



Bichon Bits & Bytes

December 2017 Bichon FurKids Rescue

A Special Note to Our Awesome FurKid Families

At this time of year, we want to say "Thank you" for being part of an amazing community that makes a difference each and every day in the lives of deserving FurKids — and thank you for proving that 'anyone, anywhere' can make an impact.

There is no one that has as much unconditional love for us as our beloved pets.....and no pets that are more grateful for the opportunity to give that love than rescued pets. It's true that the world would be a different place if we were more like them.

We know the feeling that we get when we walk in the door to a smiling face and a wagging tail. Truly there is nothing that melts our hearts (and melts away a difficult day) than those darling little beings.

When I started Bichon FurKids it was with the expectation that we might 'rescue' a bichon about once a month. Within a matter of weeks, I discovered that, when the word got out, we were rescuing about 20 per month.

And as we approach our 3000th adoption, the pace has not slowed down nor has the need diminished! Over these many years I have been inspired and awed by people like you who have made such an incredible impact on the lives, and futures, of these precious pups.

During this time of year we have two very special words for you: **thank you!** We appreciate your support and love for our four-legged fluffs and your generosity throughout the year. I've always felt, and said, that we have the best furkids, the best adopters and certainly the best volunteers.

Happy Holidays to your family from ours.

Marti and the Grateful FurKids



Inside

- A Special Thank You1
- A Tribute to Annie2
- Cujo and Laci3
- 2018 Calendars5
- And More6

Fosters Needed

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



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!



Bichon FurKids Rescue
 Phone: 858-408-1937
 Fax: 760-966-1702
www.BichonFurKids.org
www.facebook.com/bichonfurkids
info@bichonfurkids.org
 6965 El Camino Real,
 #105-425,
 La Costa, CA 92009
 Tax ID: 20-3652098
 Marti Colwell, President



A Tribute To A Special Little Girl

Annie came into our lives in August 2005. She was a beautiful, sweet and happy little girl who loved to chase a toy if you threw it and bark while running to the window if you said "kitty." The UPS delivery truck received a special greeting too. She was so much fun and funny.



One evening before her 4th birthday she jumped on the couch, missed, and herniated a disc in her lower back. We ran her to Rohnert Park to a specialist who operated on her to try to repair the injury. The damage was repaired but unfortunately she lost all feeling in her lower back. She was unable to use her back legs.



After Annie got back home we worked with her to try to teach her to walk again. Her brain kicked in and she began spinal walking. What a beautiful thing to see.

After a while she managed some running and even crawling up some steps. We still had to manually assist her to void the bladder and bowels.



In 2010, we picked up a new little BFK boy, Webster, who is now known as Jackson. He became a perfect companion for Annie, but she was still the boss of the house.



Annie

Annie had a great life despite her disability, which she seemed to take in stride. There was never any stress for us to take care of her. She was an absolute joy to have in our family.

Then unexpectedly in July, Annie received a call from the Lord to come home. Though we tried to keep her from leaving so soon, she was ready to go and left us as I held her in my arms.

We love you so much, Annie. Little girl, you can now run fast and free to chase those kitties. We'll be there someday to hold you again.

Bob and Dolores

Cujo and Laci: A Great Pair

by Sandi Cohn

Craig and I adopted Cujo, our rescue Bichon/Jack Russell mix, in February 2015. Our son had been asking for a dog for a couple of years and we finally decided that the time was right -- but we had no idea what breed of dog we wanted...except one that addressed Craig's rules: 1) No shedding, 2) No yapping or constant barking and 3) Must be housebroken.



Fate intervened however and I soon found myself three layers deep in an email chain of people looking for a home for a cute little poodle mix dog.

Cujo had been found on the street in Orange County -- he was chipped but his previous owners had moved without updating their address. The couple who scooped him up really wanted to keep him, but one of their dogs didn't get along well with Cujo. In an effort to find him a home, they sent out an email to all of their contacts, which was forwarded multiple times -- and that's where we came in. It was perfect timing! He was housebroken, didn't bark much, and was hypoallergenic so we said yes to the pup!

Several months after we adopted Cujo we thought it would be good for him to have a fur friend of his own. We loved that we were able to rescue

our first pup and wanted to rescue again. I Googled Bichon rescues and came across Bichon FurKids. I followed the Facebook page and would check it regularly for new adoptable dogs, but none ever felt "just right".

In October of 2016, I went to my first Bichon Bash and took Cujo. He had so much fun playing with the other dogs and I fell even more in love with BFK. At the lunch, I met Mona who introduced me to ways in which I could volunteer with BFK -- and I thought transporting would be a great fit for me. I started in my new role right away and transported



several dogs from fosters, veterinary appointments, and picking them up from the shelter.

One recent transport assignment turned out differently than all the rest. I was asked to transport a dog on short notice to a veterinary appointment when the foster parent was unable to make the drive. I picked up the pup, Laci, and couldn't get over how much she looked like my Cujo! We bonded during that drive and the appointment. I knew in my heart that she was "the one".



Continued on next page...

Cujo and Laci, continued...

I texted Marti to find out if she would soon to be available for adoption and she texted back right away asking if we might actually be able to foster Laci. As it turns out, the reason that the original foster could not take her to the vet appointment had to do with medical issues that she was facing. Laci needed someone to take over and see her through the adoption process.

I transported Laci on a Monday, became her foster mom six days later on Sunday, and two days after that officially became a "foster-fail" adoption mom.

Laci fits right in with our family and with Cujo. We are so happy that we waited until we found the perfect pup to join on our family.

Editor's Note: The world of rescue has lots of surprises and challenges. In the case of Laci, it was the medical emergency of her foster Mom that led to Sandi transporting Laci to her vet appointment – and it was the ongoing medical needs that required us to find another foster Mom. As we were looking into who could help Laci, Sandi texted. It felt like it was meant to be – and Laci, her original foster Mom and I made the drive to Sandi and Craig's home. When we arrived we were astounded at how much Laci looked like Cujo (who is anything but a cujo pup!) She did a bichon buzz in their backyard right after we took a walk together. And she immediately fell in love with both Sandi and Craig. It was a very serendipitous transport – and one for which we are all very grateful.



Drivers Wanted ...

Want to help but can't foster?

Love to see new places and meet new people?

Want to make a difference for a FurKid or two?

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 are grateful for their help. We DO need more people who are willing and able to 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. Other times, the FurKid needs to be exited from a shelter or needs to be some place other than their current location.

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 marti@bichonfurkids.org and say "I want to drive a FurKid" and we'll be in touch.





Ho Ho Ho... Merrrry Calendar!

The **2018 Bichon FurKids Calendar** is ready to order for your holiday gift-giving fun! This colorful little package showcases the “sweetness” of our breed and honors the adorable bichons who participated in our calendar contest.

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.

The price is \$25 and includes shipping and handling for one calendar. To order, go to <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/Donations>, find the calendar section, then click the **Buy Now** PayPal link. Or send a check made out to Bichon FurKids to:
6965 El Camino Real, #105-425
Carlsbad, CA 92009

