductions to sponsor a bichon. All contributions to BFK are tax deductible and even $10 or $25 a pay period would help us to continue the level of care we have always provided. You can make the difference - sponsor a sick little bichon through his period of care. At BFK our dogs are our kids. We can't offer to encourage your sponsored bichon to write to you, or thank you for your generosity. But we can send you pictures, and let you meet your little friend. Wouldn't you like to save a bichon and gain a big snuggle?

Cynthia and her Little Diva, Lucy.

Cynthia is our very first sponsor in the Sponsor a Bichon Program.

Thank you!

Auction Coming Up

If you are cleaning out your closets, attics or storage areas, keep BFK in mind. It's time to start accumulating items for a tax deductible contribution for sale on our bi-annual Auction.

We can sell anything new, anything vintage, just about anything used, from clothing to screwdrivers to jewelry to electronics to household items, such as small appliances and knick knacks, etc.

So - when you do your Autumn cleaning this year, please set aside anything you don't want, give us a call, and we will make arrangements to get it from you.

We can also use gift certificates, vacation packages, services such as house-cleaning, rug shampooing, dog walking, doggie day care. The possibilities are limitless.

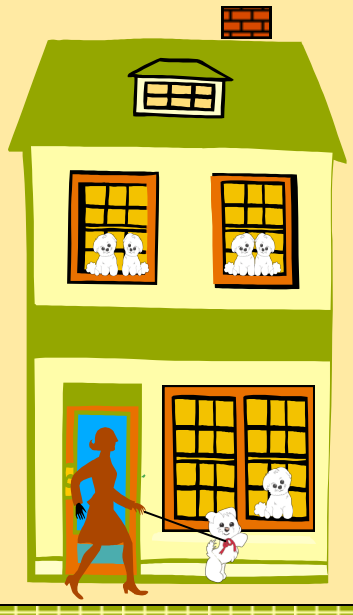
Whatever you can offer we would be delighted to accept. This will help us to generate the money we need to continue our work for Bichons in need of rescue, new homes, medical care, and better lives.

The Auction will be held on EBay this year, and is being organized and coordinated by Mary Anne Wilson, who has been a 'Power Seller" on EBay for a long time. She brings an expertise that is bound to make the Auction even better than ever.

There will be notices sent regarding the dates of the auction. But please, keep BFK in mind if you get involved in any cleaning/organizing projects and look at your throwaways in a different light.

Happy Rescue and Adoptions Numbers

BFK has rescued over332 lost and abandoned bichons since January 1st of this year! As you can see, we are once again heading toward a record year. We are so proud of the work that we do, but we need your help. Volunteers are invaluable, contributions always appreciated, and every referral, or other helpful act on behalf of our little "clients" is priceless . Thank you to each of you for your support.



332 Rescues

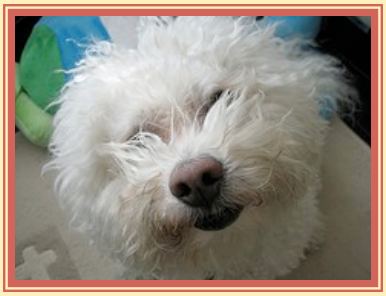
295 adopted with 37 others still in the foster process.

Need a Smile?

BFK is announcing that we have a web page for videos and slide shows. Check it out at www.bichonfurkids.org/videos

We have videos and slideshows of

- dogs in foster care awaiting adoption
- dogs enjoying their forever homes
- events that BFK has been at
- instructions for how you can send us your videos and slideshows



Coming Up Soon

We hope to feature a new section in our upcoming newsletter featuring pictures of dogs we have adopted in their "Forever" homes. A "before" and "after" kind of thing with a corresponding photo gallery web page. We hope to show one or two dogs per month.

Of course to be able to do this we need your cooperation. If you would like to see your FurKid in the newsletter - send us your pictures along with your name and both the name you adopted the dog under and the current name (if you changed it). This issue features pictures and a letter from Lillie about her new family, the Kolkers.

Send your photos to photos@bichonfurkids.org We also love it when you send us funny pictures to include. We like including you and your furkids in the newsletter and wish we received more input from you.

Now Available to BFK Members

We are announcing the upcoming book called "Rover" that we offering as our newest fundraiser and partner. Books will be available in the fall but our members are able to pre-order them now. Debbie Gibb's Snuggles and Savannah will be in it! The book sells for $60 and proceeds from the book go directly to BFK if purchased from our web site.

See more at http://www.andrewgrantphoto.com/dogs_001.html

Use the + and - buttons to see the sample dogs

Deb's Snuggles is at http://www.andrewgrantphoto.com/dogs_013.html

The "Titer Test" -

An Alternative to Vaccines

From time to time, the media warns dog guardians about an outbreak of the deadly parvovirus. Should you rush your dog to the vet for a "booster" shot? Probably not.

Parvovirus is everywhere: in the grass and on the cleanest veterinary waiting room floor. Parvo doesn't need an outbreak. It's ever present.

That's the bad news. The good news is that almost all **adult** dogs who have had their "puppy shots" are immune to parvovirus and also to distemper. (These are the two viruses that are the most dangerous for most dogs.) If your **adult** dog wasn't vaccinated for Parvo, he or she likely has naturally-acquired immunity or would already have fallen ill.

Should you give your dog a "booster" shot, just to be safe?

First of all, there is no such thing as a "booster" shot. Dr. Jean Dodds, one of the most famous proponents of responsible vaccination, once told me: "Immunity is like pregnancy. Either you're immune or you're not." And here's a shocker: if you're immune to the virus, you're also immune to the virus in the vaccine so the "booster" won't work.

Second, vaccination is a big stress on the dog and can lead to complications, including the disease against which you are vaccinating! Vaccinating *unnecessarily* doesn't make your dog healthier. It can make your dog *less* healthy!

Third, if your adult dog doesn't already have immunity, there may be a problem with his or her immune system. Even vaccinating daily won't bring immunity. You need the help of a holistic vet. To find one, check out www.holisticvetlist.com or write me if you live in San Diego and I'll give you some recommendations.

So what should you do to protect your dog? Give your dog a one-time "titer" test to test blood antibodies. The top immunologists in the country have told me they titer test their dogs **once** for both parvovirus and distemper. Make sure the test is given at least two weeks after their last vaccination, and make sure the dog was at least 12 weeks old when the last shot was given. If the test shows your dog has immunity, that's that. No more shots are necessary.

Experts tell me there is no need to repeat this test. Once an organism "learns" how to attack a virus, its cells "remember."

How do I know all this? I'm not a vet. I make no money from your decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate, to test or not test. I interviewed a number of the vets on the American Animal Hospital Canine Vaccine Task Force, the group that changed vaccination recommendations for veterinary organizations

The "Titer Test" - An Alternative to Vaccines

and vet schools all over the country. I also interviewed Dr. Dodds and numerous holistic vets. My own precious fur babies have been titer tested and will not be vaccinated again.

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 FurKids 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.

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

www.Dogs4Dogs.com© 2007 Jan Rasmusen

A Letter From a Bichon Friend

Our family has never had a puppy before, and we would have never guessed that Lilly would have made such a wonderful difference to our lives! She brings out the best in all 4 of us and keeps us active and on our best behavior! Since the first day we got her, our house has been such a calm and happy place. My sister and I hardly fight anymore as we don`t want to scare her and just want to spend every moment with her, rather than wasting our time arguing. She has us going on many walks a day which not only keeps us exercising but gives us more family time to spend together! We have all grown in responsibility, taking care of her, especially my sister and I! She has been a very fun and loving addition to our family and we love her very much! She is the perfect dog for us!! Thank you Marti!

Sincerely,

Danielle Kolker

Lillie, Jackie and Danielle

Take the Dog Food Test

Those big black eyes, that pleading gaze...you know what I mean. Yes, we all give in occasionally and hand our FurKid something as a treat. But, did you know the following? Take the test and see how savvy you are on what is safe and what can be deadly.

1. What fruit should never be given to dogs? Apple__ Grape__ Banana__ Strawberries__
2. If dogs eat this, they can become ill from alcohol poisoning: Oatmeal__ Applesauce__ Bread dough__ Grape jelly__
3. Only a few of these nuts may cause temporary paralysis of the rear legs in some dogs: Brazil nuts__ Pecans__ Peanuts__ Macadamia nuts__
4. Which raw fish can cause poisoning in dogs? Eel__ Sardines__ Bass__ Salmon__
5. This food, often used to "season" dog's meals can cause anemia: Bacon fat__ Onion__ Chicken broth__ Peanut butter __
6. Which artificial sweetener can cause hypoglycemia in some dogs? Saccharine__ Sucralose__ Aspartame__ Xylitol__
7. Raw Chicken bones are more dangerous to dogs than cooked. True__ False__
8. Dogs, especially those fed on strictly dry food with little variety, may contract an inflammation of the pancreas, called "Pancreatitis" if they eat certain foods they are not used to. Which foods are most likely to cause this condition? Raw eggs__ Mashed potatoes__ Sugary candy__ Turkey skin__
9. A common food by-product used in gardens has been found to cause vomiting, tremors, and fast heart beat if eaten by dogs. What is this by-product? Composted vegetable waste__ Peanut shell mulch__ Cocoa bean mulch__ Composted corn husks__
10. Which of the following holiday plants is least toxic to dogs? Mistletoe__ Holly__ Poinsettia__ None of the above__

Find the answers on the next page and score yourself on how well you know how to safely treat your dog.

BFK is now an approved Charity by Chase Bank... This means that any Chase Employee can make a donation to BFK and Chase will make a dollar for dollar matching funds "match" ... up to $1000 per year per Employee. If you are an employee or have family members or friends that are Chase Employees..and you plan to make a contribution, this would be a wonderful way to go about it. BFK would be very grateful.

Take the Dog Food Test

What fruit should never be given to dogs? Apple__ **Grapes X** Banana__ Strawberries__
Both grapes and raisins can be toxic. Some dogs eat them with, seemingly, no ill effects. However, some dogs become ill after ingesting only a few grapes or raisins. The first symptom is vomiting, followed by acute kidney failure, from which many dogs do not recover. As of yet, the toxin is unknown, nor do we know why some dogs become sick and others eat grapes or raisins without a problem.

If dogs eat this, they can become ill from alcohol poisoning: Oatmeal__ Applesauce__ **Bread dough X** Grape jelly__
The yeast-containing bread dough can ferment in the dog's stomach, releasing large quantities of alcohol. Small dogs are most susceptible to this toxicity.

Only a few of these nuts may cause temporary paralysis of the rear legs in some dogs: Brazil nuts__ Pecans__ Peanuts__ **Macadamia nuts X** The ingestion of as few as six macadamia nuts has caused paralysis in dogs. Dogs with macadamia poisoning will appear anxious and have difficulty moving their rear legs. The legs may appear to be painful. Luckily, the paralysis is temporary and clears up within a few days. The causative agent of the paralysis is unknown.

Which raw fish can cause poisoning in dogs? Eel__ Sardines__ Bass__ **Salmon X**
Salmon and trout can be infected with a parasite called Nanophyetus salmincola, a type of trematode worm. The worms themselves can be infected with a type of bacteria known as Neorickettsia helminthoeca. The bacteria only infects canids; other animals show no symptoms from eating it. When dogs eat raw fish infected with this bacteria, they can show symptoms including weakness, vomiting, loss of appetite, swollen glands, and fever. Ninety percent of untreated dogs die. Cooking kills the worm and the bacteria.

This food, often used to "season" dog's meals can cause anemia: Bacon fat__ **Onion X** Chicken broth__ Peanut butter __
Onions and garlic contain a chemical called thiosulfate. When ingested either in large quantities or in small quantities over a long period of time, they can cause an anemia called Heinz body anemia. This is reversible if you stop feeding the onions or garlic.

Which artificial sweetener can cause hypoglycemia in some dogs? Saccharine__ Sucralose__ Aspartame__ **Xylitol X**
This toxicity usually occurs when dogs eat large amounts of sugar-free candy or gum. In humans, xylitol does not cause a drop in blood sugar; in dogs it does. This can lead to weakness, staggering, and other symptoms of hypoglycemia. There is also some evidence that some dogs may develop liver failure after ingesting xylitol.

Raw Chicken bones are more dangerous to dogs than cooked. True__ **False X** The reverse is true. Cooked bones are much more dangerous- they are much more brittle than raw bones and can splinter into sharp shards.

Dogs, especially those fed on strictly dry food with little variety, may contract an inflammation of the pancreas, called "Pancreatitis" if they eat certain foods they are not used to. Which foods are most likely to cause this condition? Raw eggs__ Mashed potatoes__ Sugary candy__ **Turkey skin X** In dogs, pancreatitis often results from eating a very high-fat meal. While dogs that are used to eating a high-fat diet, like sled dogs, can eat pure fat with no problems, dogs that are not used to such foods often cannot. When such a dog eats a high-fat meal, its pancreas overproduces enzymes, to the extent that they actually begin to "digest" the pancreas and inflame it. Common culprits are turkey skin and ham fat. Symptoms include vomiting and stomach pain. This is a medical emergency, and such dogs must be treated by a vet. Some breeds, like miniature schnauzers, are genetically predisposed to pancreatitis.

Answers continue on next page.

Take the Dog Food Test

A common food by-product used in gardens has been found to cause vomiting, tremors, and fast heart beat if eaten by dogs. What is this by-product? Composted vegetable waste__ Peanut shell mulch__ **Cocoa bean mulch X** Composted corn husks__ Cocoa bean shells contain the same toxic theobromine that chocolate does, and are poisonous to dogs for the same reason. The mulch has an attractive chocolate smell that is irresistible to many dogs.

Which of the following holiday plants is **least** toxic to dogs? Mistletoe__ Holly__ **Poinsettia X** None of the above__ Despite common misconceptions, poinsettias are only mildly toxic, and most dogs who eat them will experience no symptoms at all. Some dogs will drool or vomit after eating them. Holly causes intense nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe causes vomiting, diarrhea, neurological problems and heart failure.

If you score yourself 10 points for every correct answer you can compare yourself to the national average of 40 out of 100%. Your dog will score 100% for every answer you learned today. Treats are great, within reason, as long as you know what effect they will have on your dog.

Chef Emeril's Favorites

Wheat-free Tuna Cookie Treats

Ingredients:

* **1 cup yellow cornmeal or 1/4 cup corn flour**
* **1 cup oatmeal**
* **1/4 tsp baking powder**
* **1/2 tsp garlic powder**
* **1 small can tuna packed in oil - do not drain**
* **1/3 cup water**

Instructions:

Grind the oatmeal in a processor to make a coarse flour. Set aside in a small bowl. In the processor, mix the tuna and oil with the water, then add the rest of the ingredients. Pulse until the mixture forms a ball, then pulse to knead for 2-3 minutes. Knead by hand on a floured surface until it forms a soft ball of dough. Roll out to 1/8" or 1/4" thickness. Cut into shapes. Bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet, at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Cool completely

Medical Insurance for your Furkids

WE ran this article on pet insurance in an earlier edition of the newsletter, but we have had some requests for information recently and thought it might be of interest again.

Medical insurance for pets can bring peace of mind. For an annual fee (which can be paid in installments), you can provide your pet with comprehensive medical coverage for diagnostic testing, illness, accidents, prescriptions, surgeries, dental care and even hospitalization. Sounds easy—but selecting the right company with the right plan can be a challenge, for even the most knowledgeable insurance-minded consumers.

Pets Best Insurance 888-899-0402 (www.petsbest.com, seems to cut through some of the red tape, offering reasonable rates and ease of enrollment. Pets Best, founded by a veterinarian, offers an additional optional plan that covers routine care.
Unlike some other plans, once your deductible has been met, Pets Best reimburses 80 percent of the costs—up to the dollar amount you have selected. (Some pet insurance plans cover 80 percent of the fees that they deem reasonable and customary for your area.)
Pets Best requires no pre-authorization. Its *Pets Basic* plan has a $100 deductible per incident and will pay $2,500 per incident with a lifetime cap of $42,500. It has no annual limit, and, unlike some other insurance companies, will insure dogs of any age. (Some policies add additional charges if the pet is older than eight years.)
Pets Best *Pets First Plan* has a per-incident deductible of $75 with a $7,000 per incident limit and a lifetime limit of $100,000. and their *Pets Premier Plan* has a per-incident limit of $14,000 with a $300 per incident deductible and a lifetime limit of $100,000. Again, there is no age limit for enrollment. There are some exclusions for pre-existing conditions—check with Pets Best or check out its website for more information.

Shelter Care (877-707-7297 or at www.sheltercare.com) has insured more than 1,300,000 shelter pets. Created approximately seven years ago, its pet insurance policy covers post adoption health issues, giving peace of mind to those wonderful people who adopt rescued animals from shelters and from rescue groups, such as BichonFurKids. Shelter Care's policies are very reasonably priced and cover a variety of accidents and illnesses.

VPI Pet Insurance 800-540-2016 (my.petinsurance.com) has a variety of plans—each offering different coverages depending upon the price, each with certain exclusions and

limitations, which are noted in its paperwork. VPI also provides its clients with a detailed list of the items it covers and the amount it will pay for each incident. (Its list of diagnostic codes fill pages, and the average consumer might want to set it aside to read at a later time because the volume of technical information can seem overwhelming—there are five separate codes to cover problems with the salivary gland and several diagnostic codes for cage rest.).

The most expensive and comprehensive of its plans is *VPI Superior.* It has an optional rider called *WellCare Premier*. VPI also offers the *VPI Superior Plan* with a *WellCare Core* rider. It you had your heart set on having coverage for certain procedures such as spaying, WellCare Premier is your choice, if you select the WellCare Core rider there is no coverage for spaying.

The company also offers a *VPI Superior plan* without a rider for *"WellCare"* coverage.

VPI also offers a *VPI Standard* with a Rider for either *WellCare Premier or WellCare Core.* Again it is important to read the fine print to note the differences in the specific coverage offered.

VPI will typically have a $50 deductible for every new claim and pays a specified amount for each diagnostic code. Renewing from year to year will insure the same coverages. However if you choose to cancel at any time, then have a change of heart, this will leave you open to a complete review of your pet's medical history resulting in exclusions. You could find yourself paying more for fewer coverages.

This plan will pay 80 percent of reasonable costs (reasonable cost is in bold print) in its policy up to the limit of their liability. There is a six month exclusion after any illness after a claim—the particular illness has to be treatment free for six months and can then be considered eligible again for coverage.

ASPCA policies . 866-282-0905, www.aspcapetincsurance.com have a $100 deductible. Its advantage plan pays $3,500 per incident with a annual limit of $11,000. (The premium for this plan for a 7-year old doggie would cost approximately $105 per quarter.) After a policy holder has paid the deductible

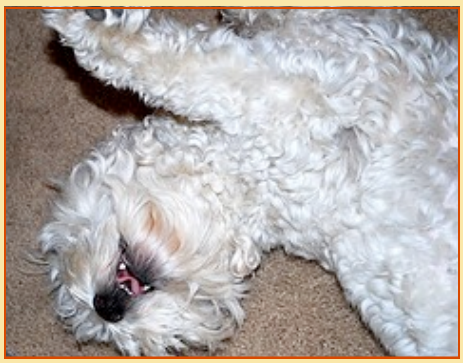
Petco (Petco.com) offers a low cost insurance policy for approximately $14 a month, but is limited to pets 8 weeks to six years. It pays 100 percent coverage with $100 deductible for first-time illnesses up to $500 with a limit of 2 per year. It will pay $1,000 per year for foreign body ingestion that needs to be removed by surgery, a car accident, a bone fracture, accidental

Medical Insurance for your Furkids

poisoning, lacerations, burns, and allergic reactions. It will also pay $150 for advertising or a reward for a lost pet.

There are many choices of companies and plans for pet insurance. Do your homework—pick a company and plan that fits your needs. You may never need pet insurance, but you and your pet may sleep better knowing you have coverage.

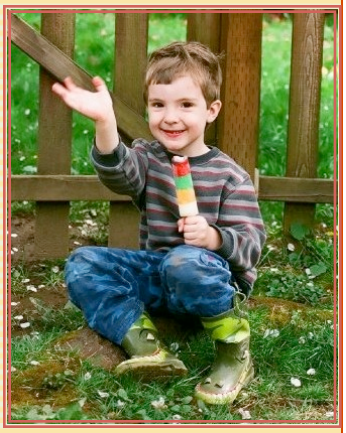
Or at least he will.



Newsletter Mishaps

In editing and producing the newsletter every two months, things always seem to go swimmingly until the last moment when something always happens to cause the newsletter staff to go slightly bonkers. The June/July issue was no exception. I had submitted the completed newsletter to Marti for proofing and approval the day before my husband and I took off in our brand new motor home to visit our grandchildren in Portland, Oregon. I always use my husband's laptop if I am away to make any last minute corrections or changes after proofing. As it happens, I had been between Colorado and California due to illness in the family for the final days of the previous issue (April/May) and had managed to copy the wrong file to my memory stick, so poor Debbie got stuck making all the changes for me. (Again, sorry Debbie) But this time I had everything I needed, double checked and ready. Yes siree! Until we took the grandkids out to the beach on Saturday. We found a nice spot to park; paved, close to the water, perfect.

Marti asked me to print the e-mail I sent to Debbie and her. This is what happened:



Our 'wascal' Wiley

"My grandson dropped my flash drive outside and we backed over it. I know, it sounds like my dog ate my homework but it really happened. Three-year-old, curious and mischievous (aptly named), Wiley, got into the storage baskets in the RV closet and thought my pretty red flash-drive was cool enough to carry around. When lunch happened, he just dropped it and we didn't see it until we were backing out of the campsite. Having already left a folding chair at our first night's campsite, we have learnt to look to see if anything is still sitting there, and I spotted the ominous red splat. So. Debbie could you send me the workable version I sent to you a week or so ago, and Marti could you send me the latest PDF version and I will do a catch up, match up, patch up as soon as I receive them. I may have to ask you to send me a few of the most recent things again, since my backups were on the same stick. Sorry. I know. I'm like having a 12-year-old-boy. But stuff happens and this year is my turn. Judy"

Fun Page

BFK's Fourth in a series of

Approved Dog Houses.

This model features curb appeal and cottage charm. It is also valued at over $8,000.

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

Beanie

Words of Wisdom from the

Legendary Great Zom~beanie

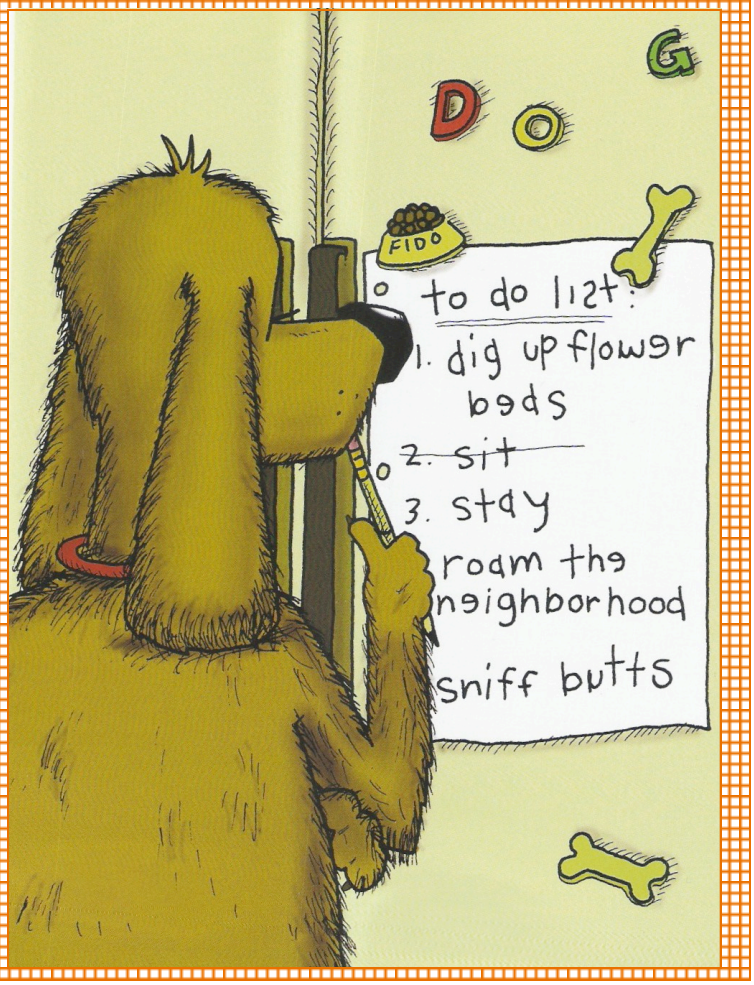
Gypsy Fortuneteller and Seer

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.

All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the 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. Visit our website www.bichonfurkids.org

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 carlsbadamimalhospital.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
drakecenterfor animalhealth.com

Desert Dunes Animal Hospital
Dr. Eric Jackman
42430 Washington St, Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203 760-345-8227
desertdunes.com

Estrella Veterinary Hospital
Dr. Michael Ontiviers & Associates
26925 Camino De Estrella, Capo Beach 92624
949-496-6661 estrellaveterinary.com

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

Huntington Pet Vet
Dr. Allison Naito
20032 Beach blvd, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 714-969-0211
huntingtonpetvet.com

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

VETERINARIANS (continued)

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

Point Loma Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Valerie Cardeiro
1964 Sunset cliffs Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107 619-222-4482
pointlomavetclinic.com/site/view/142819_home.pmt

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

Santa Fe Anima Clinic
Dr. Milton Gee
301 Santa Fe Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
760-753-6512

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

DOG SITTING

The Animal Keeper 760-941-3221
Oceanside
The Animal Keeper 858-748-9676
Poway
www.theanimalkeeper.com for both

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

Dogtopia
925 W. San Marcos blvd., San Marcos, CA
760-471-6888

Pet Buddy (Palms Springs area)
Steven Porter
760-880-5787

The Ritz 4 Pets
Vista serving North SD County
Kim Cyr 760-598-3368
ritz4pets.com

Love Bichons?

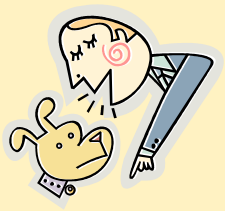
Why not join the Nannie's Network? A co-operative group of fellow Bichon owners and foster parents who trade dog sitting favors with each other.

The Nannies are located throughout San Diego County and hope to add new members in surrounding counties. Contact Hilary Cramer at hgcramer@yahoo.com

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 Cunnington, 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

Beckman's Dog Training
Joel Beckman 760-877-9866
Serving North San Diego County
Positive Reinforcement/Exercise/Confidence/ Aggression reduction/clicker training/In-home training/ Basic Obiedience and Puppy groups
beckmansdogtraining.com

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
aaalajolla@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

Classy K -9 Clips Yvonne
3320 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92123 760-721-1562

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

The Laundered Mutt Mike & Cat
27537 Jefferson Ave.
Temecula, CA 92590 951-694-9274
thelaunderedmutt.com

GROOMING (continued)

Prancing Bichons Linda Blue
1975 Seabreeze Ct,
Encinitas, CA 92024 760-632-1235

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 Bark Dog Wash
2037 30th St, San Diego, CA 92104
619-232-7387
southbark.com

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

Teeth Cleaning

Houndstooth Dental - Nationwide Non-Anesthetic Veterinary Dental Service
Thorough dental scaling above and below the gum line and polishing
877-309-8849
houndstoothdental.com also pettooth-fairy@yahoo.com
San Diego Rep. Rebekah Peterman
760-230-0748 or sunnybrookfarm@att.net

San Diego County - Gentle Dentist
JoEllen Craglione 800-264-3094

Orange County - Pet Dental Care
Richard and Amie Schardt
22862 Via Octavo, Mission Viejo, CA 92691
800-637-5929

CARPET CLEANING

Upstairs/Downstairs

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