

Bichon Bits & Bytes

December 2019 Bichon FurKids Rescue

Abbie's Amazing Journey

Editor's Note: We truly believe that each and every adoption is a very special one, for both our FurKids and their adopters. There are, however, some that stand out in ways that are perhaps more unique. With November being Adopt A Senior month, we want to share the story of Abbie and her new Mom and Dad. It is to people like Anne Marie and Dennis that we say a resounding "Bless and Thank You!" for making such a difference in the life of one very lucky senior.

Sometimes when things "just come together" we stand back in awe of how the universe works...

It was in early June that Bichon FurKids attended an adoption event in Irvine. As always, it was a time to connect with new adopters, visit with previous adopters and introduce our furkids to the general public. As the event was coming to a close, a family with two children approached our booth. Within minutes we reconnected with Elizabeth, a previous BFK foster, and spent time with her husband and two children. At that point Elizabeth mentioned that she would love to foster again and would stay in touch.

About a week later, the West LA Shelter notified one of our volunteers that there was a bichon at the shelter who had come in needing a dental, had a dirty coat and protein stains indicating possible skin issues. She came in as a stray and was given the name Nana. The shelter classified her as a senior. And, as we have learned over the years, often labeling a dog as a senior means it is less likely that he or she will be adopted from the shelter. If rescued, however, the likelihood of adoption increases many times over.

Nana sat at the shelter for several weeks. She didn't receive a lot of attention, medically or in terms of visitors yet she remained a happy, cheerful pup who greeted anyone who happened to walk past. She was looking for her 'original' family (we would never know who they were) and appeared to be good with



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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

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

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Abbie's Amazing Journey, continued...



In the car on the way to get a harness



Settling in!



Getting to know one another...and taking in this amazing home!

people of all ages. It was obvious to the shelter staff that Nana had lived with a family before coming to the shelter – but what happened to them and why was she here?

A BFK volunteer heard about Nana as did an organization that combs the shelters for little white fluffs. We gathered some background medical info on Nana from the shelter and our volunteer went to the shelter to do an interaction. Her evaluation was straightforward. “Let’s take this pup as she is very mellow and loving – and the word on the street is that she’s housebroken and rarely barks.”

BFK has a requirement that in order to rescue any pup from any shelter we need to have a committed foster home. We had a foster who could keep her for a few days however we needed someone who could make a longer term commitment. At that point we contacted Elizabeth to see if she was available to foster. The family said “Yes, definitely” and we were able to move forward. And we decided that this younger-acting pup should have a new name. We called her Abbie.

Over the next few weeks Abbie’s dental was done, her skin issues addressed, she was professionally groomed and began working with Elizabeth on daily walks, learning commands, going for rides in the car (often to take her six year old human ‘sister’ to or from school) and learning how to play. Her favorite games soon became tug-of-war and chase!

Abbie’s bio was then posted on the BFK website and on social media. Since she was one of a very few of our rescued pups that didn’t have separation anxiety, there were a lot of approved adopters who were interested in Abbie. The most compelling adopters were Anne Marie and Dennis, a couple from Maryland who had recently lost their bichon, Bella. And while we know it is never possible to replace one beloved pup with another, we also know that it is possible to fill the hole in our hearts with a pup that needs, deserves and returns love.

It turned out that Bella also had an important role. Besides being the family pet, she was the official ‘meeter-and-greeter’ at Anne Marie’s office. That was an important role for any new pup to fill, as Anne Marie has a busy private practice and wanted a pup that could engage with clients initially then rest quietly when she was in session.

Elizabeth and Anne Marie spoke several times. They shared videos and photos, talked on the phone and compared notes. Anne Marie committed to adopt Abbie and made arrangements to fly to Orange County so she could meet and adopt Abbie. Anne Marie also sent a Sherpa bag (www.sherpapel.com/products/

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Abbie's Amazing Journey, continued...

original-deluxe) to Elizabeth so that Abbie could become accustomed to being in the bag, as that was a requirement for flying back to the East coast.

The level of Anne Marie (and Dennis's) commitment was greater than many adopters, as it involved a lengthy flight, an overnight stay and return flight. It was truly the kind of commitment that ALL senior FurKids deserve—and the reason that organizations worldwide recognize and have named November Adopt A Senior month. In our world view, we want every month to be Adopt A Senior month and for every senior to live out his or her life in a loving home. With an average life span of 15-19 years, bichons are among the more 'long lived' small breeds.

The afternoon after she had arrived in Orange County, Anne Marie and Abbie were on a return flight to the Baltimore airport. Apparently Abbie traveled very well (we believe it was probably her first airline flight) and Anne Marie was patient, loving and extremely kind.

We want to acknowledge the extraordinary commitment that Anne Marie made to Abbie and hope that some of you reading this article will consider following in her footsteps. There are amazing, deserving and loving seniors who want nothing more than to give and receive love, to warm your heart, take over your bed, 'fix' the cushions on your couches and 'help' with any and every task on your list. Seniors like Abbie will keep you active (they need their walks too!) and provide entertainment.

Elizabeth said that Abbie has a gentle snore which she found endearing. As I write this article I, too, am hearing at least one gentle snore from a grateful FurKid! 🐾



First kiss!



Abbie bonding with new Dad Dennis



Abbie with Mom and foster family

Furkid Sponsorship Program



For the past 14 years we have rescued and rehomed an amazing 3,200+ furkids, many of whom have needed special services or treatments. This amazing breed that we love is also somewhat pre-disposed to having dental issues, juvenile cataracts and luxating patellas (knee caps that move in and out.) We have also seen an increasing number of mammary masses that need to be removed.

Even each of the precious pups we rescue that have no 'special needs' incur basic costs. A 'typical' furkid's spay or neuter, non anesthetic dental, shots, grooming, microchip and flea/tick preventative, as well as basic medication for spay/neuter, costs Bichon FurKids \$360. Our adoption fee for pups over 1 year of age remains \$350, which has been the fee for nine (12) years. The adoption fee for our puppies, who require three rounds of shots, de-worming, spay/neuter etc. remains at \$500.

To offset the costs of the care they receive, we have established a new sponsorship program that provides an opportunity for our amazing bichon-loving community to help us continue to make a difference! There are five different sponsorship opportunities: FurKiddo, Puppy Love, Hipsters, Golden Oldies and Snowflakes (our once or twice in a million FurKids). As the year winds to a close, and if you are able to participate, below is information regarding our program.

We are creating a new web page for those sponsors who want to be acknowledged publicly however we are grateful for those that want to contribute anonymously as well. Please reach out for any questions to micheler@bichonfurkids.org or joyce@bichonfurkids.org.



Puppy Love

A puppy under seven months of age whose regimen includes shots, de-worming, spay/neuter and basic care. **Monthly commitment: \$30**



FurKiddo

A pup who is 1-5 years old. **Monthly commitment: \$30**



Hipsters

These furkids are generally in good health but have not had their booster shots addressed nor the yearly dentals done. They are typically 6-9 years old and their dentals/shots typically cost an average of \$480. **Monthly commitment: \$40**



Golden Oldies

Many bichon owners are not aware of the need for bloodwork and dental as their dogs age. When these dogs are then surrendered or 'dropped off' at a shelter, they often need extensive dental work including extractions, blood work, often mass removals. Our 'typical' costs for the basic services averages \$600-\$800. The furkids are often 10 years or older, although we are also seeing a lot of mammary masses in younger females. **Monthly commitment: \$50**



Snowflakes

All dogs are special – and furkids with special needs are even more special. Juvenile cataracts (that start at the age of 4) are becoming more frequent due to in-breeding, likewise with luxating patellas. We are also seeing more juvenile diabetes, the youngest being a five month old pup named Chipper that we rescued last year and a little one called Hope that we rescued just this week!

There are also the pups who are in the wrong place at the wrong time – and are hit by a car, requiring medical intervention to save their lives. The surgeries required for our Snowflakes are extensive and start at \$1800. They often reach \$5,000 yet we cannot put a price on the life of a deserving furkid. These unique needs are part of the Snowflake program.

Monthly commitment: starts at \$75

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG

(Author Unknown)

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them,

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your privacy.

Take naps and stretch before rising.

Run, romp and play daily.

Eat With gusto and enthusiasm.

BE LOYAL.

NEVER PRETEND TO BE SOMETHING YOU ARE NOT.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you are scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout.. run right back and make friends,

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Keep your FurKids *Safe!*

There are a number of household items that can be very harmful to our pups, many of which are truly poisonous when ingested. Please be aware (and make sure your guests are also aware) as with holidays some of these items may be even more prominent.

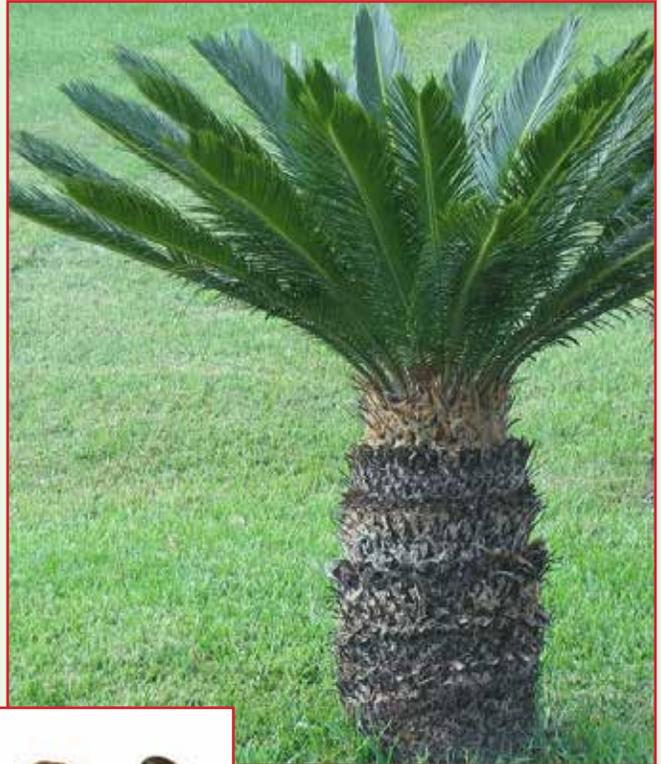
Avoid:

- Chocolate!!!
- Coffee/coffee grounds
- Raisins and grapes
- Onions and onion powder
- Macadamia nuts
- Alcoholic beverages
- Fabric softener sheets
- Fertilizer and plant food
- Antifreeze (it smells sweet so pets love to lick it from a puddle or on the street)
- Prescription drugs

Outside your home:

These common plants are also dangerous:

- Castor bean or castor oil plant
- Milkweed
- Tomato plants
- Aloe vera
- Ivy, Chrysanthemum
- Amaryllis and American Holly
- Cyclamen and begonia
- Oleander
- Mistletoe!
- Lantana
- Angel's Trumpet
- Sago palms
- Lilies, azaleas, kalanchoe and tulips
- Rhododendron
- Wisteria
- Dieffenbachia
- Daffodils and Hyacinths



Links you can check for additional information include:

<https://www.ccspca.com/blog-spca/education/poisonous-plants-for-dogs/>

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/one-health/garden-plants-toxic-to-pets/>

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/c>

https://ucanr.edu/sites/poisonous_safe_plants/Plant_Toxicity_Levels_523/

No-Sew Blankets

For those of you who want to help our FurKids to be warm and cozy this winter, here are instructions on how to make the No Sew Blankets that every FurKid loves!

Supplies:

Good pair of cloth scissors
Tape measure or ruler
Two 1-yard lengths of coordinating fleece
4"x4" cardboard template marked with 1" intervals

Directions:

Please read all directions before starting your blanket.

Lay out fleece wrong sides together (if "wrong" sides are evident).

Match up edges.

Pin together to hold while you knot.

Cut off rough edges.

Cut 4"x4" square out of each corner.

Make 4" deep cuts at 1" intervals around all 4 sides.

Start in one corner – Tie overhand knot close to blanket edge – Use one strip from top fleece, one from bottom fleece – Tie second knot – Make sure your knot is tight.

Knot EVERY OTHER pair of strips until you are all around the blanket one time.

Turn blanket over – Knot the same way until you have tied all your knots.

Hints:

Use your template as a guide to keep cuts even and equally deep.

Keep your knot tie tension steady while tying your knots so you don't overstretch your fleece.

Snug knots will hold well through washing/drying.

For more information, pictures, and tutorials:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9S7y6eeQH0>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/No-Sew-Fleece-Blanket-1/>

Packing:

Optional: When you have your blankets ready, you may roll one up tightly, tie with a ribbon, and tag with a note: "This blanket was made with love and hope for your BichonFurKid Forever Home from "<your name>"

Mailing:

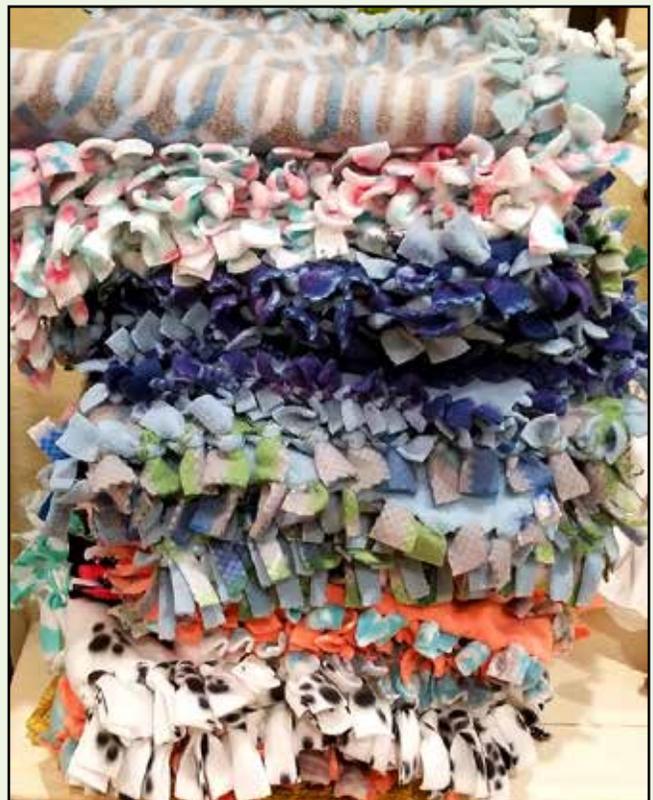
If you live in Southern California we may be able to suggest a drop-off location for the blankets.

If not, you may mail them to one of these locations:

Bichon FurKids
6965 El Camino Real #105-425
La Costa, CA 92009
(**Please note:** This is a UPS store that cannot receive drop-offs.)

Or...

Cherie Bauer
7959 Calle Madrid
Carlsbad, CA 92009



Homemade Pumpkin Bacon Dog Treats

(A favorite year-round)

Baking Time: 350 degrees for 30 minutes

Ingredients:

2/3 c. canned pumpkin

2 large eggs

1/4 c. creamy peanut butter

1/2 c. packaged crumbled cooked bacon pieces

2 -1/3 c. whole wheat flour

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a large bowl, beat the pumpkin, eggs, and peanut butter with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Beat in bacon then beat in flour. If needed, add another tablespoon or two of flour until dough is no longer sticky.

On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4" thickness. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters. (We used a variety of small and medium to large sized cookie cutters.) Place dough shapes 1" apart on ungreased cookie sheets. This dough barely spreads when baking.

Bake for about 30 minutes, or until crisp and lightly golden. Transfer to wire racks to cool. Store in an airtight container for up to one month.

