



February ~ March 2009

## BICHONS BITS AND BYTES

### Our Little Miracle Girl - Alexis



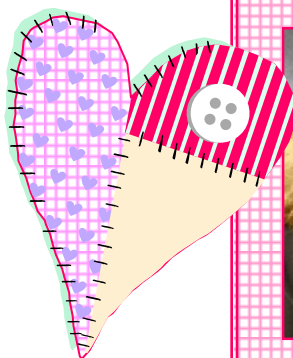
*The homeless man heard her cries on a cold and rainy day last December. He identified the sounds as coming from a nearby dumpster. This kindly man called Animal Control, who poured through the garbage and found a little Bichon girl, hit by a car and thrown carelessly into that dumpster and left to die. The homeless man had a big heart, and our little Miracle Girl had a will to live..*

Little Alexis, almost one year old and weighing less than nine pounds, was taken to the shelter on that rainy night; the next day BFK rescued her. After cleaning her up a little and taking X-rays we discovered that she had a broken pelvis on one side and a broken leg on the other, with plenty of bruises and swelling. She tried to stand to greet us, even though her two back legs did not 'work' and attempted to wag her tail. We knew that we had to reward her courage with the chance for a normal life—so she became our latest little "Miracle Girl."

Alexis is recovering from her surgery. Her doggy foster brothers are motivating her to do what they can do - and learning to walk again.

Our wonderful vets are amazed at how resilient and determined this little Fur kid is. Her prognosis is excellent. When she has fully healed Alexis will join a forever family and live a happy, healthy, normal life—for which we are all grateful.

Read the continuing story of our 'Little Miracle Girl' as written by her loving foster Mom on the next page.



Alexis Our Little Miracle Girl	1 - 4
Veterinarian Tax	4
Benson Finds His Family	5 - 6
Micro-chips	7
Ali and Chelsea A Love Story	8 - 9
Volunteer Op- tions	10 - 12
BFK Happenings	12 - 13
A Hard Won Treasure	14
Felix & Oscar Truly an Odd Couple	15
Rawhide Chews	16
From Marti's Desk	17 - 18
Chef Emeril & The Fun Page	19
People We Recommend	20 - 21



## Alexis—Our Little Miracle Girl

by Joan Russell-Brown

I went to Stonecreek Animal Hospital on Friday morning, January 9th to collect a little girl who was to be my next "foster child". As I sat in the room waiting to talk to her doctor, I wondered what Alexis would be like. This little darling had been through so much...hit by a car and then thrown into a dumpster to die. Fortunately for her an angel in the form of a homeless man heard her whimpers and called for help. Dr. McDonald told me Alexis had come through her surgery well and was recovering nicely, she sleeps and rests most of the time so I should get her up 3 or 4 times a day and make her walk a little.

When she was carried to me her little tail was wagging wildly. Anyone would have thought I was her long-lost friend. I placed her gently in the front passenger seat of my car and we started home. Alexis lay there watching me constantly as I stroked her gently and we talked for the whole trip. When we went into my house, I fixed her bed thinking she would rest there comfortably for most of the day as the doctor said she does.

I have 3 doggies of my own (Benji, Bentley, and Rascal) as well as 4 cats (Sophie, Murphy, Stymie, and Liam). Everyone came to meet and greet the new family member. In her condition, I wondered if they (and their curiosity) might overwhelm Alexis, but she seemed to welcome the company. They all accepted her without reservation. I think all the new "brothers and sisters" have helped Alexis in her recovery. Since her first day in our home Alexis rests only when the others rest as she wants to be a part of all that is going on.

This little girl weighed 11 pounds when she left the hospital and now, a week and a half later, is up to 14 pounds. I suppose she did not eat regularly when she was out on her own, so now she is making up for that. She loves to eat! After quickly eating her own dinner Alexis runs over to see if Benji, Bentley, or Rascal would like to share some of theirs with her. I think they understand that she has had a hard time and is still recovering because they do not protect their food and are willing to share theirs with her even though she has already gobbled up more than what they got. Her skinny little frame will soon fill out.

Alexis was, and still is though to a lesser extent, unsteady on her feet. She likes to follow me everywhere and be as close to my feet as possible, so I walk carefully so I don't trip over her and fall myself or cause her to fall. At first most of her weight was held on her front legs protecting her injured rear legs. As her rear legs are regaining strength





## Alexis—Our Little Miracle Girl

by Joan Russell-Brown

she loses her balance and falls down, but she squirms around and gets right back up, often without needing much help. Alexis has so much spirit and determination. She does not get discouraged. Each day her legs are stronger and now she is able to put weight on the left rear leg and occasionally on the right rear leg also. I have no doubt that she will soon be able to walk normally.

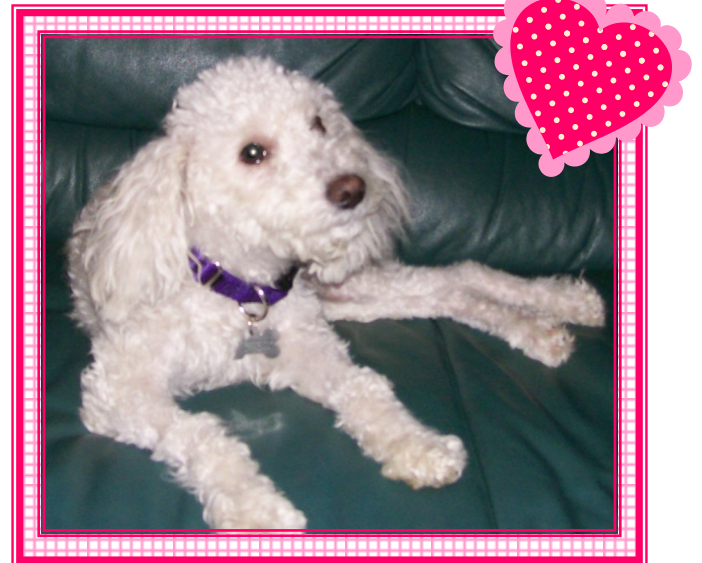
At first when we went on our walks Alexis rode in a little cart and enjoyed being a part of the group in that way. After a few days she wanted to walk with Benji, Bentley, and Rascal. She began by walking a distance of 1 or 2 houses and riding in the cart for the rest of the block, then walking a little on the next block before riding again, and so on. She soon strengthened to the point of being able to walk most of a block before needing to ride a while and then wanted to walk again for nearly another block, etc. We were so surprised and thrilled when a couple of nights ago Alexis walked the whole distance! We always take the cart along and kept thinking she would eventually be tired and want to get in and ride...but she didn't! She kept up a good pace and got applause at the end of our walk for her success that night. She loves to go on walks.

Alexis is now feeling so good and strong that she initiates play with Benji, Bentley, Rascal and Sophie, Murphy, Stymie, and Liam. And they see her as strong enough to play now and do not pamper as they did when she first came. This is good!

This past weekend, Alexis had her first trip to the dog park and she loved it. She even met some new doggie friends, big ones. She is a confident girl who is not at all intimidated by others no matter what their size. She actually ran around, played with her brothers and new friends and tried to catch the ball. She had so much fun and used so much energy that when we got home she

went right to her bed and had a nap. She was exhausted, but it was a good tiredness...she was happy.

Alexis has been very affectionate from the beginning. It always amazes me how, even after people have hurt them, these little ones are so open and responsive to anyone who gives them love and care. Alexis always wants to be right beside me and when I sit down she is ready to cuddle up as close as she can get. She loves to be



talked to, gives kisses freely to anyone willing to accept them and never gets enough strokes. She will be such a wonderful addition to some fortunate family...either one with doggie (or cat) brothers or sisters or one where she would be the center of attention for people who are there for her most of the time!





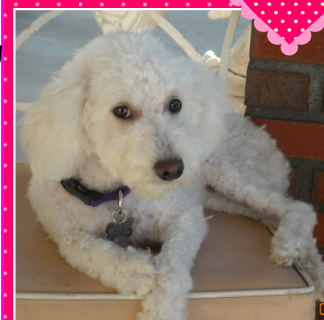


## Alexis

**Late Breaking News in this story:** Here are a couple photos of Alexis after she was groomed today. She is just precious, sweet, gets along well with other dogs and cats. Joan has 4 dogs and several cats and Alexis is just one of the pack of pooches and kitties. When I arrived I didn't realize she was one of the dogs that greeted me at the front door.

If you want to introduce her to some potential forever families, as long as they are ready to help her continue to recuperate, I think she's ready. Joan told me that Stonecreek says she will eventually completely recover. However, Joan also said she'd keep her as long as necessary. Joan seems to adore this little angel....but then who wouldn't love her. Alexis does not put much weight on her hind legs as yet.....cannot walk too far, and sits down most of the time.

Alexis has longer legs, but is rather small in stature....I'd say about 12 or so pounds. She looks rather 'poodle' right now, but as soon as her muzzle and hair on her little head grows out she will be a beautiful bichonny princess.



## Don't Let Costs of Veterinary Services Increase in California

As one way of "dealing" with the current budget crisis, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has recklessly proposed the Fido Fine to extend the sales tax to veterinary services. The Governor just released his 2009-2010 budget proposal, and he hasn't dropped the Fido Fine.

If the Governor gets his way, the cost of veterinary care for all animals in California, including those in families, on farms and in shelters, would go up by as much as 10%.

**TAKE ACTION** Please make a brief, polite phone call to Governor Schwarzenegger at 916-445-2841 to urge him to drop the Fido Fine from the 2009-2010 budget proposal.

When you call, please select your language choice and then press 5 to leave your opinion on this issue. Remember to be polite and professional, and leave your name and address so it is clear that you are a California resident. You can say:

**"Hello, my name is [your name] and I'm calling from [your town] to urge Governor Schwarzenegger to remove the Fido Fine from the 2009-2010 budget proposal. Veterinary care is not a luxury and taxing it will lead to suffering, abandonment and higher costs for local humane agencies that are already overwhelmed and underfunded. Thank you."**

After making your call, please send a follow-up email to your state legislators in opposition to this tax. And don't forget to tell your friends and family in California how they can take action, too.

Thank you for all you do for animals.

Sincerely, Mike Markarian, Executive Vice President, The Humane Society of the United States

**Just a thought: If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?**



# Benson Finds his Family



Two years had passed since I lost my little Bichon and I could not think of him without having my eyes well up with tears eager to flow. I am aware that this is something that we all experience, if we have shared out lives with devoted little four legged creatures, who in turn, give us their total trust and love, and ask nothing in return.

One day, as I was surfing the internet, I just 'happened' to link up with Bichon Furkids Rescue, and thought...."hummm, maybe this is my solution. Fostering is a temporary situation. Perhaps I might be able to help 'foster' these little fluff balls, until they are able to find their special forever homes." Eagerly I filled out an application and was soon interviewed by Jori, a screener for Bichon Furkids. Having passed the first test, I soon was called upon to meet my first foster Furkid.

Benson was a cutie. He had been picked up by the pound and placed in an animal shelter, so when we met, he was eager to gain my love and affection.

Quickly he jumped into my car, and slept on his new bed all the way home. When we arrived, he 'cased' the place, then, decided he wanted to stay. That was ok. He had been through such trauma, that he did need some love and attention.



The sleeping arrangement was a story in itself. The first night, he stayed in his bed, but watched me carefully. I don't think that he even closed his eyes. The second night was the same. The third night, I was awakened at dawn with nibbling on my ear!!!! Yep, you guessed correctly, Benson was giving me little doggie

kisses. Well, there was no use trying. He needed to know that someone cared for his well being, so of course, the fourth night (and all the subsequent nights) Benson jumped into bed and cuddled next to me, as we both dozed off to sleep.



The next step in fostering is to know how the little animal reacts to children. Well, when Benson meet my 2 ½ year old twin grandbabies, it was love at first sight. The three of them dashed into the yard squealing and yipping and chasing each



other. Benson wanted to play with their stuffed animals, or any their toys that he could get into his mouth. To my daughter's delight, he cleaned up the floor as



of

# Benson

the twins " accidentally" dropped food from their meals. Soon my son-in-law arrived and Benson went into 'alert' status. Our concern was needless, Benson ran to greet him with his tail wagging as he dashed across the floor.

Jori soon phoned. "How is Benson?" she asked.

"He is doing quite well", I responded, "but he needs more observation in regard to his reactions to various situations".

"Great", chirped Jori, "we have an interested forever family for Benson, and they would like to meet him soon."

"Oh, ok" I hesitated, "I will keep you posted on his progress".

Well, of course, Benson's story is like so many others. These tiny mounds of fur decide which family is right for them, and the decision is made. I had no choice.

When Jori next phoned, I informed her, "Benson has chosen his new 'forever family' ...and... it is ...me!"

Jori responded with a giggle in her voice, "Oh, my goodness. Are you saying that you have 'FAILED Fostering 101?"

"Well, I guess I have" I admitted smiling, as I sat back in my chair. The soft, white, fluff ball cuddled next to me and nestled his head on my lap. Benson's big brown eyes gazed up at mine and he gave a big sigh of relief.

"Yes", thought Benson, "I have!"



Just a thought:

If Barbie is so popular, why do we have to buy her friends?



## Micro-Chips — Understanding How They Work

Because BKF gets so many dog from shelters, most of them are micro-chipped. If you are unsure if the dog you have adopted has been micro-chipped, you can take him or her to any vet for a free scan. They will then give you the microchip number. You can check your paperwork in the adoption "Welcome Package". These numbers need to be re-registered into your name so that you will be notified if your pet is ever lost. If your dog does not have a chip, (Dogs surrendered to BFK may not be chipped) you can go to a shelter "a Micro-chip clinic" or to a vet. PetSmart and Petco often hold these clinics as do some vets.

### What do I do if my pet is lost?

Contact the appropriate chip company immediately to report your pet as lost.

-- AVID 800-336-2843 or 951-371-7505

-- HomeAgain 888-466-3242

### What happens if I'm on vacation and my pet is found?

Anyone finding a stray pet can take it to a local vet or shelter and they will scan the pet at no charge. They will give you the chip manufacturer and ID and the finder can call in to report a found pet. Both chip manufacturer's maintain a database and will provide the owner information when you provide the chip number. They will ask the finder to provide details including their name, where the dog was found and how the owner can get the dog from them. If they choose to take the dog to a shelter, the shelter can do these steps.

### How do I register my dog's microchip so the listing has my name and address?

With either microchip service, any change of ownership requires a new owner registration. BFK adopters are considered new owners and will need to pay registration fees charged by the microchip companies. When registering their microchip, the new owner should send a copy of their BFK Adoption Contract with their microchip registration form so there will be no question about the change of ownership

**www.avidid.com** Their registry is called PETtrac.

### What is the cost to register with PETtrac?

You pay a one-time fee of \$18.50 (soon to be \$19.50) for a single pet or \$50.00 for all your pets (up to 5 pets). There are no annual fees but there is a \$6.00 charge for information changes.

Get an AVID PeTrac change form at [www.avidid.com](http://www.avidid.com).

**888-HOMEAGAIN (888-466-3242)**

### What is the cost to register with HomeAgain?

You pay a one-time fee of \$14.99 for a single pet for an annual Full Service. After that, you have FREE lifetime limited (tracking) services.

Get HomeAgain change form at [www.homeagain.com](http://www.homeagain.com)

If you have any further questions please look on the BFK website at <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/Applications>

Abbie Rose, a true Bichon is filled with quirks and character. Here she enjoys a cold day in a warm place.

"Ah, I love snuggly warm."



# Ali and Chelsea: A Love Story

by Lorraine Neal

*Where do I begin to tell the story of how great a love can be?*

Those familiar words of a song so aptly describe the story of our two little girls, Ali and Chelsea. I really should however, begin with the hard part... losing a beloved pet that led up to us adopting these little fur kids.

We had another dear little girl, Duchess Bridgett, our first Bichon. She was our introduction to this marvelous breed and our first love. When Bridgett was 18 months old she had to have surgery to remove bladder stones. We carefully checked her at three month intervals as the vet said that she would 'probably' produce them again. Even with regular check ups, one stone somehow lodged itself in her urethra, Bridgett's urine backed up into her kidneys and her body became toxic. In no time, Bridgett began to have seizures and did not even recognize us. This happened in such a short time that we were in shock. Our daughter talked to our vet and was informed of the bleak situation. She flew down from Medford, OR to be with us but we could not be consoled. Bridgett had only been three years old -- and suddenly she was gone. We were just absolutely distraught. We cried for days after her death and would cry at any thought of our baby girl. Then I found out about Bichon FurKids.....

My husband, Richard, didn't want any part of getting another Bichon, as he felt that we should heal before making that step. But I also felt that part of the healing process would be to adopt another bichon right away. Getting in touch with Marti was the first step and in between my tears and sobs I heard her say that she had also had a tearful experience. And she was *so sympathetic*. Marti suggested that we foster before adopting -- and within two weeks we saw a photo of a cute little bichon girl in the shelter and we agreed to foster Chelsea.



When we found out about Chelsea, we were about 60 miles from the shelter where she was staying but we jumped in the car, anxious to help her (and ourselves.) Chelsea was about as filthy as anything could possibly be with chunks of hair hanging all over her body - yet she had been shaved in places

by the shelter staff who thought that was a 'kindness' because of the many mats all over her body. Somehow it didn't matter very much: this was 'almost' love at first sight. I knew Chelsea needed me as much as I needed her.



I took her to the groomer the next day (as Marti had gotten permission to clean her up first and then have her spayed.) When I brought Chelsea home I put on a little red sweater that had been Bridgett's. (It was mid-January and truly cold, especially with the short haircut the groomer had to give her out of necessity.) For the first couple of nights Chelsea slept in a kennel that I put right by my bed; she was such a sweetie. On the third day I was changing the sheets on my bed. When she heard me brushing the sheets (straightening them out) Chelsea started getting anxious and wanted to get on the bed. I picked her up and put her there and she immediately began running all over the bed, rubbing her face on the sheets, and then she started scratching the sheets. Oh my goodness, I couldn't believe my eyes: what Chelsea was doing was the same thing my Bridgett used to do. So I stood



## Ali and Chelsea: A Love Story

there and cried and cried and in between tears I hugged her. Now it truly was LOVE. Chelsea slept in the bed with me that night and every night since then...two years ago.

A couple of weeks went by and I got a call from Marti asking if I could foster another little girl. Of course, I said "Of course"! I went to Marti's that night at 9 pm and picked up Ali. She had just been spayed that day, was shaved to the bone, thin as can be and still groggy. I looked at that pathetic little dog and thought my heart was going to burst. Ali was lying in a new dog bed that Bichon FurKids had bought her. And she stayed there, in that bed, after we got home and well into the next day.



Ali was skin and bones and to make matters even worse, it appeared that she had been an abused dog. She hung her head and tucked her tail between her legs (and there was hardly any hair on her tail)... and was an incredibly sad sight. She, too, was filthy dirty but couldn't be bathed for a couple of weeks since she had just been spayed. It was time for Chelsea to be spayed so the next day I took her in (knowing the girls could 'recover' together.) While Chelsea was at the vet's I picked Ali up, put her in my arms and loved on her. She just melted in my arms and looked at me with sad looking eyes that said to me that she had never been loved like this before. Yes, we bonded that day.

While Chelsea was my little love, Ali quickly became my husband, Richard's, love. He insisted that we adopt her as well as Chelsea as he said that Ali would never be abused again. So yes, we failed as foster parents as we adopted both of them. How could we not??? And yes,

Ali is Richard's bed fellow. She is such a happy and content little girl, her hair is full on her body and tail and really is beautiful.

The two of them (Richard and Ali) are so crazy about each other they are both absolutely silly. He calls her Beautiful and I think she even answers to that name. She is a bichon mix and I suspect she must be part terrier as she can jump 3-4 feet straight up -- and she is also very light on her feet. Ali makes an "aaaarrrrrraaaahhh" sound trying to talk to us and she is very vocal.

Chelsea, on the other hand, is very quiet, stays close by me and loves to play with toys. I call her Baby as much as I call her Chelsea. She also loves to be brushed. She would follow me to the moon with a brush in my hand.

Chelsea is my constant companion and Ali is Richard's shadow. We love them dearly and enjoy them immensely. They are each unique little girls with distinct personalities and a common love: they both love to have their tummies rubbed.



Ali's first day home



Ali - well adjusted and happy

# Volunteer Options



If You Want to Help... We Need You!

Have you ever wished that you could do more to help Bichons find happy forever homes -- but perhaps felt it could be too time-consuming or emotionally draining to fit in with your lifestyle? Perhaps there is something that you can do!

This past year BFK found and placed 420 bichons. This far exceeded previous years and we believe that it was due to a combination of factors.

More people are finding out about us. That's good when it means we meet wonderful adopters (like many of you!) however 25% of all the dogs we 'rescued' in 2008 were also surrendered by their families. Because of the economic downturn, many people are taking on additional jobs, keeping them away from home for longer periods of time, and sometimes leading to the surrender of their dogs. They do so in hopes that they will find families that can give their animals the attention that they need.

A number of seniors are moving into assisted living or skilled nursing facilities, or passing away, leaving dogs that need homes. Sadly, it is rare when family members step up to care for these dogs.

The mortgage disaster has forced many families out of their homes and into rentals that do not allow for pets. This has severely affected the number of dogs being surrendered to local shelters and humane societies. Two bichons were left in a yard while the family moved out in the dead of night; two were left in homes without food or water when their owners moved away. One lady lived in her car and on the street and, while she tried to care for two bichons and keep them with her, she could not provide adequate food or medical attention for them.

And then there are the inhumane Puppy mills have abandoned and released dogs in an effort to escape justice.

These factors are all heart-wrenching, and the condition of many of the dogs taken in this year has been appalling and pathetic. Thank God for the most obvious and important of the FurKid volunteer options. Foster parents.

When you foster a Bichon, or a bonded pair of Bichons, you help them to learn to trust and love again. Bichon FurKids brings you a dog that has been groomed (or sometimes shaved if the shelter gets to the little one first), provides all the supplies you need - including a crate, dog bed, leash, collar and harness, doggy sweater or t-shirt if warranted, a blanket, food and vitamins. We are responsible for all vet fees and supplies - and only ask that our fosters provide love, patience and kindness. If you have another dog, fostering gives your pet an opportunity to make a new friend and have a playmate to enjoy. The interaction between the dogs serves as a security blanket for the rescued dog -- and they learn from their foster furry friend as well.

Fostering often requires that you train them to be housebroken. To make your job easier, BFK provides you with a CD that covers basic dog training. To help with the potty training we include a belly-band for all boys. Belly bands are fabric 'cumberbunds' that hold a sanitary pad, Velcro at the top (for easy on and off) and serve as a deterrent from marking or peeing in the house. (It makes training male dogs even easier than females!)

As a foster, once you feel that your fur kid is ready to begin meeting applicants for his or her Forever Family, there is a bio form you complete. You describe the cute and endearing things you know about your bichon, take some photos and Marti will then write a bio and, with Debbie's assistance, place the bio on the Internet. Jori and Marti screen approved applicants, then forward the applications to you to contact.

# Volunteer Options



If the approved adopters have another dog or dogs, they need to bring the dogs to meet your foster. You will usually meet in a neutral place such as outside your house, around the corner or at a nearby park. This gives the dogs an opportunity to meet and establish their relationship on an even field. If the people decide they would like to adopt your fur kid, the dog seems happy, and you feel that this is the right combination, the approved adopters complete the adoption contract, give you their donation and your little fur kid gets to go home with the people. BFK provides you with a packet that explains in detail all that I have mentioned above. After the dog is adopted you and your family re-establish your usual routine, speak nostalgically and often about the one who has moved on to his or her new life, and, when the time is right, you foster another and help us save a life.

The fostering experience is truly magical and completely rewarding. You watch a little life go from fear, anxiety and loneliness, to a confident and loving dog able to join a loving family. Often you will keep in touch with the family and receive updates and photos of your little friend. With patience, there is no downside to this option.

Another area of Volunteering is to assist with 'shelter checks' for Bichons and Bichon mixes. You have to be able to recognize the breed under the most horrible conditions. Shelters are not deliberately cruel and uncaring, but their resources are limited and vary from shelter to shelter. Once identified as a bichon or bichon mix, we can only rescue that pooch when we have a foster home ready to take him or her. There may be times that you have to leave a dog behind because we don't currently have a foster home available to take the dog. There is a training period when you will work with other BFK volunteers who have the experience necessary to help you learn how to do this important and highly appreciated job.

The remainder of the volunteer needs include the following:

Driver/Transportation - Our dogs need to be driven to groomers, new foster homes and our vets. Generally we can anticipate the need and provide sufficient notice. Sometimes things come up that require an immediate driver. Or you might also be asked to pick up unused crates or pick up/deliver other supplies. Our drivers make it possible for us to help so many bichons and it is a way that you can contribute!

Home Safety Check volunteers - All foster and adoptive homes have to be visited and approved before a dog can be adopted to a family. BFK provides a detailed list of things to look for such as safety hazards, plants that will cause a dog to become sick, fences through which a fur kid can go over, under, around or through - or any signs that the dog would be expected to live outdoors etc. Home safety checks are confined to geographic areas close to your own neighborhood or city, and you can set the schedule as to when you can conduct them.

We can always use 'specialized volunteers' - people who know how to groom bichons, can sew/make belly bands, can sew or knit doggy sweaters and t-shirts or make doggy blankets.

Of course there are always a hundred different clerical or administrative chores that need attention. If you are a great telephone person, or love to work on your computer, love to file or to send out mailings -- or know the Internet and computers extremely well - we can use your help.





# Volunteer Options



And finally, fundraising. If you are a skilled and persuasive fund raiser there is always a place for you. Right now we need someone who can facilitate our online auction. We have the software and know-how - we need someone to manage this important project! If that sounds like you, please call or email Marti (marti@bichonfurkids.org/ 760-525-5556) as she can always use your help.

Remember: if you have time and love to spare, we can use your help in many ways -and you will find that the rewards for helping bichons will bring you lots of satisfaction!

## 2009 Bichon FurKids Calendar Available

This year BFK is offering a darling calendar designed by one of our members. Each month features one of 2008's happily adopted FurKids and tells their touching stories. Pictures of these FurKids in the shelters contrast the healthy happy lives they now lead with their Forever families. Each month's easy-to-read calendar lists all the holidays, a poem or thought regarding the month, an area for notes and a cute picture of a sweet Bichon or two.



The 13 month calendar carries you through January of 2010

**This is one of the major fundraisers of the year and is a tax -deductible donation for you!**

The cost of the calendar is \$15.00 including shipping. There are still some left so, order online at [www.bichonfurkids.org/Home](http://www.bichonfurkids.org/Home)

## BFK Happenings

Bichon FurKids will be participating in the following events and would like to encourage you to participate and support our organization and animal rescue. Here is where you can find us.

### February 2009

#### 2009 Bichon Frise Specialty Dog Show

2/20. Friday, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Free Admission (Parking \$9)

Come and see purebred Bichons at their finest.

#### Silver Bay Kennel Club Dog Show

2/21 thru 2/22, Saturday—Sunday, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Free Admission (Parking \$9)

San Diego's annual dog spectacle, the Silver Bay Kennel Club Dog Show. Check out the amazing breeds: small, large, huge, cute, ugly, prim, sloppy...but they are all lovable. And best of all—admission is free.



See what's coming up in the next months on the next page.

# BFK Happenings

Bichon FurKids will have a booth where you will be able to meet many of our current furkids that are in foster care and ready for adoption at each of these coming events. Watch our website for more details, news, and information about all of our events. We hope that you will join us.

## March 2009

Doggie Street Festival, March 1, in San Diego.



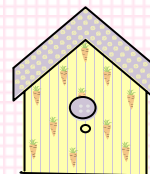
## April 2009

### Orange County Pet Expo

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

America's Family Pet Expo is the world's largest consumer pet expo. This exciting event is your one stop event to see every aspect of the companion animal world. Exhibitors include manufacturers, retailers, groomers, vets, hobbyist groups, human rescue organizations, humane societies, breeders, etc. Almost every kind of companion animal is on display and many are featured in educational demonstrations and seminars. Great shows of dogs, cats, birds, fish & reptiles.

## May 2009



### Southern California Bichon Bash

5/2, Saturday, Cricket's Corner Dog Park, Encinitas, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Save the date: May 2nd, 2009 will be the date of our **Seventh Annual Southern California Bichon Bash!** It will again be at Cricket's Corner, located in Rancho Coastal Human Society, in Encinitas. Our auction will run simultaneously! Anyone wishing to help with the Bash or the auction, please contact Michele@bichonfurkids.org. More details will be posted soon.

**Just a Thought: OK, so what's the speed of dark?**

Joanne Thurow sent us these darling pictures of Abbie Rose, who was certain that she was going to be accompanying their eight year old daughter, Sophia, on her weekend with her grandparents.



And just where do you think you are going young lady? Surely you were planning on taking me as well?

Send us copies of funny pictures of your Furkids and we will print them.

## The Hard Won Treasure

Our first foster was a little squirrel of a pup filled with joie de vie and energy. He came to us, as many do, traumatized and fearful. But happiness came quickly to him after only a few weeks of loving attention and plenty of food, and he was soon well on his way to becoming a normal, healthy, happy little Bichon, as we know them. He found his forever family and we waved goodbye.

Then we got Riley.



We picked him up on Valentine's Day of 2008 at Marti's house. He was a rescue that had been turned in by people who claimed they could not afford to have the wounds on his back, the result of having been mauled by a larger dog, attended to. He displayed typical 'puppy-mill' behavior. He got along well with other dogs but avoided people.

Riley had been placed with a couple up North, that had another dog. He had just begun to adapt when they were informed that their CC&R's allowed for only one dog. When Riley was returned, the head of that rescue group had nowhere to place him. Marti said that she would take him and asked us to foster Riley until we could find him a true forever home.

We brought him home and began the usual methods of patience, kindness, affection and food. Riley was entirely resistant. He cowered and ran to hide when approached. He slunk around and avoided eye contact. He marked everywhere and hid from us when we tried to go for walks. He consumed shoes like they were chew toys and for weeks we despaired of him. He made himself a constant companion of our Frodo, who had always been the spoiled baby of the family. Frodo was not thrilled, but he tolerated him. Our old fellow, Cody, was too old and tired to get involved and took on the role of Riley's mentor and patriarch.

We referred to Riley as "Deadpan". He never wagged his tail or smiled. He only ate after the other two had been served. He spent most of his time either next to Frodo or in one of his pillow beds. He kept mostly to himself. I would occasionally literally chase him down and force him to sit on my lap while I stroked him. While patently unhappy with this, he did discover that he *really* liked belly rubs. He would submit after a minute or more to standing rigidly, but quietly, while I awkwardly rubbed his belly. But, as soon as he could, he would escape to the safety of his bed and watch us all vigilantly.

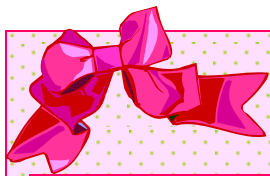
When the time came for Riley to be placed with a family, we found that we didn't have the heart to send him off to start again from scratch. So we committed to be patient with him and hope for the best.

This past year has been a series of baby steps for Riley. He has so many interior scars from who knows what sorts of experiences? But each baby step has been so incredibly rewarding it can't be compared to anything else we have experienced.

After nearly a year he is a kooky little guy. His grin is adorable. He now will come and bark at me and try to entice me into going to the park, or giving them dinner. He plays like a puppy with Steve, pouncing on him and growling. He and Frodo do the buzz two or three times a day. He is so happy, when we come home from the park, or a walk, to see "HIS" house. He is finally secure enough to let us approach him without fear. He begs for belly rubs and comes in every morning for snuggles. He is a happy little guy who is a part of our family and who promises to reward us for years to come with yet one more little sign of the joy that he is learning through love. That will keep the thrill fresh for our whole time together. We all enjoy those things that come to us easily, but the treasure that must be won is always the most cherished. And Riley is a treasure indeed.







# Felix and Oscar

By Barbara Riggs

Let me tell you a little bit about Felix and Oscar. Dianne Petrina and I went to the shelter that morning to rescue five candidates. We were in the shelter office doing the paperwork when they brought three of our future furkids out to us and Dianne left the shelter, taking the three dogs on to the groomer. When the shelter technician brought Felix and Oscar to me, I was "stunned". We knew their coats were in bad shape, 2 inches of thick mats right to the skin. They had dried feces the size of Frisbees....but the shelter had "hosed them off" to try to clean them up, creating wet, slick feces that permeated their filthy coats even more. The shelter tech and I wrapped towels around their sickeningly filthy bodies and put them in kennels in the back of my car. I sat in the car not knowing what to do..so I did what all good rescue women do, I cried.

I called Buffy, Marti, Dianne and Ceta at Pet Vet.... they all thought I'd lost my mind....and I think I had for a few minutes. I'm sure they felt helpless with me blubbering on the phone about these poor little dogs. Ceta told me to bring them in and they would take care of them.

At the time we were calling them Jack and Jill because the shelter thought they were a girl and boy. They were anesthetized in order to painlessly remove their horrible coats. Since Jack and Jill were already under anesthesia, they were neutered at the same time. Yes, that's right both were "neutered"; when the coats were removed Jill was a boy.

I picked them up the next day and the water works started once again..this time for a good reason, they were darling! Or at least to me they were darling. Just about shaved to the skin, but clean, with pink skin showing and much, much happier. Dianne came over and we played with them, gave them treats waiting for AJ to transport them to their foster home in Glendora.

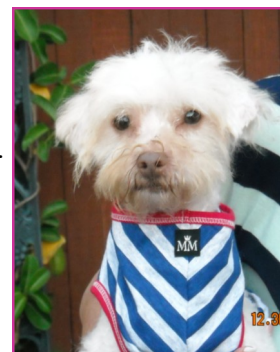
It's been three weeks since we rescued these babies from the shelter.....we're told by their foster Mom that Felix and Oscar are flourishing, eating like little piranhas. Their personalities are appearing, and Oscar even lets his foster Mom occasionally pet him---it took 8 days for that accomplishment.

Oscar is the more skittish of the two. Felix, however, has been a real cuddly love bug from day one. When you cradle him in your arms he is totally at peace.

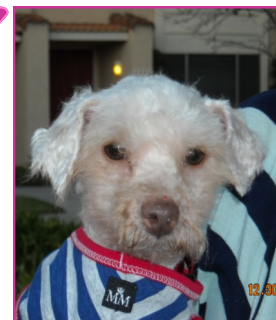
We have reports that their hair is coming in, soft and fluffy.

Late breaking news on these two buddies. After a few weeks, both are well fed, and starting training. It has been determined that they were not so much 'bonded' as bound by difficult circumstances. They are more likely to do well, if each is adopted individually by people who can shower them with the love and affection they each crave so much and been so in need of. See their updated pictures on our website.

[www.bichonfurkids.org/available\\_dogs](http://www.bichonfurkids.org/available_dogs)



Felix



Oscar

## Health Warning — Rawhide Chews And Your Pets

Warning about giving rawhide products to your pets. BFK recently received this letter from one of our members:

*I wanted to share a recent experience that we had. I purchased something by the name of "Bully Sticks" These are sold in most pet stores and also online. Bully Sticks look like a stick that the dogs just love. I had no idea what they were made of when I was purchased them. Bully Sticks are made of 100% bull penises. Not a tendon and not processed meat strips. They are dried and smoked.*

*In my opinion, these are the cause of a recent illness that our 6-year old bichon had. He started to become very lethargic, stopped eating and completely stopped drinking. For four days he was in and out of the vet's office. They tried numerous things. Fluids under the skin, blood work, IV fluids, antibiotics and then more IV fluids. The Doctor still did not know what caused this issue.*

*While I could never be definite, there is the issue of what was different in the week leading up to this issue - and the only answer I know to be true is this Bully Stick. So I am writing this simply as an opinion and a commitment that I will not feed any of our four Bichons these ever again. Charlie has recovered but it was very difficult to see our happy go lucky dog so down. I do encourage all of you to be aware of what you give your dogs as treats.*

*Sincerely, The Gilbert Family, Owners of Charlie, Dylan, Moxie and our "newbie" Pumpkin*

\* \* \* \* \*

Debbie Gibb addresses this recent letter with further information she has compiled regarding rawhide chews.

Pets with a history of vomiting, diarrhea, allergies and who are on a special diet should generally not have rawhide. The material in the rawhide probably is not a problem for most dogs, although some can be allergic to it, and we all know it is fairly common for Bichons to have some allergies.

The real problem is that some dogs have a tendency to swallow too large a piece of the rawhide — and it can get stuck in their esophagus, stomach or intestines, requiring it to be removed surgically. So, rawhides are particularly dangerous for dogs who prefer to swallow rather than chew. While rawhide can become slimy and swallow-able, but it can also be easily lodged in the bowel if not chewed into small pieces. If you want to give your dog things to chew on, please watch them the first few times they chew one and make sure they CHEW (rather than try to 'down' the whole thing in one gulp.) Also - avoid the rawhide chews and bones with the knots on the ends. Dogs have been known to chew the knots off and choke to death when they get caught in their throats. The knots also cause complications in their stomachs and digestive systems when swallowed whole. You can buy the rawhide that has been "minced" then pressed together which isn't so hard on dogs (it is known as compressed rawhide). CET chews are recommended by many veterinarians as a plaque preventative and are made of compressed rawhide.

Always supervise your dog while he/she is chewing a rawhide product. If the chew becomes small enough then discard it, as a dog attempting to swallow a rawhide can die of suffocation. If you choose to give your dog rawhide products, choose natural rawhide that is free range, hormone free and produced in a way which is fit for human consumption. If you notice your dog vomiting a clear or yellow bile, it can be a common symptom of a dog whose stomach is having a negative reaction to product. As always, if you have a question, please check with your veterinarian.



## From Marti's Desk



Welcome to our winter issue which spans both Valentine's and St. Patrick's Days. It is amazing to us that 2009 is already underway - and I think that you will enjoy our Valentine's story - the miracle of Alexis!

Last year was an amazingly rewarding one. Bichon FurKids rescued and adopted 420 bichons and bichon mixes last year. We honestly were so busy rescuing that we didn't know how many little fur kids had crossed our paths - until it was the end of the year and Debbie Gibb helped us to tally up the numbers (and organize our database in the first place.) While we started off the year with 18 adoptions in January and 25 in February, once we hit our 'stride' in August and through December we adopted between 44 and 48 fur kids each month!

Our adopters came from Canada, Hawaii, Nevada and Arizona - as well as Northern California. The majority, however, were from San Diego County followed by Orange County, then Los Angeles and Riverside counties. Of the dogs that we adopted, 115 were surrendered by their families. The greatest number of dogs came from the Orange County shelter as a result of the amazing teamwork and dedication of Barbara Riggs and Buffy Schnurbush, Board Members, followed by the San Diego team led by Board member Debbie Gibb. We saved 107 puppies and placed senior dogs (age 10+) - and many who were missing limbs, eyes or had been badly injured but who found loving homes with amazing people and families.

I share these astounding numbers with you because it is only with the support of our bichon-loving community that we can be successful. And we ALL want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of what we do. We also owe a huge thanks to Michele Oliver, another Board member, who fostered TWO bonded pairs in addition to her own two bichons to help us get through a challenging time. And now Michele is starting to organize the 2009 BICHON BASH - so please mark your calendars for Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> and SAVE THE DATE. We'll be sending more information in the next newsletter!

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

We often are asked about which foods to feed bichons. And we all have our favorites. Linda Rowe, another Board member and our breed expert, has shared her guidance with us on food and all kinds of things. We also appreciate the thoroughness of the articles in The Whole Dog Journal ([www.whole-dog-journal.com](http://www.whole-dog-journal.com)) and its annual Top Wet/Dry Foods for the year (The wet food product review is in the Jan. 2009 issue so please check it out if you would like to know more. The Dry Food evaluation will run later in the year.) The January issue also reviews homemade low fat diets. And in the February issue there is an article on Health Insurance for your dog. I can't wait to read that article as I have insurance for one of my fur kids (and not the other two) and I'm weighing the benefits of having vs. not having it. If you have experiences regarding pet insurance that you want to share, please contact us and let us know the good and the bad - so that we can all learn from one another.





## From Marti's Desk

Earlier this month we were sorry to say good-bye to board member, Eileen Davinroy, who started our newsletter (now ably created and managed by Judy Mondero) and chaired our online auctions. Eileen was also single-handedly responsible for identifying, rescuing and often grooming the 45 bichons that came out of Riverside, San Bernardino and Moreno Valley in 2008. We already miss her and her contributions as she takes time to devote to her family. We hope that we will find, among you, someone who will help us in that corner of Southern California - and someone who would love to help us manage our most important fundraisers. If either of those sounds like you, please email me so we can talk further ([marti@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:marti@bichonfurkids.org))

And we welcome to our Board the new San Diego team leader Kim Moore, who has hit the streets running with no let down in sight. Kim brings new ideas and excitement to the Board and we are grateful to have her assistance.

We hope you enjoy the articles our volunteers have written, learn about the joys of fostering, like hearing about happy adoptions and enjoy the new recipe (thanks Chef Emeril and Judy!) We also invite you to share photos that you have taken of your fur kids as we would like to include more photos in future newsletters. Got a cute or funny photo to share? Please email it to [info@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:info@bichonfurkids.org) - and we'll get it Editor Judy right away! For all of you who have adopted a fur kid or two... THANK YOU!!! May you and your little fur kid share many healthy, happy years together filled with doggy kisses, belly rubs, long walks in the sun, breezy rides in the car, happy bichon buzzes and all the love you ever wanted.

Until next time,

Marti

## Happy Valentine's Day to All Dogs' Moms and Dads

Before I was a Dog Mom: I made and ate hot meals unmolested. I had unstained, unfurred clothes. I had quiet conversations on the phone. Even if the doorbell rang.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I slept as late as I wanted. And never worried about how late I got to bed or if I could get into my bed.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I cleaned my house every day. I never tripped over toys, stuffed chewies or invited the neighbor's dog over to play.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I didn't worry if my plants, cleansers, plastic bags, toilet paper, soap or deodorant were poisonous or dangerous.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I had never been drooled on, chewed on, or pinched by puppy teeth.

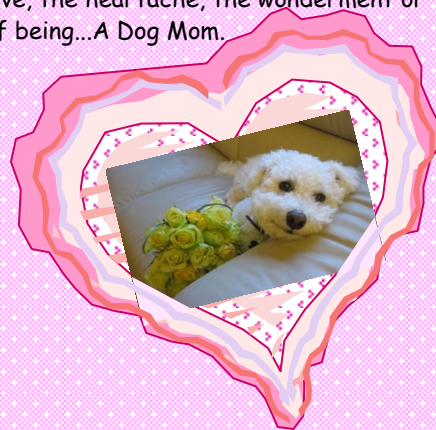
Before I was a Dog Mom: I had complete control of my thoughts, my body and my mind. I slept all night without sharing the covers or pillow.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I never looked into big, soulful eyes and cried. I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I could not stop a hurt. I never knew something so furry and four-legged

could affect my heart so deeply.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I had never held a sleeping puppy just because I couldn't put it down. I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was well. I didn't know how warm it feels inside to feed a hungry puppy. I didn't know that something so small could make me feel so important.

Before I was a Dog Mom: I had never known the warmth the joy, the love, the heartache, the wonderment or the satisfaction of being...A Dog Mom.



# Fun Page



This is the only sort of dog house BFK would condone. Inside and elegant. We will be running a series of these over the next year. You won't believe the \$20,000 doghouse with marble interior that you will see. But sorry, it's outdoors so it's not worthy.

## Barkin' for Brownies

### Ingredients

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 1/4 lbs Beef liver or chicken liver | 1 Clove garlic        |
| 2 Whole eggs                          | 3 T Peanut butter     |
| 2 C Wheat germ                        | 2 T Whole wheat flour |
| 1 C Cooked barley                     | 1 T Olive oil         |
|                                       | 1 t Salt (optional)   |

*Sweets for the sweet.*

Pre heat oven to 350.

Liquefy liver and garlic clove in a blender, when its smooth add eggs and peanut butter. Blend till smooth.

In separate mixing bowl combine wheat germ, whole wheat flour, and cooked Barley. Add processed liver mixture, olive oil and salt. Mix well. Spread mixture in a greased 9x9 baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes or till done. When cool cut into pieces that accommodate your doggies size.

Store in refrigerator or freezer.



## People We Recommend

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

### VETERINARIANS



#### **Animal Medical Center—East County**

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

[amcofeastcounty.net/default.aspx](http://amcofeastcounty.net/default.aspx)

#### **Carlsbad Animal Hospital**

Dr. Lauren Bauer & Associates  
2739 State Street, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
760-729-4431 [carlsbadanimalhospital.com](http://carlsbadanimalhospital.com)

#### **Cypress Avenue Animal Hospital**

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

#### **Drake Center for Veterinary Care**

195 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA 92024  
760-753-9393  
[drakecenterforanimalhealth.com](http://drakecenterforanimalhealth.com)

#### **Estrella Veterinary Hospital**

Dr. Michael Ontiviers & Associates  
26925 Camino De Estrella, Capo Beach 92624  
949-496-6661 [estrellavet.vetwuite.com](http://estrellavet.vetwuite.com)

#### **4 Paws Animal hospital**

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

#### **Oceanside Veterinary Hospital**

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

#### **Pacific Beach Veterinary Clinic**

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

#### **Pearson Animal Hospital**

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

#### **Pet Vet Animal Health Care Group**

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

### VETERINARIANS (continued)

#### **Rancho Santa Fe Veterinary Hospital**

Dr. Deirdre Brandes  
6525 Calle Del Nido,  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067  
858-759-8797 [rsfvets.com](http://rsfvets.com)

#### **Stonecreek Animal Hospital**

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

#### **Telegraph Canyon Animal Medical Center**

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

### GROOMING



#### **AAA Pet Professionals** Terry

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

#### **Alcala Pet Care**

Alison  
1273 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024  
[www.alcalapetcare.com](http://www.alcalapetcare.com) 760-436-6619

#### **All About Animals**

Lenise  
5622 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037  
[aalajolla@gmail.com](mailto:aalajolla@gmail.com) 858-459-4583

#### **Angel Grooming**

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

#### **A Pet's Best Friend**

Chris & Diane  
3251 Greyling Dr., San Diego, CA 92123  
[apetsbestfriend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apetsbestfriend@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.apetsbestfriend.biz](http://www.apetsbestfriend.biz) 858-278-1909

#### **Bostone's**

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

### GROOMING (continued)

#### **Classy K -9 Clips**

Yvonne  
3320 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92123

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](http://www.kmdoggrooming.com) 619-427-0341

#### **Karen's Custom Grooming**

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

#### **La Paws Grooming**

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

#### **Puppy Love Pet Grooming**

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

#### **Raining Cats & Dogs**

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

#### **South Paw Dog Wash**

Telly  
34155 PCH  
Dana Point 92629 949-248-9910

#### **Tails A Waggin**

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

#### **Villa La Paws Resort**

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

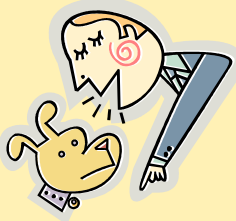


## People We Recommend (Continued)

### CANINE BEHAVIORISTS

#### TRAINING — OWNER EDUCATION

**Problem Solving & Behavior Modification**  
Group and Private Lessons



#### **Doggie Tech**

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

#### **K-9 Connections: Training by Nicole**

Nicole Andrews 760-438-3644  
Behaviorist, Agility

#### **My Canine Coach,**

Stephanie Houfek, BA 714-234-1111

#### **Pawtopia Dog Training**

Colleen Demling, CPDT 858-361-8962  
[www.pawtopiatraining.com](http://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](http://www.solutionsPets.com)

#### **The Uncommon Canine, Inc.,**

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

#### **Mild to Wild**

David Feliciano 714-333-6770  
Anxiety, aggression, behavior, housebreaking, good manners.  
TroyMcClureog82@yahoo.com (Put Attn:David on the subject line)

#### **Cool Dog Training and Doggy Day Care**

Lynne Sorrentino 951-676-9677  
35581 Glenoaks Rd, Temecula, CA  
Positive training and loving day care  
[Cooldogtraining.com](http://Cooldogtraining.com)

### CARPET CLEANING

#### **Upstairs/Downstairs**

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

### DOG SITTING

#### **Mimi's Pet Sitting Service**

Ruth Clifford  
Oceanside, CA 760-757-0940

#### **Sun Dawn Pet Care 858-722-6191**

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

#### **The Animal Keeper 760-753-9366**

Encinitas  
[www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc\\_encinitas.htm](http://www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_encinitas.htm)

#### **The Animal Keeper 760-941-3221**

Oceanside  
[www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc\\_oceanside.htm](http://www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_oceanside.htm)

#### **The Animal Keeper 858-748-9676**

Poway  
[www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc\\_poway.htm](http://www.theanimalkeeper.com/loc_poway.htm)

#### **The Ritz 4 Pets**

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

#### **Lil' Friends Obedience Academy and Pet Sitting**

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



#### **Love Bichons?**

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

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

Contact Hilary Cramer at [hgcramer@yahoo.com](mailto:hgcramer@yahoo.com)

Membership is free.