

Bichon Bits & Bytes

November 2014 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Editor's Note: Snuggles is an 11 year old bichon mx with an amazing spirit. She is smart, happy, trusting and loves everyone she meets. She is also a survivor. Snuggles arrived at the shelter unable to walk on all four legs - and with a mammary mass that proved to be benign. As a result of having x-rays, it was revealed that Snuggles had been injured at some point in her past and had injuries which included fractures to her pelvis and back leg. The shelter recommended euthanasia or amputation.



A shelter volunteer contacted Bichon FurKids and asked us to rescue her, stating that she was a very loving little girl who deserved a second chance. Snuggles was taken to Stonecreek Animal Hospital, where she was evaluated and treated. She was then placed with Debra, an incredible foster mom, who worked with Snuggles, patiently walking with her to strengthen her back leg. Because of Debra,

Snuggles can now walk (slowly) on all fours and is gaining strength every day. When she doesn't use all four, she hops happily on three legs and keeps up quite the pace.

A few weeks ago, Snuggles was adopted by her forever family. It is truly a case of who rescued whom. Here is an excerpt from their story:

Seniors for Seniors

Louis and Kathleen are 81 and have known each other since they were 14. They have been partners in business, as well as in life. A few years ago Louis suffered a stroke and is now dealing with progressive cognitive difficulties. He had always been extremely active and his current challenges have been very difficult for him. He had become despondent and depressed, wanting to sleep a lot of the time.

Louis has always been a dog lover. As a result, his caregiver, Laura, suggested to both Kathleen and Louis that they consider adopting a senior dog to change the dynamics of their home and life. Kathleen agreed - and began speaking and working with Marti. As a result, they found the perfect fit in Snuggles.

Louis has a huge heart and will do for Snuggles what he would not do for himself. While he would grudgingly go on short walks in the past, he

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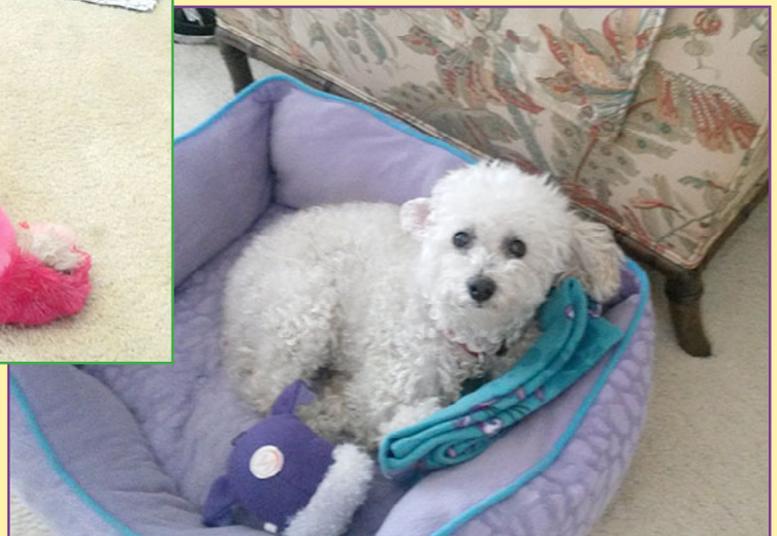
(Cover story, continued)

understands that Snuggles needs to exercise her leg. He is now willing to go on outings and has taken her to the park, the beach and to Seaport Village. He proudly walks her and loves the attention they get from others. Snuggles loves to go up to people for 'loves' and Louis loves to meet new people. They exercise each other and share the love with everyone they meet.



This has also been amazing for Kathleen. She and Snuggles are extremely bonded. As she walks this path with Louis, the love she shares with Snuggles will continue to be a blessing. A win, win, win for all.

Editor's Note: And on a 'related' happy note, Kathleen and Louis's daughter is waiting to meet and adopt her own FurKid. It's an 'all-in-the-family' happy and wonderful story - and one that we wanted to share with you.



McKenna Mends Two Hearts....Five Years Later

Five years ago in 2009, McKenna came to us from BFK. Henry and I adopted her as a young pup. Somehow, she had wound up at the Orange County Shelter, sad and dirty as can be. Bichon FurKids rescued her, bathed her and had to shave her down till you could see pink skin. She was then fostered and adopted by us. We are her third caring home, and we are her Forever Family.

Today, our McKenna is a well-trained happy dog who loves all dogs, kids, and people, young or old. She has this wonderful sweet face and a smile that says "thank you" all the time!

We go everywhere together. She just LOVES the car and we buzz around Palm Desert almost every day!

Each morning we drive up to Iron Wood Park where she visits with all her doggy friends...8-10 dogs meet and greet each other. It's the highlight of our day! Her favorite friend is Abby, a Wheaton Terrier mix, that runs like the wind! They tumble around on the grass and roll here and there and everywhere! It's so much fun to watch.

McKenna is our gift from God! It just can't get any better! Blessed beyond measure!

Thanks, Marti and all of the staff at BFK for all the wonderful work! You have made Henry and me both very, very, happy!

Melanie and Henry Sanchez



Editor's Note: With the holidays approaching there are more kinds of 'goodies' around our homes - and some of them are as dangerous to our FurKids as they are tasty to us. Please read this article to learn more about what you can do to keep your FurKid safe and healthy.

people

The most Poisonous Foods for Dogs

Dogs will eat just about any food they can get their paws on, and some of these goodies are actually poisonous for dogs, with serious or even fatal results. If you need to know about a food quickly, use the FIND function in your web browser to skip to the food you have questions about.

Food	Symptoms of Poisoning	Treatment
<p>Chocolate</p> <p>Chocolate is poisonous for dogs, because it contains theobromine. Dogs can develop a taste for this treat. The amount ingested determines how strong the poisoning is. For instance, a 44 lb dog will have digestive troubles after eating just a chocolate bar, but will only experience the more serious symptoms after ingesting over a pound of chocolate.</p>	<p>Symptoms can last as long as 72 hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures • Heart attacks • Vomiting • Diarrhea • Death 	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may attempt to induce vomiting if it is still within two hours of the dog eating the chocolate. If too much time has passed, the vet will treat the symptoms your dog shows, such as seizures and heart troubles, with specialized medicines.</p>
<p>Caffeine</p> <p>Whether it's in tea, coffee, or chocolate, caffeine can cause heart problems for your dog. A few sips of a caffeinated beverage may not poison your pet, but eating coffee grounds or tea bags can have grave consequences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperactivity • Vomiting • Elevated Heart Rate • Seizures • Collapse 	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may induce vomiting, as well as give your pet a dose of activated charcoal. Other options depending on the symptoms include sedatives, heart medication to lower the heart rate, and giving your dog IV fluids.</p>
<p>Garlic and Onions</p> <p>Garlic and Onions both contain sulfoxides and disulfides that are poisonous for dogs in all forms, be it raw, cooked or in a powder. Sulfoxides and disulfides damage your dog's red blood cells and can cause anemia.</p> <p>Onions have larger quantities of sulfoxides and disulfides than garlic, but both should be avoided by your pet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anemia • Lack of energy • Pale gums 	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may treat your dog's anemia by using corticosteroids and immunosuppressants.</p>

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Food	Symptoms of Poisoning	Treatment
<p>Gum (xylitol)</p> <p>Gum, as well as types of pudding and toothpastes, contain a sugar-free sweetener called xylitol that can be toxic for your dog. Ingestion of more than .1 grams of xylitol can cause a very serious and life-threatening type of low blood sugar for your dog within 10 minutes of them eating it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of energy • Vomiting • Seizures • Jaundice • Coma • Death <p>Note: A large ingestion of xylitol can cause liver failure.</p>	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may treat your dog by inducing vomiting, as well as monitoring their blood sugar levels. Other treatment options include providing sugar to your pet through IV Fluids and prescribing drugs to protect your dog's liver from failing.</p>
<p>Alcohol</p> <p>Your pet can ingest alcohol other ways than just through drinking it. Eating rumcake or unbaked dough that has yeast in it can cause your dog suffering from alcohol poisoning.</p> <p>Unbaked bread dough can also result in a bloated and twisted stomach, which in turn leads to Gastric Dilatation and volvulus syndrome, known as GDV. This is a life-threatening emergency that requires immediate medical attention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drooling • Vomiting • Dry Heaving • Low Blood Pressure • Coma • Death <p>Note: Alcohol from yeast is absorbed into a dog's bloodstream quickly, meaning the symptoms happen quickly.</p>	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may induce vomiting in your pet to deal with the alcohol poisoning. For GDV, there will have to be a surgical procedure and then treatment with IV fluids and antibiotics.</p>
<p>Raisins and Grapes</p> <p>Raisins and grapes can be poisonous for your dog in all the products they come in, from trail mix to juices.</p> <p>It is not currently understood what about grapes and raisins is toxic for dogs, but even a small mouthful of grapes or raisins could cause your dog much discomfort.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of energy • Vomiting • Diarrhea • Dehydration 	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may treat your dog by inducing vomiting and giving doses of activated charcoal. A vet may also monitor your dog's kidney and then supply IV fluid to your pet.</p>
<p>Salt</p> <p>Salt can be very poisonous for your dog and can lead to dehydration and sodium ion poisoning.</p> <p>In the past, salt was used by pet owners and veterinarians to induce vomiting in pets. However, this is no longer an accepted practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting • Lack of energy • Large amounts of thirst • Damaged kidneys • Seizures • Coma • Death 	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may treat salt poisoning by giving your dog a dose of IV fluids while monitoring their dehydration levels.</p>
<p>Apricots, Peaches, Cherries</p> <p>It isn't the fruit that's the problem. It's the pit, which contains cyanide. Cyanide inhibits the enzyme in dogs that allows their cells to transport oxygen through their body. Dogs may try to chew or swallow the pit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dilated pupils • Hard time breathing • Bright red coloring in the gums • Death 	<p>Call your veterinarian and poison control immediately. A vet may treat your dog for cyanide poisoning by administering an IV.</p>

Save the Date!

Bichon FurKids Rescue
Wants You To
Save The Date!

Bichon Bash

Saturday, May 16, 2015
Irvine Animal Care Center

Bring your furkids for a day of
fun, vendors, raffles and more.

More information to follow on our
website:

www.bichonfurkids.org



Wanted: Home Safety Checkers

As part of our adoption process, we need to check the homes and yards of prospective adopters - and we need volunteers who can help us determine how safe they are for our little furkids. We look for things like poisonous plants, fence slats a furkid can squeeze through, gates he or she can get under, etc. We have a checklist for you to use, and home visits are always scheduled at your convenience.

The home safety checks take about 20-30 minutes and are a great way to meet new people who will hopefully become new furkid moms and dads. If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer@bichonfurkids.org and she will be in touch.

A Very Special kind of Network ... for FurKids and their Moms and Dads

What do you get when you take little white fluffs who like each other, moms and dads who are dedicated to caring for them, add in a bit of travel (for work or pleasure) and the knowledge required for peace of mind to be able to travel? You get the Nanny Network.

Conceived by two adopters with the goal of 'trading' dog-watching responsibilities with like-minded bichon owners, the Nanny Network had its start in 2009. Hilary Cramer, one of the co-founders, manages the list of people willing to provide this loving service to other bichon owners.

Members contact Hilary to initiate a request for dog-watching services (while also offering to make themselves available to reciprocate at a later point in time.) Hilary emails members with the dates and details of each request, connecting members needing dog watching services with those offering to provide the services.

Word-of-mouth has been the primary way that the Nanny Network has grown. Members live in San Diego and Orange counties primarily - and, of course, provide these services in their homes. Lead time varies with the request - and the longer the lead time the more likely the 'fit.'

The Nanny Network has many FurKid parents as members - and they sing its praises. If you would like to join (the more, the merrier and better) please contact Hilary at hgcramer@yahoo.com or on her cell at 858-382-7705.

For those of you who are members of the Nanny Network and may also want to help transport furkids from shelters to groomers, vets and fosters, we'd love your help as well. The more drivers we have, the easier it is to make this happen, particularly since many of our requests are on relatively short notice. (We also do as much advanced planning as we can!) If you want to help, please send your name, cell, address, and a few details about your availability to mona@msourcemarketing.com. Examples of details:

"I can help transport during the day but have to be home by 3:00"

"I'm only available on weekends"

"I drive from Santa Monica to Oceanside every Monday and Wednesday morning, and return that night"

Together we can make a difference for one another and our FurKids.



The 2015 Bichon FurKids Calendar Just in time for the Holidays !

The 2015 Bichon FurKids calendar is ready to order for your holiday gift-giving fun! This little work of art (if we do say so ourselves) showcases the adorable and, in some cases, downright silly bichons who participated in our recent calendar contest. The calendar is available now to order from our website at <http://www.bichonfurkids.org>.

Please think of the people you love who also love bichons – and buy a calendar for them. They not only make great holiday gifts, but are also the perfect birthday or anniversary gift for any dog lover! And remember, the proceeds from each calendar go towards the needs of incoming FurKids.

Bichon FurKids Rescue
2015 Calendar

Toby
1st Place
Photo Contest Winner

**Truman,
Brigitte Louise &
Robbie**

**Broadway
& Gumball**

Rocco
Honorable
Mention

March 2015 Bichon FurKids Rescue

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 2015 Bichon FurKids Rescue

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		