October/November 2009

BICHONS BITS AND BYTES

Mindy Plays A Lamb

As my latest little "foster kid" had just been adopted, we had room in our home for a new one. This little foster was a sweet Bichon girl who had belonged to an elderly lady, forced to surrender her to BFK when she moved to Elder Care in Oregon to be closer to her family. Since we had been in Mexico working with a mission church, and since Mindy was in a temporary foster home in Carlsbad, we decided that we would 'collect' her on our way home rather than having a volunteer make a trip.

As we drove home, I wondered how she would adjust to our home. She had been with her previous owner since she was a young puppy. No need for concern...Mindy walked into our house as if she had always been there, proving that she is a very self-assured and confident lady. My 3 boys (Benji-- a 12 year old Havanese Bichon, Bentley--a 5 year old Maltese, and Rascal--a 2 year old Maltipoo) greeted her and introduced themselves.

One by one Mindy got to know my 5 cats. At first she thought they were toys to be chased, but now has gotten to understand that they are also her brothers and sisters. She is still not sure what the tortoises are...we think she thinks they are like walking rocks.

Mindy had been the pampered companion of an elderly lady. She did not get out for many walks and was fed from the table, (probably all day long). As a result she was not able to fit through our doggie door, but was very good at telling me when she needed to go outside and never had an accident in the house.

Life has changed for Mindy. She now takes two walks a day and is eating properly...the good results are already beginning to show (the doggie door is no longer a problem for her) and Mindy has lost five pounds, regaining her girlish shape.

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Mindy's Successful Audition

Mindy loves her daily walks! As soon as she sees me lift the leads she gets very excited and is ready to go. She walks so well...just as a well-trained doggie should. When we walk around the neighborhood, we often stop to talk with some of the neighbors. Everyone comments on how well-behaved my doggies are. And on hot summer evenings many of the neighbors, complete with their children and dogs, sit out in the front of their houses. Mindy enjoys meeting the other dogs and the children, who always give her lots of attention.

We met our friends, the Evans family, when we lived in San Diego. Donna Evans and I became close friends. After 8 years in San Diego we moved back up to Orange County. About 5 years ago Donna's husband died of cancer. Her work as Librarian at the local school was a blessing, as it gave Donna something purposeful and meaningful to do with her time and took her mind off her loneliness. Then last year; that school closed leaving Donna feeling "lost". She has always loved coming to visit with us. On one of her visits she began volunteering at Santa Fe Springs Christian School where my husband Richard is the principal. Finding a new purpose, Donna comes to work in the library and take part in teaching the Bible stories during chapel time.

Mindy had been with us for a week when Donna came to visit. While she was here Donna was to tell the children the story of The Good Shepherd and the Lost Lamb. As soon as she saw our Mindy, Donna said, "She looks just like a little lamb!" And indeed her body was shaped like a lamb, she has a little bobbed tail, and beautiful soft white fluffy hair like a lamb. Donna asked if I would bring Mindy in to the school to be the lamb in the story. Mindy thought she would like to do that!

Mindy and I stood outside in the foyer. When Donna began to tell them about the story she said that she had brought a special friend, "a little lamb", with her today. As loudly as I could I began making a "baa-ing" sound and Mindy and I walked in. I lifted Mindy up onto the platform where Donna stood - Donna asked the children to note Mindy's beautiful fluffy hair, short bobbed tail, and lamb shape. Then began to tell the story. Mindy sat down and I sat on the steps beside her. She loved being the "little lamb" quietly looking from side to side at each of the children, smiling. Towards the end of the story I lifted Mindy down and sat on a chair in the front row with Mindy quite comfortable on my lap.

When the kindergarten class was ready to leave, their teacher asked if the children could pet Mindy. They got down on their knees and talked to her, felt her soft hair, and some even gave her big hugs. She made the most of her "acting debut" and I think would have gladly given out interviews and autographs if she were able to do so! Mindy absolutely loved all the attention.

Mindy's Successful Audition

The kids even gladly gave up their recess time so they could spend more time with Mindy and have a couple of pictures taken with her.

The people in the office heard about Mindy, so I decided to bring her to visit them. On our way we met the junior high students and they all had to take a break to meet Mindy.. More fans for this special girl! Of course, the people in the office thought she was the most beautiful and well-behaved girl they had ever met.

When we walked back to the car we met some of the children who were at recess and came running over to see Mindy. She was just as happy to see them as they were to see her. She was like a magnet, attracting anyone in sight and winning them all over easily. Mindy thinks the school is the best place ever!

People have said Mindy would be a wonderful therapy dog because of her sweet, loving, calm nature and I think they are right. Just having her around would make anyone feel better - I love being the foster mom of this precious girl

Editor's Note: On Saturday, October 10th, Mindy was adopted by a wonderful lady named Charlotte. She now has a bichon brother named P.J. and a bichon auntie named Virginia and , of course, a loving mommy named Charlotte. We all look forward to more Mindy updates over time.

Mrs. Blazer's kindergarten class of Santa Fe Springs Christian School enjoying Mindy's company.

From Marti's Desk

Welcome to our October - November issue and the wonderful world of bichons.

As we enter the last few months of the year, we want to bring your attention to two important health and wellness issues for bichons. The first has to do with dental health and the second with weight.

With the advances in modern veterinary medicine, our bichons are living longer, happier, healthier lives. At BFK we want you to be sure that your bichon's mouth stays as healthy as the rest of his or her body. (Dental disease affects up to 80% of pets over the age of three.) Infected gums and teeth aren't just a problem in the mouth where tartar and bacteria originate; the heart, kidneys, intestinal tract, and joints may also be infected – and silently damaged. Regular dental care can help you to avoid some serious problems. If your bichon is an adult over 3 years of age, please schedule a dental check up. And please note that many veterinarians offer dental 'specials' during certain times of the year. November through February are favorites with the vets.

Another health concern has to do with weight. While most of the bichons we rescue are at less-than-ideal weight, it is easy for them to gain more weight than they need to support a healthy lifestyle. With a few extra pounds your bichon will cause his or her heart to have to work harder – as well as cause him or her to experience joint problems caused by the extra weight. This can eventually cause degeneration and inflammation of the joint tissues and cause your bichon to be in chronic pain. There is no doubt that a few extra pounds can be hard on the body and lead to a shorter life for your bichon. With the holidays approaching and an increasing awareness of calories, please look at what your bichon is eating and how much exercise he or she is getting (every day!) and decide if you have a good weight and wellness program for your FurKid. You may need to add more exercise and reduce the amount of food you provide – but it's worth it if you can extend your bichon's life and quality of life. Foster Mom Joan Russell-Brown did just that for Mindy and helped her to lose 5 pounds in just three weeks, by providing exercise, reduced fat diet and no table scraps! Food for thought….

We also have some exciting news. BFK NOW HAS AN EBAY STORE! You can find all kinds of interesting things and great bargains – and contribute to the wellbeing of some FurKids, too. Please bookmark and visit this link frequently as new auction items are added every week. http://stores.shop.ebay.com/BichonFurKidsRescue. 100% of the proceeds from our auction go to caring for our rescued pups. Please contact maryanne@bichonfurkids.org if you have items you would like to donate for our auction.

From Marti's Desk

In this month's Whole Dog Journal (www.whole-dog-journal.com) there is a great article called Good Growling. It makes some excellent points about the value of growling as a means of communicating with you, letting you know when he or she is uncomfortable and unable to cope – and how to evaluate the stressors in your dog's life. And there is an article called Passing Fancy (or how to teach your dog to walk calmly past other people, dogs, bicyclists etc.) I think I'm going to read that article, out loud, to at least one of my FurKids!

If you are a recent – or not so recent- adopter we have a request. PLEASE get a name tag made for your FurKid with your bichon's name, your name, phone number and address. While you are required by our contract to keep the BFK tag on your new FurKid, you also need your own tag on your new family member. (By the way, there are name tag making machines at PetSmart and PetCo or you can order them on the Internet.)

We hope you enjoy the articles fellow bichon owners have written, learn about the joys of adopting, the rewards of fostering, and enjoy this issue's new recipe (thanks Chef Emeril and Judy!) We invite you to share photos of your fur kids and interesting stories about them. Got a cute or funny photo to share? Please email it to info@bichonfurkids.org – and we'll get it Editor Judy right away!

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

Until next time,
Marti and the FurKids

All Buzzed Out!

Christmas is coming!

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 13 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.

FurKids on the Loose—Adventure or Hardship

Please remember that if you have adopted a FurKid from BFK, he or she most likely has a microchip with an identifying ID number. The microchip is a little bigger than a piece of rice, and not visible to the eye. It is injected in the shoulder of your dog and its ID number is registered to BFK (we call it Lo-Jack for Bichons)!

All too frequently, someone finds a little bichon who has slipped out for an adventure and calls BFK because the organization is still listed as the responsible party. This means that somebody, (who like yourself, is busy) has to leave home and family to go pick up your FurKid; from wherever it has been found. At a moment's notice—then try to find you, the FurKid's owner.

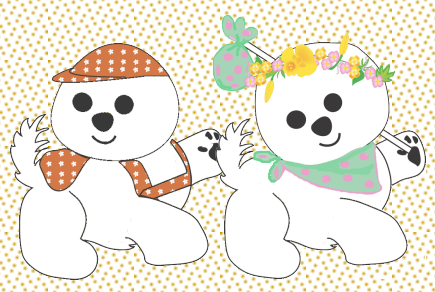
More than likely your Bichon has not wandered too far from your home, but could be a long distance from the volunteer, who is able to go and 'retrieve' him or her.

This can easily be avoided if you will take these simple steps:

1. If you did not receive information regarding the microchip number and you believe your FurKid has been chipped, you can go to any PetSmart or veterinary office and ask them to scan your dog. They will then provide the number and the chip manufacturer information. There is NO CHARGE for this service.
2. Then you need only go online or contact either:

   AVID 800-336-2843 /951-371-7505 or www,avidid.com

   or HOMEAGAIN 888-466-3242 www.public.homeagain.com



3. AVID's registry is called PETtrac. You pay a one-time fee of $19.50 for a single pet or $50.00 for up to 5 pets. There are no annual fees but there is a $6.00 charge for information changes. You would then request an AVID PeTrac change form.
4. With HOME AGAIN - 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. You will request a HomeAgain change form if your residence or information changes subsequently.

When registering a microchip, you, as the new owner, will need to send a copy of their BFK Adoption Contract, along with their microchip registration form so there will be no question about the change of ownership. Both chip manufacturer's maintain databases of dogs and owners and will provide the owner information when you provide the chip number.

If your Furkid becomes lost and some agency, vet, hospital, shelter etc. reads the microchip, 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. In many cases the good Samaritan who finds the furkid may know the dog's name and other relevant information.

We would be greatly appreciate if your FurKids wear a collar that includes a name tag with your address and phone number, and that you make certain that the chip is registered properly. you must also leave the BFK name tag on your dog's collar. No one wants to lose their little love, but it does happen. So protect your FurKid and your heart and be sure that he or she can be returned home to you once again.

Remember please be sure to get a name tag made with your contact information and transfer the microchip ID so that it reflects your own information.

A Letter From a FurKid Friend

by Heidi McNeal Staudenmaier

My daughter Kate and son Jacob have wanted to get a dog for several years. Jacob has allergies to regular dog hair; he has been enduring allergy shots on a weekly basis for the last 2 years just so we could consider getting a dog! I told Kate that if she really wanted a dog, she would need to do all of the research and work in figuring out what kind of dog might work for Jacob's allergies. Kate did a lot of research into breeds and the Bichon proved to be perfect. Plus, her two best friends, (Tess and Sofie) have two bichons and Kate was very familiar with their friendly and wonderful personalities.

Kate (in the Teal shirt) shares Bentley's time with her *BFF's* Tess and Sofie.

After considerable internet research, Kate happened upon the Bichon FurKids website. She filled out the application forms (with my permission, of course), and the process began. She and her friends, Tess and Sofie, would review the website on a daily basis (and sometimes hourly) to see what dogs were available for adoption. If they had their choice, they would adopted them all! After several weeks and many discussions with the wonderful Bichon FurKids coordinators (particularly Jori), we arranged for a visitation with Samuel. A darling little bichon boy.

Kate and I decided to drive all the way to La Palma, California to meet Samuel at his foster home (about 5 1/2 hours drive from Phoenix]. Jacob opted to stay home with my husband. But the long drive was well worth it! It was love at first sight. Samuel immediately went to Kate and sat on her lap. Everyone knew instantly that it was a perfect match! Kate renamed Samuel "Bentley" because one of Samuel's foster brothers was named Bentley and she loved that name.

In just a very short time, Bentley has adjusted to our home and neighborhood. He has already had "play dates" with Tess and Sophie's bichons, Trax and Lucky. The three of them love each other. Bentley also has plenty of other dog friends around our neighborhood that he can visit and play with. He loves to take walks and see everything that is new for him. He also got to

A Letter From a FurKid Friend

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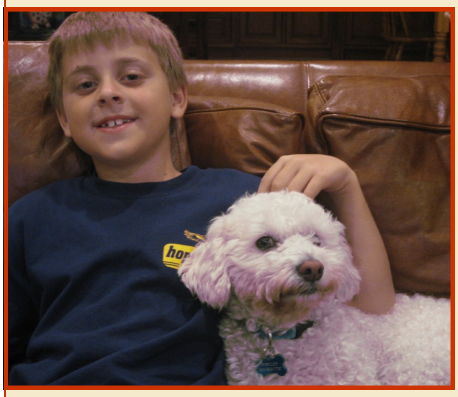


take a bike ride with Kate and her friends. He is friendly with everyone, and everyone that meets him immediately falls in love with him.

Jacob is doing great with Bentley. He has had NO allergic reactions whatsoever. We continue to be so thrilled with Bentley and he has become a loving member of our family.

We feel so very fortunate to have found Bichon FurKids and were overwhelmed and amazed at all the time and effort that everyone took in helping us find the perfect match.

Bentley's foster family (Joan, Richard and their 3 dogs, 5 cats and 2 desert tortoises) was absolutely amazing, and I could tell it was bittersweet for them when we decided to adopt Bentley. They were happy that he had found a good Forever home, but also sad to be losing him.

Bichon FurKids is a wonderful organization and we will be sure to recommend it to everyone we know. We are thrilled that we helped rescue such a sweet and loving dog such as Bentley and we are so appreciative of everything that Bichon FurKids did for us. Thank you again for everything!!!

With love from Phoenix, Arizona
Heidi, Bill, Kate, Jacob and Bentley

Kate and her friends chaperoning a bichon play date.

Jacob happily able to enjoy his new friend without having any allergic reactions.

Jacob and Kate with Bentley. These two both worked hard to achieve their wish for a dog.

Editor's Note: If you hadn't put it together, Bentley 's adoption was what made it possible for the Miss Mindy of our first story to make her debut as a lamb.

Only two Months to Christmas!! Check out Bichon FurKids - 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.

Raisins Are Deadly for Dogs

Read the warning in this very sad story written by a veterinarian.

This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen at Med-Vet. My patient was a 56-pound,five-yr-old male neutered lab mix. He ate half a canister of raisins somewhere between when the family left for work and school on a Tuesday and their return. He began vomiting with diarrhea and shaking after midnight, but the owners didn't call my emergency number until 7 a.m. the next morning. I had heard somewhere about raisins *AND* grapes causing acute Renal failure, but I hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her bring the dog in immediately.

I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me – had heard something about it, but...Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at one and a half times the normal maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.

The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal being less than 27.) and his creatinine was over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. We rechecked the renal values at 5 p.m. I felt that the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values continued to increase. He was on three different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. The owners elected to Euthanize after a few days and the dog was put down. This is a very sad case - great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin.

Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk.

Poison control said as few as 7 raisins or grapes could be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats including our ex-handler's. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.

Onions, chocolate, cocoa, avocados and macadamia nuts can be fatal, too.

Written by: Laurinda Morris, DVM, Danville Veterinary Clinic, ,Danville, OH

Alexis the Miracle Girl

My name is Joan Russell-Brown and, among many other things, I am proud to be a part of the BKF rescue group serving as a foster Mom helping to find loving, forever homes for sweet little dogs who have seen some difficult times.

If you read our Bichon FurKids Newsletter for the months of February & March 2009, you may remember an article I wrote about one of my "foster kids", Alexis, who was sometimes called the "little dumpster girl". We prefer the nickname "little miracle girl". If you haven't read this heart wrenching tale, take the time to go to Newsletter Archives on the Home page and read about the courage and forgiveness of this darling little girl.

I am very protective of my little ones and screen prospective adoptive parents closely, doing all I can to see that my foster "kids" are placed in a home that will be perfect for them, where they will be happy, secure and loved, bringing much joy to their new family.

My little Alexis met and was adopted by a wonderful couple called Janis and Bob Plummer (who passed all my tests with flying colors) and their daughter Patti (and her 2 cats), who lives with her parents. Alexis went to live in her "forever home" with the Plummers in February of this year.

The Plummers were able to see past Alexis' injuries and the healing that was still ahead of her. They recognized her wonderful spirit and the great addition she would be to their family. The Plummers have been so good in keeping me informed about how our little girl is doing. I really appreciate that because these doggies steal my heart and I always feel a connection to them. I want to share the good news I received regarding our "little miracle girl" again.

Janis wrote:

We now call Alexis, Lexi. She has brought so much love and happiness to our family. Our daughter Patti also loves her so much...always buying her new toys when she comes back from the pet store. My husband, Bob, thinks Lexi is the best little girl. She is such a happy little dog, she brings smiles to us all.

At first she followed me everywhere...I think she was afraid of being left behind. She is now able to let me go into another room without following me. Patti has taught Lexi to sit, lie down, and stay. I have taught Lexi to do the same with hand signals and she is so patient, waiting until I give her the signal to eat.

Alexis the Miracle Girl

Three weeks ago Lexi had her first vet visit since coming to live with us. Our vet commented on how smart she was when she asked her to sit and lie down. She also said she could tell that she gets plenty of exercise, because she has a healthy heart rate and her muscle tone is excellent. She weighs 13.4 lbs. and the vet says we should keep her there.

Lexi loves everyone and people love her back. She has a boyfriend, Bob. He was rescued off the streets by his new owner, who tried unsuccessfully to find his original owner by advertising and checking with several SPCAs. Bob now has a happy home also.

Lexi loves to go on walks and play ball. She is so sweet and loves to cuddle with whomever is sitting down. No one is perfect and Lexi had a difficult time learning to be housebroken. And she sometimes forgets herself and chews on our rugs, but our love for Lexi is so strong that the rug lacks too much importance. After all it can be replaced. Lexi is so special she is irreplaceable.

Patti wrote:

Lexi will run around in circles and figure eights for several minutes when it's time for playing ball ! (Editorial note: We call that the Bichon Buzz.) She has sooo much energy compared to when we first got her. I sometimes have trouble keeping up with her. It seems Lexi really paced herself while recovering from her injuries, but now she is able to do all the things any other dog can do. When she's happy to see us, she jumps at least a foot off the ground! Occasionally she will revert back to walking only on her front legs which she did often when she first came to live with us, but only for a second or two---then she remembers she has good back legs too.

Lexi with one of her favorite toys, Pink Baby, which she likes to carry around the house.

She is such a blessing to our family, you have no idea. I fall in love every time I look at her and I know the same goes for my parents!

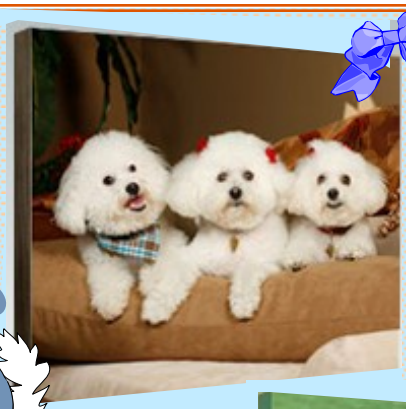
Fluffy's Advice to Ladies:

- **Aspire to be Barbie ~ That girl's got everything**
- **If the shoe fits ~ buy them in every color.**
- **Take life with a pinch of salt ~ A wedge of lime and a shot of Tequila**

Great Ideas for the Holidays

Turn Pet Photos into Works of Art

Gift Certificates for your dog loving friends or relatives would make great gifts.



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

PETS ON CANVAS USA
Saving lives. Finding homes. Making a difference.

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

For Information on this new service go to www.petsoncanvasusa.com/bichon and Remember, when you purchase your new piece of art featuring your FurKid, BFK will receive a donation that will enable us to help other bichons.

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**.

How You Could Save Your FurKid's Life

There are so many opportunities for a curious Bichon to get into trouble. Your most valuable contribution for your pet in any emergency situation is to be calm and be able to respond quickly. Here are a few things that you can do now, to give yourself that edge should an emergency ever arise:

- Call your veterinarian's office to ask where they typically refer emergency patients. Insure that it is a 24-hour facility.
- Drive by the facility so you are familiar with the best route and where the emergency entrance is located.
- Prepare a first-aid kit especially for your FurKid(s) and keep it updated. The list of items should include:
    - The number of your vet, the emergency facility and if necessary the number of someone who can cover for you while you are away from your home attending to your dog's need. Perhaps discuss with a neighbor the possibility of driving you to the vet in an emergency situation. If he or she has pets you could both pledge to be available in emergency situations.
    - A heavy towel or blanket that you can use for comfort and protection.
    - Tweezers for the removal of splinters, glass, burrs, or ticks
    - An antibiotic ointment.
    - A disinfectant for wounds
    - Benadryl for any allergic reactions
    - Gauze bandages and tape
    - A sterile saline eyewash for flushing eyes
    - Something to use for a muzzle to avoid any bites.

Your calming presence is very important, as is your caution in handling your frightened FurKid. Pain or fear may cause them to bite, so use a towel or a blanket to swaddle them and wrap a soft cloth around their muzzle. It won't hurt them and may save you from a painful bite.

How You Could Save Your FurKid's Life

Car accidents:

If a car hits your pet, call your vet immediately. Even if they show no signs of distress, internal bleeding may be occurring. If they have any wounds, infection could be life threatening.

Try to have someone else drive you to the vet, or ER, if possible. That way you can comfort your FurKid. Wrapping him/her in a large towel or blanket will help you to soothe and protect at the same time. If your FurKid is unconscious, have that person help you to move him onto a large towel and use the towel at a sling to carry him/her out to the vehicle.

Giving yourself this edge of preparedness could mean the difference between life and death for your FurKids. Hopefully, none of us will ever need to use these suggestions. If you have any additional suggestions please send them in to us at www.bichonfurkids. org.

Chef Emeril's Favorites

Turkey Balls

(These are so good you may want to try them yourself!)

1 loaf uncooked bread dough or pizza dough
1/4 cup turkey broth
1-2 tsp. flour
3/4 cup cooked turkey, cut up small
1/2 cup cooked vegetables
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 grated cheese
1/4 cup sesame seeds

Roll out the dough and cut into 3 inches circles with cookie cutter. In a saucepan, combine the broth and flour, stirring until flour is dissolved and mixture thickens. Add the turkey, veggies, and garlic powder. Cook until mixture is heated through. Let cook a bit.

Spoon one to two teaspoonfuls of the turkey mixture onto each circle. Fold up the sides and pinch shut. Roll into a ball shape. Mix the cheese and sesame seeds in a small bowl. Roll or sprinkle each ball with the mixture. Arrange the balls on a cookies sheet. Cook in a preheated 375 degree oven for 10-15 minutes, until they are golden brown. Let cool. Store in the refrigerator.

How You Can Help BFK to Fund Its Rescues

Ralph's

If you shop at Ralph's and have one of their Reward cards, that card's purchases can automatically provide credits toward Bichon FurKids. If you don't have a Rewards card but shop at Ralph's, cards can be acquired for free from any Ralph's.

Once you receive your card, you need only to go to www.ralphs.com, click on "sign in/ register" and if you are new to their website sign up as a NEW CUSTOMER, in the SIGN UP TODAY box.

You can sign up for a Ralph's account by entering your zip code, clicking on your favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password. Then you enter your Rewards card number and personal information, agreeing to the terms and conditions, and click on "Complete Registration". Ralphs will send you an email asking you to confirm that you are who you said would be at this email address and you should open it and click on the link located within the email.

When you open the link you will see "my account" and can click there. Use your email address and the password you created to proceed.

Click on 'Edit Community Contribution Information" Put BFK's member number (NPO number 91702) in the space then click 'Search". Select us from the list and save.

Your purchases will only be directed to BFK if you use your Reward Card at the cashiers. If you use your phone number for i.d. it will not register on BFK's behalf.

Chase Bank

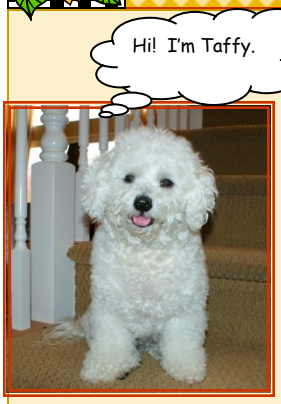
BFK is now an approved Charity by Chase Bank... This means that any Chase Employee can make a donation to BFK and Chase will make a dollar for dollar matching funds "match" ... up to $1000 per year per Employee. If you are an employee or have family members or friends that are Chase Employees..and you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

Amazon

And last but by no means least, Amazon.com sends BFK a contribution every time you shop on their website *if* you sign onto the website through www.bichonFurKids.org. If you open the BFK website you will see that on all of the various BFK pages, there is an Amazon.com link. Make a note to yourself and anytime that you are going to shop the internet, just open up the BFK website and click on the Amazon link. It is quick and easy and Amazon is a great source for multitudes of items at very competitive prices.

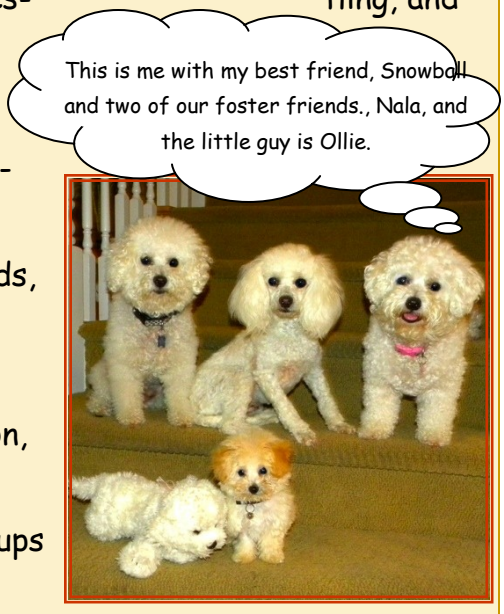
Taffy Tales

By Tiffany Wu



In November 2008, my mommy signed up to be a foster parent with Bichon FurKids. When she broke the news to me, she told me I needed to be a brave and understanding girl, as there were many FurKids in need of a home for the holidays, and that my palace was definitely large enough to share. My brother, Snowball, has always loved having other dogs around, but I have always been more on the shy side—running away and hiding as fast as I can from other four-legged creatures. I begged Mom not to do this, as she began to prepare the house for the new FurKid's arrival.

Sure enough one day, Mom got in the car with Snowball and when they returned home, I saw not just one, but two Bichon boys. I ran away as fast as I could, but this boy was just too quick and always on my tail! I was angry, sad, hurt and depressed that night… and I couldn't wait for him to leave. But, I soon realized that Beckett was not going anywhere, so I might as well make the best of the situation. I brought my favorite toy, "Mr. Star", as a play offering and within moments, we were tugging, buzzing, wrestling, and playing.



Well, 15 foster FurKids later, I have become a confident, happy, playful and nurturing Bichon babe! You see, with each foster, I realized that even though they are different from each other—they all love to play with me! We've had a range of FurKids, from purebred, owner-surrenders that were mistreated and needed to be taught how to trust humans again, mischievous but playful puppies that needed a buddy to play, wrestle, and chew on, strays found by the shelters with mysterious backgrounds that simply needed some TLC, and even sometimes, not-so-bichonly pups that needed to learn how to behave more Bichonly and less like crazy dogs! (Because we all know Bichons are VERY well mannered.) Now, as an "experienced" foster sister, I have to say, I know just how to handle these new FurKids.

Snowball and I have really created the best foster home we can provide, as there is always so much love, joy & glee brimming in our home, yet the power of the "pack" is something amazing to

Taffy Tales

watch according to the humans. We can always sense when there is a new FurKid coming, and I always do my best in allowing them to get comfy, while Snowball will assert his dominance and let them know that they still have to play by our rules! Mom says that this fostering fun has helped me blossom from my shy shell and I have played a huge role in helping these FurKids transition from dirty, matted, un-socialized strangers, into gentle, sweet, friends! She says that the bonds I have formed with each, is just simply indescribable and irreplaceable.

Bichon FurKids is the best thing that could have happened to me! Even though I was not a shelter dog or a rescue, the volunteers and adopters that I have met are the nicest and most wonderful people in the whole wide world. They truly care! They all love Bichons!

Even when I began to show signs of another bladder stone, BFK was kind enough to take the time to help my mommy choose the best food, treats, and vets to help make sure that I wouldn't need another surgery. Well, it has been 8 months and I have never looked or felt better! My vet says that it's probably because I've been playing, running and buzzing so much that it causes me to drink lots of water, which helps prevent a stone reoccurrence! I'm so grateful to BFK, because they may literally have saved my life, by simply providing FurKids for me to foster and befriend!

So if you have a FurKid or two, consider fostering for not just BFK's sake, or the pups sitting in the shelter waiting for a foster family opening, but for your own dogs! It will truly bring out the best in them, and you will be blown away when you see the unique bond of love they enjoy.

Thanks for listening.

Taffy

BFK is Growing to Cover All of California

By Tiffany Wu

As you know, Bichon FurKids Rescue operates primarily in Southern California, but there are many homeless bichons and bichon mixes everywhere! Recently I have relocated to Northern California and taken my 'bichon radar' with me. Sadly it has shown that there are many sweet furkids also sitting in horrid shelters in Northern California too -- and we would very much like to try and rescue them from the terrible fate that befalls all dogs not adopted from the local shelters. We are excited about increasing the awareness of BFK in Northern California in hopes of expanding our network of fosters -- and ultimately being able to rescue bichons that were not previously within our reach.

To save the lives of furkids we need the help of loving families willing to (temporarily) become foster moms and dads.

At BFK, we cherish and value our loving foster families!!! Even if they fail fostering and keep their foster. Each family makes a difference to the single, or the many, furkids that it helps. I have personally been fostering for about 10 months now, and it has been the greatest experience for not only me but, also, for my own two Bichons, Snowball & Taffy. My intentions were to foster one or two over the holidays, but watching my foster furkids emerge from lost and lonely little pups to confident, loving bichons, was something that truly touched my heart.

Moreover, my two dogs have thoroughly enjoyed having new buddies to play tug-o-war, buzz in the grass, play tag, and sunbathe with. (And I guarantee yours will too!)

When you become a foster family, we do our best to find the furkid that will be the best fit for your family. BFK provides all supplies (from leashes, collars, harnesses, beds and blankets to food and any medical items the fur kid may need). We only ask that our foster parents provide love, training and socialization. From my own experience, and that of so many other foster moms and dads, fostering will bring you with the most incredible sense of satisfaction and some lifelong memories.

I know many of you have tender hearts and don't think you'd be able to say goodbye when the time comes -- but if you think about how your furkid went from sitting in a dirty shelter, matted, cold, unloved and confused to becoming a happy, playful, well adjusted little character...you WILL be able to think about it differently. Not only will you help us to save a life – but you will have participated in the selection of the family that adopts him or her. Like me, you will be excited when

BFK is Expanding to Northern California

your foster furkids finally meet their forever family, the one that will carry on what you have started and shower him or her with unconditional love forever. If you adopted your furkid from us, think about the where he or she would be, had it not been for the wonderful foster family who was willing to open up their home to the little one you now call your pride and joy!

Please, please, if you could….help us save a life and give a furkid a second chance. Please call or email me and let me know, so that I can go down to the shelter, and leave with at least one furkid who truly deserves a second chance at a loving life. I know we cannot save them all, but we can at least try our very best.

Please pass this on to everyone you know and I hope that the attached photos will inspire you to volunteer, as there is nothing more fulfilling than joining to the BFK team.

Thank you!

tiffany@bichonfurkids.org

Happy Rescue and Adoptions Numbers

393 Rescues

BFK has rescued nearly 400 lost and abandoned bichons since January 1st of this year! 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. Thank you to each of you for your support.

360 adopted, 82 within the past two months, ten more so far, in November, with 33 others still in the foster process.

Bichon Bash Needs a New Home

We are still seeking a new location for our 2010 Bichon Bash. Every year it has grown in size and we are attracting new vendors who bring dog-friendly items for you to shop, food vendors to tease your palate, and more and more friends to meet and greet.

But we need space and parking for at least 250 cars. If you can think of any place located either in North San Diego County or South Orange County, please contact Michele Oliver at

michele@bichonfurkids.org. The space should allow the FurKids to run freely within a safely enclosed area. And shade would be nice. Think about it and Thanks.

BFK is Now on eBay

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.

Janie never fails us. She sends the cutest pictures of her two, now practically famous bichons, Traveler and Hudson. 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, her husband and her two FurKids live in South Carolina, See the June/July issue of the Newsletter to find out how she became the furthest reaching BFK member.

Fun Page

BFK's Final Choice

Approved Dog Houses.

For a mere $20,000, (yes, even in today's market), you could construct this little villa for your FurKids. But we still think they would prefer spending their time in your home with you.

- Don't judge people by their relatives.
- Talk slowly but think quickly.
- When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, 'Why do you want to know?'
- Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
- Say 'bless you' when you hear someone sneeze.
- When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

People We Recommend

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

VETERINARIANS

Animal Medical Center—East County
600 Broadway, El Cajon, CA 92121
619-444-4246
amcofeastcounty.net/default/aspx

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

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

Drake Center for Veterinary Care
195 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA 92024
760-753-9393
drakecenterfor animalhealth.com

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

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

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

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

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

VETERINARIANS (continued)

Pacific Beach Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Benita Keiss
1361 Garnet, San Diego, CA 92109
858-272-6255

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

Pet Vet Animal Health Care Group
Dr. Howard Brown
9748 Sherman Way, Canoga Park 92306
818-346-2455

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

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

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

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

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

DOG SITTING

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

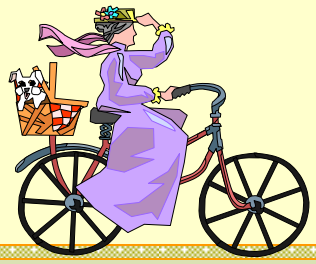
Dogtopia
925 W. San Marcos Blvd., San Marcos, CA
760-471-6888

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



Love Bichons?

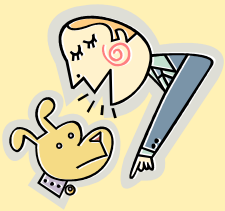
Why not join the Nanny Network? A cooperative group of fellow Bichon owners and foster parents who trade dog sitting favors with each other.

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

People We Recommend (Continued)

CANINE BEHAVIORISTS TRAINING — OWNER EDUCATION

Problem Solving & Behavior Modification Group and Private Lessons



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

K-9 Connections: Training by Nicole
Nicole Andrews 760-438-3644
Behaviorist, Agility

My Canine Coach,
Stephanie Houfek, BA 714-234-1111

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

Smart Dog, Training and Owner Education
Jamie Bozzi, CPDT 619-246-5634
Jamie@smrtdog.com

Solutions Pet Services,
Jamie Lurtz 714-404-9314
www.solutionsPets.com

The Uncommon Canine, Inc.,
Joella Cunnington, CPDT 858-679-5861
theuncommoncanine@cox.net

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

Cool Dog Training and Doggy Day Care
Lynne Sorrentino 951-676-9677
35581 Glenoaks Rd, Temecula, CA
Positive training and loving day care
Cooldogtraining.com

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

GROOMING

AAA Pet Professionals Terry
508 Nautilus Street, La Jolla, CA 92037 858-456-1552

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

All About Animals Lenise
5622 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037
aaalajolla@gmail.com 858-459-4583

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

A Pet's Best Friend Chris & Diane
3251 Greyling Dr., San Diego, CA 92123
apetsbestfriend@sbcglobal.net
www.apetsbestfriend.biz 858-278-1909

Bostone's Cathy
8781 Cuyamaca, Santee, CA 92071
619-449-6400

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

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

Dog Gone Pretty Melodie
15053 Goldenwest, Huntington Beach, CA
714-892-0171

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

Karen's Custom Grooming Karen
7130 Avenida Encinas, Ste 100
Carlsbad, CA 92009 760-431-7553

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

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

GROOMING (continued)

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

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

Raining Cats & Dogs Patrick
1911 Sunset Dr. Ste 1
Escondido, CA 92025 760-743-0136

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

South Paw Dog Wash Telly
34155 PCH
Dana Point 92629 949-248-9910

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

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

Teeth Cleaning

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

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

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

CARPET CLEANING

Upstairs/Downstairs

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