



# Bichon Bits & Bytes

April 2013 Bichon FurKids Rescue

## My Journey as a FurKid

Co-Authored by Mom and Sailor

Editors Note: When Sailor became a FurKid little did we know that he would need an MRI and back surgery (to correct a congenital deformity) in order to live a long and happy life. He came through both with flying colors and was adopted in December. This is Sailor's story - the newest chapter in this FurKid's life.

Sailor came into our lives the middle of December. I remember the drive from Mesquite Nevada with my husband. I really didn't care how long we had to drive to meet Sailor.

We had permanently relocated from Nebraska in October, leaving a lot of family, and memories. Our 18 year old poodle was gone, and after unpacking and getting settled, I told my husband "I need to

have another dog to care for and I want to get a rescue."

I was willing to jump through hoops to adopt a new forever friend. The day finally came and we met the wonderful caring foster parents, Kathy & Bob Stagg, after of course, getting

a little lost along the way ! Then we saw Sailor - and just loved him !! I wanted to pick him up and just squeeze him, but he didn't know us well enough quite yet and he kept looking at his Foster Mom for reassurance. I remember when we drove away, Sailor was looking back at his foster parents too. He wasn't aware of just how wonderful life was about to become!

Sailor and I immediately started our bonding process. I would talk to him, give him hugs telling him what a good boy he was. He loved my husband as well, but he always had his eye on me ! It didn't take long before Sailor would not let me out of his sight.

(Continued on the next page.)



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## My Journey as a FurKid, *continued from front page*

My husband is a huge Ohio State fan and wanted to change his name to Brutus, the mascot of Ohio State. He said, "New life, new name." That really didn't matter to me, because I had my new forever friend. Brutus took to his new name quickly.

He loves his car rides, and hanging his head out the window for as long as Dad will let him. Best of all Brutus loves going for walks! As soon as I pick up the leash and put it on him, he grabs it in his mouth and drags me out the door! As we walk Brutus makes a game out of jumping to try to get the leash! He walks with it in his mouth. Too cute! When Brutus spots one of our new neighbors, he makes a beeline straight to them with his tail wagging! He loves to visit.

Brutus sleeps with us and when he's really relaxed he rolls over on his back and sleeps with his hind legs up in the air. My husband has never seen a dog do that before! We also got some toys and play "tug of war" . which he wins most of the time. Brutus gets so excited he would run through the house, around and around and

chase me! He wore me out!! We play like this a lot, and he loves it!

It's hard to believe that this little guy couldn't do this before -- and it's amazing that his recovery happened so quickly. BFK and the foster parents did a phenomenal job of taking him in and having surgery performed so this little guy would have a chance at a full life.

*For that my husband and I are eternally grateful.*



**I** have been 'Mom' to a bichon and now a bichon mix and understand

that there is a tendency for these darling creatures to have issues with what is often called 'allergies.'

While I understand that the most common method for vets to address allergies is to use some form of steroid I wanted to do

something different this time. I knew that the side effects of long-term use of steroids was well documented -- and can cause more serious health issues long term. (That is because steroid use addresses the symptoms, not the cause.)

Most certainly, our beloved friends may have a shortened lifespan as a result of steroid use. (Feel free to check out this link for more information: <http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Awful-Deadly-Truth-About-Steroid-Use-For-Dogs&id=2677209>)

Determined to do something different this time for Bailey, I did a lot of research.

Now here's the good news: **There are natural methods to address "allergies" in your dogs that provide only healthful benefits.**

There is no doubt that Bailey has (or should I say 'had') allergies. Instead of using steroids, I have been giving him supplements that address his allergies from a nutritional standpoint. **And they are working!** Specifically, the

## Is Your Dog Itching From "Allergies" ?

By Vernie A. Seach  
Bichon Mom and Dog Sitter  
Pacific Coast Pet Care  
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nutritional products are treating what we determined is an overgrowth of yeast in his gastrointestinal tract.

I am using products that can be found at [Nzymes.com](http://www.nzymes.com).

<http://www.nzymes.com/store/pc/home.asp?a=dog>

(Click on the Healthy Skin Program for details.)

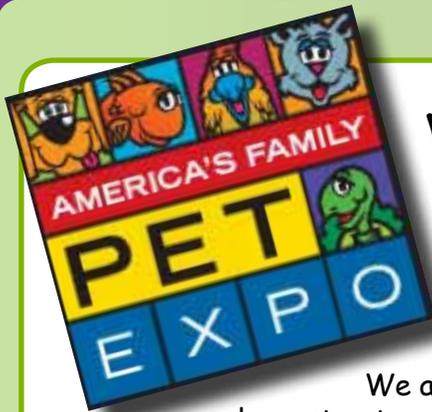
The approach that Nzymes takes is to cleanse the GI tract, remove the overgrowth of yeast and realign the tract with 'good bacteria' and flora. This is what is missing - and why pets have 'allergy symptoms'.

The goal is to rebalance the compromised area. The results are guaranteed; however, as I have learned, we pet parents have to be patient - as it takes time.

If you are interested in getting more information, please feel free to call Valerie at Nzymes at 877.816.6500. She may be able to help your FurKid have the same results as Bailey. If so please share what you learn so that more and more of our beloved bichons have allergy-free lives.



Please also note that I have no affiliation with Nzymes. I am simply delighted at Bailey's results and wanted to share this experience with anyone else who has an interest. I hope your results are as good as ours.



## We need your help! **Orange County Pet Expo!**

at the Orange County Fairgrounds

Can you volunteer for three hours on one or more days at America's Family Pet Expo?

We are less than one week away from this exciting event, the world's largest pet and pet products expo which starts on Friday, April 18th at the Orange County Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa, CA.

We need your help recruiting fosters and volunteers, promoting bichons and our rescue efforts and looking for potential adopters and supporters. We plan to have several FurKids available for adoption so if you would like to bring your FurKid Foster, we would love to hear from you.

We maintain a minimum of 3 volunteers in our booth at all times. There is a \$5 charge for parking all day but your Exhibitor Badge will allow you free admission to the show (a \$13 value). If you volunteer we can purchase a three day parking pass for you for a limited time for \$9.

We want to showcase our beloved breed, so personal FurKids are welcome, space permitting, once we know how many adoptable dogs will be there.

This year's event will begin on Thursday, April 18th for setup at the Orange County Fair Grounds. We can use help for setup as well. The schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, April 18 - Setup**

**Friday, April 19 - 10am - 6pm**

**Saturday, April 20, 10am - 7pm**

**Sunday, April 21, 10am - 7pm**

To volunteer, please contact Jackie Fonteno at [jackie@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:jackie@bichonfurkids.org) or Michele Olivier at [michele@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:michele@bichonfurkids.org).



## **Operation Rescue FurKid 2000 Fundraiser!** **Sit. Stay. Play. At the Lazy Dog Café** **Tuesday, April 23**

You and your FurKid are invited to join us for a delicious meal at the Lazy Dog Cafe outdoor dining patio anytime on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. 15% of your total bill will be donated to Bichon FurKids Rescue and designated for Operation Rescue FurKid 2000, our special observance of the 2000th FurKid we place in a Forever Home. You must present the special flyer on our website that can be downloaded from <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/events>. Click the Lazy Dog Cafe Fundraiser link. Check our Facebook page for updates on group gatherings throughout the day.

The Lazy Dog has something for everyone and provides a lovely outdoor dining patio where you can eat with your FurKids - weather permitting!

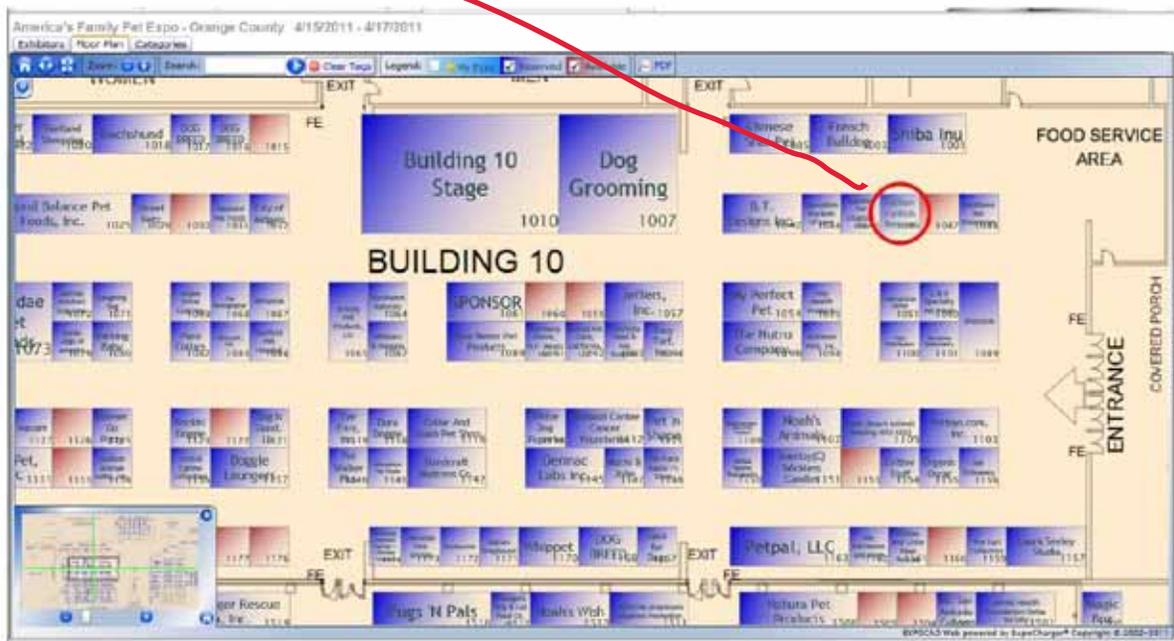
Tuesday, April 23 Dine-in and Take-out All Day (11:00am - 12:00am)

The Lazy Dog Cafe 13290 Jamboree Road, Irvine (714) 731-9700

# BFK Location at OC Pet Expo



Find us here



# The Spring Bichon Bash

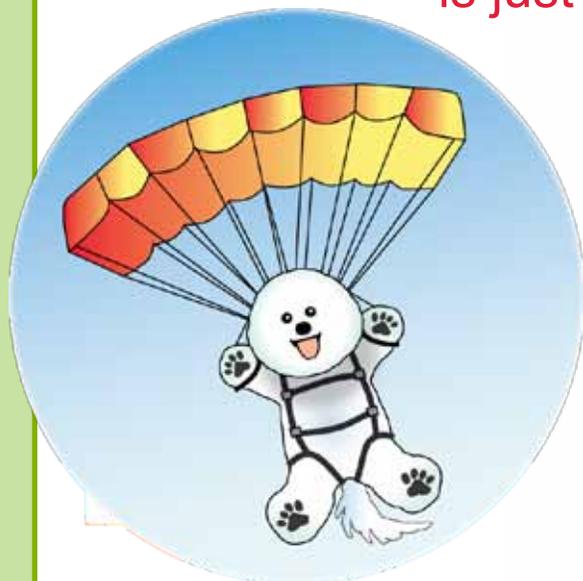
## OPERATION RESCUE FURKID 2000

is just around the corner!

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Location: Irvine Animal Care Center

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



In 2006, Marti Colwell, our Founder and CEO, decided to rescue and rehome one bichon. That one bichon was the beginning of Bichon FurKids Rescue. Today, in our seventh year, we continue to identify abandoned and neglected bichons, those surrendered by their families and those who become part of the shelter system.

**This year we are on a mission - and a very special mission it is! We are going to rescue and adopt FurKid 2000! We hope you will join us as we commemorate this milestone! We will have a special**

recognition for this little bichon and his or her Forever Family and hope that we can make this announcement and presentation at the Spring Bichon Bash. (We are on the countdown now!)

Join us as we observe this special accomplishment and look back over the years at the beautiful FurKid faces that have brought us together on this amazing journey.

Invitations have already gone out - so if you did not receive yours, please email [info@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:info@bichonfurkids.org). Simply put "Bichon Bash invitation" in the subject line and a Socializr invitation will be sent to you immediately. You may also visit our website at <http://www.bichonfurkids.org> for more information.

**Please also note that to make this event, one of our primary fundraisers, successful, we need your help.** We need volunteers for **set-up** on Friday night and Saturday morning; for the **booths** (Adoption Alley, Beverage Bar, BFK Boutique, Photography, Raffle Room, Registration, Volunteer Villa, and others), and even for **poop scoop duty**. The **Planning Committee** could use some help as well to solicit exhibitors, advertising, sponsorships, raffle prizes, and donations; create signs and posters, assemble gift bags and a myriad of other tasks that ultimately will make this a fantastic event.

Won't you please help - and make a difference at our Spring Bichon Bash? Email our Event Coordinator, Michele Olivier, at [michele@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:michele@bichonfurkids.org) as soon as possible. Let us know which assignments interest you.

**We can't wait to see you, greet you, fuss over your FurKid and, hopefully, be able to 'crown' Bichon FurKid 2000 at the Bichon Bash!**

**Editor's Note:** Anabelle Cabrera, our Orange County Shelter Evaluator, sent us this article. Here is what she said:

"My co-worker, Jenni Swindell, approached me a few weeks ago because her daughter, Madison, was doing a school project. They were assigned to choose a charity to report on. Madison chose Bichon FurKids Rescue for her project. Madison is 11 years old and attends Mariposa Elementary School in Brea, CA.

Their assignment included raising money for their charity, volunteering time, and creating a poster board for a presentation. The poster boards were also on display at Open House. Madison raised money by selling brownies and redeeming recyclables. In addition, she made a flyer that promoted the Bichon FurKids Amazon shopping link.

With the money she raised, she purchased fleece material for blankets, which she will be donating to BFK after they are completed.

On March 27, Madison met me at the shelter with her dad, Casey, and we rescued Sammy. Madison went through the whole process of visiting the dogs through the kennels, going to the office to get a visitor pass, and evaluating the dog in the visiting area. We were so happy that we could actually exit a dog as well. Here are some excerpts from Madison's report, as well as some pictures to share.



## The First Time I Saved a Bichon From The "Pound"

By Madison Swindell

The first time ever I saved a Bichon. It was so much fun!! It was also really hard because there were so many cute dogs that I could've picked. Thankfully there was someone there that worked for Bichon FurKids that helped me pick a little furkid. Her advice was to pick a dog that was really hurt, ill, or really old. So I looked around for about a half an hour, but finally I found the one.



His name was Lucky. He was so cute! It was one of the old ones that are really calm around other dogs, but was really playful. He would go chase a ball, but he would stop right when he got the ball. Then he would run over back to me. It was so funny. He would let you hold him like a little baby,

and rub his belly. He loved it when you rubbed his belly. It was his favorite spot to be rubbed, but the sad thing was I didn't get to keep him because he had to go to the rescue with Annabelle, the person that worked for Bichon FurKids, to get groomed and looked at in case he had a infection anywhere. I had fun though, and that is all that matters.

