Bichon Bits & Bytes

February 2014 Bichon FurKids Rescue

When Your Pet Survives You: Raffles' Story

Here is our very own and very special Raffles. See the happy look on his face! Tonight Raffles is in a loving foster home, warm, cozy and surrounded by his bichon "cousins." His owner, who was a spry and witty senior lady (and BFK foster and volunteer), doted on and adored him. Raffles was the center of her world - and was treated like a prince. He went to the dog park almost daily, loved going for car rides and was a great companion in every way.

Before his Mom got sick, she asked Marti to promise to care for and re-home him, if he should outlive her. She wanted the assurance that Raffles would have a loving home for the rest of his life. Marti agreed, as Raffles had been a weekly visitor to her home over the course of several years - and everyone who met him adored him.

Sadly, Raffles Mom died last month. Instead of surrendering him to BFK, her adult children brought this happy boy to a vet to be euthanized. Through divine intervention - and due to the compassion of a wonderful vet named Dr. Nissen at Palomar Animal Hospital (www.palomarvet.com) - Raffles was not put to sleep. Instead, BFK was called and asked to help him. We responded with a 'You bet we will!' then went to work to find a foster who could help Raffles.

You see from the time of his last vet appointment in August until his Mom died, something happened to Raffles: he became diabetic. (Diabetes itself is manageable with daily insulin shots, much the same as with humans.) Dr. Nissen discovered that and began to treat Raffles. Being the trouper he is, he has responded beautifully. He is a great patient, eats his new food with a vengeance, takes his insulin shots like a pro and prances when he walks. Just being with Raffles makes you smile as he is so happy!

We want to be sure that Raffles story is shared - so that those who love their pups so dearly and make legal provisions for them, make a copy of those provisions to whomever is entrusted with their future care. BFK has been entrusted to care for a number of furkids should

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Raffles' Story (continued from page one)

their owners precede them. Without a copy of those arrangements we are not able to fulfill those requests. With a formal copy of those instructions (Trust, Will etc.) Bichon FurKids can care for them as their owners wanted - and requested. Raffles was blessed twice - first with a mom who rescued him and second with a vet who refused to do what she was asked to do. And maybe third by the volunteers of BFK who adore him and committed that he would be cared for .... forever.

Over the past few decades there has been a dramatic change in the importance that we, as a society, place on our relationship with the animals with whom we share our lives. Our companion animals are considered less and less as property and more and more as beloved family members. No wonder then that we want to ensure that our animals are well-cared for after our death. Sadly, each day, as rescuers, we hear about beloved companion animals ending up in shelters after their owners die, or just as bad, at a vet's office to be euthanized. Please don't be one of those owners. We've included some suggestions to help you plan for the continuing care of your pets.

Make a Bequest of Your Animals To a Caretaker. A simple way to ensure continued care for your pets after you die is to find a friend or family member willing to take and care for them, and then have your attorney draft a Will leaving the animals to that person. (You should find alternate persons to be named in the Will, as the first-named person may be unable to take the animals when the time comes.) Alternatively, the Will could be drafted to give your executor the discretion to select from among several persons named by you to take your animals. When possible, leave a sum of money to the person who will be taking care of your animals to defray the costs of their care. If you have no one who is able and willing to take the animal(s), your executor can be given the authority to find suitable adoptive homes for them. If you do this, it is wise to select an executor who has knowledge of and concern for your pets.

Create a Trust for Your Animals. Most states now have "pet trust statutes." These statutes allow you to create a trust for your animals. You can create a pet trust and name a trustee and a caretaker for your animals. There are two methods of creating a pet trust. First, a trust under the Will, called a testamentary trust, can be created. Or an inter vivos trust, which is created during the life of the pet owner, can be created. The inter vivos trust has the advantage of being immediately available for the care of an animal if the pet owner, for example, has to go into a nursing home or becomes incapacitated. A pet trust can be funded with a specific amount of cash or with assets other than cash. Some people have taken out life insurance policies and made the pet trust the beneficiary of the policy.

An alternative to the trust for animals would be to find a sanctuary and leave the animals (and funds for the animals' care) outright to the sanctuary on condition that they keep and care for the animals for life. No trust would be created. The animals would go directly to the sanctuary as an outright bequest. If you are interested in having Bichon FurKids Rescue care for your bichon as his or her caregiver when you no longer are able to do so, please notify us of that request when you draft your will or trust.

Web sites for more information include:

http://www.animallaw.info/topics/spuswillstrusts.htm

http://wills.about.com/b/2008/10/06/basic-estate-planning-dont-forget-about-your-pets.htm

http://livingtrustnetwork.com/resources/non-government-resources/estate-planning-for-pets.html

http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/43503433/ns/today-today_pets_and_animals/t/pet-estate-planning-not-just-leona-helmsley-anymore

Editor's Note: It is always a pleasure to hear from our adopters and to receive updates on what is happening in their lives – and the lives of their FurKids. It was, however, a delightful surprise to receive an envelope in the mail with the letter below and a very special 'rememberance' gift.

Here is that letter:

To our friends at BFK ...

My parents who adopted me from BFK 3-1/2 years ago were happily married this past September in a little town in Northern Minnesota with 150 friends and family attending our wonderful event. After dating for over 22 years, and lots of local dog chatter, it was nice to finally have them become a respectable married couple!

We asked that friends and family who wished to provide a gift in honor of our celebration make a donation to BFK on our behalf. Enclosed is a total of $2640.00 that we hope will continue to support your mission well into the future. I was going to send some cake but you know, kinda messy ... :)

Best Wishes,

Cody (that's me above at the lake and with Steve & Kevin below)

" Petey is Doing Great! "

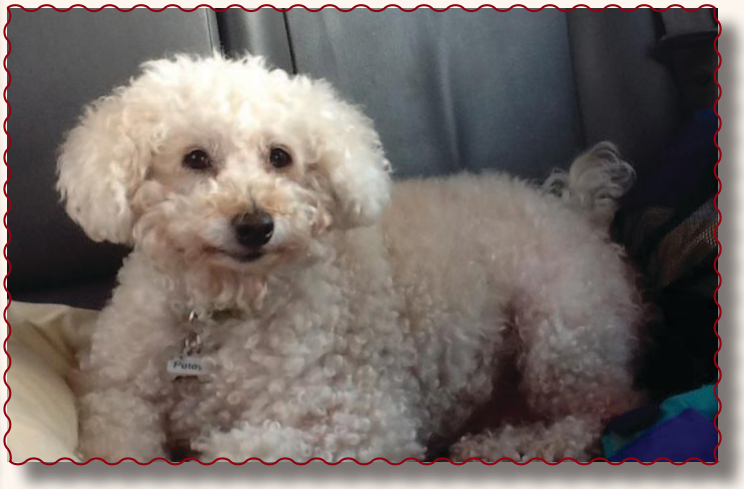
Hi, Marti! Petey is doing great! We are so happy with him and I think that he is happy with us. He is a very sweet and very easy dog.

We take him everywhere with us and he is a great companion for all of us! Lulu, the pig, is not completely sure about him yet - Petey is fine with her, but she does not know what to think of Petey, so we are only letting them together when we are with them or there is a gate between them.

We are thrilled that Petey has joined our family!

Sincerely,

The Schrad Family



Save the Date!

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Spring Bichon Bash

The Bichon Bash is our most exciting and fun-filled event. Last Spring we hosted nearly 300 guests with their FurKids. And at that and every other Bichon Bash, we always ask the question: Who has more fun? FurKids or their Moms, Dads and families?

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17th, 2014 to celebrate our amazing FurKids and their wonderful families.

Orange County is proud to once again host the Spring Bichon Bash at the beautiful Irvine Animal Care Center, recipient of the 2007 Shelter of the Year Award, and situated on five acres in a park-like setting.

Our volunteers are working feverishly to make this event the best ever. Join Tod Howarth, our Master of Ceremony, as we gather together in celebration of the bichons who bring so much love and laughter to our lives.

If you are interested in participating in the planning of the event – and in helping the day of the event, we need and want you! Please contact Marti (marti@bichonfurkids.org or 760-525-5556) and she will forward your information to the appropriate Bichon Bash Committee contact.

Save the Date invites have been sent – so please let us know if you did not receive one.

Our themed invitations are going out soon – and will include more details about the Spring Bichon Bash. If you know of other bichon lovers that you want us to invite, please contact joyce@bichonfurkids.org with their email addresses.

And please watch for more information and updates on the Bichon Bash page of our web site, as it will be posted shortly.

Pupologie's

RESCUE OF THE MONTH

is...

Bichon FurKids Rescue

Every Tuesday of March, **10%** of all treat and toy purchases will be donated to our friends at **Bichon FurKids**.

Bring your pups to our **St. Patrick's Yappy Hour (3/13)** and try your luck at winning one of our **Pup of Gold raffle prizes**.

All proceeds go to helping FurKids find loving Furever homes.

Stay tuned to learn more about Bichon FurKids, Yappy Hour, and ways that you can help us contribute to this wonderful Rescue!

Pupologie
123 N El Camino Real
Encinitas, CA 92024
(760) 436-1226

We leave you with a "Pupcard" that we received from FurKid Morgan ...

No sooner than I got used to camping then my parents bought an ATV, whatever that is! They wanted to take us FurKids on a short ride to see if we would like it - or not. They went really slow and we did good but I don't see this as being a new lifestyle for me.

The really good thing about this adventure, though, was that I got to meet my new friend, Milly. (I'm on the left and she is on the far right). Milly was recently adopted from BFK too - by my parents' best friends! (They didn't even know that was happening until it... happened!)

Now Milly and I are best friends, too! And THAT I like.

Morgan Beram