

## A Memorable Thanksgiving

The day after Thanksgiving we received a call regarding 10 bichons in need of immediate assistance. The caller was a relative of a senior who had been breeding bichons for years and had been evicted, two days before



Brent and Pauline hard at work

Thanksgiving, from her home. The relative, a nephew and his wife, were very concerned about her — and equally concerned about her dogs. They feared that the bichons, ages 6 months to 12 years would end up in a shelter, be separated from one another and that some might never find loving homes at all.

At 9:30 that night, LoriAnne and Doug, fosters extraordinaire, met the nephew, his wife, the aunt/breeder and myself to assess what could be done for these bichons. Given that they were living in the back of an unheated U-Haul truck, in cages as opposed to the home they had lived

in for many years, we felt we had only one decision: to rescue all of them. At that point, we recognized the basics: they needed to be groomed, fed, receive needed medical services and, of course, find loving foster homes.

At 10:30 I called Brent, co-owner of Hairy's Pet Salon, to see whether he and his partner, Pauline, could assist us with grooming the dogs on Saturday. He graciously agreed, barely flinching when I said there would be 10 bichons — and then the first of many miracles happened. Brent offered to allow us to bring the 10 dogs to their shop that night, providing a place for them to stay where they would be warm, comfortable and together. Having spent four nights in the back of a cold unheated U-Haul truck, that

sounded like paradise — as well as an extremely generous offer.

By 2 AM, the dogs were all in place in warm cozy kennels. LoriAnne, Doug and I went to our respective homes, and then the questions began to arise!



Willie

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Where were we going to put 10 bichons within less than 24 hours? I truly believed that another miracle had to happen!

At some point, and I don't remember exactly when, I sent a message to Natalie, our amazing Facebook editor, to let her know the outline of the situation, with a promise to let her know more when the sun came up. I sent her a few photos of the bichons in their kennels and crawled into bed, wondering where these innocent little (most ranged from 8-10 pounds) bichons were going to find foster homes in little more than 12 hours! That turned out to be miracle number two.



**Chester and Einstein**

With the morning light, I began to reach out to find foster homes for these scared and needy little bichons while Natalie, on her own initiative, started a FundRazr campaign to help generate money to pay for their vetting. That is when the third miracle happened!

While Brent and Pauline began the arduous chore of grooming 10 Bichons, we began receiving emails, volunteer applications and offers to help.

We also began receiving pledges towards the costs we would be incurring with these pups, none of whom had been spayed or neutered, microchipped or given the necessary shots. Pat, Cindy, Bobbi and Jennifer reached out to quickly respond to new foster requests. Transportation was arranged. Lisa went to the storage facility to secure foster kits for all the dogs. Volunteers from Los Angeles, as well as San Diego and Orange County, came together at 6 o'clock that night to bring these 10 deserving little furkids to their foster homes. By 7:30 Brent and Pauline had finished the last of the groomings — and the last of the pups were on their way to loving foster homes and doggy furkid companions.



**Erica**

Those of you who know me well know that I lost my Mom on Thanksgiving two years ago — so the holiday had ceased to be a time of happy memories for me. That changed with the Thanksgiving 10, because I will now remember the miracles that occurred at Thanksgiving, 2014 when so many of you came together to make it possible to help them! And I suspect my Mom had a hand in making all of this come to pass, changing the way I will view Thanksgiving for ever more.

In the last week, we have seen nine of the dogs receive medical care (the tenth is scheduled for his 'day at the vet' next week.) We have found them to be fairly healthy overall, although some have genetic issues, as a result of inbreeding. Chester, Einstein,



**Mary Kay and Emmy  
(Erica's sister)**



**Monte**

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Tessa, Willie, Monte, Fitz, Erica, Tammy and Emmy have all had their visits, been weighed and aged, received their shots and microchips and were spayed or neutered. Georgie will be going in for his next week. The biggest challenge we now have is with little 8 pound Erica, who needs surgery on both of her back legs. She has a somewhat commonplace condition in bichons known as luxating patellas. It is rare to have both of the patellas (knee caps) luxate; however Erica was 'doubly blessed.'

All ten are amazingly resilient and loving little 'kids' who are beginning to open up to the love that their foster families are providing. Each day we hear about the exploits and successes these little ones are experiencing, as they start to live more 'normal' lives. They are making the transition by modeling the bichons in their foster homes — which is gratifying to all of us.

Their story will, I believe, have many chapters. Little Erica has the most physical issues. Monte probably has the furthest distance to come emotionally. Willie, Tessa, Chester, Einstein, Tammy and Fitz will soon be ready to meet adopters. All of them will need to go to homes with other furkids, as they are more accustomed to being with their bichon family than with people. They are, however, learning that having loving humans around is a pretty neat thing.

We appreciate ALL the support that you have given us, emotionally and financially. THANKS to ALL of you who came through for these precious babies! Our bichon community is amazing and I am constantly in awe of what you do and accomplish!



Tessa



Tammy



Donna and  
Georgie

On behalf of the Thanksgiving 10 and Bichon FurKids, we have much to be thankful for. And it is truly all of you, coming together to make this happen, that has left me so very, very grateful!

May the new year bring you health and whatever makes you happiest.

Belly rubs to those very special little four-legged kids at your home.

*Marti and  
the FurKids*



Fitz



A big **THANK YOU**  
to Girl Scout Troop  
1682 of Oceanside  
for making these  
beautiful "blankies"  
for the FurKids!







# Happy Adoption!

Lilly (formerly Melody)  
loves her new home,  
and we love her!

-- The Isaacs



## More FurKids getting ready for the Holidays!



Shadow and Rosie



Luca and Angel

*From the Webers: Luca & Angel are going to celebrate their 1st Christmas in their new forever home in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. We love them dearly - they bring so much happiness and love into our lives! Merry Christmas from Luca & Angel! Thank you to Bichon FurKids for these two very special little babies!*



Luca, what do you see?  
I think I hear something  
on the roof!  
Could it be Santa?



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH

From Bichon FurKids!

