

Bichon Bits & Bytes

March 2018 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Jamie and Jack ... Our Journey

By Karyn Crocker

Editorial Note: What started as a Facebook message about fostering a pair of furkids whose owner had been sent to assisted living, became a 1600 mile journey to adopt them outright. While this was a most unusual scenario and situation, Karyn's commitment to the journey and the boys was exceptional from the beginning. Our thanks to Natalie who let us know of their plight and need, shepherded them through the shelter and brought Marty and Robbie to our vet where they were cared for until they could be adopted and begin their journey north.



How did I decide to adopt two more Bichons when I already had two? To understand let me share a little background with you.

You see, I belong to several Bichon Facebook groups and spend a lot of time looking at the pictures and reading the touching stories and comments on these pages. A couple of them feature four or more Bichons in one family and they

always looked so happy! I started dreaming of having three or four of these adorable little loves and saw a posting on Bichon FurKids about an 8-month-old furkid named Darby who was in Northern California, which is where I live. All the other fur babies were in Southern California which is ~800 miles from my house, so a Northern Cal pup would be a good choice!

I immediately contacted Bichon FurKids and sent in an application. I was contacted by Loraine and we did an interview over the phone. We discussed the fact that Darby might already be spoken for by the time I was approved —and that it might be six months to a year before the right Bichon may come along. I was fine with that since I was just starting to look for another Bichon. Loraine was so sweet and explained all the steps I would need to complete as part of the adoption process.

Continued on next page...

Contents

Jamie and Jack.....	1
Jimmy.....	4
Charitable gifts to BFK.....	6
FurKid Cookbook.....	10

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!



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



Jamie and Jack, continued...

I joined the Bichon FurKids Facebook page and looked at all the little angels that were up for adoption. A few days later I saw a posting that a family had just adopted a Bichon named Darby. I was so excited that he had found a home but knew I would have to wait for another Northern California foster to become available.

The next day I saw a posting for Marty & Robbie. They were in a shelter in Southern California and needed to find a foster or forever home soon. The boys had been through a rough time and needed stability. I felt that the least I could do was foster them and perhaps adopt them since not everyone wants to adopt two at one time. After speaking with Marti regarding that possibility I began to get excited. I spoke to my brother (we live together) about adopting them and he was hesitant at first, then got excited as well. He did say "Promise me one thing: that you don't get any more dogs for a while." I promised him that I wouldn't!

The boys needed to be picked up in Southern California within a few days, so I quickly contacted people I knew in Chico where I would make an overnight stop on my journey. One of my friends, Jody, had adopted a Bichon as well (and works with a local rescue). She asked if she could go with me to make the journey less stressful. I thanked her profusely and said yes. Thank goodness Jody offered to help; she was a life saver.

From Chico we set off for Orange County to pick up the boys. I had already decided that I would adopt, rather than foster, them. It took Jody and me eight hours and we hurried to make sure we could pick them up before the vet closed. We actually arrived before the boys returned from being groomed— and oh, what amazing boys they were.

Everyone at the vet loved them and was so happy to see them being adopted together. They are so bonded, and Bichon FurKids would never have separated them. I believe that they are brothers, as they look so much alike that sometimes I can't tell them apart. They truly love each other and stay very close in both play and in sleep. We spent two days in Southern California, so they could get used to me before the long drive home. Jody quickly became "the other mother".

Continued on next page...



Jamie and Jack, continued...

She held them, rocked them, helped give them their meds and walked them as well. They soon fell in love with her and she with them.



We then drove the ~500 miles to Chico. The boys were just amazing, no problems riding in the car. They lay in the back seat with their blankets and water, resting and enjoying the ride.

The boys and I spent two days in Chico, again to get them used to me. The second day we drove the 300 miles to Crescent City where I live— and again had no problems whatsoever — and that was incredible considering two hours of the drive was through the mountains with lots of curves and winding roads.

Their two brothers were waiting at home expecting me but received a surprise when I got there! Julian is 11 and he rescued me when he was eight. He had lived with two amazing angels, Bate and John, who foster small dogs as well as adopting a few that cannot be adopted. I consulted with Bate when I was in Chico as to how to integrate the

boys. I received great advice and a whole lot of love for my boys and me. Johnny is three and the feistiest of them all. I adopted him when he was one. He had been a stray in Mexico.

When all four boys met, they sniffed butts and ran around the backyard checking each other out. They seemed to know, as is often the case, that they were all furkids — who could join together and become their very own pack. It's only been a week since Marty and Robbie (now Jamie and Jack) came to live with us and they have acclimated beautifully. There have been a few growls and an occasional squabble but they are few and far apart.

To say that I have received a gift is an understatement. These boys are little lovers and protectors. They love to climb on my pillows and lay next to me. Kisses are in abundance with little hearts floating above their heads saying, "I love you mommy." I was just in my room getting all sorts of love from all four of my boys and I felt like there could never be a better feeling ...



Working with and adopting from Bichon FurKids was a wonderful experience. They take their business very seriously and will help you in anyway they can. The team is so compassionate and caring and extremely knowledgeable. I highly recommend Bichon FurKids and hope you have the chance to adopt an angel from them.

If you are reading this and contemplating adopting or fostering, I would recommend that if you can, please do so. There are so many furkids in need of forever homes and lots of love. It will bring you love like none other and joy that makes you smile all the time just thinking about them!

We called him Jimmy, Jimmy, Jimmy

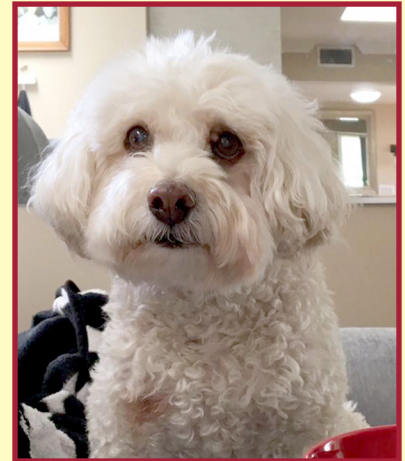
By Jean Buggs

Jimmy was a beautiful boy who had the softest, fluffiest apricot hair. He came home with us in October and took a few days to adjust to his new human mom and sister. By the third or fourth day in our home Jimmy was running around and having a ball. We earned his trust -- and he was extremely affectionate and loved to snuggle.

As it turns out, although he was only 'about' nine years old, Jimmy was hard of hearing. He was really smart though and quickly learned to understand hand signals. His vision was also failing, but he navigated very well with a miners lamp attached to his vest. This love bug overcame his physical limitations.



He loved to chase his ball around and he was in heaven lying on your lap cuddling. He always slept on a pillow or propped his head up on the arm of a chair because he liked his head elevated when sleeping or resting.



Jimmy could sit, shake and do a pirouette. And he was very vocal when he wanted a treat from the kitchen. Sometimes he would even let out a loud sigh to let us know he wanted a snack, or he would let out a quick bark letting us know he was waiting. He was quite the personality!

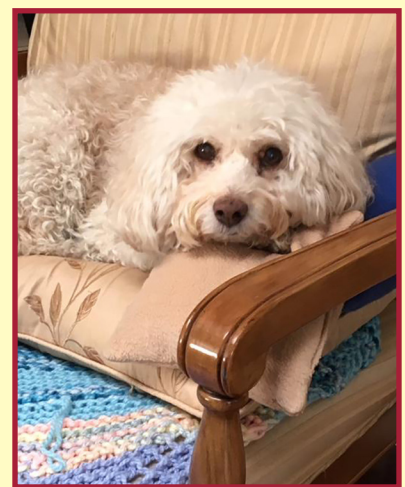
We also came to know that Jimmy was very particular about his walks and always preferred to be on the inside, close to the lawns and bushes. In no time at all we learned that he despised telephone poles, garbage cans, and blow-up Christmas decorations.

Jimmy loved to follow his canine sister Bella on walks and enjoyed snuggling with her on the couch, footstool, bed, or anywhere she might be.



The only bad thing about Jimmy is that he left us too soon.

One day in late January he started to cough. A trip to the vet showed that he had an extremely enlarged heart and was suffering from congestive heart failure. Medications were dispensed and bed rest ordered.



Continued on next page...

Jimmy, continued...

Jimmy seemed to be doing well for a few days after his vet visit — but he passed away in his sleep one afternoon.

Our hearts are broken and we miss him dearly.

I am glad that he came into our lives, even if for a short time, because he was sweet and loving and just needed to be loved in return. We rest easy knowing that he left this world feeling safe, secure and, most of all, knowing he was loved.

Rest in peace beautiful boy.

Editor's Note: There is no doubt that the most difficult part of owning a pet is that they never live long enough. In Jimmy's case, he only spent a few months with his amazing human Mom, sister and canine best friend. The impact that he made in such a short time is obvious in what Jean wrote.

We are indebted to adopters and owners like Jean who truly understand that there is a special place in Heaven for compassionate, caring people.

We wish, too, that Jimmy had more months and years with his amazing family.



Make Charitable Gifts to BFK through your Estate Plan

Editor's Note: We are often asked if and how BFK can provide for a furkid if the owner is no longer able to do so. Unfortunately that happened this month. Because life is unpredictable, we recommend that you consider making provision for your furkid that we hope you will never have to use. It is, however, important to ensure that your precious buddy is provided for, if or when you cannot. The article below was written by one of our volunteers as a guide.

There are many ways you can make charitable contributions through your estate planning that will help BICHON FURKIDS. To make the right decision you need to carefully plan and organize your goals for giving. Determining which charitable giving strategy is right for you is as important as making the gift itself. Here are a number of options that can help you as you plan.

Will or Trust

Perhaps the most popular way is through a Will or Trust. A well-planned Will can avoid problems for your heirs and direct a gift to the charity of your choice, reducing taxes and estate settlement costs. You can also create a Trust within your Will that will help reduce or eliminate taxes and provide asset management for your heirs, possibly delaying distribution to minors or to address special needs of heirs. You may also want to designate a "Power of Attorney" to handle your affairs, in case you are not able to.

Pet Trust

There are also pet trusts. A pet trust is a legal technique you may use to be sure your pet receives proper care after you die or in the event of your disability. And there are two types of them.

The first type, called a "**traditional pet trust**," is effective in all states. You tell the trustee to help the person who is providing care to your pet after you die (the beneficiary) by paying for the pet's expenses according to your directions as long as the beneficiary takes proper care of your pet.

The second type of pet trust, called a "**statutory pet trust**," is authorized in almost 40 states. A statutory pet trust is a basic plan and does not require the pet owner to make as many decisions regarding the terms of the trust. The state law "fills in the gaps" and thus a simple provision in a will such as, "I leave \$10,000 in trust for the care of my dog, Rover" may be effective.

Continued on next page...



If we should part, if you must leave,
My heart will break, so deep in grief.
My home with you empty, where will I go?
Who'll love me as you did? I need to know.
Will my bed be as warm, as soft and secure?
Or will it be concrete, my future unsure?
What happens to me, if those left behind
See just a dog, and to my sweet soul are blind?
These things I must know, should my worst
fears come true,
Because I have no choice, but to carry on
without you.



©2018 Judy D'Addieco

Make charitable gifts to BFK, continued...

Inter Vivos Trust

An inter vivos trust takes effect immediately and thus will be functioning when you die or become disabled. This avoids delay between your death and the property being available for the pet's care. However, an inter vivos trust often has additional start-up costs and administration fees.

Testamentary Trust

A testamentary trust is the less expensive option because the trust does not take effect until you die and your will is declared valid by a court ("probating the will"). However, there may not be funds available to care for the pet during the gap between when you die and your will is probated. In addition, a testamentary trust does not protect your pet if you become disabled and unable to care for your pet.

What are the factors to consider when creating a trust?

You need to consider many factors in deciding how much money or other property to transfer to your pet trust. These factors include:

- The type of animal
- The animal's life expectancy (especially important in case of long-lived animals)
- The standard of living you wish to provide for the animal
- The need for potentially expensive medical treatment
- Whether the trustee is to be paid for his or her services.
- Adequate funds to provide the animal with proper care, be it an animal-sitter or a professional boarding business, when the caregiver is on vacation, out-of-town on business, receiving care in a hospital, or is otherwise temporarily unable personally to provide for the animal.



You should avoid transferring an unreasonably large amount of money or other property to your pet trust because such a gift is likely to encourage your heirs and beneficiaries to contest the trust. If the amount of property left to the trust is unreasonably large, the court may reduce the amount to what it considers to be a reasonable amount.

What qualities should I look for in a caregiver?

The selection of the caregiver for your pet is extremely important. Here are some of the key considerations:

- Willingness to assume the responsibilities associated with caring for your pet.
- Ability to provide a stable home for your pet.
- Harmonious relationship between the caregiver's family members and your pet.

Continued on next page...

Make charitable gifts to BFK, continued...

When should I create my pet trust?

You may create a pet trust either (1) while you are still alive (an “inter vivos” or “living” trust) or (2) when you die by including the trust provisions in your will (a “testamentary” trust).

So many of us say, “I’ll take care of it soon — I know it’s important.” But, life happens and we let time pass and don’t take care of this vital matter. You have and want the right to decide who benefits from your estate after your death — don’t let the state do it for you! If you were to die without a Will or Trust, the laws of your state will distribute your property as they see fit; and your family or loved ones could battle for years.

Why Do I Need A Will?

- A valid Will or Trust is the **ONLY** way to choose your beneficiaries.
- Even if you are married, both you and your spouse need separate Wills identifying your specific wishes.
- If you have children or own property, own stocks or have other financial assets, you should have a Will, regardless of your age or financial standing.

The state can not know your wishes for your family, charitable activities or friends if you don’t tell them!



Are there other ways to take care of my pet?

Other ways that may be beneficial, depending on your financial circumstances (be sure to check with your financial and legal advisors):

- **Bargain Sale:** A sale of property (to a charity) in which the difference between the sale proceeds and the property’s fair market value constitutes a charitable donation.
- **Cash or designated assets or property:** You can leave a specific cash amount or percentage of your estate, your car, RV, home, artwork or other property to a charity like DFD.
- **Charitable Lead Trusts (CLT):** Funded by a transfer of assets from a donor to a Trust. A charity receives the income for a lifetime or a number of years, after which the remaining assets are transferred to the donor or other persons (typically children or grandchildren).
- **Charitable IRA:** You can designate a charity as the beneficiary of all or part of your IRA. Other tax benefits may apply.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT):** Funded by a transfer of assets from the donor to the Trust. Beneficiaries receive a specified percent distribution from the Trust for a period of years or life, with the remainder interest paid to charity. There are several types of Charitable Remainder Trusts.
- **Life Insurance:** You can designate BFK as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. This allows many people to give a larger gift than they would otherwise be able to make, and it

Continued on next page...



Do you like to cook? And bake?

Do you cook and/or bake for your FurKids?

Many of us do—and we are going to create a...

FurKids Cookbook!

...so that we can share what our FurKids love most.

(Food and treats, of course!)

If you have a recipe or two that you are willing to share, please email it to:

marti@bichonfurkids.org.

We're collecting them and many will make it into the cookbook.

We'll keep you posted as to our progress—and we will let you know when it's available for sale.

Best of all, the recipes are tried-and-true (and well-loved).

They have the

FurKid Seal of Approval!