Bichon Bits & Bytes

January 2012 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Meet Holly and the newest Furkids!

Holly was rescued from a local shelter and found to be pregnant the day after we rescued her. She had her seven puppies (three girls and four boys) on Jan. 6th. These are their first photos, just 3 days old. We will update the BFK web site and next newsletter with the latest photos as they grow. In a few weeks, we'll have 7 beautiful puppies to adopt. For now, we can tell you their names...

Heidi
Harmony
Harlowe
Hayden
Harley
Harrison
Hogan

Life's just full of surprises!

Interested adopters can apply at www.bichonfurkids.org/Applications and can meet the puppies in February for adoption in early March.

Holly and her Puppy Pile Day 3

You might be wondering, what are these B&W pups with the really Bichon mom "mixed" with? At this point, all we can say is "cuteness." We'll have a better idea as they grow.

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Find us on Facebook

BFK Forever Foster Program

Tiger, our first Forever Foster

In January 2010 Bichon FurKids launched our Forever Foster program. Our vision was to make it possible to care for those bichons who, because of health, temperament, age or background, might not be good candidates for adoption. We felt strongly then, and now, that despite their special needs, whatever they might be, these dogs should live out their lives in loving homes, being cared for with respect and dignity.

The program was launched as a result of a generous donation from an adopter and bichon-lover who wishes to remain anonymous. All donations to that Fund are managed separately; BFK continues to look for opportunities to expand and grow the fund. That was the genesis of our Forever Foster Program and continues to be its mission.

The dogs accepted into the Forever Foster Program are very special pups. Some have chronic health problems which require an unusual amount of care and expense; some are severely disabled; others are elderly or have terminal medical conditions. Euthanasia is not an option for these dogs unless their quality of life is compromised. Instead, their medical expenses are covered by Bichon FurKids while their foster moms and dad provide the physical care and love they need and deserve.

In order for us to maintain the best quality of life for our Forever Fosters, we require additional assistance in the form of donations. The donations we receive through our Adoption Program can never cover the medical expenses we have accumulated in the care of rescued dogs. If you would like to become a special part of one these little furkids' lives, please consider becoming a Sponsor. A Sponsor can make monetary donations or provide supplies for their use in the Forever Foster Home. Sponsorships may be one time donations or timed payments to help cover the costs of medical care, treatment or recovery All monetary and material donations will go to the particular Forever Foster dog you specify.

Please consider supporting our cause and our Forever Foster Program. Your financial gift will help us continue to save many more dogs, and to provide our Forever Fosters a life of ease and contentment.

If you would like to make a donation for a Forever Foster please click on link below:

http://www.bichonfurkids.org/donations and specify Forever Foster under Purpose.

Petey, our newest Forever Foster

If you would like your name to appear on our website and be updated on a furkid's progress, let us know.

If you have been unable to adopt, or unable to have the time to care for a rescued pup for whatever reason, but would like to help, please become a Sponsor. Our little furkids depend on you!

If you prefer to mail a check or money order you can send it to the address below:

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

Thank you so very much for Sweetie

Day 1: The Day We Met and Fell in Love

Sweetie came to visit today with Kathy and Bob. They are great people and we all had a good visit. Danny Boy, my foster 'furkid, was very comfortable with the FurKids (Sweetie and Kathy's service Bichon.)

Sweetie matches her name perfectly. After the paperwork was done and the goodbyes were said, I spent a lot of time with both Danny and Sweetie playing in the house and the backyard. I took the two of them for a late afternoon walk and discovered they are enthusiastic walking dogs. I had to go back to the house to switch Sweetie into a mesh harness. After I put it on, she and Danny Boy walked in tandem without pulling. I was quite surprised at how were very compatible they were (and so quickly) on the walk.

I left them briefly to go to the store for some additional dog food, toys and a better fitting mesh harness as well as a new dog bed for Sweetie. They apparently kept each other company and were quietly resting on the patio when I returned.

I am so excited to have Sweetie here. She will absolutely fill the void that my GiGi left -- and now I can just remember all the fun, happy, contented times I had with my beautiful dog. Funny thing: Sweetie snores gently just like GiGi did and I love it.

Thanks so much for what you do. It's a miracle that GiGi, Danny Boy and Sweetie all have come into my life as rescues -- and they are all such complete and happy dogs.

Tomorrow I will take Sweetie to visit my vet. That way the vet's office will have her information and should I have an emergency with her they'll be familiar with her. Tonight the little furball will share my bed and we'll snuggle warm and cozy -- each with our wonderful dreams.

Day 2: A Wonderful Start

Today has been equally rewarding with Sweetie snuggling for pets, hugs and love as I woke up. Danny Boy got his share and we had another great walk. The appointment with the vet is tomorrow AM.

Then, as soon as I get her medical information, I'll make an appointment for both Danny and Sweetie to be groomed by my wonderful, wonderful groomer in Huntington Beach. Yes, it is a long drive from Redlands with much traffic but Suzanne Marchetti is so loving, kind and talented that it is worth it for me and the dogs. I'll take some snapshots when she (and Danny) are freshly groomed.

Bless Bichon FurKids
and thank you again.

Cindy, Danny Boy, and Sweetie

Editor's Note: Sweetie is an adult bichon whose owner relinquished her to a shelter in Orange County. It is more challenging for older dogs (of any breed) to be adopted when there are so many young dogs inn the shelters. Bichon FurKids was asked to take Sweetie and we did. Sweetie now has her Forever Mom and a bichon mix brother and is a very lucky girl.

Please mark your calendars ...

Bichon Bash X
Saturday, May 19, 2012

The next Bichon Bash will be here before you know it! Volunteers are the life blood of any organization and there would be no FurKids and no Bichon Bash without our wonderful volunteers performing a variety of tasks every single day of the week

If you would like to be a part of the very best Bichon Bash ever, please contact Michele
Olivier, Event Coordinator, by email or phone:

Michele@bichonfurkids.org

714-401-0932

And thanks to those of you who have already offered to help. There is no task too small and everyone who wants to help will be given something that takes advantage of your skills and talent. Please be sure to join us and make this fun-filled day one that we all will remember!

P.S. We hope to do a second Bichon Bash in 2012 in San Diego if we can secure a location! All ideas will be checked out thoroughly so please help us to find a location for a Fall Bash!

Did you know?
Pet fostering is tax deductible!

If you're a pet foster parent, good news for you as tax season rolls around again: you can write off those expenses you've racked up for the animals you've been fostering. That includes vet bills, food, and even the gas needed to transport the pets to appointments and to meet potential adopters. In June 2011, Jan Van Dusen, a volunteer at Oakland-based Fix Our Ferals won a court battle against the IRS, setting a precedent for tax deductions for fostering.

Hopefully, the tax breaks will encourage some new foster moms and dads, who might otherwise be afraid of the costs! If you are a foster and want to make sure to get credited for the expenses you've incurred, Rachel Hirschfeld, a pet trust lawyer, has a few helpful tips:

- Keep all your receipts associated with foster care

- Write a note on the receipts to specify what was item was bought and for what purpose.

- As of now, the only tax-deductible purchases are for foster pets, not resident pets.

For all of our Rescue friends...

A NEW DAY AT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Unlike most days at the Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray. All the recent arrivals at the Bridge did not know what to think, as they had never seen such a day. But the animals who had been waiting longer for their beloved people to accompany them across the Bridge knew what was happening, and they began to gather at the pathway leading to the Bridge.

Soon an elderly dog came into view, head hung low and tail dragging. He approached slowly, and though he showed no sign of injury or illness, he was in great emotional pain. Unlike the animals gathered along the pathway, he had not been restored to youth and vigor upon arriving at the Bridge. He felt out of place and wanted only to cross over and find happiness.

But as he approached the Bridge his way was barred by an angel who apologized and explained that the tired and broken-spirited old dog could not cross over. Only those animals accompanied by their people were allowed to cross the Bridge. Having nobody, and with nowhere else to turn, the dog trudged into the field in front of the Bridge.

There he found others like himself, elderly or infirm, sad and discouraged. Unlike the other animals waiting to cross the Bridge, these animals were not running or playing. They simply were lying in the grass, staring forlornly at the pathway across the Rainbow Bridge. The old dog took his place among them, watching the pathway and waiting, yet not knowing what he was actually waiting for. One of the newer dogs at the Bridge asked a cat who had been there longer to explain what was happening. The cat replied, "Those poor animals were abandoned, turned away, or left at rescue places, but never found a home on earth. They all passed on with only the love of a rescuer to comfort them. Because they had no people to love them, they have nobody to escort them across the Rainbow Bridge."

The dog asked the cat, "So what will happen to those animals?" Before the cat could answer, the clouds began to part and the cold turned to bright sunshine. The cat replied "Watch, and you will see."

In the distance was a single person, and as she approached the Bridge the old, infirm and sad animals in the field were bathed in a golden light. They were all at once made young and healthy, and stood to see what their fate would be. The animals who had previously gathered at the pathway bowed their heads as the person approached.

At each bowed head, the person offered a scratch or hug. One by one, the now youthful and healthy animals from the field fell into line behind the person. Together, they walked across the Rainbow Bridge to a future of happiness and unquestioned love. The dog asked the cat, "What just happened?" The cat responded, "That was a rescuer."

The animals gathered along the pathway bowing in respect were those who had found their forever homes because of rescuers. They will cross over when their people arrive at the Bridge. The arrival here of a rescuer is a great and solemn event, and as a tribute they are permitted to perform one final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort all those poor animals they couldn't plance on earth across the Rainbow Bridge and into Heaven."

The dog thought for a moment, then said, "I like rescuers." The cat smiled and replied, "So does heaven, my friend. So does heaven."

- Author Unknown

Thank you for being a friend to rescue!

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