

Bichon Bits & Bytes

December 2018 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Love Has No Age

By Leslie Evans

Editor's Note: When Jackson's Dad died and Mom had to return to work, his life changed dramatically and almost overnight. No longer did he have his daily companionship. There were few walks, few rides in the car, little that remained of his former life. His Mom had to work two jobs to keep her son in college—and Jackson was suddenly left alone



all day and often late into the night. ❖ Faced with concerns for his future, Jackson's Mom surrendered him back to Bichon FurKids. His handsome face and sweet disposition won many hearts. Though a senior, Jackson proved that love has no age and that his mission had not been fulfilled. ❖ Within three weeks of Jackson joining his forever family, devastation struck. Their home, in Paradise, California, was destroyed in the Camp Fire. Dave and Leslie

escaped with their three furkids and little more than that. Mom Leslie says that Jackson was the glue that held them together and is sustaining them through the aftermath of this huge loss. ❖ Their love and story are a testament to us all. Jackson is one amazingly lucky pup—one whose mission has become more apparent over the past few weeks.

Dave and I have always been animal people. Over the years we have had a plethora of animals, but the one constant has been we have had Bichon Frises. Our first dog as a married couple was a sweet Bichon/Poodle mix who was given to us. We have been hooked ever since, and to date, have had a total of six Bichons throughout our marriage.

Recently, we lost our beloved Ellie at age 16 and were just devastated. We know that every time a pet crosses over the Rainbow Bridge, it's hard. This one was particularly hard. We still had two dogs to love, but they also were lost without their matriarch.

We started thinking about adopting a Bichon who was a rescue. I had been following Bichon FurKids on the web for several years, so I

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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](http://goodsearch.com)

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[Find us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bichonfurkids)

(Love Has No Age, continued)

started looking there. I thought I was going to keep an open mind, not be too specific about what we thought we “preferred” and just let things happen. Immediately however, we were drawn to “Jackson”—a sweet looking little guy of 14. All of our plans of not being specific fell by the wayside when we saw Jackson’s pictures and read his bio. We inquired specifically about him, completed an adoption application, became approved adopters and spoke to his foster parents. We then made plans to drive to Southern California to meet the little guy—but we had already fallen in love.



Dave and I were fortunate enough to be chosen for (and by!) Jackson. He has been a blessing for us and fits in with his fur sisters like he has always been here.



We have had many people question us as to why in the world we would want to adopt “such an old dog”—? For us, Jackson’s age was not a put-off. We are happy to have a dog who is of the same “vintage” as our other dogs. A pet’s length of life is not guaranteed (our very first Bichon was only three years old when she was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer that took her life four months later). We are happy to love Jackson for however long he is on this earth—and our lives are that much more enriched because of him.

Senior dogs are often not considered for adoption. I think that’s because people want to protect their hearts. They fear the inevitable heartbreak when their pet passes over and naturally think that the younger the dog, the further away that inevitably is.



I say love has no age. A senior dog gives the same unconditional love as a young dog, and they deserve to live out their lives in loving homes too. We are so glad we have Jackson! He is a perfect fit to our family and we would really be missing out if his age kept us from adopting him.

We tell anyone considering adopting a rescue pup to not let age be a deterrent. Don’t miss out on the perfect fit. It’s there and may surprise you, if you are open to letting your heart be stolen by the unconditional and unwavering love of an older pup. You may be surprised—and you will definitely be delighted.

MERRRRY CALENDAR AND A FURKID NEW YEAR!



GIVE THE
GIFT OF
BEACHY
BICHON
FUN!



The 2019 Bichon FurKids calendar is ready to order for your holiday gift-giving fun! This colorful little package showcases the beauty 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. Order in any of these ways:

- Go to <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/Donations>, find the calendar section, then click the **Buy Now** PayPal link.
- Send a check made out to: Bichon FurKids, 6965 El Camino Real, #105-425, Carlsbad, CA 92009
- Ask for a calendar at any Bichon FurKids community or adoption event.



SAVE THE DATE!



Bichon Bash Sunday, May 19, 2019

Please note: This year's Bichon Bash is on a Sunday.



You are invited to join BFK adopters, potential adopters, volunteers, vendors, and the community at large...as we come together to celebrate all things **Bichon**. Whether you have a **Bichon**...are considering adopting a **Bichon**...or just want to experience the wonder of **herds of Bichons running free**, the **Bichon Bash** is the party for **you**!

This year we have an exciting new location...Florence Joyner Olympiad Park in Mission Viejo, CA (Orange County). This park offers expansive grassy areas for the pups and their peeps, as well as plenty of fun play areas for the entire family!

Florence Joyner Olympiad Park was created to honor Olympic athletes. The park is named for Florence Griffith Joyner, who was the first American woman to win four medals in a single Olympics, a feat she accomplished at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. She and her husband, gold medalist Al Joyner, were Mission Viejo residents until she passed away in 1998.

Please save the date today, and we'll see you and he whole family for food, fun and FurKids in May!

Sunday, May 19, 2019

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Florence Joyner Olympiad Park,
Mission Viejo, CA



*Please keep
checking the
newsletters for
details to come!*

HO-HO-HOME CHECKERS WANTED!

This is “Santa” Bichon here, asking you for some ‘assistance’ during this holiday season—and beyond. Because we want each and every FurKid to go to a safe and amazing home, Bichon FurKids conducts what we call a Home and Yard Safety Check. (We also call it an HSC for short!) It’s part of the adoption process for people who want to adopt FurKids like me—but without the silly hat! Of course the best part, from my perspective, is that the people doing the HSCs (we call them “Checkers”) get to bring FurKids (like me, without the hat!) to meet the people and families who want to adopt. And we don’t even have to enter through the chimney! Now I think that’s pretty darn jolly, don’t you? To actually do an HSC is pretty easy. It goes like this:

1. There’s a checklist to review with the adopter. It includes things like making sure there are no poisonous plants (we have a list) or fence slats that are too far apart (and could be tempting to pups who like to explore the world without their owners.

2. There’s also a short report (we provide samples) that help our Placement volunteers know more about the adopters.

3. If there’s a pup in the home already, meet that pup (with the prospective Bichon adoptee, of course!) and find out more about him or her. (That’s called a bonus!)

Mrs. “Santa” Bichon says we need “Checkers” everywhere. I think she means mostly in the Western states (California, Arizona and Nevada) but we also do HSCs for people who live at the North Pole (not many of those) and on the East coast. (More about that later.)

To become a Checker, you need to complete a short volunteer application (you can find it on our web site at www.bichonfurkids.org). It’s short and you can fill it out in a few minutes.)

Or, you can email lindar@bichonfurkids.org and say “I’d like to be a Checker!”

One of my team of BFK elves (volunteers) will contact you about our process, and at a later time be in touch when there is someone in your area that needs an HSC.



Oh, and did I mention that you schedule the visit when it’s convenient for you and the adopter? In some geographic areas you might be asked once every month or two, while in other areas it could be more often. Best of all you would be helping pups like me to find safe and amazing forever homes.

We’d sure appreciate having you become a part of our team. Thanks a bunch!

“Santa” Bichon

(and Checker Recruiter)

PEACE ON EARTH AND 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.



A Special Note to Our Amazing FurKid Community

As 2018 draws to an end and this festive holiday season gathers momentum, we want to say **THANKS** for the support, love and generosity of our Bichon community!

This year has seen greater medical issues for many of our pups—from many females with mammary masses that brought them to the shelters—to a preponderance of pups with juvenile cataracts or ones born with one smaller eye (also causing them to be brought to the shelter). We've also seen a number of bichons whose records read HBC (hit by car) and who we have been able to rehabilitate through your support. Sadly there have also been an increasing number of seniors with lots of living left in their souls as well as lots of love in their beings arriving at shelters from Sacramento to the border!

We hope that our society will come to appreciate and respect seniors as much as we do. The cover story and adoption of Jackson is our most recent tribute.

We thank you for your ongoing support and want to mention our Forever Foster program which renews every January. Our vision was to make it possible to care for those bichons who, because of health, temperament, age or background, might not be good candidates for adoption. We felt strongly then, and now, that despite their special needs, whatever they might be, these dogs should live out their lives in loving homes, being cared for with respect and love.

The Forever Foster program was launched as a result of a generous donation from

an adopter and bichon-lover who wished to remain anonymous. All donations to that Fund are managed separately; BFK continues to also look for opportunities to expand and grow our Forever Foster Program. The lucky dogs accepted into the Forever Foster Program are very special pups. Some have chronic health problems which require an unusual amount of care and expense; some are severely disabled; others are elderly or have terminal medical conditions. All receive loving care and all the medical attention they need to live out their lives in dignity.

Please consider supporting our Forever Foster Program. Your donation will help us continue to save more dogs, and to provide our Forever Fosters with a life of ease and contentment. If you would like to make a donation for a Forever Foster, please click on link below and specify **Forever Foster** under Purpose:

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

As always, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to you and the FurKids who have such a special place in your hearts and lives.



This is Nico, one of our available Forever Foster pups. You can read his story at <http://bichonfurkids.com/available-dogs/bios#Nico>

