

Bichon Bits & Bytes

©Bichon FurKids Rescue

A Love Affair 20 Years in the Making

By Laura Vaknin

Editor's Note: It is always such a pleasure to work with our adopters to find that special little FurKid or two to complete their families. When we are lucky enough to be able to adopt again to the original family—and also to the adult children of the original adopters—we are doubly blessed. Add to that the opportunity for our pups to grow up with children and create memories that will last a lifetime is the 'icing on the cake'. The story below is one that we hope you will enjoy.

Our journey with BFK began more than 20 years ago, when my mom was introduced to this amazing organization. She was at the veterinarian with our golden retriever and started talking with an old friend who had adopted a FurKid. My mom quickly learned about this incredible organization, and knew she wanted to become involved. I will never forget Mom coming back and telling me all about BFK. She soon completed the paperwork to adopt, and in a few months we were introduced to our first rescued FurKid—a little bichon named Rascal.



Rascal with his best friend Junior, the golden retriever

"Little Rascal" as we fondly called him was a loveable, playful, puppy who remained a puppy even as an adult dog. Rascal introduced us to the "bichon buzz" and was a constant joy in our life. At the time we adopted Rascal, I had recently finished graduate school and my brother was finishing college. Since my mom was now an empty nester, Rascal became her third child. My brother and I enjoyed receiving the weekly professional photos my mom took of Rascal and the numerous phone calls we received on a daily basis with updates on what Rascal did that day.

Mom then started volunteering for BFK, and as she got involved, we heard so many stories about these FurKids who went from roaming the streets or in a pound to finding their forever families. We knew one fur baby was not enough and we soon adopted Sasha—a sweet poodle mix who was found wandering the streets and ended up in the pound—before BFK came in and saved her life.

I will never forget the evening Sasha came to our house. We were originally going to foster her until she found a home, but the moment she stepped into our house, we immediately knew we would adopt her. When she first arrived, she was so very skinny and you could see from her eyes that she had struggled! But even with all she had gone through, she came right over to us and licked us.

Continued on next page...

Contents

A Love Affair 20 Years in the Making.....	1
By Laura Vaknin.....	1
A Tribute To Our Furkid Ally.....	4
Keep Summer Safe for FurKids.....	5
Providing for your FurKids through your Estate Plan.....	7
Bichon Bash Update.....	10

Fosters Needed

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

Donate to BFK



Link BFK to your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com, then whenever you shop there, a portion of your purchase amount will be donated to BFK.



Sign up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program and link your Ralphs Shopper's Card to BFK. When you shop at Ralphs, a portion of your purchase will be donated to BFK.

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



Find us on
Facebook



Lauren with Rascal after we adopted him



Lauren with Sasha



Sweet Bella

Cover Story, continued...

Over the next few days, Sasha started eating more and gaining weight and the sadness we first saw in her eyes quickly disappeared and changed to pure joy. Sasha was such a love and a little lady.

One of the greatest parts of BFK is how closely the volunteers work with families to have the best match with a rescued pup. My mom always said that “You can never have enough fur babies” and would never say no when she would receive a call about a pup who needed a home, especially since we knew the fur baby would be a good fit for our family. Mom soon got a call about a rescue dog who needed a home—and before we knew it Bella joined our family.

Bella was a Maltese rescue who, at less than nine pounds, took over the role of the alpha dog in our house. Bella was also very motherly and after my daughter was born, Bella would stand guard at her bassinette and bark if any of the dogs came close to her. It was the cutest sight I had ever seen. Bella would also jump in my lap when I would feed my daughter.

Over the next year, Bella was a part of so many milestones in my daughter’s life. As my daughter started to roll over, crawl, and even take her first few steps, Bella was right there with her along the way.

Soon after Bella came along, we heard about a FurKid who was recently rescued and needed a home. This amazing fur baby was in the pound with his mom; however, she had been adopted. Left without his mother, the little guy became so sad and stopped eating. BFK soon rescued him—and we adopted him quickly. We named him Charlie and gave him the nickname “Charlie Bear” since he reminded us of a cuddly teddy bear. Charlie is approximately 13 years old now and still loves playing with everyone especially fetching his favorite red ball and playing with his two new fur baby sisters.

As my kids got a older, I knew it was time for them to experience the joy of growing up with more dogs. We were fortunate to recently adopt Josie and Jodie, a bonded pair rescued by BFK. These two adorable puppies joined our family in April and fit in very well with everyone, including our other BFK rescue, Charlie.

Josie and Jodie are a constant joy in our household, and I love watching my kids experience the amazing opportunity of having dogs grow up with them. My two kids and Josie and Jodie are together all the time—and I feel like I now have four kids. My son loves reading his favorite Biscuit books to Josie and Jodie, and they never miss story time with the kids. My daughter enjoys playing dress up and having tea parties with the puppies. The kids love playing ball with Josie and Jodie in the backyard, and are always worn out by the time they finish their game with the puppies.

Continued on next page...



Emma with Josie, Jodie, and Charlie



Emma's tea party with Josie & Jodie.



Cover Story, continued...

As a parent, it is often hard to get your kids up in the morning for school, but Josie and Jodie take care of that for me. Every morning, I open up the doors to the kids' rooms then Josie and Jodie jump on their beds and lick their faces until they wake up. If my kids try and pull the blankets over their heads, Josie and Jodie know just what to do—they go under the blankets and continue kissing their faces until they wake up. My children always wake up laughing and with a huge smile on their faces.

As soon as the kids come home from school, Josie and Jodie are waiting at the door leaping up and down in excitement. The puppies come with us to every sports and after-school activity. Whether it's watching swim practice or a little league game, they never miss a moment to be included in our lives.

The other day I asked my kids to tell me what they think is the best part of growing up with dogs. My daughter thought about the question for a few minutes and responded by saying, "If you are ever sad or get hurt, the dogs will always kiss you until you feel better." My son thought about the question for a minute and responded by saying, "I get to play frisbee and ball all the time and the dogs will always bring the ball back to me."

BFK is truly an amazing organization that has saved the lives of thousands of dogs over the years. Whether you are looking to have your children grow up with a dog, want to add another fur baby to your home, or even recently became an empty nester, there is a fur baby who will complete your life. 🐾



Rascal with Lauren, Beth and Bob

A Tribute To Our Furkid Ally

By Stacy Eder

Our dearest baby girl recently passed away and we just can't bear the loss of her bright light in our lives. She was the eternal optimist and peacemaker of our brood. Big sis to her jealous sister Sammy, she never minded all the bites and evil growls that came her way. Best bud to her brother Cooper who she loved dearly. Her youngest brother Poppe was enamored with her sweetness.

Rising every morning to the squeaks and banging of toys being lovingly tossed around the floor in anticipation of her breakfast. Then, after gobbling her food like the speed of light, she'd rush back to bed and happily lick her mama Stacy's face, neck and ears until waking her. Always super excited to go anywhere...groomer, walks and even the vet. She just loved people and experiencing new places.

Her gerbil-like coos were unforgettable and she was the fastest runner of the pack. She never walked anywhere, always ran like lightning. But she slept hard too. Deep sleep naps under the feet of Mama D while she worked in the office or ate in the sitting room.

Cracker Jack, Cracker, Cakes, Googles, Sissy were her favorite nicknames. But she was so incredibly friendly that Ally would answer to anything.

Feeding time was definitely the highlight of her day and boy would she perform. She loved any food and would stalk her bros and sis relentlessly for their crumbs.

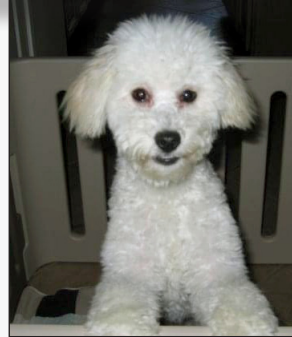
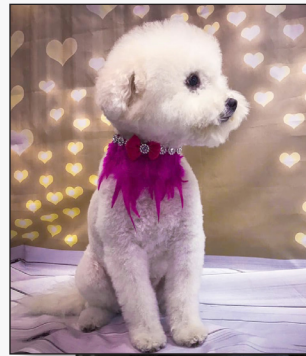
Walks were also a joy in her life and running free on the beach. Ally's eyes looked like they would pop right out of her head and she looked like she had ants in her pants always moving and looking for action.

Her favorite toys were anything that squeaked, the Lobster, Bunny, Snake or anything with a squeaker. And Ally loved to shake toys back and forth and hurl them around the floor. Her presence was always felt.

Ally had a special corner on the sofa on her furry white blanket, where she could survey the action and jump at the slightest move from anyone. Point lookout.

She will be unbelievably missed. We hope her sissy Pen Pen and brother Louie are there to greet her in heaven and introduce her to our other lost loves, Beij, Oli and Roxy.

Good bye my sweet baby girl. We will see you again one day. Until then, keep those Bichons happy in heaven and bring joy to all the other angels you meet. 🐾



Keep Summer Safe for FurKids

The 4th of July is a time of celebration. It's all about food, family, fun, and that includes our pets! As much fun as the 4th can be for us humans, the food and festivities can be a dangerous and even frightening time for our dogs. More animals go missing around Fourth of July than any other time of the year, causing shelters to overflow and pet parents to panic. Here are some suggestions to make summer as fun for them as it is for your family.

- Update Identification
- Always have current identification tags on your pets.
- We recommend getting your pets microchipped and making sure microchip information is current.
- GPS tracker devices are also available in stores and online. These collar devices let you track your pet's location from your smart phone.

Have a current photo of your dog available. You can post it on social media and flyers if your dog goes missing.

Manage the fright of Fireworks

Fireworks and FurKids generally do not mix. Imagine how painful those thunderous booms are to a dog, whose hearing is many times better than your own. Before the festivities start, try to tire your dog out. Take a long walk or do some serious playing.



If you plan to go somewhere to see fireworks, it's best to leave your dog at home — *indoors* with a safe place to curl up, and if possible, with a pet sitter that you trust. If you must allow your pup to use a doggie door to your yard, make certain that fence gates are secured and there are no possible escape routes.

Each year BFK rescues dogs who have escaped to get away from fireworks and are never found or claimed by their families.

Desensitize your pet to fireworks...

- Find a recording of fireworks, and play it at the lowest possible volume a few times each day.
 - At the same time, pair the sound of the fireworks with things your dog likes, such as treats, meals, cuddle time, or a game of tug-of-war.
 - Slowly begin to raise the volume of the recording over the course of several days, while continuing to pair the sound of fireworks with good things for your dog. If at any point your dog begins to show signs of fear, turn the volume down to a point where he feels more comfortable.
- Repeat this several times each day until your dog can hear the sounds of the fireworks at a fairly high volume without becoming fearful.

If you don't have time to prepare for the fireworks, or if desensitization hasn't ended your dog's fear of fireworks completely, here are other things you can do to ease his fears.

- Don't change your behavior. Many people feel compelled to baby their dogs when the dog is showing signs of fear. We pet them more than usual, cuddle them, and talk to them in soft voices. Rather than easing a dog's fears, however, this often reinforces the dog's fearful behaviors.
- Try not to react to the fireworks yourself. If you jump or tense up when you hear fireworks because you are anticipating your dog's fear, you may make his fear worse. Your body language can tell a dog that there is a reason to be afraid.
- Drown out the sound of the fireworks. Try to turn up the radio or television and keep your windows closed during the fireworks. If the weather permits, a fan or air conditioner (if your dog isn't afraid of those sounds) can help, too.
- Don't push your dog past his comfort zone. Allow him to hide if he feels more comfortable in his crate or under a bed. Don't try to force him to adapt to the fireworks. This may result in an even more frightened dog.

Continued on next page...

Summer, continued...

- Talk to your vet about medications or other products that can help ease your pet's anxiety. Remember to give the proper dose before they start to panic.
- Thundershirt vests (and similar products) provide a snug "hug" fit has been proven to help with anxiety-related issues. (Think about an infant wrapped tightly but comfortably in a blanket.)
- Pheromone therapy: Adaptil is an analog of the naturally-occurring calming pheromone found in the milk of mother dogs. One format is a plug-in, which diffuses Adaptil into the room, and the other is a collar.
- Anxiane: A chewable medication that contains L-Theanine, an amino acid that acts neurologically to help keep dogs calm.

Help your pets manage the heat

July 4th in the U.S. is also one of the hottest times of the year. Because our dogs can only cool themselves through their mouths and feet, they are more prone to heat stroke. If your dog is outside for the party all day, and you get caught up in the festivities, you may easily forget that your dog might be too hot.



Practice summer safety: Always keep plenty of fresh, cool water available and be sure there are shady spots for your dog. When in doubt, let her go back in the house.

Keep an eye on the pool. We all know that dogs are natural swimmers and love to cool off in a pool as much as we do, but they can drown in a swimming pool if there is no means (such as steps in the shallow end) for them to exit the pool when they tire out — or if they don't know where those steps are. Unlike humans, who can swim to the edge and just hang on, dogs have no way to relax in a pool. They must keep swimming or

drown. Please keep an eye on your dog when near a pool, especially if it's one your dog is not familiar with.

Please never leave your pet inside a parked car.

Even if doesn't seem that hot outside the car, and even if the windows are cracked open, the temperature inside the car can reach deadly levels within minutes, causing brain damage or death from heatstroke or suffocation. In addition, it makes your pet a target for thieves.



Watch your pet around food and party items:

Dogs are drawn to table scraps and hot barbecue grills. Please keep pets away from heat sources and don't leave food and drink where your dog can get to it (and ask your guests to do the same). Even if it may not be poisonous to animals, ingesting too much people food will definitely make your pet sick. Foods that are toxic to dogs include (but are not limited to) those on the following list. More can be found on www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets.

- Chocolate
- Anything sweetened with xylitol (a sweetener found in candy, gum, peanut butter, and baked goods)
- Onions
- Avocados
- Grapes and raisins
- Yeast products
- Alcohol (beer, wine, "hard" liquor: Pets can become dangerously intoxicated, go into a coma, or die from respiratory failure. Make sure cups, cans, and glasses are kept out of reach. ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Number: (888) 426-4435
- Keep party items such as citronella candles, insect traps, tiki-torch oil, insect repellents, and sunscreens (unless made for pets) out of reach. These can irritate the stomach and lung and possibly cause damage to the nervous system. The same goes for at-home fireworks, too. Unused ones can be poisonous to a dog looking for a fun chew! 🐾

Providing for your FurKids 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. 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 enable Bichon FurKids to help your FurKid and potentially other pets. 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.

Will or Trust

Perhaps the most popular way to achieve the goal of caring for a FurKid 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.



If we should part, if you must leave,
My heart will break, how I will grieve!
My home now empty, where will I go?
Who'll love me as you did? I need to know.
Will my bed be as warm, 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 go on
without you.



© Judy D'Addieco

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

Continued on next page...

Make charitable gifts to BFK, continued...

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.

When should I create my pet trust?

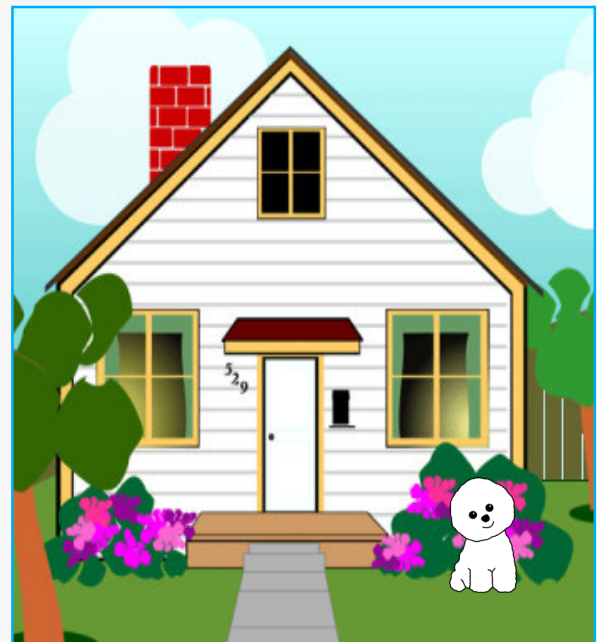
You may create a pet trust either (1) while you are still alive (an “inter vivos” or “living” trust) or (2) when

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.

Continued on next page...

Make charitable gifts to BFK, continued...

- 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 avoids probate. By making BFK the owner of the insurance policy, in addition to being the beneficiary, the premiums are tax deductible, too!
- Securities/Stocks: You can donate stocks that may have appreciated and save on capital gains taxes, while enjoying a federal income-tax deduction for the full value.

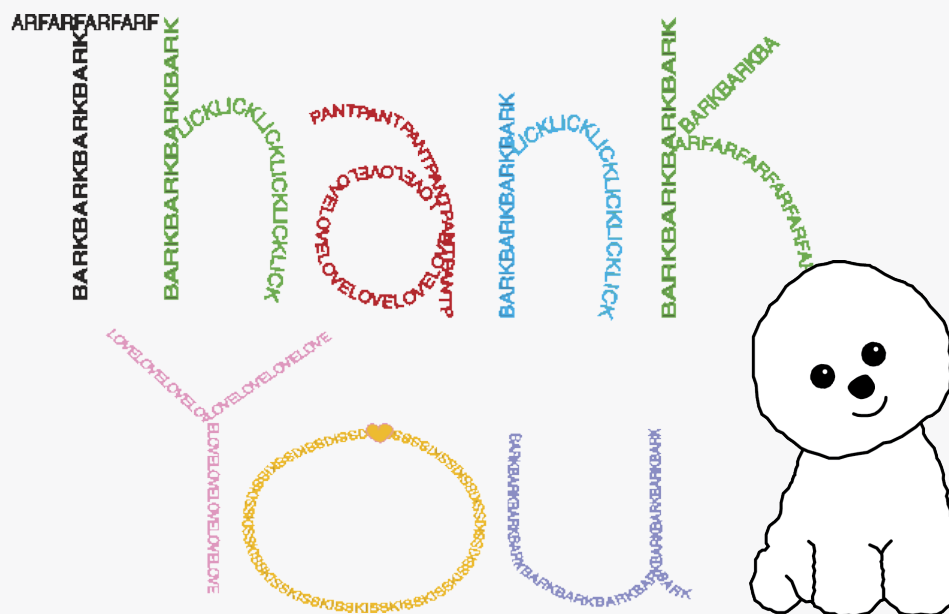
Did you know...?

- Giving appreciated property like stock, property or real estate can cost you less than giving the equivalent in cash.
- Some assets are worth more to you if you give them to charity.
- Some charitable gifts allow you to pass on more to your heirs AND save taxes.
- You can benefit from making a gift now, while leaving a legacy later.

One more thing, and this is important...

It is especially important that financial and/or legal professionals be consulted in order to attain maximum benefits from donations for both the donor and Bichon FurKids. Because of BICHON FURKIDS's 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, all donation options have tax benefits according to current laws.

As always, Bichon FurKids Rescue cannot provide legal or financial advice. Please remember to check with your financial advisor to find the option that will be most beneficial to you.



Bichon Bash Update

Sunday, October 3, 2021

10AM – 3PM

Village Green adjacent to the Norman P. Murray
Community and Senior Center

24932 Veterans Way
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

\$30 per person/\$80 for family (includes lunch)



We enjoyed hosting the Bichon Bash in the Fall for many years and have secured a date of October 3, 2021 at the Village Green, adjacent to the Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center in Mission Viejo. For those of you who remember and were able to attend, it was home to the 2019 Bichon Bash.

Seeing all of you and your frolicking FurKids is one of the happiest times of our year! We missed seeing you in 2020 and hope to make up for it as we plan and organize Bichon Bash 2021!

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 \$30 per person/\$80 for family (includes lunch). 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. On the menu, click **Bichon Bash 2021**.
3. At the bottom of the page, click **Register to Reserve Your Spot at the 2021 Bichon Bash**.
4. Complete the registration form (make sure to click the **Captcha** box).
5. Make sure your information is correct, then click **Submit**. You will be directed to the **Bichon Bash Registration Confirmation** page.
6. Follow the instructions on that page to pay for your tickets.

Register by Check:

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 \$80).

Mail to:

Bichon FurKids
6965 El Camino Real
Suite 105-425
Carlsbad, CA 92009