

An Amazing Program Thanks To You

Editor's Note: In January 2010 Bichon FurKids initiated a program called Forever Foster. It was launched as the result of a generous donation from an adopter and bichon-lover who wished to remain anonymous. The vision, then and still, 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 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 dignity..

The 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. Some have been adopted by people who have then passed away with no family member to care for them. Euthanasia is not an option unless their quality of life is compromised. Instead, they come into long term foster care where their medical expenses are covered by Bichon FurKids -- and foster moms and dad provide the physical care and love they need and deserve as they live out their lives in loving homes.

PIPPI PALOMA ARRIVES

Pippi is our oldest Forever Foster at 16 years but is very young at heart! Pippi, who was called Paloma initially, came into rescue in 2009, a few years after we launched BFK. She was 'about' three years old then and was adopted soon thereafter by a lovely couple. We stayed in touch with them over the years and received periodic photos and updates. At one point they became dog sitters, caring for other FurKids whose adopters were traveling or taking on new adventures.



In January 2020 an email arrived indicating that a pup with a microchip registered to Bichon FurKids had found her way to San Diego Humane Society. When we reached out to find out more we discovered that Pippi's original adoptive father had died a few months before -- and her original adoptive mom was placed in Memory Care. The son and daughter-in-law had a large 'resident dog' -- and like most of our little fluffs, big dogs are scary beings for bichons. And at 10 pounds little Pippi certainly was overwhelmed by the boxer. So the daughter-in-law brought her to the

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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.

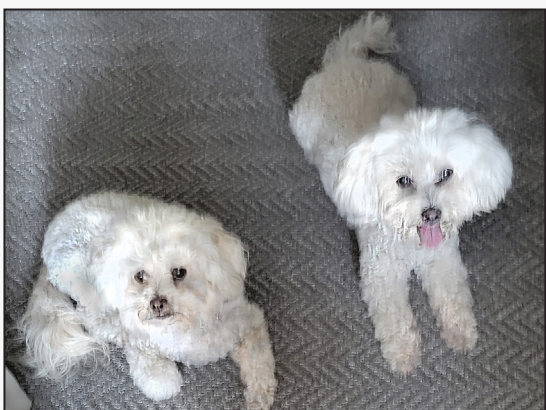
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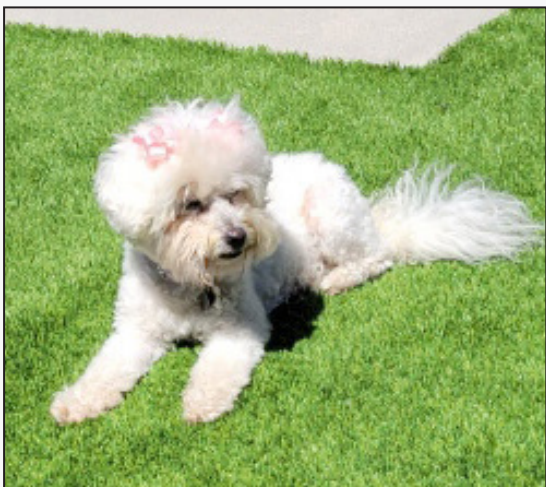
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Pippi (front) and friend Kylie posing for Mom



Pippi (right) friend Kimmie on the left



Pippi enjoying life in the sun

Cover Story, continued...

Humane Society where Pippi shut down, wouldn't eat, walk or interact. She was truly depressed and it showed.

With help from SD Humane, Pippi came back to BFK and to me personally. My plan was to get to know her overnight in order to confirm the ideal Forever Foster home-- and to minimize her transition. I had a foster in mind and transportation set up for the following day but 'the Universe' intervened.

Shortly after Pippi arrived, and not knowing much about how she would do in a home with three other FurKids (as she had been an 'only' when originally adopted), we set off on our 'regular' walk. That covered almost a mile however I was prepared to turn around if Pippi found that to be too far to walk. After all she was 'about' 15 and I was unsure as to how much she had been walked by her aging former adopters.

So we set off on our journey and she immediately tried to lead the pack. Kylie wasn't sure what was happening but she's a good natured Alpha so she was undisturbed and kept leading. Pippi kept up with Kylie. Quincy could care less - and Kimmie was (and always is) the last one, even though she is the youngest. When we returned home, everyone got a small treat - and then it was dinner time.

Pippi had been sent with an 'appetite stimulant' since she was not eating well at the Humane Society. That was NEVER a problem at our house. From her very first meal at Casa Colwell Pippi showed that she is the consummate foodie and loves pretty much anything I give her. (That's a relief and delight for me personally as my other FurKids are pretty fussy!)

The next morning I awakened (Pippi had claimed her share of the bed the night before) prepared to walk the pups and for the volunteer driver to pick up Pippi and bring her to the foster home in LA. I found myself teary eyed at sending her away so I went to talk with Jim, as he was always the most practical of husbands.

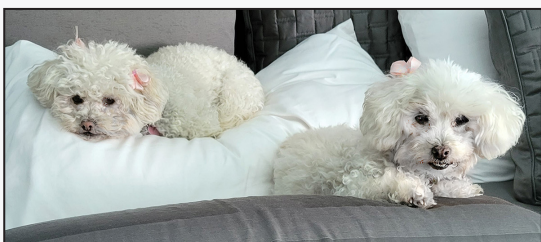
PIPPI JOINS THE PACK

With unwanted tears in my eyes I explained to Jim that I was having this very strange reaction to letting Pippi leave. I have certainly placed many deserving pups in other foster homes and have known that they would have loving care wherever they went, as our fosters are the very best! I told him the plans I had made yet the reservation I was having about Pippi leaving. I explained that she had been in 'a home' before she came in to rescue in 2009, how she was adopted and lived with a couple for 11 years then went to live briefly with a family member (who she presumably knew). I told him that Pippi was trying hard to bond to everyone she met. I mentioned that she had been depressed in the shelter and had not been eating or interacting - and that I could not understand why I was so emotional about helping her to move on.

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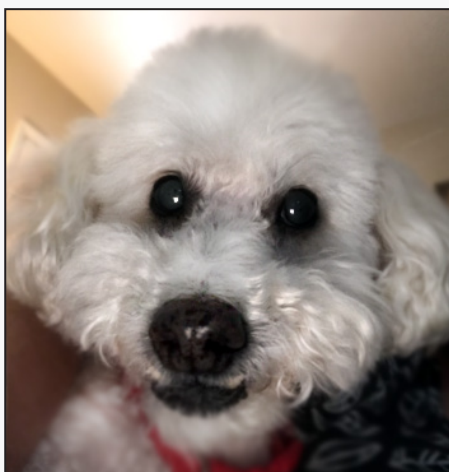
Pippi—all dolled up and smiling about it



Pippi (front) living her best life with friend Kimmie



Pippi enjoying her big back yard



Romeo: safe and loved now as a BFK Forever Foster

Cover Story, continued...

Jim listened intently (he was an outstanding listener) then said: "Well, the other pups seem to do well with her, don't they? (My answer was "Yes") followed by "You've handled four dogs before, right?" (My answer was, again, "Yes") and then, out of the blue Jim said "Do you think Lindsey sent her to us?" (That was the one question I had least expected and the one that sent me over the edge – for Lindsey and Pippi had a lot in common and it had been two years since Lindsey had passed. They both had one ear that flips backwards from time to time, were similar in size and definitely both loving and determined little characters.)

That was 17 months ago. Jim passed away two months after Pippi arrived. She, Kylie, Quincy and Kimmie have been my lifesavers. The saying, "Who Rescued Who?" certainly applies here. And while we don't know how many more years Pippi may have with us, I am grateful for each and every day with this little 'monkey.' She doesn't see particularly well and has selective hearing but Pippi runs around the yard like a little gazelle, backs up Quincy when someone comes to the door (not that he needs the backup but she considers that her job) happily joins or tries to displace whoever is in the bed closest to my desk, still walks extremely fast and at the head of the pack. In short, she has been a delight and much loved member of our pack and family. I couldn't love her any more than I do!

TOBY AND ROMEO: TWO FOREVER FOSTER PUPS

As a young pup growing up in San Francisco, Toby was adopted by a couple. As their family of origin lived overseas, they began to travel to Asia, spending weeks or some times a month visiting. When they traveled Toby was boarded at a local vet. Over time he spent almost as much time being boarded as he did with the family. Then three years ago, when he was almost 8 years old, the family had a baby. At almost the same time, Toby was diagnosed with diabetes. The family decided they could not care for Toby and took him to a local San Francisco shelter. That was no place for a little guy who needed shots every 12 hours to control his diabetes. In March, 2019 Toby became a FurKid and is lovingly cared for by Lori and Walter Ott who have had experience with diabetic bichons in the past. We, and Toby, are so very grateful to them for his loving care.

Romeo and his companion Juliette first became FurKids in 2008. They had a litter of four darling pups, all of whom were adopted, as were Romeo and Juliette. Then in July of 2020 Romeo's owner had stroke—and Romeo was found wandering a busy street in Fallbrook, California a few days later. His original owner was unable to care for him and her adult daughter had no interest. Romeo became a Forever Foster in August 2020 and is living in a loving home with Karen Kenyon and Lisa, along with FurKids Kodi and Kimmi. We, and Romeo, are grateful for the loving care he is receiving as a FurKid the second time around.

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Cover Story, continued...

HOW OUR FOREVER FOSTER PROGRAM WORKS

When a pup originally adopted by Bichon FurKids (like Pippi and Romeo) outlives its owners, these pups come back to BFK. We then scramble to find a forever home for them – and scramble we do! Generally they need some medical care (often it starts with a dental) and all medical is paid for by BFK. Finding a loving long-term home can be a greater challenge – however there are some amazing volunteers that step up to help, often when we don't know what we are going to do. Again, the Universe hears our plea (or cries for help!) and the precious pup is then bundled off to a Forever Foster home.

We are always in need (and awe!) of people who want to be the difference in the lives of these deserving FurKids. If any of these stories touches you and you want to be a Forever Foster, please email me and let me know. I promise to be in touch with you quickly as we rarely know ahead of time when we will need a Forever Foster Mom or Dad!

To maintain the best quality of life for our Forever Fosters, we appreciate the additional assistance that donations provide. The donations we receive through our Adoption Program never cover the medical expenses accumulated in the care of these rescued dogs – but they certainly help us to help them.

All donations to the Forever Foster Fund are managed separately from all other donations. In addition BFK continues to look for opportunities to expand and grow the fund. If you would like to become a special part of one these little FurKids' lives, please consider becoming a Sponsor. A Sponsor can make monetary donations or provide supplies for their use in the Forever Foster Home. Sponsorships may be one time donations or timed payments to help cover the costs of medical care, treatment or recovery. All monetary and material donations will go to the particular Forever Foster dog you specify.

Please consider supporting our Forever Foster Program. Your financial gift will help us continue to save many more dogs, and to provide our Forever Fosters a life of ease and contentment.

If you would like to make a donation for a Forever Foster please click on link below:

<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/donations and specify Forever Foster under Purpose>

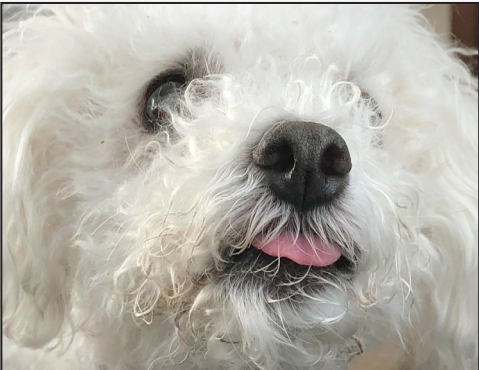
If you would like your name to appear on our website and be updated on a FurKid's progress, let us know. If you have been unable to adopt, or unable to have the time to care for a rescued pup for whatever reason, but would like to help, please become a Sponsor. Our little FurKids depend on you! And remember, please, that all donations are tax-deductible.

If you prefer to mail a check or money order you can send it to:

Bichon FurKids
6965 El Camino Real #105-425
La Costa, CA 92009



Romeo taking a ride, hoping Mom will let him drive



Toby: a happy boy!



Toby and his foster Mom, Lori Otto

In Tribute To A Very Special Boy

Bogey

My name is Bogey and I want to share my story.

The first part of my life was pretty dismal, so I'll start with the day this lady found me, trembling and half starved, in a very scary shelter. I wasn't sure what it meant when I heard her say "Marti, we have to get him out of here. He's so sweet!" Marti must have said yes because I was in a car on a Bichon FurKids freedom ride that changed my life!

The lady (she became my foster Mom) gave me a bath, some of the most delicious food I've ever had, a nice soft warm bed to sleep in and oh so much love! Even sisters and a brother pup that my mom called her 'grumpy old man' - even he welcomed me! It still didn't stop me from hiding my toys in our backyard. I thought I was in heaven! Well, not just yet. But it would be sooner than we expected.

So many adopters were interested in meeting me. They fell in love with my big brown eyes and sweet demeanor. But before that was to happen the vet found something bad growing inside of me. In spite of all Bichon FurKids' efforts, and the love of my foster mom, it was my time.

Oh, don't feel bad for me. I got more love in my last few months than I got in my entire life before I was rescued. Now I am running and playing with all my half sisters and brothers and all the BFK FurKids that have gone before me. And there were so very many toys to find hiding places for, though I hear my mom now cries when she finds one that I thought I had hidden so well.

There were so many times she told me that I was her very special boy—and that I was so sweet and affectionate to everyone, in spite of what humans had done to me.

But I'm happy now. And, when any BFK human arrives here, I will greet each and every one with a big Bogey kiss! For I finally knew what it felt like to have a family, a home and feel safe and LOVED. Thank you BFK for bringing me so much joy in my last senior months.



AT THE SHELTER

Once I was just a number. Scared and half starved to death at a scary shelter.



FREEDOM RIDE!

On my freedom ride, I couldn't figure out what was happening!



SAFE and LOVED!

I had become a much loved BichonFur Kid named Bogey! I knew my lucky day had finally come.



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

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Summer, continued...

- the fireworks. This may result in an even more frightened dog.
- 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.
- Anxetine: 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



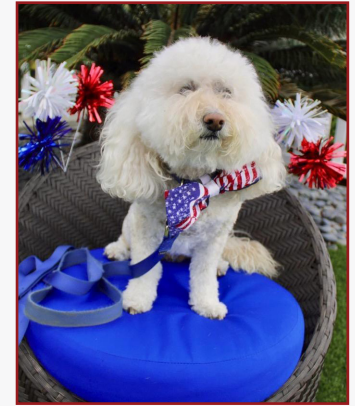
stroke. If your dog is outside for the party all day, and you get caught up in the festivities, you may easily forget that your dog might be too hot.

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 barbeque 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!

Poison Prevention

Bichon FurKids completes home and yard safety checks prior to approving adopters interested in our FurKids. Safety is our number one concern, whether it involves fence slats that are too far apart, gates a pup can slip under, canyons and areas where coyotes, bobcats and others traverse as well as poisonous plants.

We appreciate that plants are good for the soul. They are calming, they add beauty to our home, and help us stay in touch with nature. There are many, however, that can be dangerous for our precious pups, which is what we look for when we check the outside areas. Among the most common poisonous plants are **Sago Palms, Milkweed, Oleander, Autumn Crocus, Azalea, Japanese Yew, Crown of Thorns, Firesticks**—and there are others.

Inside the home there are other potential hazards. Many of the **cleaners, solvents, medicines** and other items that we keep around the house can be dangerous to our pets if ingested. Here's what you need to know.

Signs of poisoning:

- Excessive salivation
- Pacing or irregular pulse
- Vomiting diarrhea, abdominal pain
- A black, tarry stool
- Lethargy, weakness or loss of coordination
- Rapid breathing
- Cold extremities
- Yellowing of the skin
- Tremors and/or seizures

How to avoid an accidental poisoning

Preparation is key to preventing an accidental poisoning. After using cleaning solutions, pesticide sprays or bleach, block access to the rooms in which they are used until surfaces are dry and the room is well-ventilated.

Remember to close the lids on toilets and trash cans when not in use and keep medications, pest control products and cleaning supplies sealed and out of reach. When you have visitors, ask them to keep personal belongings behind closed doors.

If you suspect poisoning, rinse the affected area with water and call the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control number at 888-426-4435** immediately to assess the risk.

Information to have on hand when calling:

- What was ingested or touched, how much and where
- Estimated time of exposure
- Pet's current weight and medical history
- A sample of the product, ingested object(s) or vomit

Commonly ingested household toxins include:

Dogs:

- Mouse/rat poison (vitamin D3)
- Anti-inflammatory medications (acetaminophen)
- Antidepressant medications
- Ibuprofen
- Xylitol

Cats:

- Topical flea/tick medication intended for dogs
- Household cleaners
- Antidepressant medications
- Essential oils
- Anti-inflammatory medications

Our pets bring so much love and joy to our lives and families. Please look around your home and yard to ensure that you are continuing to provide a safe environment for your beloved pets.



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.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/c>

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

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.

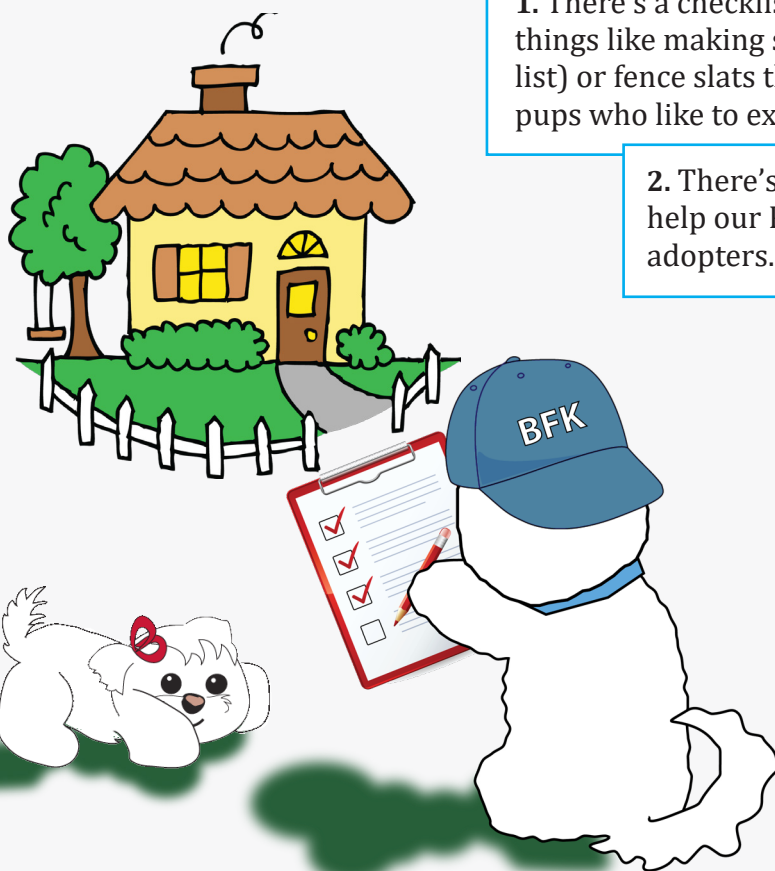
3. If there's a pup in the home already, why I get to meet that pup and find out more about him or her too! (That's called a bonus!)

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 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 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)

