



July 2019 Bichon FurKids Rescue

The Tale of the "Fallbrook Four"

Editor's Note: The most wonderful part of rescuing pups is knowing that we can make a difference—and a BIG difference—in their lives. And the greatest reward is when we are able to place them in forever homes with amazing adopters.

On Friday afternoon, June 21st, we responded to a call about four Bichons whose owner was in the hospital. His pups had been living in their home for a month with the landlord coming in once a day to feed and let them outside briefly. The back and side yards were overgrown with weeds (including one particularly spiky kind to which they were allergic) and the stench in the house was overwhelming. Because the landlord was only 'helping out' he did not have a vested interest in these pups. In fact on Thursday, June 20th, when he left, Huck Finn, the male, was still outside—while his siblings were locked up in the house.

Off Huck went (we think in search of help), running through fields of weeds and towards a rural area where coyotes lived. As he ran past one of the neighbors' yards, Lisa (the neighbor) observed a little white fluff and knew of the dangers in the direction he was heading. That pasture, too, was filled with spiky weeds—and danger. Racing through the field, Lisa picked him up and returned him to the landlord. It was the landlord telling her how sad he was that they were being surrendered to a shelter to be euthanized that spurred Lisa into action.

Getting a hold of the owner's sister (who had flown in from Oregon a month before to be with her brother) Lisa ascertained that the sister (who will remain nameless) had indeed taken all four pups to a shelter on Friday. It was too late in the day for the shelter to "process" them so she was asked to bring them back Saturday morning. As Lisa said, "That

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Bonded Pairs!



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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Find us on Facebook

The Fallbrook Four, continued...



The Fabulous Fallbrook Four!



Here we are, on the road to rescue!



Heidi and Huck here, before our grooming



Annie and Savannah here, arriving at our foster home with Mom Danna

wasn't going to happen on my watch!" and she reached out to four rescue groups, hoping that one of them could respond—and act quickly. One of the groups asked her to call back next week, another said they were not interested in "older dogs", and the third indicated that it could only help one of the pups. Our hearts broke when we heard the story!

To make things more 'interesting' we had to "find" fosters overnight and show up to take all four pups by 9:30 Saturday morning June 22nd. Otherwise the sister was returning to the shelter to surrender them.

Those of you who know what we do (and have seen us in action) know that we could not let these deserving pups, who were well loved by their owner, fall into the wrong hands. We have amazing fosters but finding someone to take four was not going to happen, at least not overnight. I made the anxious decision to see if we could pair two of them and find two fosters to take two pups each, hoping that the transition would be less painful if they at least had another brother or sister with them in their foster home. It was with that hope that I reached out Friday night—and was rewarded by having two of our amazing fosters say "Yes!" immediately. We knew practically nothing about the Fallbrook Four other than the fact that they were four bichons who needed us.

The next morning, Dog Dad Doug Eisberg and I loaded adoption kits into his van and set off to a rural area that I had never known existed in North San Diego county. Down unpaved dirt roads we went, passing lots of weeds, overgrown yards and homes in disrepair. And there, ultimately, was a car in which four ungroomed bichons were huddled on a blanket with Lisa standing watch over them.

The sister had not been able to locate any files or medical information for the four pups, nor beds, toys etc. She did have cans of Alpo dog food to feed them and some dry kibble. There were three siblings (Heidi, Huck and Annie) and a one year younger sister, Savannah.) We set off with me sitting in the back with the pups and Doug driving the van towards freedom.

The first stop was intended to be a potty break primarily – and all four pups happily obliged by showing what good dogs they were. They were happy to be in a yard (one without weeds and danger) and clearly enjoyed being able to be free to move about. We had asked Lisa's guidance (with some input from "the sister") as to which two would do best together if they had to be separated. The good news is that we were guided in the right direction, as the pups have made the transition as wonderfully as could have been expected.

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The Fallbrook Four, continued...



Heidi and Huck here, arriving at our foster home with Mom Lori Anne (and Peabody who joined in the photo)



Here we are (Annie and Savannah) awaiting our appointment with the vet



Heidi's Stones...All gone, thanks to our marvelous vets and the support of our wonderful Bichon community

Saturday afternoon Heidi and Huck went to the vet. Heidi was having difficulty going potty so we wanted to have her checked out right away. Huck was also not neutered—and we knew that needed to be done.

Reaching out to Fallbrook Animal Hospital we were able to gather some preliminary information on all four dogs. Their owner had taken care of the “basics” and also surgery for two of the girls to remove bladder stones. They were overdue on booster shots and had not had dentals—but four sweeter, nicer pups you could not find. The three siblings are 13 years old and Savannah is 12.

Although Heidi had had bladder stones removed in January of 2018, we suspected that they had returned. X-rays Saturday afternoon confirmed that! We scheduled grooming for Heidi and Huck for Monday and surgery for Tuesday.

At the other end of the county, Annie and Savannah were settling in. They were to be groomed on Tuesday and to see the vet Tuesday afternoon. Both girls were enjoying the house and yard, and getting along with the other pups in their foster home. On Tuesday the vet told us that Annie had a growth on her eye that needed to be removed, along with an infected tooth. Savannah was, for the moment, in need of nothing but better nutrition and love.

In a perfect world we would love to reunite these four pups into one forever home, after BFK has taken care of all their medical needs. If that could be the case we would all be dancing in the streets. If not, we would be delighted to find two adopters (families or couples) who would be interested in adopting the bonded pair of Heidi and Huck or Annie and Savannah. Their bios will be posted on our web site shortly, as well as on PetFinder and Adopt a Pet.

Please KNOW how much we appreciate your generous donations towards their medical care and the support we received to help these fabulous pups!

We hope that you can help us to get the word out so we can find amazing homes for these most deserving and delightful bichons! You can find our adoption application at www.bichonfurkids.org (scroll to Applications) or email marti@bichonfurkids.org.

The Tale of the Fabulous Fallbrook Four is one of hope, joy, health and, ultimately, forever homes. 

HOME CHECKERS WANTED....

This is me, Bijou the Bichon, writing to ask you for some ‘assistance’ please. 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! (Of course the best part of doing that, from my perspective, is that the people doing the HSCs (we call them “Checkers”) get to bring FurKids (like me!) with them to meet the people and families who want to adopt. Now I think that’s pretty darn neat – 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, why I get to meet that pup and find out more about him or her too! (That’s called a bonus!)

My BFK Aunties say we need “Checkers” everywhere. I think they mean mostly in the Western states (California, Arizona and Nevada) but we also do HSCs for people who live 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 quick 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 our team members will then 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!

Bijou the Bichon
(and Checker Recruiter)

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, to be exited from a shelter or who needs to be some place other than where he or she is at that moment.

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.

... because
this is what
happens when
our FurKids
try to drive
themselves!





Bichon Bash – New Date

Sunday, September 29, 2019

10AM – 3PM

Village Green adjacent to the Norman P. Murray
Community and Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
\$25 per person/\$75 for family (includes lunch)

We look forward to having you join us at the Bichon Bash on its new date of September 29—and we also need your help. The Bash is not only a great meet-and-greet event, it is also our biggest fundraiser and is critical to the success of our rescue. The money raised at the Bash allows us to save (and heal) many more pups than we could without your support.

In 2018 we found homes for more than 200 deserving FurKids and are off to a healthy start this year. We do it all because of you, our wonderful supporters, adopters, fosters, drivers and volunteers.

The Bash is always great fun! We will have new vendors to shop with, wonderful baskets of goodies to bid on, raffle items to win—all to raise money for our furry friends.

There will be Bichons from all over California and beyond—from Arizona, Nevada, Washington and Oregon. (You know how FurKids hate to miss a party). There are pet-friendly hotels and motels to stay in so please come to share your favorite FurKid stories, meet other proud owners and help us spread the word!

We will have a professional photographer at the Bash, provide games for the kids to play, provide presentations on health and nutrition — and a lot more!

We would love for all of our Bichon supporters and their FurKids to attend the Bash: what a fun party that would be!

If it's not possible you to join us please consider making a donation specifically to support the Bash — and help us to raise much-needed funds. If you are unable to attend, however, you can purchase a ticket for someone who would like to attend but may not have the means to do so. We will provide a tax-deductible receipt as a thank you for your donation. Your support makes it possible for us to save more lives and warm more hearts.

Ticket price is \$25 per person/\$75 for family (includes lunch). **If you registered and paid for the Bash in May, there is no need to register again.** If you have not, please see the information below so that we can get you registered!

See you at the Bash!

Register from our website via PayPal:

1. Go to www.bichonfurkids.org.
2. Under **Menu**, click **Bichon Bash**.
3. Click the **Donate** button at the bottom to go to PayPal.
4. Enter the donation amount that corresponds to the number of tickets you are purchasing (for example, the amount for 2 tickets is \$50).
5. Click **Donate with PayPal**.

Register by Check:

1. Make your check payable to **Bichon FurKids Rescue** (with "Bash" and guest name on the memo line) with a donation amount that corresponds to the number of tickets you are purchasing (for example, the amount for 2 tickets is \$50).
2. Mail to:
 Bichon FurKids
 6965 El Camino Real
 Suite 105-425
 Carlsbad, CA 92009