



Bichon Bits & Bytes

March 2015 Bichon FurKids Rescue

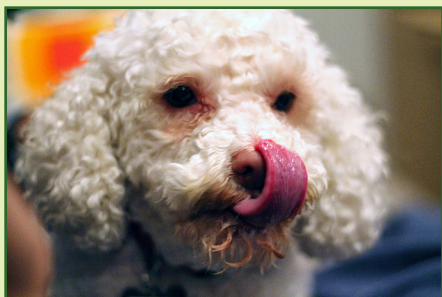
Floyd is...



One.
Cool.
FurDude

many occasions, Bichon FurKids volunteers jumped in to help. Over the course of several days, Marilyn and Connie played detective, tracking down information on Floyd – from his medical to his physical location – and being sure that someone was giving him food and water. Judi and Jim offered to foster Floyd temporarily, while BFK sorted out what he needed and would work best.

One of the most touching things about Floyd's relationship with Lee was the tag on his collar that read: "Floyd and Lee live here" with their address and phone number on the next line. And it was true that, at Judy and Jim's home, Floyd definitely favored Jim and seemed to be a man's dog.



Although a relatively young bichon, Floyd had a problem with his eyes not focusing and being very sensitive to light. We brought Floyd to Orange County where he underwent a series of tests at a specialty veterinary hospital. It was determined that his condition, while rare, was also irreversible and he had a few other medical issues to resolve.

Floyd's Story: The BFK Component

It started out as any normal, busy day.... until I (Marti) received a phone call that almost broke my heart.

The man, who identified himself as Omar, stated that he was with an agency in LA that worked with terminally ill and low income seniors who wanted the love and support of an animal. The agency had been notified that Lee, the owner of a bichon named Floyd, had passed away two days before. Omar reported that so-called 'friends' of Lee's had been going in and out of his mobile home taking the things they wanted -- however no one wanted Floyd. In fact, these 'friends' were going to call the shelter to take him away.

It seemed that the only one who could help Floyd avoid that fate would be a rescue group. And, as they have on so

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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.

amazon.com

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!

goodsearch

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Marti Colwell, President



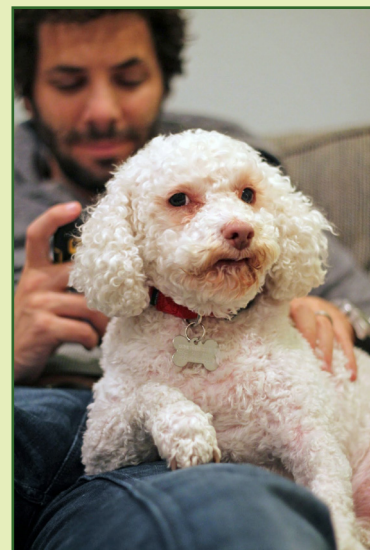
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Floyd's Story (continued from page one)

Thinking that Floyd would be happiest in a home with a couple (and expecting Floyd to attach himself to the husband) Cindy and Bob agreed to foster him. Two days later, and much to my surprise, Cindy called to say that Floyd had totally attached himself to HER and had become her shadow. Floyd also was attempting to run the house (as he probably had with Lee.) Cindy, however, had other ideas and taught Floyd to be mannerly, housebroken and to be respectful. She established routines and created a structure, weathering a few battles before Floyd succumbed to Cindy's leadership (which is what he truly wanted and needed all the time.)

After a few months of stability and having made huge progress, it was time for Floyd to meet potential adopters. On what was supposed to be a sunny day in January, and the date for our first event of 2015, we all opened our blinds and doors to find a downpour. Having made the commitment to do the event 'come rain or shine' Cindy drove Floyd from Orange County to Carlsbad in the rain (but with his doggles on.) We had seven approved adopters planning on coming – and all but one did! The magic that happened next is what transpired when Brandy and Dave came specifically to the event to meet Floyd.

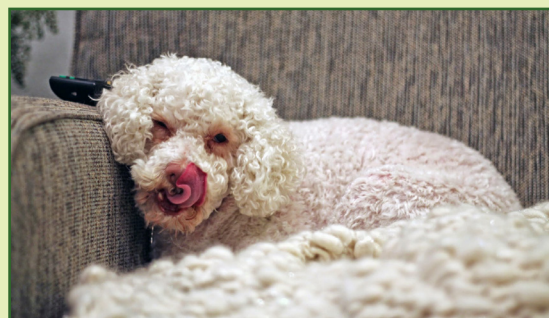


Floyd's Story: His Adoptive Mom's Perspective

Dave and I first saw Floyd when cruising the BFK website. My heart ached reading about how Floyd's owner, Lee, had passed on, and how his tag read "Floyd and Lee belong together". I've been dealing with a chronic illness called

POTS (postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome) that rocked my world and took me out of work last year, so I could empathize with Floyd's health problems too. His doggles were so cute and he looked so happy despite all he'd been through. This little guy could be my role model. I really wanted a companion during the day, and someone to get me out for walks in the evening. Floyd seemed like he was waiting for me, and he was just my speed.

We contacted BFK and learned about the upcoming event at Chico's. Floyd was instantly recognizable with those doggles of course, and Marti introduced us to him and his amazing foster, Cindy. He was really sweet with us, and was a hefty lump of love sitting in my lap. We could tell he knew how to love, because he didn't want to leave Cindy, as we took him for a short walk along the shops. It was an easy decision to make: we were going to give Floyd a forever home.



Making Floyd a part of our family is one of the best decisions we've ever made. He's brought so much happiness by keeping me in the moment with countless hugs and cuddlefeasts. He's thrilled to see Dave come home every day, and he loves rotating among our laps and those of our guests. He's even more thrilled to sleep in the middle of our king bed every night. Floyd walks me at least a mile every day, and he's lost 2 pounds since we adopted him!



Our vet says Floyd's slowly losing his sight, but for dogs it's very manageable and that we just shouldn't move the furniture. His doggles should help slow the process, and he looks even more fabulous wearing them with his new bomber jacket.

Floyd has found his forever home, and now his gleaming red tag reads "Floyd belongs with Brandy & Dave."

We're forever thankful to BFK and Cindy for bringing him to us!



WANTED!

**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?

Please consider donating 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!

Earn Money for Bichon FurKids Just by Walking Your Dog!

Woof Trax: What Is It - and What Does It Do?

Woof Trax is a way to walk your dog and earn money. People who are tracking their walks with their dogs have walked over 550,000 miles in 50 states to benefit their local animal shelters and rescue groups. In our BFK group alone, 33 people have walked 1400 miles!

If you walk your furkid (and we hope that all of you do several times a day), there is now a way to make your walk even more fun and rewarding. For every mile you walk your dog, Woof Trax donates to your chosen animal organization. Walk for a Dog provides a list of shelters and rescue groups. Once you choose Bichon FurKids, as you then take walks Woof Trax keeps track (hence the name) of how far you walk. (That gives you a sense of accomplishment - and validation.)When you choose BFK as your rescue group, Woof Trax then makes a donation to BFK based on the mileage our group has walked.

If you use the app each time you grab the leash, you will have a real sense of accomplishment. Woof Trax lets you report on how far you have walked (if you would like) or simply tells you the distance you have covered. It's healthy for you and your furkid.

Start by installing the free Android or iPhone app, and choosing BFK as your charity. Then start taking your 'Walk for a Dog' every day. Be sure to tell your friends - and please help us get the word out! The more people walking for BFK, the more Woof Trax will donate.

We and your FurKids thank you!



Big Bichon Blanket Bash



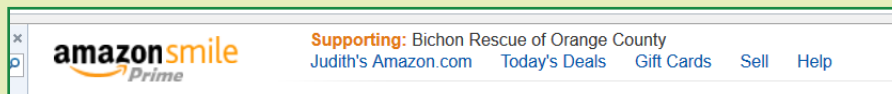
Many thanks to Mary Alice and her friends (old and new) who showed up for the “Big Blanket Bash.” Thirty people from ages 7 to 70 came together to make 110 blankets for the FurKids. Their contributions made a huge difference toward helping us meet our need for blankets in 2015. What can we say other than:

Bow-WOW!

Put your Shopping Dollars to Work for FurKids

Generate funds for BFK just by doing your routine shopping online at Amazon.

AmazonSmile



We have some exciting news to share: by shopping at Amazon using AmazonSmile, you can purchase the products you like and need – and also help Bichon FurKids (BFK) to save more lives. And the best part is that you can do so at no additional cost to you!!

When you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of your order to BFK. Remember at NO additional cost to you!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Bichon FurKids every time you shop. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience you always have on Amazon.com - with the additional bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to BFK.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from any browser on your computer or mobile device. (You might also want to create a bookmark to make it even easier to start your shopping.)

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.



Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

How do I select Bichon FurKids to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your very first visit to AmazonSmile <https://org.amazon.com/> (and you only need to do this once!) just select Bichon FurKids as your charity before you begin shopping. The system will remember your selection, and every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

We, all current and future FurKids thank you. You will help us to smile even broader when you purchase on Amazon (Smile, that is!) Thank you!



Save the Date!

Bichon FurKids Rescue Wants You To Save The Date!

The 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:**

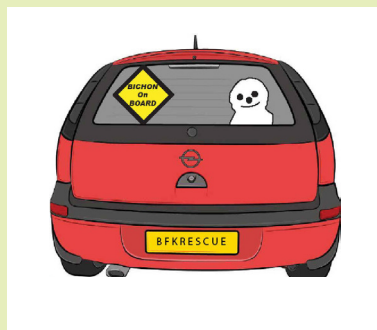
www.bichonfurkids.org



Wanted: Drivers for FurKids

Want to make a difference for a FurKid but can't foster? We need your help!

Every week FurKids need to be transported to groomers, vets and foster homes. We rely on our volunteer drivers to get them there, and we DO need more people who can transport our fluffs primarily throughout San Diego or Orange County (and not for great distances usually, either.)



Sometimes we have days in which to plan; other times it is more immediate, like when we find a FurKid that needs to be moved 'right away' due to a medical situation or to be exited from a shelter. If you have time and a love for bichons, we NEED you. And if you love to organize transports, we need help with that too!

Please email info@bichonfurkids.org and say "I'd like to drive a furkid" - and we'll be in touch.