



Bichon Bits & Bytes

October 2013 Bichon FurKids Rescue

My Best Friend, Buddy

Back in May of this year we adopted Robbie, (Buddy), from Bichon Fur Kids. Before we even met him, we knew he was special from across the dog park. He played with all the other dogs, but mostly wanted to be with me. The whole ride home he cuddled up next to me and gave me lots of kisses. As soon as we brought him into our home, he ran around and played with my other Bichon, Addysen. I really wanted to get another dog that would be "my dog" because Addy was always with my dad whenever he was home.

My prayers were answered when Buddy joined our family! He sleeps with me at night and licks my face to wake me up after my alarm goes off. He also licks and nudges me when he has to go outside. He not only likes to get hugs and kisses, but he puts his front feet on my shoulders and gives ME hugs and kisses too.

When I am not home, Buddy waits for me on the back of the couch with his little muzzle resting on a slat of the shutters. He is so cute when he is there and he makes me even more excited to be home. I have my own jar of dog treats in my room so I can train both of my dogs. Buddy likes to hide his treats and build up a stash. I can't wait to see what cool tricks I can train him to do.

The most surprising thing about Buddy is his love of the water! Addysen, also a Bichon, likes to float on a raft we call "Puppy Island." Then, we put her in the water and she swims directly from Puppy Island to the steps to get out. Once a day is enough for her. The first time we saw Buddy swim, my parents and I were swimming, and we saw Buddy swimming too! At first we thought he had fallen in, but over time we



Continued on next page...

Contents

My Best Friend, Buddy	1
Benefits of Adopting a Senior Pet	3
Bichon Bash is Around The Corner	5
2014 BFK Calendar is Now Available!	6
A Cute Surprise	7

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(My Best Friend Buddy, continued from page one.)

realized that he was part fish (not really). Now, when we put him outside to go to the bathroom, sometimes he jumps in, even in the middle of the night. After he goes in the pool, he runs around at lightning speed and plays with Addy. When I go in the pool with him, he swims onto my shoulder and likes to float there. He has even run down the water slide. Once he gets into the water, from the slide, raft, or side of the pool, he doesn't go to the steps to get out until he is done swimming. Even if we point him toward the steps he will turn away and keep swimming.

I can't forget to mention his adorable tail. I love it! It is coiled up almost two times. I like to unwind it and watch it spring back. I think he likes it too. When he swims, his coiled tail wags partially above and below the water. I like knowing he is enjoying his pool time as much as I do. Just in case you haven't figured it out yet, Buddy is my new Best Friend! I love spending time with him and he loves spending time with me too. He lays quietly next to me when I do my homework and gets crazy with me when we play. He is exactly what I wanted, "My Own Dog." Thank you, Bichon FurKids! You added more to our family than you will ever know.

Abby Edwards
12 years old



The Rewards of Adopting a Senior Pet

Editor's Note: In this issue, we wanted to take some time to point out the "special-ness" of our fosters who take in the seniors, foster and love them, help them regain the security they had previously in their lives, and find forever families. Here is a story from one of our foster couples, who took in a lab mix named Katie and changed her life, while at the same time realizing how much she changed theirs. We encourage everyone to consider fostering a senior pet. For the many reasons why, read the wonderful article at: <http://www.pet360.com/dog/adoption/top-10-reasons-to-adopt-a-senior-dog/Pe9bBqiaZ0KaYyuctVxDmw>.

The Story of Katie, our Rescued Senior Girl

by Judy D'Addieco

Katie wasn't a bichon, although being surrounded by little fluffy white dogs, she certainly thought she was. My husband Mike and I called her our "Honorary Bichon."



We took in Katie, a senior, when it was clear nobody else wanted her. She was skinny, her coat was dull from neglect, and her bones ached from arthritis—yet the moment she arrived at our home for the initial visit, she sauntered in proudly, checked out each room, and then seemed to say "Yeah, this is good." We loved her immediately and adopted her on the spot (after passing the home check).

We knew we would not have Katie for long. She was estimated to be between 11 and 13 years old when she left the shelter, and she had a heart condition that would eventually be her undoing. As it turned out, we had her just over two years, but what years they were! She knew we gave her a second chance at life, and she gave us her heart completely. She had so much love left to give!

I have a photo of Katie in the rescue's van, looking out the window with anticipation on the way from the shelter to the home of her temporary foster. We all know a picture is worth a thousand words, and this one clearly reflects her relief at leaving the shelter, her curiosity (which afterwards we realized was downright nosiness...she always had to know what was going on) and her optimism that something good was about to happen to her!



It turned out that optimism was Katie's hallmark. After Katie settled in with us, she never stopped smiling. In her mind, every new day was the happiest day of her life. We'd wake up, and there she was, grinning! She gained weight, her coat improved, and her new pain meds relieved the arthritis. (How she hated taking pills and always knew they were buried in those "treats," but that's another story!) Whenever we'd look into her eyes, the look of love, gratitude, and pure joy that she returned melted our hearts.

Katie so loved the Mammoth memory foam bed we ordered for her. A bed: such a simple thing to us humans, but whenever she'd nestle into it for a nap or a night's sleep, she'd heave the most heartwarming sigh of contentment.

(Continued on next page)

(The Rewards of Adopting a Senior Pet, continued from previous page)

She approached her food and her walks with similar delight, and she loved playing fetch with her favorite toy. She adored the rambunctious little dog next door, who always brought out her inner puppy as they chased each other around the yard. Yes...our Katie, the broken down "old mutt" who could hardly walk, now was living her dream retirement by scrambling after balls and playmates.

Katie never let me out of her sight and even stepped up to protect me one day when she thought my friend's Australian Shepherd was being aggressive toward me. When I showed her that we were only playing, she "got it" right away and they were good buddies thereafter. She was a very wise old soul.



Katie passed away peacefully in her beloved Mammoth memory foam bed on August 13 sometime before dawn. We still grieve her loss immensely, so I won't say it's been easy. However, we'd do it again if we could. The peace of mind knowing that we gave her back the dignity, comfort, and love that all dogs deserve in their final years (possibly the best years in Katie's case) helps us counter the sadness with the joy of having known her.

Here are three very special senior FurKids who are available for adoption!



Casey



Keiki



Petey

These three FurKids are very grateful to their foster Moms and Dads for taking them into their hearts and homes and giving them another chance at a forever family. (Thank you Kande, Debra and Cindy for being so loving and understanding!)

Sadly their stories are almost all the same. Through no fault of theirs, the people who loved and cared for them passed on — and there was no one in their families able to take over. All three are well-loved, well-adjusted bichons. We are waiting for another FurKid, a girl, to also become a FurKid, as her Mom passed and her Dad fell and is now in assisted living.

We hope that it will be one of you, in our amazing bichon community, who will provide those forever homes.

For more information, go to <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/Available+Dogs>
or email marti@bichonfurkids.org

The Fall Bichon Bash is Just Around the Corner!

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

Donation of \$25 per person/ \$75 per family of four



This year we are commemorating Operation Rescue FurKid 2000, having marked that specific adoption at our Spring Bichon Bash. The Fall Bichon Bash, held in Escondido, continues that theme and will also celebrate Nicholas, whose journey as a furkid started on a cold and rainy night in December 2010 in Escondido when he was hit, dragged behind a car and thrown

into a dumpster to die. His recovery reflects the bichon spirit, the commitment of foster mom Danna Santos and the support of the Bichon FurKid Rescue community. Nicholas' (aka Nicky) will to survive and thrive, and the joy he finds in each and every day, have been lessons to us

all. Nicky will be at the Fall Bichon Bash and hopefully racing around with his new wheels (a custom cart that has been built specifically for him) and will be happy to meet and greet everyone, human and canine.

The Fall Bichon Bash will feature our famous Parade of Rescues, a costume contest, therapy dog training, a talk about pet nutrition and wonderful stories that you, our adopters, have to share about the FurKids in your lives. We look forward to introducing you to a number of vendors, new and repeat favorites, 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 (something new and delicious!) included in your registration donation. What's more, we have ordered lots of canopies to keep you cool while you and your furkid enjoy the day.

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>



The 2014 Bichon FurKids Calendar is Available Now!

Our 2014 calendar showcases the bichons who participated in our recent calendar contest, along with our 2000th FurKid! The calendar is available now to order from our website at <http://www.bichonfurkids.org>.

The calendar will also be available for sale at the Fall Bichon Bash on October 26th at the Hidden Valley Obedience Club in Escondido.

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.



“ We are here for the Bichon Bash meeting!



We have a few demands...no leashes,
plenty of treats, and what happens at
the Bash stays at the Bash! ”