



Bichon Bits & Bytes

April 2012 Bichon FurKids Rescue

More on the Dog Food Contamination Problem

Last month we discussed the deadly effects that **Kirkland Canned Lamb and Rice from Costco** is having on dogs. To read that article, see the **March Newsletter** on our website at <http://www.bichon-furkids.org/News>. This month, it's Chinese Jerky from **Waggin Train** or **Canyon Creek Ranch**. We've seen this brand at Costco and Albertsons recently. Here is the account of Terry Safranek's tragic loss, in her words:

"I lost my best friend Sampson on Friday, January 13, 2012. He died 9 days after ingesting the last food he ever ate: Waggin' Train "Wholesome" Chicken Jerky. I've since learned that we were part of a known epidemic. To date more than 600 cases of illness and death are attributed to chicken jerky treats made in China. Waggin' Train and Canyon Creek Ranch - both Nestle Purina brands - are the lead offenders in the continued sale of chicken jerky treats. The most shocking part is that the FDA has known about this for years, and has even increased their warnings as recently as November 2011. They have researched thousands of cases, and the cases are mounting. Mine is now one of those they are investigating.

Despite warnings from the FDA and the leading veterinary associations in the U.S. and Canada, Nestle Purina has refused all accountability, instead placing blame on people like me who have lost their companions. If their treats were safe, as they repeatedly claim, death and illness would never have been the end result for so many. No animal should ever have to die due to "treats." How many thousands of grieving pet owners still have no idea what sickened or killed their pet? As long as these products are still on the shelves, the suffering will continue."

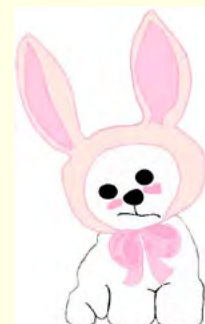
Symptoms include: vomiting, diarrhea with or without blood, Loss of appetite, lethargy, and kidney failure.

Sign Terry's petition at http://www.change.org/petitions/nestle-purina-recall-chicken-jerky-treats-made-in-china?utm_campaign=YWYHXduwxf&utm_medium=email&utm_source=action_alert and tell Nestle Purina to take the poisonous chicken jerky off the shelves.

The FDA tells anyone who has a sick dog that ate chicken jerky to file a complaint and send a sample of the ingested product. The more complaints the better their chances of making the connection and preventing future illnesses and deaths.

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Cody gets a third chance!

Editor's note: Cody was first adopted from BFK about three years ago, but the untimely death of one of his adopters resulted in his return to BFK. Soon he was adopted again...and again a change in circumstances forced his return to us. Cody remained his affable self through it all, and went into the foster home of Judy and Mike. For Cody, the third time was a charm. The couple quickly fell in love with his quirky personality and adopted him.

Dear Bichon FurKids,

We've had Cody about a year now, and it just gets better and better. We only intended to foster him, but he had other ideas and turned on the charm. This dog is such a character!

Cody, Cody, where do we start? How about this: He talks. Well, it's mostly complaining but he does have an extensive vocabulary of sounds and frequently lets us know what's on his mind: "Nnnngggg" and "Arrrrrrrrrr" and "Gna-gna-gnah" and "rrrrUFF!" - that last one tells us he's SERIOUS.

Oh, and he is so helpful as Judy's personal trainer. He plunks down on her foot to extend her stretches. He supports her back with his own while he naps and she does her hip abductors. And he gives her kisses to encourage her onward. No slacking with Cody in charge.

He does love his food and does a little hip-hop dance while twirling in circles, always counter-clockwise, at feeding time. He's always the first one finished and always the first to get to anything left uneaten in the other dogs' bowls. We're working on his waistline...

Did we mention that we have three other dogs? They range in size from an oversize retriever mix to an eight-pound toy poodle. Cody gets along with them all. Why, right now he's spooning with our mini-poo Vince, both snoozing by Judy's side having given up trying to stop her from typing.

Cody is always by Judy's side. In fact, he is officially her "Bathroom Boy" - evidently he's decided that it's the best place for him to get his "alone time" with Mommy. He sees that door closing, and he's IN! This talent for scooching past a closing door has gotten him into trouble a few times, that being finding himself alone and unnoticed in a dark laundry room or closet. One

How could we resist those beautiful eyes? He's Cody-licious!



Cody, the first week in his new home



That tail's much longer now :)

day we searched the entire house, yard, and garage for him in a bewildered panic, until Vince pointed out (he's the smart one in the pack) that we'd forgotten to check the pantry. Sure enough, there was Cody squeezed into the only unoccupied square foot of floor space in that tiny closet!

We enjoy every interesting minute with this very sweet, very unique, very loved little boy with the gorgeous eyes. For us and the rest of our pack, he's a keeper!

Many doggie kisses,

Judy D'Addieco and Mike Dyer

Please Foster a FurKid !

Every dog you foster is a dog that is freed from a lonely life in a concrete cage in a shelter or in a home where he/she is neglected.

Some Facts:

- Every foster home we have enables us to save a life.
- Every FurKid that has been adopted was once in a loving foster home.
- Two thirds of our furkids come from shelters; one third are owner surrenders - all need foster homes!
- The alternative to not having a foster means leaving a dog at the shelter - **often to never leave that shelter alive.**

By becoming a foster, you can save the life of a shelter dog... without any cost to you...without ever setting foot in the shelter...and without any permanent obligation.

All you need is Love. BFK pays all the expenses.

You perform a very important role as a foster. You show a furkid that he or she can love again and be loved again, in return. You restore their confidence by giving them any training or socialization they may lack. You keep them warm, fed, clean, and healthy. , and you get the reward of seeing your little protégé trot happily out your door with his or her new Forever Family. Please...we need foster homes badly. Can you step in and help?



Can one person make a difference? Consider the story of the starfish...

An old man was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a boy reaching down, picking up something and gently throwing it into the ocean.

The man asked the boy what he was doing, to which the boy replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?"

"The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The boy listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, and said: "It makes a difference for that one."



(Some of our own Starfish)



Please join Bichon FurKids at the
Orange County Pet Expo!

Friday, April 20, 10am - 6pm

Saturday, April 21, 10am - 7pm

Sunday, April 22, 10am - 6pm

at the Orange County Fairgrounds

Fun for the whole family!

The world's
largest pet and
pet product
expo!

Thousands of
pet products for
sale at special
show prices!



Over 1,000
animals includ-
ing dogs, cats,
equine, birds,
fish, llamas,
pot bellied pigs,
goats, rats,
reptiles, rab-
bits, miniature
horses and
more!

The all-day event will offer entertainment, pet expert seminars, hundreds of pet products and pet adoptions. This is an opportunity for Bichon FurKids to introduce bichons to people who may not know about them - or have been waiting or wanting to meet one.

Our booth is number 1046 and is in the Main Building (Building 10 on the map, see next page).

Please stop by while you are at the event so we can say 'hello' and give our furkids (and yours) a belly rub or two.



A Salute to Hollywood
Pets! Meet the Pet Stars
of today: Uggie from
The Artist and Water
for Elephants, and Suzie
Q. who portrays "Jim"
on Mike & Molly!

**JUMP! The Ultimate Dog
Show**, the action packed
thrill show showcasing
incredible dogs performing
amazing stunts

Hollywood Parade of Ani-
mals - Pets representing
our favorite characters
from the small screen
and silver screen

Dog Training With Re-
nee Jones will teach us
how to train our four-
legged best buddies.

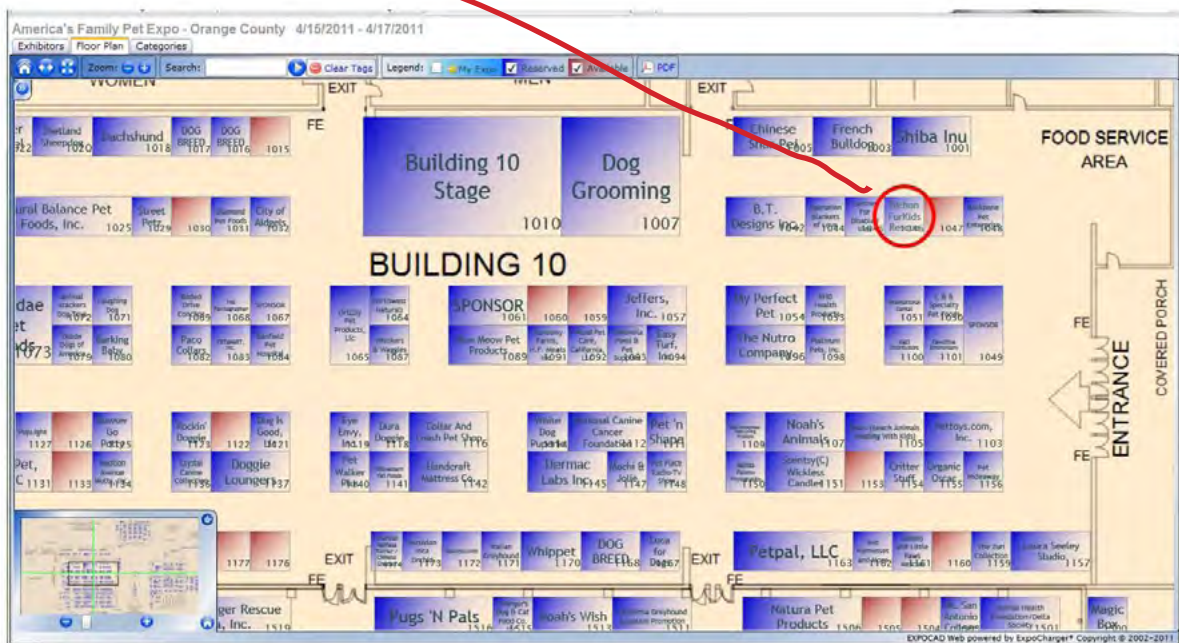


Kristi Yamaguchi,
Olympic Gold Medal-
ist and author, will
sign copies of her new
children's book "It's a
Big World, Little Pig"
on Saturday, April 21
from 1:30pm-3pm

And much more!



Find us here



Bichon Bash X 2012 Lodging Update

The La Quinta Inn Irvine Spectrum, a "pet friendly" hotel, provides a reduced rate for BFK families. This year our rate for the Bichon Bash X is **\$59 per room** and our Confirmation Code is **0663GRYPST**. Please contact the hotel directly at **(949) 551-2945** if you are interested in overnight accommodations.

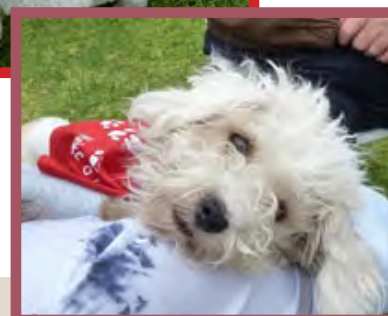
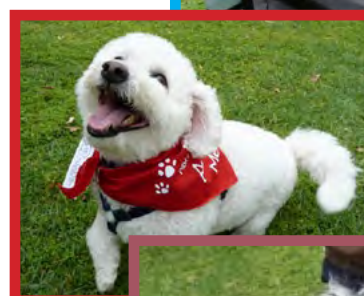
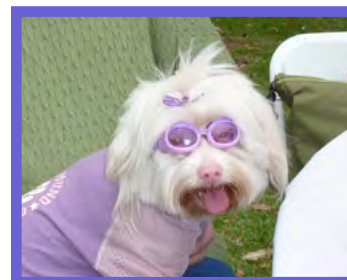
As Bichon Bash X approaches, the need for committed volunteers to support the event becomes crucial. We host over 250 guests and their families - and five or six volunteers just can't do it all. We need volunteers for set-up on Friday night, for the booths (Bichon Boutique, Adoption Alley, Volunteer Villa, and others), the registration table, and even for poop scoop duty.

If you would like to make a difference at Bichon Bash X, simply e-mail our Event Coordinator, Michele Olivier, at michele@bichonfurkids.org as soon as possible. Let us know which assignment interests you.

The Bichon Bash is the primary fundraising event that supports our rescue efforts. It is also one of the most fun-filled days of our and our furkids' lives. If you know bichon lovers who you think should attend, please direct them to this link for an invitation:

<http://socializr.punchbowl.com/parties/1939946-9th-annual-southern-california-bichon-bash>

For additional information, including a pre-registration link, vendor and demonstrator applications, sponsorship information, and more, please visit the Bichon Bash X pages on our web site at: <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2012home>.



Here's the WHEN, WHERE, and HOW MUCH...

Saturday, May 19, 2012

**Irvine Animal Care Center,
6443 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618**

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Pre-registration until April 30:
\$20 per person/\$60 for family of 4**

**May 1 onward/at door:
\$25 per person**