

Bichon Bits & Bytes

November 2011 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Please join Bichon FurKids at the Fall Fur Fest Holiday Adoption Event

Saturday, November 5 Noon to 4 p.m.

12655 Danielson Court, Poway, CA 92064

Admission and parking are FREE

Meet wonderful pets who need homes and
bring your current pets to join in the fun

Bichon FurKids will be attending this fun event
again this year! Bring your furkid, meet some 'cous-
ins' and learn about the food many of us are feed-
ing our 'kids!' Proceeds from your purchase will ben-
efit the rescue group of your choice, so we would
love if your choice was Bichon FurKids!!!

We hope to see you there!

Contents

Join BFK at San Diego Fall Fur
Fest Holiday Adoption
Event1

Give thanks for a successful
San Diego Pet Expo2

Order your 2012 BFK
Calendar3

Nicholas, our own little
miracle4

A skunk sprayed my bichon.
What do I do?5

Bichon FurKids Rescue
Phone: 858-408-1937
Fax: 760-438-9292
www.BichonFurKids.org
www.facebook.com/bichonfurkids
info@bichonfurkids.org
6965 El Camino Real,
#105-425,
La Costa, CA 92009
Tax ID: 20-3652098
Marti Colwell, President

 Find us on
Facebook

**Fall
Fur
Fest**





LET US GIVE THANKS...

For a BIG SUCCESS at San Diego Pet Expo!

What do you get when you combine 25,000 visitors,
250 dogs up for adoption, and
1 organization named Bichon Fur Kids? Success!

-- By Eva Harris

We have so much gratitude for our loyal volunteers and foster parents who made the San Diego Pet Expo such a fantastic event. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, Mia and Zoe (our fabulous and feisty senior bonded pair) and Kari (our shy, gorgeous love bug) found their forever homes. Of course, Nicholas--our very special boy--nearly stole the show wheeling around with his gorgeous, smiling face, but he was a good boy, as always, and let other fosters strut their stuff, too. Also, Karen Yong joins us as BFK's newest foster parent and home checker. Congratulations all around!

Many Expo attendees who weren't ready to adopt visited and checked out all that BFK is about--one said that we had the "best exhibit and volunteers in the whole place." We're truly reaching people and spreading our message. Those folks weren't ready yet for a fur kid promised to be check in regularly to find their perfect pet--and it's all because of people like YOU who give their time and support to make sure that our kids get the best homes possible by telling everyone our mission and record of success.

If you'd like to help out at an upcoming event, please contact Eva Harris at evamarieharris@gmail.com. Your presence and efforts will make the difference in a dog's life!



At left are Mia and Zoe with their new forever family, Sue and Rick. Thanks to Pet Expo and the hard work of all of our BFK volunteers, these two Furkid seniors will spend their "golden years" with their new loving family.

At right is Kari FurKid getting ready to leave with Dinah, her new mom. All because of Pet Expo and the exposure Kari got to lots of new people and experiences! Kari really came around in those two days...and Dinah met, and fell in love, with her on Sunday at the expo.



2012 Bichon FurKids Calendar



Bichon FurKids 2012 Calendar Now Available

Back by demand (and with a new year coming soon) is our newest contender for the best Bichon calendar ever. It features some of the many little furkids we have rescued - and we hope the smiling faces (yes, Virginia, bichons do smile!) on these calendar pages will brighten your days in the year ahead.

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!



Meet Nicholas... A LITTLE MIRACLE OF OUR OWN

Hi Everyone,

Last December 16th was a rainy, cold night in Escondido – a night when all little bichons should be inside tucked into their beds, surrounded by people who love them. For Nicholas, sadly, that was not the case. The information that follows is a testament to determination and commitment (his and foster Mom, Danna) and to the love and generosity of the FurKid community. Nicholas stole the show at Pet Expo and will be greeting visitor to FurFest. We hope to see you there.

My name is Nicholas and I have quite a story to tell. Let me start by telling you I am a miracle! And that is a testament to my spirit, determination and the amazing care that my foster mom gives me every day.

You see I was hit by a car, dragged for several blocks and thrown into a dumpster. But I was determined to be heard – and to get another chance – so I got lucky that rainy day and became a FurKid.

Now that my legs have healed I am making my way in the world. I am now doing physical therapy every week so I can regain strength and function in my back legs. And speak of being lucky, why Bichon FurKids won this really neat treadmill – and I get to be the one to use it! You should see me go! (If you [click on this link you will!](#)) Mom says I am a real trooper, never complain about anything, whimper or cry. Instead I have this happy smile on my face and I make a game and fun out of anything,

Dad says I am playful, silly and always a gentleman. For example I LOVE my yellow “loofah dog”. I love to shake him back and forth, fling him in the air and catch him. Not bad for a guy whose legs are healing, right? Dad says it is cute and funny to watch me “groom” my stuffed toys

I like to lick them and give them little “nips” to groom them. He says it’s really funny to see how careful and determined I am with that grooming. I also like to play tug-o-war with my doggy foster sister. In the end I always let her have the toy because I am a gentleman!

Mom says I also have this “thing” about balls, large and small. I even like the big medicine ball we use for my physical therapy. My favorite non-toys however are pine cones. I like to pick them up, give them a good shake, fling them in the air, catch them - and chew them up There is no doubt that I am very entertaining.

I am crate trained, good with other dogs and cats, love to ride in the car, can walk amazingly fast and get along great with people of all sizes and shapes. Soon I can also begin to meet adopters, too, because Mom and Dad agree that I deserve the very bestest forever home in the world.

So if my story touches your heart and you are looking for a little guy with a sunny disposition who loves life and deserves a wonderful forever home, please ask for Nicholas.

Belly rubs and kisses to you.

The Amazing, Outstanding and Most Remarkable Nicholas



Click to see the video



Click to see the video



A Skunk Sprayed My Bichon: What Do I Do?

-- By Liz Gibson

If you, or your bichon, has ever been sprayed by a skunk (or if the little critters live near you) this article is worth saving and remembering. The recipe comes from Liz Gibson, whose bichon Jack recently had such an encounter. I learned that the old 'recipe' of tomato juice has been replaced by a more effective one – and the lesson learned from Jack's encounter will hopefully help another 'adventuresome' bichon. Here is the recipe and excerpts from Liz's notes.



The skunk de-odor recipe from the 24-hour vet was:

- 1 quart Hydrogen Peroxide
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of Dawn

Mix these 3 together without water or anything else, scrub in, leave on for about 10 minutes and then thoroughly rinse it all off.

Jack had clearly gotten a very direct shot; it was centralized to about a 3 to 4-inch diameter on his chest. That was fortunate, in that we had only a small portion of him that needed the treatment. It was unfortunate, in that the fluid - and the smell! - were very concentrated. And, I will add that very concentrated skunk spray smells MUCH, MUCH worse than that whiff you get when you pass a run-over skunk on the highway, or when one is wandering through the neighborhood. It is much worse and just plain vile. (In fact the 24-hour vet assured me that concentrated



skunk odor lingers for days afterwards.)



Interestingly enough, a lot of the smell had dissipated by the time we were rinsing everything off. And water alone seems to just make the smell more robust and more-broadly permeating. After this treatment, which took us a couple hours, including getting him dried off again, the smell was definitely not gone, but we could definitely live with him. We could not have prior to that treatment. In fact, I let him sleep on my bed with me that night, as usual. Before the treatment, I wouldn't have let him stay in the house!

Continued on next page ...



A Skunk Sprayed My Bichon: What Do I Do?...continued from previous page

Other pointers -

Use rubber gloves before doing the scrubbing. Meticulous massaging and rubbing in of the de-odorizing solution actually rubs the smell right into the ends of your fingers and under your fingernails and lasts for days, even with later, heavy duty scrubbing.

Get rid of any collar your dog was wearing; it's unlikely you will ever get the smell out of it.

Wash anything you used to give your dog "the treatment" several times in hot water. Add bleach or some other odor-reducing or masking agent to get the odor out of those items. (Some we just threw away.)

Try to catch the furkid as quickly as you can when you smell anything bad, because he will probably start trying to rub it off wherever he can! We were lucky as Jack chose the lawn grass and dog beds to rub against, rather than our carpeting and furniture."

When you catch the "kid," wrap him up immediately in something that you don't care about, should you need to throw it away. Wrap him up immediately, before you figure out for sure what the smell is or where it is on his body. Cover him as quickly as possible to keep the smell from getting into other things, like your own clothes. (That works for our little guys; am not sure how someone with a St. Bernard or even a lab would handle that.)

Be sure and check the eyes for redness and signs of pain, and check with a vet if that looks serious.

Also, remember that the odor does permeate into lots of things that get near to the dog - like the hair of the person who is doing the scrubbing. I was 100 miles away from home the next day, visiting a brother and talking to the manager of the complex in which he lives in a suburban area, when the manager raised her head and said, "Oh, darn; I think we have a skunk outside again." Suffice it to say, that they did not have any skunk smells outside the complex, only following me around until I realized what was going on!

PS A day or so later Jack went back to the area where he had been sprayed - after many hours of not wanting to have anything to do with the out-of-doors at all. He rubbed his forehead in some of the spray that lingered on the bushes. Consequently, we had a resurgence of skunk odor that we needed to deal with in the following days.

In all areas of this adventure, we are lucky that we have little guys, as the problem has got to be that much bigger, in all areas, when you are dealing with a bigger dog. It's not a lot of fun in any case. We can laugh about it now, but I can tell you we were not smiling that night!

