

Bichon Bits & Bytes

August 2013 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Two's Company, Three's A Hoot

We've always had two dogs: first two Cocker Spaniels, then one Cocker and one Bichon Frise, then two Bichons (Casey-11 years old and Jack-10, who's our first rescue kid from BFK). They've always been LOTS of company and full of love and fun, and we've always known that two dogs are just about perfect: two dogs - two laps; two dogs - two humans to do the feeding; two dogs - two walkers for exercise; two dogs - two incomes to support them; and, best of all, two hearts to fill with love and joy - well, actually all four hearts to fill with love and joy. Life is good with two dogs and oh, so comfortable with lots of great company for everyone.



Then, along came Dav-ey. He was found by the Yolo County shelter folks in a park in Woodland on a dark and stormy December night - no tags, no microchip. However, he was wearing a nice little blue sweater, so the shelter workers were sure someone would come claim this little five year old guy

very soon. Unfortunately, weeks passed and no one answered their repeated calls for an owner to claim him, and they noticed that he was having trouble controlling his hind legs. Those legs didn't always seem to be doing what he wanted them to do. The shelter folks suspected some neurological damage may be causing his motor problems and worried about whether that might be a major reason why no one was claiming him, since neurological issues can be very expensive to address.

Things were looking bleak for our little stray with the cute, blue sweater. Enter Marti Colwell: "That little guy looks like he's got some Bichon in him, and besides he deserves to have a great life, if we can do anything about it." So, I got a phone call to check him out to see if we could, realistically, help him. After more exams by multiple vets, it became pretty clear that he had spinal problems,

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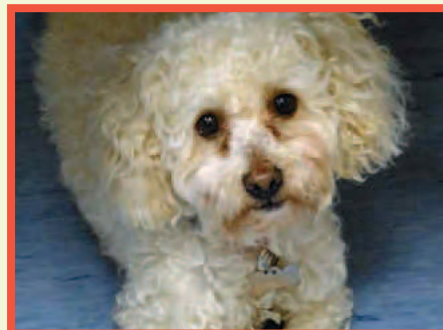
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(Two's Company, Three's A Hoot, continued from page one.)

and he had to have surgery at the UC Davis Vet. Med. Teaching Hospital. During the time that Sheila and I took him over to UCD for tests and the operation, he gave us "the look." ----- Despite "that look," we certainly just absolutely knew that "Two's company; three's a crowd," so we kept resisting doing anything with him other than short-term fostering while he healed from the surgery, so BFK could assess his progress and prognosis and decide where to place him on a more permanent basis. After all, how can 2 laps hold three dogs? How can 2 people pet three dogs at the same time? How can there be enough love to go around?

Well, suffice it to say that it is now July and Davey is still with us - no longer a "short-term" foster. We've officially joined the ranks of "Foster Failures," and we're not giving Davey up to anyone.



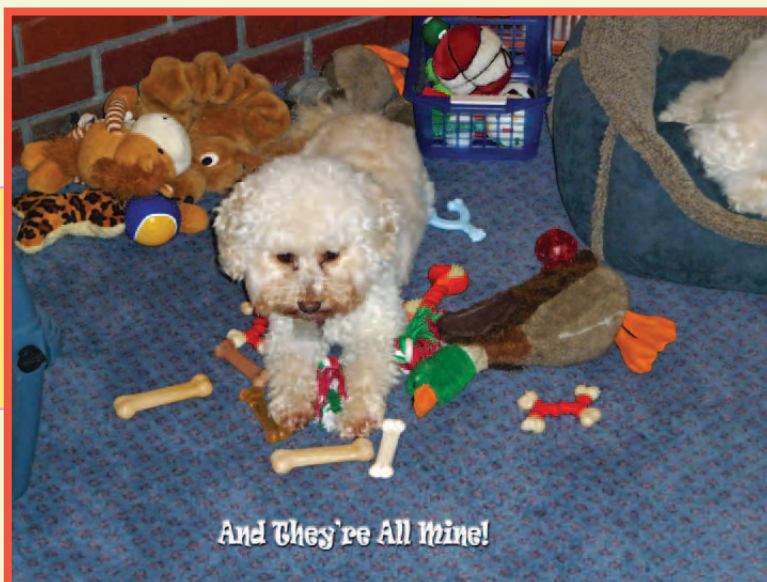
Davey is the youngster in our family. The surgery couldn't really correct his problems with his hind legs but that sure has not slowed him down. He loves to play, and he's now our most expert squirrel chaser. He's also the playmate for Jack that Casey just has never wanted to be. (<http://vimeo.com/59119730>) Casey's a lover but he's not into roughhousing with his



housemates. Davey and Jack are. Jack does the Bichon Buzz. (<http://vimeo.com/59124016>) Davey, who's mostly poodle, doesn't get the Buzz but he loves a good game of tug-of-war. They have a blast and let Casey enjoy his quiet loving, and they all three keep us in stitches with their antics. Oh, and about that question asking how can two laps take care of 3 dogs? --- often-times, now, we actually have a lap to spare.

We can now enthusiastically say:

Two's Company and Three's A Hoot!

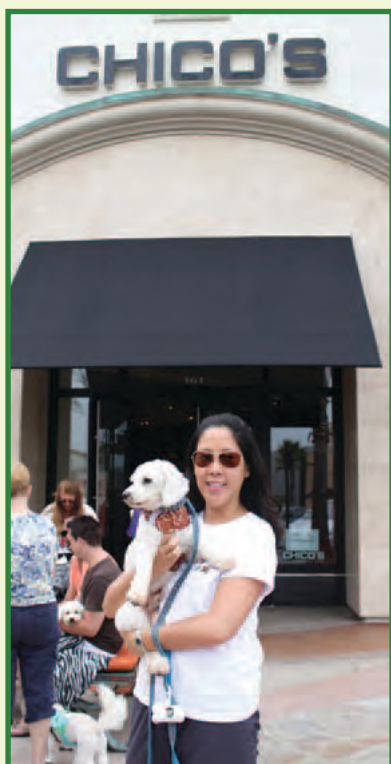


And They're All Mine!

Chico's "Fashion and FurKids" a Big Success!

On Saturday, July 27th, FurKids trumped fashion on the "sidewalk runway" at Chico's at the Forum in Carlsbad. Shoppers and passersby were treated to bichon wags and doggy kisses happily delivered by the latest collection of our adorable and adoptable FurKids. Our wonderful partners at Chico's not only hosted this event, but also contributed a portion of the proceeds to our rescue group. Because of Chico's

generosity, we are proud to report that we made several hundred dollars, four FurKids were adopted, plus we met a new foster! A big thank-you to Chico's and to all of the volunteers who made this fundraiser such a success!



Mark Your Calendars for the Fall Bichon Bash!

Last year, the Bichon Bash, Fall-version, returned to San Diego! Having outgrown our previous location in Encinitas in 2008, we began to hold the then-annual Bichon Bash in Irvine. The event was lots of fun (for FurKids and their families) and we looked forward to it each and every year.

Through the unrelenting efforts of San Diego-based volunteers, a new location was found in North County San Diego. Last October we held the first Fall Bichon

Bash. It, too, was fun for all two-legged and four-legged participants! As a result we are gearing up for our 2nd Fall Bichon Bash!



Please join us on Saturday, October 26th, 2013 from 10:00-3:00 at the Hidden Valley Obedience Club in sunny Escondido, California!

This year we are celebrating Operation Rescue FurKid 2000 as we marked adoption number 2000 in May - and chronicle the journey we have taken to reach that milestone. The Fall Bichon Bash will feature our famous Parade of Rescues and the wonderful stories our adopters have to share about the FurKids in their lives. We look forward to introducing you to vendors whose products and services help us keep our Bichons healthy and beautiful. Many of our fosters will be there to greet you and your favorite fluff, along with photographers, groomers and trainers.

The event is catered with an all-you-can-eat meal (hint: it is something new and delicious!) included in your registration donation of \$25 per person/ \$75 per family of four.

Your RSVP is required to 'save your space' and we encourage you to either click on your Socializr invitation or click on this link to register:

<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2013fallregistration>



And Speaking of Calendars...

The 2014 Bichon FurKids Calendar will be Ready to Buy at the Bichon Bash!

What could be better than celebrating an exciting new year? Celebrating it with the 2014 Bichon FurKids Calendar at your side. It's sure to make you smile, month after month.

We are busily preparing the calendar for production showcasing the bichons who participated in our recent calendar contest, along with our 2000th FurKid!! The calendar will be available for sale at the Fall Bichon Bash on October 26th. We will also make it available for purchase on our web site. Watch for announcements regarding its availability!

Please think of the people you love who also love bichons - and buy a calendar for them. They make great holiday, birthday and anniversary gifts -- and the proceeds from each calendar go towards the medical needs of incoming FurKids.

We look forward to sharing the calendar with you soon. If you want to pre-order email marti@bichonfurkids.org.





It's Time to (Re-)Register for the Ralph's Community Contribution Program

REGISTRATION FOR THE NEW TERM BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2013.

Through the Ralph's Community Contribution Program, we generate important funds for the rescue and rehoming of FurKids. All you have to do is use your Ralph's Rewards card when you purchase food or other grocery items, and a portion of the sale is contributed to Bichon FurKids Rescue. The first day you can register for the new term is September 1, 2013 or after. Even if you registered as recently as June, July or August 2013, you are still required to register again, on or after September 1, 2013. All members who are currently enrolled in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program will remain active until August 31, 2013.

There are two ways to enroll: **a)** Online registration at www.ralphs.com (see instructions below for new and existing participants) or **b)** Scan-Bar letter at the register. If you received a scan-bar letter last year, it is still good and can be used this year. To receive a scan-bar letter, send an email to community.programs@ralphs.com and one will be mailed to you.

New Members Registration Instructions for the Ralph's website:

1. Log in to www.ralphs.com.
2. Click on **Create an Account**.
3. Follow the five easy steps to create an online account.
4. You will be instructed to go to your email inbox to confirm your account.
5. After you confirm your online account by clicking on the link in your email, return to www.ralphs.com and click on **my account** (you may have to sign in again first).
6. View all your information and edit as necessary.
7. Link your card to your organization by clicking on **Community Rewards**, then on **Edit my community contribution**, and then follow the instructions. **Note:** Make certain to click on the circle to the left of the Bichon FurKids name!

Current Members Re-Registration Instructions for the Ralph's website:

1. Log in to www.ralphs.com.
2. Click **Sign In**.
3. Enter your email address and password.
4. Click on **My Account** (in the top right hand corner).
5. Click on **Account Settings**.
6. View all your information and edit as necessary.
7. Link your card to your organization by clicking on **Community Rewards**, then on **Edit my community contribution**, and then follow the instructions. **Note:** Make certain to click on the circle to the left of the Bichon FurKids name!

First and Foremost, a Lover!

Dear Bichon FurKids,

Our boys are Jack (age 6) and Harvey (age 4). The reason Justin and I even started talking about getting a dog was Jack's obvious love for them! Every time we would see a dog he would giddily point at the dog to get our attention. His favorite books and movies all involved a dog, you get the idea.

Another thing worth noting is that our sweet Jack has multiple life threatening food allergies and also has environmental allergies - even dogs. I did a lot of research regarding hypoallergenic breeds. Bichons sounded like such a sweet and gentle breed, I just had a really strong sense that it was the breed for our family.

When I told Jack we were looking into adopting a dog of our own, he was over the moon! You suggested we meet Cotton and the minute we did, we fell in love. His foster mom handed him to me and he just laid his little head on my shoulder. I was smitten. The boys named him Gary (better than Spongebob, the inspiration for his name is Spongebob's pet snail Gary). His second night in our home, the boys went to bed and Gary trotted off to check on them.

Gary is first and foremost a LOVER, which is why he fits in so perfectly with our gentle family. When he first moved in, he wanted only to be held, petted, and doted on - can you blame him? He still loves all those things but has also learned to play fetch, chase the boys around the backyard, and sit for treats. Going for walks and bedtime (in our beds) are his absolute favorites! Our boys love him so much and he loves them right back.

Everyone he meets falls in love with him, even people who "don't like dogs" like Gary. And we think that says it all! We're so grateful for your organization and for our furbaby. As our 6 year old likes to say "we're so lucky to have him, and he's so lucky to have us"

Sincerely,

The Skinner Family

