

Bichon Bits & Bytes

December 2012 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Season's Greetings!

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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, many bichons and bichon mixes were rescued and placed in forever homes 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!) The photos, anecdotes and videos you share 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.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones this Holiday Season!

Meet **Petey**, our very own “Tiny Tim”

Editor's Note: We all remember Tiny Tim in the beloved tale, “A Christmas Carol,” the little boy who had trouble getting around and had to use a crutch. Our own little “Tiny Tim,” whom we named Petey, faces a similar challenge ... although unlike Tiny Tim, he is not ill at all. You see, Petey was born with a unformed back leg – but it never held him back or kept him from being a ‘normal’ bichon. And yet, somehow, there he was at the shelter, scared and alone, where BFK found him. In the spirit of the holiday season, here is a story of Petey’s happy ending at BFK.



Petey

Hello, Everyone,

I am Petey. I ran, played, loved and tumbled with my family for many years. Then, after living with my family for about six or seven years, I was taken to the shelter ... and left! It seems that even though I was active and really no burden at all, my other back leg had become tired - and I was no longer the playful little guy I once was. I was still loving, trusting and a member of the family the day I was dumped at this strange place they called “the shelter.” But this “shelter” was a smelly, noisy place, and I was scared, very scared. The big barking dogs scared me, and being in a crowded cage with other dogs scared me. Where was my family? What had I done wrong? I had no idea!

The shelter manager was concerned! She knew that I would be a ‘casualty’ of the system. She said that no one was going to see my beautiful spirit, my soft brown eyes or my sweetness. No one was going to see the trusting, loving little guy who did not understand where his family was. That caring, compassionate lady called Bichon FurKids. She asked them to give me a chance. She said my time was running out - whatever could that mean? - but she thought I would rally outside of the shelter and could live a normal life once again. She also thought I might do well with a cart - that it would give me a fresh start - and the ability to live life to the fullest. (You know Tiny Tim could use crutches, but they just don't work for FurKids like me who don't have opposable thumbs!)

Anyway, the Aunties at Bichon FurKids answered the call. They looked at my little face and the determination in my eyes - and they told me they would help. Then Uncle David, my first BFK foster, said he would foster me - and help me adjust to the wheels my Aunties decided to order.

The cart arrived (it was made just for my 11 pound body!) got adjusted and I took off! Weee! I'll admit it took a little bit of time to learn that I could move so easily - why, it worked on concrete and even on grass! Soon I learned that I could go just about any where with my cool wheels... and soon my name became “Speedy, Sweetie Petey!” Now, mind you, I can move around the house or yard without my wheels, too - and I certainly know how to snuggle on your lap.



I am now living in my Forever Foster home with my Foster Mom, Jeana, and I am just as happy as can be. But Mom knows that she may one day need to let me go ... so my biggest and greatest prayer is that some wonderful family will see my spirit, my sweetness, my determination, and my trusting nature and invite me to join their family.

Petey is ready to meet adopters, but in the meantime he is safe and sound as a BFK Forever Foster. Please call or email marti@bichonfurkids.org if you want to help or adopt Petey. And thanks for your support. It allows us to save the little Petey's of the world.



Estate Planning for Pets

Editor's Note: Each day, as rescuers, we hear about beloved companion animals ending up in shelters after their owners die. As the new year approaches, how about making a resolution to create a plan for the care of your pets. The following are some suggestions for how to do this. They are adapted from a similar article that we ran in December 2011.

1 Make a Bequest of Your Animals To a Caretaker. Ask a friend or family member to take in your animals should you die, and then have your attorney draft a Will leaving the animals to that person. Alternatively, you could draft the Will to give your executor the discretion to select from among several persons to take your animals -- or absent suitable friends or family, to find suitable adoptive homes for the animals. If possible, leave a sum of money to the selected person to defray the costs of their care. Another alternative is to make arrangements with a good local animal rescue, such as Bichon FurKids, to take in, and re-home, the animals. The charity should be named in your Will and receive a cash legacy. Be comfortable with this charity and its adoption procedures before you make such arrangements. Include a statement in your Will that you are bequeathing all of 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," where 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: 1) A trust under a Will, called a testamentary trust, or 2) an inter vivos trust, which is created during the life of the pet owner. 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. If you are short on cash, you can take out life insurance policies and make the pet trust the beneficiary of the policy.

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 not only helps ensure that your animals receive the proper care after your death, but it also makes things easier for friends and family at a very difficult time for everyone. 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://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/43503433/ns/today-today_pets_and_animals/t/pet-estate-planning-not-just-leona-helmsley-anymore





Bichon FurKids 2013 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 \$25.00 which includes shipping and handling. You can place your order on our home page and we will ship as many as you need to you!

www.bichonfurkids.org

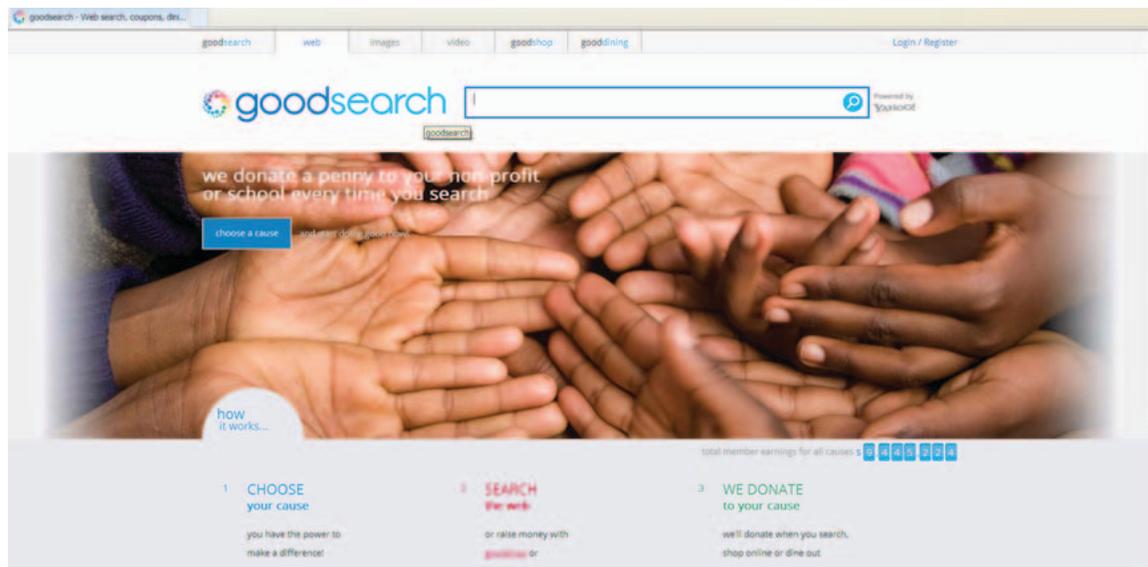
Or you can send a check to:

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!



Using GoodSearch to Fund BFK



Every time you perform a search on the Internet through GoodSearch, they donate a penny to BFK. That may not sound like much, but think about how often you do searches. It really adds up. Many of us in the BFK community are already using GoodSearch and generating hundreds of dollars for the FurKids.

So, what is GoodSearch? The following is taken from their mission statement: "GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50 percent of its sponsored search revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money that GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers — the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!" Find out more here: <http://www.goodsearch.com/about.aspx>

To start using GoodSearch, just go to www.goodsearch.com, then follow the first step on the home page to pick Bichon FurKids as the supported cause. To avoid having to select BFK as a cause every time you use GoodSearch, establish an account using your email as your identity. When you first select BichonFurkids, the popup gives you the opportunity to create the account. After the account is established, GoodSearch remembers BFK as your cause and even starts to track the amount of money that your searches generate for our rescue! When you use GoodSearch, you can also link to GoodShop for special deals on products and services, and GoodShop also gives money to BFK when you shop.

To make using GoodSearch convenient, you can make the website the default page (called a "start page" or "home page") that displays whenever you launch your favorite web browser, such as Internet Explorer or Firefox. For instructions, go to <http://websearch.about.com/od/internetresearch/a/customhomepage.htm>.

If you don't want to make GoodSearch your browser's home page, just add it to your bookmarks list or favorites bar, depending on the browser type, and it will be handy whenever you want to perform a search on the Internet -- and add a penny to the BFK funds.

Don't forget the other way to do your holiday shopping and earn money for BFK in the process!

Whenever you click on the Amazon.com shopping links on the BFK website, a portion of your purchase will be automatically donated to BFK. So, if you are a regular Amazon.com shopper, please start your shopping trip by clicking on one of the many Amazon.com links you will see on our website. You must start from our website to get the donation. Click "[Shop now](#)" below to start shopping.

