December 09/ January 10

BICHONS BITS AND BYTES

A Christmas Tale of Kindness

One of our recent rescues was due to the kind hearted interest that a casual passerby felt for a dirty little dog he caught a glimpse of one hot day out in the desert. If not for his intervention, our little Dempsey may have perished with no one the wiser. This is his story.

On Sunday, November 1st, my wife and I drove separate cars to church due to different commitments after worship services. On my way home, I took a route I rarely use. Why? I do not know. The route I drove that morning is more rural; less populated with automobiles and traffic, but it's a little longer than my usual route.

It was a fairly hot day, even by desert standards, for this time of year--probably low 90's--and I was about two-thirds of the way home (about a 9 mile one-way trip) when I pulled up to a stop sign. As I started to pull through the intersection I saw a dirty, mangy, malnourished brownish-white dog attempting to eat something on the side of the road. He was very tired looking and I immediately pulled over to the side of the road to get a closer look. There was no other traffic, so I got out of the car and attempted to get closer to this poor little guy. He was very scared and quickly wandered away as he saw me approach him. I did get a good look at him and he appeared to be in just terrible condition - hair badly matted, dirty, dusty, extremely thin, possibly limping - but alert. He would not come to me when called and would not let me get too close - he would hop into the bushes if I approached him.

I drove home and immediately called Animal Control in La Quinta where I live. They said the area I described was served by Riverside County Animal Services. La Quinta called them, and they in turn called me. I explained what I had seen and they indicated that they would drive to that address and attempt to pick up the dog. Later that same day I called to inquire if they had been successful and they indicated that they were not.

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The next day, I was taking donations of food from our church to our local rescue mission and I took the same route home that I had taken the previous day. I was not thinking about this little dog at all until I pulled up to the same intersection. Then he popped back into my mind. I thought I would take a look, and see if he might be in the area again today. It was another rather hot day- mid-90's. I didn't see anything and started to pull away when I saw this little animal curled up in a ball in the shade. I was really concerned because I didn't know if he was alive. I pulled over and stopped and got out of the car. Suddenly, his little head popped up and he looked straight at me. As I approached he jumped up and quickly limped away. His limp looked much worse than it had the day before. He was extremely scared, and quite malnourished looking.

I was very concerned for his safety - there was no way this guy was going to be able to take care of himself, get food or water or protect himself from coyotes which are prevalent in the area.

I immediately called Riverside County Animal Services on my cell phone and explained what was going on. The officer said he would be there in 25-30 minutes. I told him that this time I was going to stay with the dog until he got there. He showed up exactly when he said he would and we both tried to gather up the dog. He moved very quickly on just three legs - his left hind leg was obviously damaged. He didn't want to be captured and it took a while for the two of us to finally get the job done. Once he was placed in the truck he quickly relaxed and curled up in a little brown, dirty ball. The officer told me that it appeared he was in terrible shape and may have to be euthanized. I asked him to tell the people in his office to please call me if he was going to be euthanized. I did not want this little guy to die...he had been working so hard to stay alive, fighting for life and it just wasn't his time to leave...it wouldn't be right.

I called the Riverside County Animal Services facility in Thousand Palms several times over the next few days to check on his progress. The people there were very nice. They indicated that their veterinary services had cleaned him up, he was resting and eating and drinking well. No other decisions had been made about his future.

On Thursday, November 5th, I received a call from Priscilla Dewing (I may have the spelling wrong), director of the shelter. She brought me up to date on the dog's status and we discussed the next steps required to help him regain health and also talked about potential adoption. She told me that she had received an e-mail from a wonderful organization called "Bichon FurKids" that rescues dogs in distress and need. She said that Bichon FurKids is willing to help rescues even when they are in bad shape and need veterinary care, and eventually place them in good homes. She felt that this organization would be the perfect fit for her new guest. I was very pleased to hear this.

On Friday, November 6th, I was baby-sitting our 4-year-old grandson, Trevor. I spoke to him about going out to Thousand Palms to "see the dogs and cats". We had never been to the shelter and I wanted to see it and hopefully also get a chance to see the little dog that was in such need of help. Trevor was really looking forward to going. He loves our Scottish terrier, Missy, and was excited about seeing more dogs and cats. We drove out there -about a twenty

-mile drive - and arrived in the early afternoon. We were most impressed with the facility. It was wonderfully clean and very professional looking. The staff was helpful and friendly and really seemed like they enjoyed their work.

We asked about the "little dog" and learned that Bichon FurKids was picking him up that day. We asked if it might be possible to see him. We were told that Bichon FurKids was in the lobby picking him up right at that time. Trevor and I went out to the lobby just in time to meet Karen and see "Dempsey". We had the opportunity to pet him a little bit...he looked so much better than he did earlier in the week. And as I spoke with Karen and learned more about what Bichon FurKids does and what was planned for "Dempsey", I just couldn't believe what I was hearing. What a wonderful organization of caring people. He was (and is) a very lucky little guy.

Sorry, this is so long. I had no idea I would go on and on like I have. Thanks so much, Karen, for picking up Dempsey and giving him so much love. And thanks to you as well, Marti, for your leadership of one of the finest organizations I've ever seen. I still cannot believe what has taken place.

All the best,

Rich Parsons

*Editor's note: Bichon FurKids thanks **you**, Rich Parsons, for the concern you showed for a scared and dirty little FurKid. Dempsey owes his life to you, quite literally, and we are pleased that BFK has been able to provide the surgery necessary to rehabilitate his leg and, in time, return him to health and a forever home. We appreciate the loving foster care that Sandie and Mike are providing Dempsey as he recovers from his surgery.*

If Dempsey's story has touched you and you would like to know more about him and to meet the little guy at the appropriate time, please email marti@bichonfurkids.org .

Dempsey, in true Bichon fashion makes himself at home on his second day in foster care. On the bed and on the couch. What? You got a problem with that?

From Marti's Desk

Welcome to our holiday newsletter and the wonderful world of bichons,

Since this issue is jam-packed with lots of interesting articles and information, I wanted to touch on three things briefly … then give you lots of time to read and enjoy articles about some very special furkids – and some very special people!

As I always do when a new issue of Whole Dog Journal arrives, I glanced immediately at the index to see which articles would grab my attention (there is always at least one that seems to be perfectly timed for what's going on in 'FurKid Land.' In the December issue (www.whole-dog-journal.com) there is a great article called No More Jumping Up. It makes some excellent points about how we humans need to act so that we don't reinforce our dogs in jumping up – and how to proactively manage our pups (who, coincidentally, want the human attention that results from jumping.) There is also an interesting article called The New Holistic Way which is an excerpt from a book by Dr. Paul McCutcheon, a holistic vet. He says that "A veterinarian is a coach who provides expert opinions, perspectives and advice about how to support our pet's wellness." McCuthceon points out that managing stress is the key to improving a dog's health and that as pet owners, we are in the best position to infuence our dogs' well-being and to make decsions that affect their quality of life.

Speaking of managing stress, while some people don't think of the holidays as stressful, others believe they are. Regardless our FurKids pick up rather quickly on schedules that change, people in and out of our lives, perhaps more activity and then there are those shiny boxes, ornaments and trees. (One of our adopters last year had us in tears when she talked about how challenging it was with her new FurKid because the Christmas tree that was inside looked an awful lot like the trees she was teaching him to use outside.) As we hustle through the holidays please be sensitive to how your FurKid is responding to your comings and goings – and you'll have a happier pooch as a result.

We also have exciting news regarding the 8th annual Bichon Bash. (As those who have attended previously can attest, this is a truly special day for those who love Bichons!) For the very first time, this fun-filled event will be held in Orange county! The Bash will take place on Saturday, May 15th at the Irvine Animal Care Center in the city of Irvine. The time is from 11:00-2:00.

From Marti's Desk

We chose the new location to accommodate the growth we experienced with this event – and are very excited about the property and grounds, easy access from the freeway and ample parking. There is also a very nice La Quinta hotel across the street that we will be negotiating with (more on that later and in plenty of time to reserve your room.) If you want to come down the night before or recuperate after the Bash is over you will be able to at a lovely hotel very close to the venue itself.

As with all our activities, the Bash requires lots of volunteers. Please consider volunteering to help with this year's event. Any and all skills are helpful in putting this event together. For more information please e-mail Michele Olivier at michele@bichonfurkids.org.

If you are a recent – or not so recent- adopter we have a request. If you have not done so already, PLEASE provide your FurKid with a name tag ASAP -- one that includes your bichon's name, your name, phone number and address. While you are required to keep the BFK tag on your FurKid, you also need your own tag on your new family member. Every week we get calls from people who have found one of our FurKids that only has the BFK tag on him or her. Then we get to play detective to figure out which little white fluffball has wandered away from his or her home… we are always able to reconnect with the parents but it can be pretty tricky some days. So please help by getting a name tag for your FurKid soon. (By the way, there are name tag making machines at PetSmart and PetCo or you can order them via the Internet.)

We hope you enjoy the articles fellow bichon owners have written, learn about therapy dog training, Miley's update (she survived a coyote attack and six months in quarantine), and enjoy this issue's new recipe (thanks Chef Emeril and Judy!) We invite you to share photos and interesting stories about your FurKids. 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 a very happy holiday season and many healthy, happy years together.

Until next time,

Marti and the FurKids

It's Christmas Time

Let BFK help you while you help us.

This year we have many opportunities for you to find Great gifts for those you love that will also benefit Bichon FurKids Rescue.

Please remember these easy-to-use options.

And Thank You.

Christmas is coming and Amazon.com has just about everything you could possibly want at the most competitive prices. And BFK will share in their sales on everything you buy **if** you access the Amazon website through our www.bichonfurkids.org website. You will find a link on every page of our site. So make each gift count twice. Once for the recipient of your gift and once to BFK.

Or...

For your dog-loving friends page 9 offers two unique and beautiful gifts that both you and your friends would love. Both of these lovely gifts donate their proceeds directly to BFK.

Or...

BFK has also started a new plan by which members can make donations to the medical needs of our special little rescues. It is called the "Sponsor a Bichon Program" and it is an easy way to contribute toward the recovery of some of our injured little furkids. A contribution in the name of a friend or family member may be a perfect gift for those who have everything.

Or…

Bichon FurKids is now on eBay as a Store.

You can find us by accessing eBay at their website: http://stores.shop.ebay.com/BichonFurKidsRescue. We are conducting our auction via this method to make it easier for you to Shop.

We are still gratefully accepting any donations of goods or gift cards to be placed on the site.

Happy shopping and check frequently for new items.

OR…

Shop the BFK website. We offer the Products We Like page and the Shop BFK page.

A Letter From a FurKid Friend

We Rescued Each Other

We lost our 13 year-old dog, Kuma, last May. Kuma was a stray, bearded collie mix, who had been picked up by a shelter in San Diego. It was love at first sight, and I adopted her when she was about 6 weeks old. Kuma was the easiest, sweetest, most lovable dog ever, and I trained her to be a Therapy Dog. We visited the Cancer Center in La Mesa weekly. As you can imagine, her death was a devastating loss for our family, especially for me.

I waited till after our summer vacation to begin a search for our next puppy. Kuma would be a tough act to follow, so I wanted to be sure of a perfect match. With my daughter, Jennifer's help, I spent weeks on-line, checking out shelters and other sites for dogs available for adoption. One day, Bichon FurKids Rescue popped up on my screen. I did my research on bichons, completed the application and home visit, and was approved. I was so impressed with the thoroughness of the entire application process.

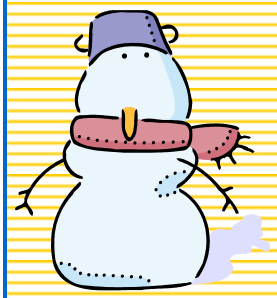
The rest is history. Our Bichon/Maltese mix, then named Juneau by her foster mom, joined our family this past August. For the first week, we tried out other names, calling her Lucy, Lulu, and Daisy. In the end, we figured she was probably confused enough without changing her name, too. We went back to her original name, changing the spelling to "Juno". Although she's a smart little cookie, we didn't think she'd mind. She jumped into our arms and hearts immediately, and has remained there. Although my husband, Howard, was not too thrilled about us getting another pet, Juno has proved to be irresistible. He takes her for daily walks, and she cuddles with him every night on the sofa. Juno is a perfect combination of spunky and energetic, yet cuddly and affectionate. I call her my "fluffy, puffy , puppy". Although she occasionally runs off with one of my slippers or socks, or Howard's pocket comb, she's tough to get upset with. She has the best attributes of both breeds, Bichon and Maltese, and is absolutely adorable. Juno definitely gets by on her good looks.

Our grandchildren, Jessie, 9 and Ben, 7, now love to visit us more than ever. We used to get the first hugs and kisses. Guess who's number one now? Jessie and Ben

A Letter from a FurKid Friend

have become my personal dog trainers, teaching her to sit, shake, stay, and roll over. Juno goes everywhere with us, especially enjoying visits to both our son's and daughter's homes. I truly feel that we rescued each other.

Bobbie Strauss -- and Juno



Dealing with Stress During the Holidays—and Everyday

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, Raised a glass of water and asked 'How heavy is this glass of water?'

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, 'The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.'

He continued, 'And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. '

'As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden.' '

So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow.

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, Let them down for a moment if you can. Put down anything that may be a burden. Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while.

Therapy Dogs

by Jan Greenburg

When Samantha was a little pup, she was extremely mellow, and slightly aloof, to say the least. As a matter of fact, I used to sneak up on her while she was sleeping just so I could cuddle with her. As she matured, she found her true joy in life in chasing after Frisbees and tennis balls, which of course increased our bond, as I was the one that made them fly.

When my Mom broke her shoulder and was recuperating at a rehabilitation facility, I asked if I could bring my dog in to cheer her up. When Samantha and I visited her, it was so heartwarming to see Mom walking down the halls with the aid of her walker and Samantha at her side. Mom proudly introduced Sam to anyone who looked her way, and I began to wonder if Sam would make a good therapy dog.

When Samantha was five and a half years old, her sister, Casey, came to us through NESP. Now there is a dog that lives for affection!

During the time my Mom was terminally ill, I often brought Samantha and Casey to visit her, and the girls always seemed to brighten her day. Samantha, who adored Mom, would come say hi and sit by her in her chair for a couple of minutes until she got too hot (since my Mom kept the temperature at close to 90 degrees) and then would go lie on the tile floor. But nothing kept her from allowing Mom to pet her.

When we got Casey she was overweight and out of shape. Her coat was dry and super thick and so she panted heavily. Casey would come over and sit right under Mom's hand and would stay there for an hour and a half - while my Mom methodically scratched her head. Even though Casey was uncomfortably hot and panting, she wouldn't budge from under that moving hand! I knew she was destined for work as a therapy dog.

During a rattlesnake avoidance training session, one of the team members mentions that they had a CGC (Canine Good Citizen) evaluation going on at the same time. When I investigated the CGC, I saw that they also did evaluations for TDI, (Therapy Dog International). That piqued my interest, and I was excited to have the opportunity, especially with both girls now. So I drove up to Los Angeles with a friend to learn more about it and we made a fun outing of it. We have since returned and had the evaluations – on both girls and myself. We are now certified to work together as a team. This once required both the CGC testing and the TDI, however, TDI no longer requires the CGC as a prerequisite. I personally feel it is an essential part of a Therapy Dog's training.

Therapy Dogs

The CGC tests for some obedience, temperament and basic good manners. Some examples of what is expected are being able to accept a friendly stranger, sitting while being petted, having a stranger brush the dog, walking calmly on a leash, walking calmly through a crowd, sit-down –and stay on command, coming when called, reactions to another dog or distractions, and separation - while a stranger holds the leash and the owner hides. As you can see, these are all important when working with strangers, and that is why I recommend the training for Therapy Dogs.

The following are some requirements that Therapy Dogs are tested for by TDI: Response to wheelchairs and other ambulatory equipment and/or medical equipment, the "leave it" command when food is put down in front of the dog, and response to people walking with uneven gait, breathing issues, coughing, etc. The dog's response/reaction, as well as your ability to work with control and predict your dog is also evaluated.

Local dog clubs and private trainers should have information on training classes for the CGC.

In training Samantha and Casey, I am always looking for new places and situations to expose them to. I also try to increase their social experiences. Good places for this are at elementary schools when classes let out for the day, when there are lots of children, noise, bells, other dogs, cars, etc. Street fairs or Farmers markets are interesting places to walk your dog, as there are crowds of people and other dogs. Living in sunny California, there are many restaurants with patios that allow dogs. Teaching dogs to sit patiently while people around them are eating is an important lesson. Elevators, electric doors, revolving doors are all good things to get your dogs used to. Basically, any place that will allow you to bring your dog inside is a good place to take them. The more unusual places they experience, places that promote a lot of stimulation, the better.

For the past four months, Samantha, Casey and I have been going to a retirement community to visit people with varying degrees of Dementia. When we arrive, there is usually a group of people who have just finished an exercise class in the library area. We spend time visiting with everyone. Sometimes Sam or Casey with wake someone up who has fallen asleep, by gently nudging his or her hand, (as long as the Activity Assistance says it is okay). Then we make the rounds and visit the patients who welcome visits in their rooms. When 'rounds' are over we go back to the group to say good-bye and some final pats. Sometime the girls will perform a few tricks before we leave. We always save tricks for the end, because the girls get their treats when we get back to the car.

Most of the patients love the girls. And the girls really seem to enjoy the people and the attention. I have noticed as the months have progressed, that they seem more focused on why they are there. It is interesting to me to see how the two girls work. Casey just loves people in general; she will stay as long as they pet her. Anywhere there is a hand - Casey will be there. Samantha on the other hand, is friendly, but not the 'Love piggy" her sister is. But she takes the job seri-

ously. She knows she is there to bring comfort and companionship and will make a point of visiting every person, and showing great patience. It is as though she knows what each of them wants from her.

In working with people with Dementia, (or any group of people), you have to respect that they may not like animals. Some people really enjoy the girls but don't want to touch them. In cases like this the girls will just lay quietly at their feet while the person watches TV or reads the paper. That way everyone is happy with the visit.

One woman was unable to leave her recliner. She would sit for hours petting a stuffed animal and staring into space. We had the girls put their paws up on the recliner on either side of her and lay their heads down. The Assistant moved her hands to touch their heads and she was able to pet each of them. This brought a smile to the woman's face – what a great reward!

I have had some wonderful experiences due to the girl's visits. While in a local pet store I was talking with the cashier who told me that she has an Aussie that is also a Therapy dog and they visit the same facility that we do. She told me that on her last visit one of the patients mentioned my girls when she saw the Aussie. The staff and I were thrilled to learn that she had actually remembered.

One of the patients, who loved the girls but didn't want to touch them as it would mean she would have to wash her hands, grew so fond of them that she began to pet them, then later asked for a picture of them with their names on it, and now she proudly displays it in a nice frame on the table near her bed.

The Therapy dog experience has been a reward for all three of us. They love being fussed over and adored, and I enjoy seeing how much pleasure they bring to the people they visit. If you have an especially patient and social dog, you might consider if they might be a candidate for Therapy Dog. Since this article was written we have added a Skilled Nursing facility and Hospice to our visits. And San Diego now has a very active local chapter.

For more information regarding training contact:

TDI – Therapy Dog International

88 Bartley Road

Landers, New Jersey 07836

973-252-9800

Delta Society TDI

580 Naches Avenue, SW

Renton, Washington 90055

425-226-7357

San Diego TDI Chapter 206

Shirley Colman, Facilitator

www.tdi-dog.org

TDI-chapter206@sbcglobal.net

Coming in January— BKF Online Auction

Beginning in early January, BFK will be running our third online auction on cMarket, now known as Bidding For Good.

As you know the costs of medical treatment runs very high, and the idea of denying treatment to even one of our injured or ill rescue dogs is just impossible. To help defray the expenses we incur, we are holding an auction on Bidding For Good. Our last auction was very successful and the monies we raised helped us to heal more bichons. We are hoping that all of you will help us to make this year's even better.

We are always trying to be creative in our methods of continuing our purpose: placing healthy happy dogs into loving families. In 2009 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 costs grow as well.

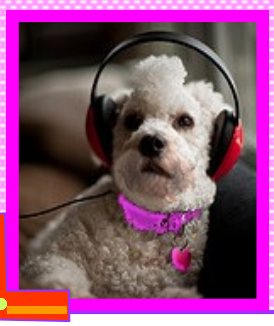
So, if you have any items that you would like to contribute to help forward the auction; and opening 2010 as another successful year; please contact Judy Mondero at judmond@verizon.net.

Examples of great contributions range from new or gently used clothing and accessories, re-gifts of presents you may have received and can't use, any dog items, gift certificates to stores or services, time-shares - in fact - just about anything that you don't want or need. The auction will begin in early January, and we will begin accepting saleable articles as soon as this newsletter is published.

If possible, could you send a brief description of the item (s) you wish to contribute and take a digital photo or two for us to include with the item. Send them as attachments to Judy.

We hope that you will keep BFK in mind as you prepare for the holidays, and take part in our auction. As always we thank you for all that you do to make happy homes possible for lonely little bichons. Seasons Greetings from BFK.

Fluffy's Advice to Ladies:



* **In need of a support group? Happy hour with the girls!**
* **Lead me not into temptation, I can find it myself.**
* **Keep your chin up. Only the first 40 years of parenthood are hard.**
* **Go on the 30 day diet—(I'm on it and so far I have lost 15 days).**
* **I know I am in my own little world, but it's okay. They know me here.**
* **Don't get your knickers in a knot; it solves nothing and makes you walk funny.**

Chanel's Miracle

My name is Rosalie Berger, and I have had quite a year. Between the recession, losing my job, being sole caretaker for my elderly mother with dementia, a series of health problems arising from stress, and all the resultant financial difficulties, my life's started to sound like a country western record!

My only joys in life these days are my adult son, Christian and my Bichon, Chanel. My son lives in San Diego and I in Upland, California, about 110 miles from each other, so we do not see each other that often, but he is the love of my life. Chanel is my love as well - and the constant in my life. She is my loving baby, my joy, and my comfort - no matter how hard things become, she is there for me. I am so grateful for them both.

On October 29, 2009, while getting ready for bed, Chanel jumped up on the sofa, and suddenly appeared to be having an attack of uncontrollable shaking. I wasn't sure what was wrong. I picked her up to help her, but her body seemed limp, and continued to shake. Finally she calmed down enough that I could call the ER and tell them I was bringing her in. She had calmed, but her back legs had become paralyzed! I was terrified. How could this be happening to the sweetest dog on earth and why?

Frantically, I called a friend to assist us to the ER. During the ride, my friend tried to console me, saying Chanel had just had a seizure, and would be ok. I knew in my heart that it was more than that. Being as close to Chanel as I am, I knew this wasn't just a seizure, this was serious. I was scared beyond belief.

The emergency room confirmed my fear...she was paralyzed, and may not walk again. My world was spinning, I was crying uncontrollably, wishing it had happened to me - and not to her. I was angry, frightened, distraught.

The Emergency room staff insisted they needed to know what I wanted done with her. I had two options: to return home with her, or pay an additional $400 (in addition to the current bill), to keep her comfortable for the duration of the night on IV fluids and a sedative. I opted to keep her comfortable, even though I was fearful that she would fret without me. I felt it was better to re-hydrate and calm her, and ease her pain. Fortunately I have pet insurance, however, you have to pay up-front and wait to be reimbursed. This process takes a few weeks and the insurance pays only 50-75% of the total amount, depending on what the policy allows. Even though I have the top-of-the-line policy for Chanel, reimbursements depend on guidelines set up by the insurance company.

I managed to put the $500 charges on a credit card (that I applied for while at the ER). I was in shock that it went through, since I am currently unemployed! But grateful that it did.

By this time it was about 3:45 am and I went home to toss for the remainder of the night. I returned at 7 am to pick her up to take her to her vet. I was an emotional wreck. I was feeling her pain and fear, and all

Chanel's Miracle

I wanted was for her to return to normal. But I worried that she would not. I was so alone, exhausted and couldn't stop crying over my baby, Chanel.

Our vet's office opened at 8:30. I was barely functional. I held Chanel, trying to pour out my love into her, and she looked at me, her eyes pleading, "Please mommy, help me!" When we were able to see the vet, He was insensitively blunt. Saying there was nothing he could do. That she needed surgery.

SURGERY! the words went over and over in my head in slow motion, on so many levels this was scary. But if it was her only chance to walk again? I was crying and pleading that there must be something we could do. The vet said, " I could put her down!" I was beside myself. The vet said the surgery was very expensive and didn't necessarily mean that she would walk again. And that I would need about $10,000 up-front.

First, let's address "I could put her down". There was no way on this earth that going to happen! And I was very angry that the vet even suggested it. I was crying and he looked at me and said, "Look. Don't look at me like that! There is only so much I can do, so don't put pressure on me to fix this. I don't even have a pet of my own. I don't want pets. All I can do is waste your money and keep her comfortable till you decide what you want to do. But she needs surgery". And that was yet another shock! Looking at my vet I saw him as a stranger. He wasn't the caring and compassionate man I had thought him to be. He was cold and business like. I felt betrayed.

I opted to leave Chanel at their offices where they would keep her comfortable, (For a price), so that I could go home and work out what to do. The vet's office gave me a flyer for a Vet Hospital in Irvine, and said that they were "wonderful and my only hope".

As I drove home I thought hard. My primary problem was the money for the surgery. A lot of money that I did not have. Money I could not get. Not through a loan, not through a friend. I was alone. So though I was feeling like a complete failure, I had to try to think of a solution for my Chanel. And pray to God for a Miracle.

Upon returning home, I immediately got on the internet. I bought and downloaded a book on spinal injuries in dogs. I went to various web sites for information, including one for natural health additives to help Chanel, available through a company called "Nzymes". I called my pet insurance company to inquire about "helping me with the surgery". I prepared myself as well as I could, then called the Veterinary Hospital in Irvine California.

A receptionist answered the phone and I told her that I had been referred to them by my vet and that I had pet insurance, and I needed help. She put me on hold, clearly uncaring of my need for some modicum of humanity. When she finally returned, her response was, and this is verbatim, "We need $8000 up front, we do not care about your 'pet insurance' and we will not be able to help you unless you have the money."

Chanel's Miracle

I started crying and begging, "Please, Please I need help. Is there anyone there that can work with me and help me on this?" And I quote again, her response, "Look, don't you have $8000.00? What, you can't put it on a credit card?" Embarrassed and defeated I answered, "No, I can't. I have not worked for almost a year, and I have no one to help me. Do you have anyone there I can talk to? Please I am begging you. I need help. I will do anything you want to help my dog. Please, just please help me." She put me on hold. After an emotional wait, she came back and said that there was just nothing they could do to help me and no one to talk to. "It's $8,000.00 or nothing."

I then asked if there is anyone else who might help me. She said she could fax me some information of various places, but that was all. I asked her to fax the information to my vet. And that was that. Chanel could not get the surgery, no one wanted to help her. She and I had nowhere to turn. I was a wreck. I was a failure. I had failed Chanel. No one cared except me.

It was all about money. It was all about business. It was not about compassion, or offering a helping hand. It was inhumane. It was as though someone had died. I felt awful.

I went to the vet's office and picked up the forms that had been faxed regarding possible assistance. I called every one of them, and no one could help me. What was I to do?

In an emotional need to reach out, I decided to email some of my friends with the news on Chanel. One of them being Marti Colwell, the founder of Bichon FurKids. I have grown to love their rescue website, not only for the good that they do with all of Chanel's bichon brothers and sisters, but because I had been looking forward to one day getting a pal for Chanel.

Marti Colwell = MC= Miracle Chanel.

Marti was my Miracle for Chanel. Marti called me almost immediately and asked why I hadn't called her. She then proceeded to tell me that there was hope. A hospital in San Diego, affiliated with UC Davis, .called Veterinary Hospital She knew two wonderful surgeons there: Dr. Lipsitz and Dr. Stevenson. Marti told me to call Dr. Lipsitz. She was certain that they would help me, and possibly get some help from the FACE Foundation.

Feeling hopeful for the first time that day, I called Dr. Lipsitz and left a voice mail. Within 2 hours that same day, (a Friday), he called me back, anxious to help, and willing to work with me! He said that he would be off till Tuesday, but wanted Chanel diagnosed properly to determine if she was a candidate for surgery. If so, they would find a way, even if it meant a payment plan. He also scheduled an appointment for Chanel and I to go to San Diego the very next day to see his wife, Dr. Stevenson!

Chanel's Miracle

I was so overjoyed it felt surreal!. I returned to the vet's and picked up Chanel. and brought her home. The next day, Halloween, we were at the San Diego Veterinary Hospital - UC Davis. What a difference!

This hospital was so very kind and understanding, both to me and my Chanel. By that time, I had not slept since Wednesday evening. It now being Saturday, the stress and fear had elevated, and I had been crying non-stop for days. Their kindness was such a gift to me and Chanel.

To begin, they confirmed that Chanel would, indeed, require surgery. But they were positive about her prognosis, since she still had feeling in her rear legs, and they felt she would be a good candidate.

They set up a payment plan with me and were able to get me a donation from FACE which would help to defer a portion of the cost. They even looked into my insurance and in the end, they billed the insurance company. I contributed half by opening up another credit card, and paying what should have been my rent payment to them, but knew I would be reimbursed for most of it. My landlord, a wonderful person, was understanding. It was an all day affair, but this hospital - and everyone in it - is wonderful. The caring staff, the great vets - it is the Premier of Excellence!

Dr. Stevenson could not have been kinder or more professional. The front desk and the entire staff was beyond great! I spoke with people in the lobby, and every single person there had great things to say about how I was in the best place and Chanel was in the best hands. Beautiful music to my ears.

They did the CT scan and performed the surgery that evening. It was a success!

I finally slept that night, relieved for myself and Chanel. The next day I ordered the Nzymes and had them sent to my home so I could start Chanel on them upon her return.

The next day Christian, my son, came to lend me support and he and I went to see Chanel. She was so happy to see me, and I her. We visited for a short while, then left her to rest. Christian was sorry that poor Chanel had been so ill, but happy that we had found this wonderful hospital and that Marti had been such a good friend. The very next day, Chanel was released and I could take her home.

It has been three weeks and we just had a visit with Dr. Stevenson. I am happy to report that Chanel is walking. Not far and a little shaky, but she is recovering. She has three more weeks and then she will be released for normal activity!

So, I learned that there is always hope and love. From family and friends. For Chanel and me, it was Marti and Dr. Stevenson and the staff at San Diego Veterinary Hospital. Oh and I finished this article on a special day. Happy 6th Birthday Chanel!

Chef Emeril's Favorites

Ah, the feasts of the Season. Don't feed your dog turkey skin. As tempting as it is, the skin is not only high in fat and hard to digest, but also holds any marinade, butter and oils, or spices used in baking, which can cause stomach upset. Instead, peel the skin off a slice of turkey (white meat is the most bland and usually the best tolerated), then cut into appropriate-sized pieces.

As you prepare side dishes, set aside some of the good stuff before adding all of the cream, salt, butter, wine, etc!

A good substitute for gravy for your dog is a little turkey broth. If you cook the giblets in water for stock, save a little to help moisten meat before you turn it into gravy. Or buy it canned!

If your dog normally eats only "dog food" (i.e. kibble), don't offer up a big plate full of turkey, veggies and potatoes. This can stress his system. Instead, try adding a slice of turkey and a few veggies to his kibble.

If your dog is going to be planted under the table during dinner, place a few "treat cups" around the table. Fill these with small pieces of plain sliced turkey, cooked veggies, pieces of bread - anything sensible.

If your dog is used to a homemade diet, and you feel creative, have some fun. Pumpkin is good for a dog's diet, but make sure it's real pumpkin, and not the filling that is loaded with sugar and fat. The holidays can be enjoyable for every member of the family, even the furry ones! Here is a great leftovers recipe from our chef:

The-Day-After Turkey Omelet

1 egg
1-2 tbsp. mashed potatoes
1/2 cup diced cooked turkey meat
1/2 cup cooked vegetables, chopped
1/4 cup desired cheese, grated

Heat a medium-sized pan with a small amount of olive oil. Whisk together the egg and potatoes. Spread in pan. Place turkey and veggies on top in even layers. Cover; simmer until egg cooks and the mixture is warm. Sprinkle cheese on top, then cook a few more minutes until cheese is melted and egg is golden brown. Let cool. Cut into wedges. Store in refrigerator. Watch your dog's face light up in happy anticipation. Happy Holidays from Chef Emeril.

Some Suggestions on How to Deal with the Stress and Challenges of Life

* *Accept that some days you're the pigeon, And some days you're the statue.*
* *Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.*
* *Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be 'recalled' by their maker....*
* *If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.*

Miley—"The Little Coyote Girl"-Wins her Freedom

By Buffy Schnurbusch

Miley

Six months ago, it seemed like an eternity!

That was the amount of time that Miley, BFK's little "coyote girl" was required to stay in quarantine. But now that time has passed and, as of 11/24, Miley is a free girl! Officially released from in-home quarantine by the rabies control officer at Orange County Animal Control.

Thanks to BFK, this lovely little girl has a new lease on life, after narrowly escaping death row following a harrowing attack by a coyote at a local golf course over Memorial Day weekend.

The BFK Orange County team was told about the little coyote attack victim by one of the adoption coordinators at OC Animal Control. She was brought into the shelter after animal control officers were called to the Miles Square Park golf course in Fountain Valley.

BFK later learned the firsthand account of the attack, when the eye witness contacted us with her story. As the two golfers were preparing to tee off, they noticed a little white dog on the fairway. Within seconds, they witnessed a coyote come from the bushes and snatch her up. Armed with nothing more than golf clubs, they ran down the fairway, shouting and yelling waving their clubs at the coyote. It scared the coyote enough that he dropped the little dog, which was fighting him the entire time. One golfer kept guard over the little white dog, while the other ran to the club house for help … and while the coyote watched patiently from the sidelines, biding his time. Only when the groundskeeper showed up and the little dog jumped into the golf cart, did the coyote wander off, knowing that he had lost his prey.

BFK asked about taking the little girl into our care but, without proof of rabies vaccination, state law prohibited the shelter from releasing her to us. Unless the owner came forward with proof of rabies vaccination, this little girl's days were numbered - as the shelter is not equipped to keep a dog long term.

That's when BFK's OC team went into action! This little girl had a collar & charm and recently been groomed, so she obviously was someone's pet. But there was no ID tag with owner information, nor was she micro-chipped, which would have enabled the shelter to contact her owner. The OC team called local groomers and veterinary offices in the vicinity of the attack, posted shelters in the surrounding area and visited local coffee shops and gathering spots … to no avail. No one recognized this little girl.

Knowing that time was running out, the BFK team went to the media with the story of 'Miley' … given the name due to her being found in Miles Square Park and, referring to Wiley Coyote (of cartoon fame). The goal was to get the word out so that her owner's might see her and come forward with proof of rabies vaccination. The OC Register posted a story online, which was quickly picked

Miley—"The Little Coyote Girl"-Wins her Freedom

By Buffy Schnurbusch

up by several Los Angeles television news stations. Before we knew it, Miley was a local celebrity, and the ground swell of support helped BFK get possession of Miley from the OC Animal Control after her owner failed to come forward.

Miley in her exile

But this victory was not without stipulations. Miley was required to stay in veterinary quarantine for two months, followed by four months in-home quarantine with an approved foster that had no other animals. That is not an easy thing to find with most BFK volunteers! Our wonderful partners at Stonecreek Veterinary Hospital in Irvine agreed to foster Miley for the first two months. Call it serendipity, but BFK received a volunteer application one day before her vet quarantine expired and this applicant had no other dogs! Miley had found her in-home foster for the next four months of her journey!

Miley has thrived in the loving care of her foster mom, Ruth. But solitary confinement is not without issues, and there were times when Miley made it known she wanted to see more of the world! Like a grounded teenager, Miley acted out on a few occasions. Her favorite resting spot was a white wicker crate where she could look outside, dreaming about life after quarantine. And then there were the monthly visits from the rabies control officer to ensure Miley was living up to her quarantine agreement! All passed with flying colors!

So, it was with great delight on Nov. 24th when the OC Animal Control Officer told

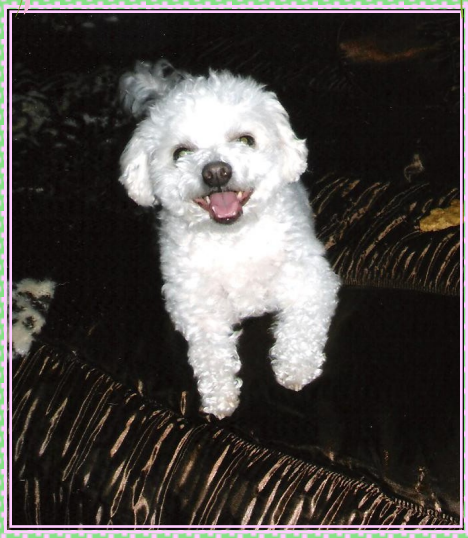
Is this really necessary?

Miley—"The Little Coyote Girl"-Wins her Freedom

Miley she was a free woman! Miley immediately ran and jumped on the bed and gave the biggest smile you could imagine … hey, we have the pictures to prove it!

Miley's foster mom already has taken her "out into the world" and she enjoys riding in the car and meeting other humans and dogs. Miley reluctantly posed for pictures in her holiday dress … she looks as happy as she did about posing in her Halloween costume! But she is a good sport and informed us that her Mom was kind enough not to make her wear the dress too long.

It's probably no surprise that Miley's foster mom, Ruth, wants to keep her and to provide a forever home for this lovely little girl. It's been a long ordeal, but stories with a happy ending transcend timelines. Hooray for Miley! Thanks to Ruth, her foster mom, for hanging in for the long haul. Thanks to Stonecreek, for giving her love and care during the first critical months. And thanks to the many people who donated to her care. It was a team effort that saved this little girl. And one look at her smiling face shows just how much she appreciates all your help!



Thanks Everybody! I am FREE!

For more on this BFK starlet click on any of the following links. Merry Christmas Miley!

http://www.ocregister.com/pettales

http://cosmos.bcst.yahoo.com/up/player/popup/?rn=4226712&cl=13802789&src=news

http://ocpets.freedomblogging.com/2009/11/25/update-dog-attacked-by-coyote-clears-quarantine/26743

Editor's note: Buffy sent us an update: Ruth, Miley's foster mom, is in the process of adopting Miley. She told us that there had never been any questions in her mind that she would do so, but over the Thanksgiving holiday her son came to stay for a visit. He suffered a brain injury during his military service and finds it hard to communicate.

Ruth wrote, " Miley seemed to sense his needs, she was by his side for 5 days. It was amazing..we were worried how she would respond to him..now my concern is how much she misses him. She looks all thru the house for him, has been taking her afternoon naps on his bed, still sensing his smell.. seems depressed..time will help."

Buffy said it is as though having been a victim herself, Miley knew when it was appropriate to give back to someone in greater need.

Now Available to BFK Members

Another great gift idea is a new book called "Rover" that we are offering to our members. 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 www.bichonfurkids.org/Fundraising

Other great sites to shop include our *Shop BFK* page,

Products We Like page, and the BFK Shop on eBay at **http://stores.shop.ebay.com/BichonFurKidsRescue**.

Happy Rescue and Adoptions Numbers

451 Rescues YTD

BFK has rescued 451 lost and abandoned bichons since January 1st of 2009! We are 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 . Most rewarding is fostering. Let a little fluff come into your home as a foster and you won't be sorry. Thanks to each of you for your support.

420 adopted, 67 within the past two months, with 31 others still in the foster process.

How To Stop Your Dog From Barking

Dogs love to bark, just as we human love to talk. Although barking is a natural behavior for dogs, when it is excessive and uncontrolled it becomes unacceptable to those in the vicinity, just as overly talkative people can be irritating. However, barking is one of the most common complaints of dog owners and their neighbors. Luckily, as dog owners we can take measures to control excessive or inappropriate barking in our dogs through proper training. The human factor, not so much.

Like all problems it helps to understand why the dog barks. Often it is due to having had unintentional positive reinforcement as a reward when it was a puppy. For example if the barking was an attempt to get a person or animal to retreat, and that is what happened, the pup viewed it as a success and the behavior was reinforced because no one showed him that the behavior was unacceptable.

There are many reasons for a dog to bark:

- ◊ To express their needs (being bossy).
- ◊ Breed - some dogs are bred to bark (some terriers and hounds).
- ◊ They are staking out their territory
- ◊ To alert other members of their pack (that's you and your family) of impending danger.
- ◊ When playing, just through sheer excitement - this is a very common type of puppy barking.
- ◊ Barking at other animals. It could be squirrels or possums or other dogs or cats...oh yeah, definitely cats!
- ◊ If they are isolated. Some dogs bark excessively when separated from their pack (you and your family).
- ◊ If they are trapped behind some type of barrier like a fence or window.
- ◊ Just for fun!
- ◊ To express dominance (puppies normally test you out at some stage with a display of dominance barking).
- ◊ Because their owners have inadvertently rewarded excessive barking in the past (see above)
- ◊ From boredom or a lack of physical and mental stimulation.
- ◊ They feel stressed or uncomfortable for some reason. Things like feeling threatened or if they don't have an appropriate place to sleep can cause excessive barking problems.
- ◊ Dogs that haven't been properly socialized often become nuisance barkers.
- ◊ May be looking for a response or some attention from their pack.

Another thing to keep in mind is that even though it may appear to you that your dog is barking at nothing, this is not necessarily the case. This is due to the fact that your dog has a much more acute

sense of hearing, smell and sight than us humans. Your dog's excessive barking is most probably being triggered by something.

Ok, now we've sorted out possible reasons for your dog's excessive barking, we just need to work out how to control the problem.

The most important piece of advice to remember when trying to modify any dog behavior problem, is that you must clearly communicate to your dog what is acceptable behavior and what is not. One of the biggest mistakes we make is to inadvertently reward our dogs excessive barking. We actually encourage and reinforce the barking problem when we commit these three dog training sins:

Yelling at the dog—this is actually reinforcing the behavior by giving him your attention. Plus they may think that you are joining in, like a game, and this just leads to more noise and confusion. So no yelling.

Responding favorably to what set them off. For instance, if they are crated and want to get out, or they are hungry and want you to make them their dinner. So you get up and 'obey' their command. Reacting to their barking by giving them a cuddle or a treat is telling them that the barking is acceptable behavior.

So let's get to how to stop all this.

If you give your dog basic obedience training, behavioral problems such as excessive barking are easily controlled. Your dog will look up to you as their firm but fair leader and will be eager to please you in any situation. You can teach your dog the "Stop" or "Quiet" command to help prevent problem barking. When your dog is barking simply say "QUIET!" at the same time as you wave a tasty treat in front of your dog's nose. After you dog is quiet for a few seconds you can then give him/her the treat. Eventually you will only need to say "QUIET!", without the need for a treat.

If your dog barks whenever the phone rings; Desensitize him by ringing your own home phone via your cell. When the phone rings, do not respond in any way, ignore it. It may take a day or two but if you repeat the calls and ignore them, eventually the dog will accept that he needn't bark to tell you that the phone is ringing.

If your dog barks incessantly when you are not home, that is a tough one. I'm not going to pretend this type of barking will be easy for you to control, because in reality it is often a difficult and lengthy process. Always remember that dogs are social creatures, when they are separated from their pack (you) they can become stressed, vulnerable and frustrated. This type of excessive barking is often caused by separation anxiety. Your best results in this will result from good dog ownership basics. Keep your dog well exercised (physical and mental) and provide fresh water, chewing toys and a nice comfortable place to sleep. You can also try to block your dogs view of the street and other distractions or triggers. Basically, make sure your dog is happy.

If you know your dog has been barking while you have been away, you must ignore him for a while when you return home. Your dog believes that his barking is the reason you came back home to him. Go about

How To Stop Your Dog From Barking

your business for a little while when you arrive home, ignoring your dog. When your dog has settled down, *you* then initiate contact with him. Please note this method applies to dogs who were barking at the moment you arrived home.

This training will take some patience on your part. Leave the house as you normally would, but hide somewhere nearby. When your dog starts to bark, sprat him with water or shake a tin can full of coins or rocks in his direction (this is a negative association). Try to keep out of your dog's sight while doing this if possible. If he is quiet for a while, go in and reward his good behavior with some praise and maybe a treat. This process may need to be repeated over and over until you have broken the habit. You must convey a clear & consistent message to your dog at all times. Gradually shape the behavior so that the dog stays quiet for longer periods of time.

If your dog barks to get attention or to demand something from you, your best response is to establish yourself as your dog's leader in the owner-dog relationship you share. Simply ignore your dog. Your dog will no doubt become frustrated and bark a whole lot initially, but once he realizes that it is not getting him anywhere, he will stop. *Warning* - this training method can be hard on the ears for a while! Remember that a dog's behavior that is not rewarded and reinforced will become less prevalent.

Workers such as the Postman or a delivery driver are constantly being barked at and harassed throughout their day. Your dog perceives these type of people as intruders or a threat to their territory. When your dog barks in this situation he is rewarded every time, as the intruder goes away. If possible, you could try to block your dogs vision or access to the area where these people pass by. If your dog consistently barks at a particular person, you may need to use this person to help modify your dogs behavior. If your dog gets really agitated each time the postman arrives. Have a chat to your postman and give him some of your dog's very favorite treats. Each time he delivers mail to your house, he can also deliver a tasty treat to your dog. In your dogs mind the postman goes from being a threat, to a welcome guest.

Use food or a dog toy lure, or a head collar to reinforce quiet behavior. Most dogs will quiet with a settle command such as sit or stay.

Training should be done in areas where there are no distractions. Other devices that are activated by the trainer may help reinforce the stop barking behavior and achieve the quiet. They include such things as shake cans, ultrasonic trainers, and noise devices like whistles, and clickers. There are also devices that are activated by the barking itself. These include bark collars. While these devices may work as a deterrent in the short term, they are most successful if the owner is present to train and reward the dog each time it is quiet. Once you identify the stimuli that initiates barking you can gradually desensitize your dog by exposing him or her to the stimuli, lending your presence, and rewarding its quiet responses.

http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/shelterchallenge.faces?siteId=3&link=ctg_ars_shelterchallenge_from_home_sidetabs

We love getting cute pictures of your FurKids. Please send us photos of posed, candid, funny, sweet, or silly furkids to share with fellow Bichon aficionados.

Janie Rickenbacher never fails us. She sends the cutest pictures of her two, now practically famous bichons, Traveler and Hudson.

She and her husband live in South Carolina, and Janie loves to dress and pose her two very patient and photogenic bichons. Where better to post them than here in the BFK newsletter?

Here's one of mine. You will note the consistent elegance that Hudson and Traveler display? Well, this is my Frodo. He's what we refer to as a Bowery Bichon.

Fun Page

URGENT NOTICE

Potential Danger of Dog Hair.

In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of dogs. This substance, called "amobacter caninii" has been linked with the following symptoms in females: reluctance to cook, clean or do housework, a reluctance to wear make-up, good clothes or high heels. Reluctance to spend money on home or car repairs until after 'Baby' has new collars, leashes, beds, treats, food, blankets or toys.

"Amobacter caninii" usually results in long hours away from home and exhaustion which may lead to a loss of physical contact with other humans (especially husbands and boyfriends).

"Amobacter caninii" is thought to be addictive, driving the need for additional sources - this may lead to a "pack mentality" or like the potato chip commercial, "you can't have just one". Beware! If you come in contact with a female human infected by this substance, be prepared to talk about dogs for hours.

Surgeon General's Warning: Dogs are expensive, addictive, and may impair the ability to use common sense.

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

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San Elijo Hills: 1523 San Elijo Rd. So. #107, San Marcos, CA 92078 760-471-9500

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Amy Hodges, Owner

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Note: Mention Bichon FurKids Rescue and get 10% off of your purchase

www.wholesomechoicepetmarket.com

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Eileen T. Riley

73131 Country Club Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260-2339

760-568-1177

www.ambrosiapetdeliofca.com

DOG SITTING

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

Hiromi & Edward Smelser, BFK adopters
Serving Rancho Bernardo and North
858-618-5455
edwardsmelser@att.net

Joan Danzinger (North S.D. County)
Former BFK Foster Mom and Adopter
760-930-0619

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

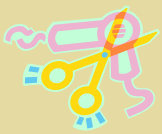
Robbi Reeve (North San Diego County)
BFK Foster Mom
Dog walking, overnights and 24 hour care for small and large dogs 760-518-7257

The Animal Keeper - OCEANSIDE
3532 College Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056
760-941-3221
www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_oceanside.htm

The Animal Keeper - POWAY
12280 Oak Knoll Road, Poway, CA 92064
858-748-9676
www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_poway.htm

Michelle Penix (San Diego County)
Kinderpaws
619-401-6594michelle@kinderpaws.com
www.kinderpaws.com
Training also available with boarding

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

GROOMING (continued)

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

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

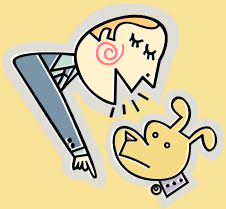
Tails A Waggin Lisa
612 S. Coast Highway,
Oceanside, CA 92054 760-722-0811

Villa La Paws Resort Laura
2734 W. Bell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85053
602-588-7833

Love Bichons?

Why not join the **Nanny 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 if you would like to join the nannies. Bring a bit of fluff into your home for a short time and enjoy the fun.

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

CANINE BEHAVIORISTS
TRAINING — OWNER EDUCATION
(continued)

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
me training/ Basic Obedience and Puppy groups
beckmansdogtraining.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

Michelle Penix (San Diego County)
Kinderpaws
619-401-6594michelle@kinderpaws.com
www.kinderpaws.com

Caitlin Lane
949-690-0386
Dog Training & Behavior Solutions
www.CaitlinLane.com

CARPET CLEANING

Upstairs/Downstairs

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

Teeth Cleaning

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

Canine Care -- Gentle Teeth Cleaning

800-844-3532 (ask for Kim)

They visit various pet salons and shops during the month. Call for dates and locations and make an appointment at one that's convenient for you.

Peace on Earth—Good Will to Man