

Bichon Bits & Bytes

December 2011 Bichon FurKids Rescue

We need a new place to **PARTY !!!**



After we outgrew Cricket's Corner for our annual Bichon Bash, Bichon FurKids moved the event to Irvine -and have enjoyed the wonderful ambience of the Irvine Animal Care Center for the past two years.

In 2012 we would like to hold TWO Bichon Bashes (is that a word?) one in May in Irvine and one in September or October in San Diego. What could be more fun than two parties with our four-legged companions?

We are looking for an enclosed location with good parking! That's the first order of business. We need a park or park-like setting (or public meeting place) that is enclosed and dog-friendly. Once we can locate that location, we'll check dates, secure it and let you know to 'save the date.'

If you have suggestions for a location, or want to join the newly-formed committee for the San Diego Bash, please email marti@bichonfurkids.org. We will be holding a committee meeting in Feb. to kick off the event planning.

If you have suggestions regarding locations, please let us know and we'll check them out right away. (As a reminder: Cricket's Corner had double fences that allowed our furkids to run and play safely and securely - so that is what we are looking for once again.)

Thanks for your help with our party! We hope to see you there!

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 **Find us on
Facebook**



Meet **Precious**, our little survivor who still goes on loving...

Editor's Note: This little girl, whom we've named "Precious" for her precious face and darling nature, was living on the streets when a homeless man inexplicably beat her. (She had come to him for affection and shelter.) Someone observed that interaction and called Animal Control, who picked up Precious and brought her to the shelter. One of our volunteers then met and interacted with her... and we decided to make her a furkid. We're so glad we did.

Hello, Everyone,

My name is Precious and I am a darling little bichon girl of eight months – and all of about eight pounds too. (Did you know 8 was my lucky number?) My foster mom says that I'm about as cute as I can be, get along well with people and other dogs – and that I'm very loving. She says that I'm a very good listener and a great snuggler too!

While I love to play, I also love to just sit on your lap and be petted (and maybe even catch a few winks.) Mom says that I could stay there all day as I like to give and receive love. She says I'm a pretty feminine little girl who is beautiful, sweet and kind (Mom says that is an amazing combination!) and who could also be called Shadow!

Dad says I'm a very playful bichon, too. He says I like to romp in the back yard, play with my doggy foster brothers – and my rope toy. (I just love that rope toy!)

I have learned to walk properly on a leash and I LOVE riding in the car. And I'm also potty trained so I get to sleep in the BIG bed with Mom and Dad!

Mom says I am eager to please – and Dad says I'm quite smart – so it doesn't take me long to do everything just right. (Mom says just watch and see. I'm not sure what that means but I think it's good 'cause she smiles when she says it.)

Mom and Dad agree that I'm a wonderful and beautiful little package of love that will bring pure devotion to the lucky person that adopts me (aw, shucks!) and that only the most special family will be right for me! That family will need to be around a lot as I love company – and a doggy brother or sister would be nice, too!

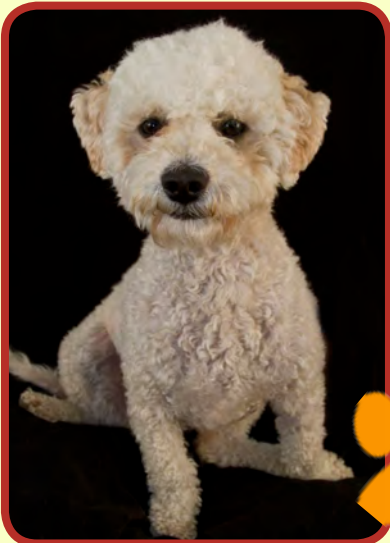
So, if you are looking for a little love bug to share your home and lap, please complete our application and ask for me. I'll be waiting to meet you.

Tail wags and kisses.

Pretty and Playful Precious



Precious



Estate Planning for Pets

Editor's Note: At this time of year, when the weather gets colder and colder and so many dogs and cats find themselves looking for forever families, we encourage you to make provisions regarding the care of your precious companions so that they will be provided for and protected.

The infamous New York hotel queen Leona Helmsley left her Maltese dog, Trouble, \$12 million dollars in her will. But at least one person challenged the dog's inheritance. Ultimately a judge cut the award to \$2 million - and Trouble lived out his life (in luxury) for another two and a half years after his owner died. Helmsley wasn't the only one to leave an estate to a beloved canine companion. When Judge Earl Morgan of Lincoln County, Nebraska, died, he left two surviving children, 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren - and an estate worth \$3.2 million. Morgan left \$100,000 to each of his kids, with the use of his money for the rest of their lives - - but once they died, the estate was to be given to a local humane society called "Paws-itive Partners" instead of his grandchildren!

Over the past two decades there has been a dramatic change in the importance that we, as a society, place on our relationship with the animals with whom we share our lives. We only have to follow the stories in the news of persons living in the path of hurricanes and floods who refuse to be evacuated without their animals. A survey by the American Animal Hospital Association found that the majority of pet owners would risk their own lives for their pets. These results confirm what many of us already know: Our companion animals are considered less and less as property and more and more as beloved family members. No wonder then that we want to ensure that our animals are well-cared for after our death...but if a pet owner does not plan for the continuing care of his or her pets, those pets could end up in a shelter or on the streets after the owner dies. Each day, as rescuers, we hear about beloved companion animals ending up in shelters after their owners die. The most recent ones are Max and Mike, whose owner died in November. Please don't be one of those owners. Make a resolution to create a plan for the care of your pets. Here are some things you can do...



1 Make a Bequest of Your Animals To a Caretaker. One of the simplest means of providing for the care of your companion animals after your death is to find a friend or family member willing to take and care for them, and then have your attorney draft a Will leaving the animals to that person. (You should find alternate persons to be named in the Will, as the first-named person may be unable to take the animals when the time comes.) Alternatively, the Will could be drafted to give your executor the discretion to select from among several persons named by you to take your animals. When possible, you should leave a sum of money to the person who will be taking your animals to defray the costs of their care. If you have no one who is able and willing to take the animals, your executor can be given the authority to find suitable adoptive homes for the animals. If you do this, it is wise to select an executor who has some knowledge of and concern for your animals.

(Continued on next page.)



Estate Planning for Pets, continued from previous page

Another alternative is to search for a good local animal rescue and placement charity and make arrangements in advance with the charity to take the animals after your death and find homes for them. The charity should be named in your Will to take the animals and to receive a cash legacy. Obtain detailed information about the charity's adoption procedures and be comfortable with such procedures before you make such arrangements. Anytime animals are bequeathed to a person or charity, the Will should include a statement that you are bequeathing all the animals owned by you at the time of your death. If you name specific animals in your Will, it will not cover animals adopted later.

2 Create a Trust for Your Animals. Most states now have "pet trust statutes." These statutes allow you to create a trust for your animals. You can create a pet trust and name a trustee and a caretaker for your animals. There are two methods of creating a pet trust. First, a trust under the Will, called a testamentary trust, can be created. Or, an inter vivos trust, which is created during the life of the pet owner, can be created. The inter vivos trust has the advantage of being immediately available for the care of an animal if the pet owner, for example, has to go into a nursing home or becomes incapacitated.

A pet trust can be funded with a specific amount of cash or with assets other than cash. I have clients who are rich with animal companions but who have very little money. Some have taken out life insurance policies and made the pet trust the beneficiary of the policy to assure the good care of their pets.

An alternative to the trust for animals would be to find a sanctuary and leave the animals (and funds for the animals' care) outright to the sanctuary on condition that they keep and care for the animals for life. No trust would be created--the animals would go directly to the sanctuary as an outright bequest.

Preplanning with a Will or a Trust can also make things easier for friends and family at a very difficult time. It is a way to benefit family, friends as well as Bichon FurKids. There are several ways this can be done: **Gifts through life insurance, Gifts through your Will or Trust, Gifts of money or property.**

If you are interested in having Bichon FurKids Rescue care for your bichon as his or her caregiver when you no longer are able to do so, please notify us of that request when you draft your will or trust. Please know that your gift will ensure that homeless Bichons and Bichon mixes will continue to be cared for until they find forever homes. Through gifts such as yours, and other contributions, we can continue to save lives everyday.

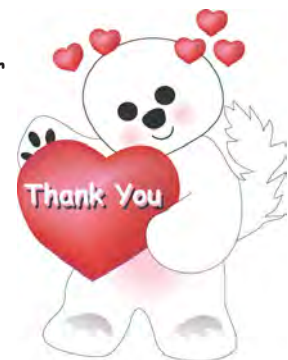
Web sites for more information include:

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

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

<http://livingtrustnetwork.com/resources/non-government-resources/estate-planning-for-pets.html>

http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/43503433/ns/today-today_pets_and_animals/t/pet-estate-planning-not-just-leona-helmsley-anymore



2012 Bichon FurKids Calendar



**Bichon FurKids
2012 Calendar
...Still some
left for holiday
gift giving**

Please think about the people on your holiday gift list who would love to look at a bichon calendar next year. All monies earned from the sale of these calendars will go towards helping a furkid in need - and think about how many smiles you will put on the faces of people, like you, who love and appreciate the breed.

The donation per calendar is \$20.00 and shipping/handling is \$4.60.

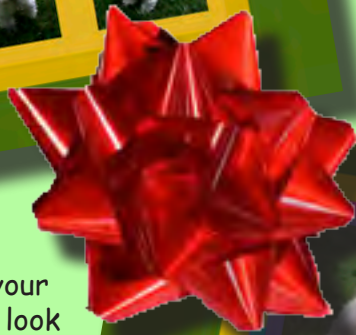
You can place your order on our home page and we will ship as many as you need to you!

www.bichonfurkids.org

Or you can send a check to:

**Bichon FurKids Calendar
6965 El Camino Real, #105-425
La Costa, CA 92009**

Please order now and remember: your calendar donation is tax deductible!
Together we are saving lives and making a difference!





Bichon FurKids Wishes You ...

SEASON'S GREETINGS

A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH
and FELIZ NAVIDAD



As this year draws to a close each and every one of us (two-legged and four) want to thank you for your support and wish you the happiest of holiday seasons. As a result of your generosity and understanding we have rescued 247 bichons and bichon mixes this year. What keeps us going is hearing from you about your furkid's adoption, integration with your family and how he or she has changed your life (as much as you have changed his or hers!) Some of the most amazing stories we hear about are the adoption successes you share with us throughout the year. The photos, anecdotes and videos sustain us and remind us that we are making a difference.

The holiday season is about giving and caring about those around us. Please remember that you are the only reason we are able to do what we do - and that you, and our adoption fees, are our source of funding. All donations go directly to Bichons in need - they cannot ask for themselves so they depend on us to let you know. Every penny donated goes to their care and is a penny well spent. It enables them to receive medical care when needed, be groomed, fed and cared for. And it is with your help that we can provide the security they so richly deserve.

Recently I ran across something I had read several times before - and wanted to share with you in case you may not have seen it. It always gives me pause for the words ring so true.

"Just A Dog"

P From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog. They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog. Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog.

E Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise.

A "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

Because of "just a dog", I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

C So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

E I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog", but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man or woman.

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog" just smile... because they "just don't understand.

-- by Richard Biby



I RESCUED A HUMAN TODAY

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship.

A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well. Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.



For Missy, the Angel Who rescued Me...

They say memories are golden
Well maybe that is true
I never wanted memories,
I only wanted you.

A million times I needed you,
A million times I cried.
If love alone could have saved you
You never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly,

In death I love you still.

In my heart you hold a place

No one could ever fill.

If tears could build a stairway

And heartache make a lane,

I'd walk the path to heaven

And bring you back again.

Our family chain is broken,

And nothing seems the same.

But as God calls us one by one,

The chain will link again.

From Marti in memory of Missy,
who would have turned 15 on
Dec. 11th. Many thanks to all
of you who sent kind words of
support, cards and called. It
meant so much to us in our time
of loss.



Somebody's eyeing Santa's cupcakes...

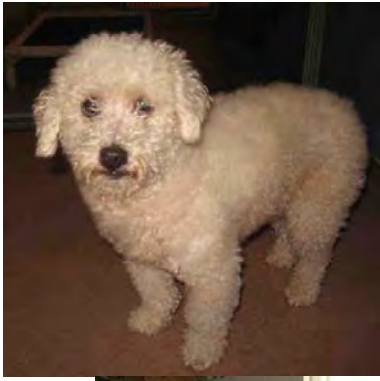


Please help us help More FurKids!

Use Goodsearch: Would you like to help Bichon FurKids earn a penny every time you search for something on the Internet? With your help - and the use of a search engine called Goodsearch - that will happen. Please go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Bichon FurKids as the charity you want to support. Just 500 people searching for anything four times a day will raise more than \$7000 in a year. Please be sure to tell your friends and family. And thanks for your help. Happy Searching!

Fosters Needed: Bichon FurKids is fighting a desperate battle to rescue each and every Bichon in the local shelters - or whose families need to surrender them to us. Our fantastic foster families make it possible for us to help these little fluffs - and we are always looking and needing more fosters. Please mention us to your friends and help distribute the poster attached to this newsletter. Please post it at your local Starbuck's or Coffee Bean, Pet Stores, Groomers, Veterinarians and wherever a community bulletin board is available. Thanks for your help and support!





HELP US !

Loving foster and adoption
homes needed for rescued
Bichons!

Our fur kids are in foster care
an average of one to two weeks.

We pay for vetting
and supplies.

You provide love and training.

You can make a difference
and save a life.

Please Help!

Bichon FurKids Rescue

858-408-1937

www.bichonfurkids.org

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