

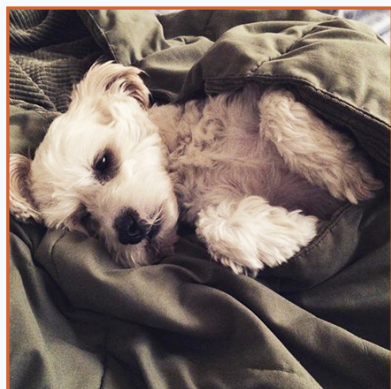
Bichon Bits & Bytes

April 2015 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Our Story: Of Love and FurKids

By Morgan Radmall (with a little help from Mom and Dorian)

Our story is not about one but, rather, two dogs, and a very happy family. A few weeks ago our lovely neighbor (who has a Bichon furkid of her own) found an adorable stray wandering in the back alley, alone, not collared, but very friendly. As soon as we saw him, we knew he



was a special dog. Tail wagging, friendly face, and that wonderful Bichon puppy-like energy. Over the next few days, walking turned into overnight visits, and we realized how great it was to have him around. We named him Joey, and fell completely in love in less than a week.

Soon Joey had a bed, food, a leash and collar — and we realized that he was completely meant to be in our lives. My sister Dorian in particular came out of her shell in a new and inspiring way — taking him for morning walks, petting him,

talking baby talk to him, etc. You see, this was a brand new experience for Dorian, a special needs adult. When we had introduced Joey to her initially, Dorian was upset about the change in our household, and concerned that we had brought a dog into our home. Dorian couldn't understand why — and didn't like the break in her daily routine. Additionally, Dorian had never been a caretaker to a dog, so for it to become such a natural fit was astounding. Ever-patient, and ever-kind Joey latched onto Dorian immediately, and began to work his magic.

Unfortunately, our landlord didn't see Joey living with us as a natural fit. He told us that he would not amend our lease to accommodate Joey. Desperate to keep him, we started looking into options, and came up empty handed. I got in touch with a friend who told me about Bichon FurKids. When we realized we'd have to give him up, even though it was something we were being forced to do, that was terrible and catastrophic news for Dorian. Her special needs had been incredibly diminished by having Joey around. Dorian was finding a way to connect through the world and to other people around her through her stories about Joey. Joey gave her even more of a reason to come out of her shell, and take on additional responsibilities. My mom, Dorian and I were heartbroken to have to let him go. Through Bichon FurKids, Joey (whose name was changed to Jordy) found a wonderful new home, with a doggy furkid sister, and a family to love him. Still, we were heartbroken that our landlord declined our request to have the lease amended.

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Fosters Needed

To get a Foster Application, please go to the BFK website at:
<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/volunteer>

Donate to BFK

Shop at Amazon.com, and a portion of your purchase will be automatically donated to BFK.



Use GoodSearch.com, powered by Yahoo! whenever you search the Internet, and a portion of your purchase will be automatically donated to BFK. Make sure to specify BFK as your Cause!



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Our Story: Of Love and FurKids (continued from page one)

Several days went by and we started to wonder, what rights did Dorian have? We knew about service dogs, but then I had heard something about Emotional Support animals, which Joey clearly was for Dorian. A little bit of research showed me that we were well within our rights to have a dog for Dorian. So we gently reminded our landlord that Dorian had special needs, and was entitled to all of the rights therein. He changed his tune right away.



A couple of weeks later, Marti called us with more than we could have hoped for. A perfect, beautiful Bichon mix named Jay Jay who was fine being an only dog, quiet, kind, patient, and the sweetest boy ever. We changed his name to Oliver — and he and Dorian are inseparable now. I kind of like him, too. Haha. Oliver's sleeping right next to me as I write this article.

My Mom says that, "I felt especially sad when I saw what a strong bond Joey and my daughters Morgan and Dorian developed with him. He had made us all better. I was especially pleased to see how responsible and loving Dorian had become toward Joey — and felt so bad for Dorian when we had to give him up. Now we have Oliver who is an adorable and quiet little guy. I love the way we all make time for his walks, and mealtimes. He has learned his way around the neighborhood, and is becoming more confident every day."

As for Dorian, having a furkid has changed her life. "I wasn't expecting a dog at all, and it was a surprise for me. At first I wasn't happy because I didn't want the responsibility. After Joey warmed up to me, however, I really began to enjoy his company and found him to be loving and very charming. I even began to look forward to walking him every day. Joey helped me get along better with my family because he eased a lot of tension among us."

Then along came Oliver.

According to Dorian, "I love him! Oliver's a very special dog. I don't compare him to Joey because he is really different. Oliver's fun, cute, adorable, and I love walking him. He's a part of our family now. I'm happy with him, and love him. When I get home, Oliver's waiting by the door ready to run out for a walk!

We are so thankful that Joey came into our lives, because he showed us that we weren't a complete family without a FurKid. And we are so happy to be that complete family now with Baby Oliver. And that's our amazing story with such a...



Happy Ending!





The Bichon Bash is right around the corner!

Get your tickets now. **Bring the whole family.** **Bring your friends.**
Bring your FurKids! Enjoy a day of fun, food, shopping, raffles, and more!

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Irvine Animal Care Center

6443 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information and to get your tickets, go to our website:

<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2015springhome>

Or send a check to the following address, but hurry so that we get it in time to get you registered:

Bichon FurKids

6965 El Camino Real

Suite 105-425

Carlsbad, CA 92009

Registration donation: \$25/person \$75/family of 4

Tickets also available at the door.

Here are just some of the vendors who will be offering their exciting products and services:

- Party Time Photo Booth
- Pupologie Pet Stores
- BUnique Crystalized Creations for Dog Fanciers
- Bark Bling
- Boomerangs's All-Natural Gourmet Treats
- NuVet Labs Supplements for your Pups
- Emma Sophia Handcrafted Purses and Totes
- Pet-Pac Pet Evacuation and Travel Kits





Paws With Friends: A Family & Furry Friend Event

On Saturday, April 25th, families, friends, furkids and some amazing volunteers congregated at the Walnut Grove Park in San Marcos for the city's first ever fundraiser to benefit San Marcos parks and recreation. It was truly a day of fun, including a Fun 5K walk (with dogs, of course), Lure Coursing (an amazing activity for some very smart pups), a Barn Hunt and Flyball Demonstrations (a wild and furry relay race for dogs).

Homemade pizzas, Kona Ice, Nothing Bundt Cakes and the Original Mr. Taco kept hunger at bay, while the dogs participated in what they do and enjoy best. Bichon FurKids was one of only three rescues asked to participate

– and we had a great time. Four of our pups met their adopters on Saturday and are now in their forever homes! Most of all we had a great time hanging out with one another – and our FurKids. And, as luck would have it, the rain held off until we had packed our cars and were ready to 'call it a day.'



Hats off to Bobbi whose excellent planning made the event work so smoothly, Ken and Scott for doing such a great job with set up (and Ken and David with take down), Cindy for working with the adopters, Pat and Joyce (Board members), Laura, Marilyn, Vikki, Susan, LoriAnne, Holly, Lorraine, Jackie, Cathy, Laurie, Cindra, Barb and Dave, Beth and Buck for your help!. Lucky for us Louise was on hand to take photos to help us capture this special memory. A giant THANKS to all of you who came, saw and conquered!



PS: We know we are biased but there was no doubt that the furkids were the hit of the event – and, as always, the opportunity to get together, enjoy our furkids, share our stories and anecdotes made the time pass so quickly! We look forward to a repeat performance next year.



WANTED! (STILL)



COOL STUFF FOR THE BICHON BASH

Do you have a time share, frequent flier miles, vacation rental property, gift cards or other things that fellow Bichon lovers would enjoy? Time is running out...to donate it, that is!

The Bichon Bash is right around the corner. Please consider donating any of these types of high-quality items to the Bichon Bash fundraising event (to be held on May 16th, 2015). Contact the Bash Planning Chairperson juliew@bichonfurkids.org for more information as to how you can support our "fun"draising event!

Meals on Wheels: Not Just for People Anymore

It's never easy to be a senior citizen on a fixed income. To get by, many people depend on programs like Meals on Wheels to get the food they need, especially when unplanned expenses like surgeries or medical bills arise.

There was a problem, however. The people who couldn't afford food for themselves often also couldn't afford food for their pets. This usually resulted in seniors sharing their food with their pets, which also meant both human and animal weren't getting proper nutrition. Some even had to give their pets away because of an inability to afford food. For many seniors whose friends and family may have passed or live far away, their animal companions are their best friends.

This was a major problem impacting the people served by Meals on Wheels. In response, the charity came up with a simple but remarkable solution. They started delivering food for both their human and animal clients.

By ensuring that seniors in need were able to feed themselves and their pets, Meals on Wheels is making sure seniors and their pets can be well-fed and provide companionship for each other.

If you're a senior over 60 years old and need help getting food, click the link below to find a Meals on Wheels near you. If you've got some time on your hands and compassion for those less fortunate in your community, consider volunteering for Meals on Wheels!

Find out more at <http://blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/meals-on-wheels-includes-pets/#qJXt9th2E7uBzDBz.99>