

## Our Amazing Community Comes Together For Woofy

Recently we received an email from the Supervisor of Behavior & Training Division Adoption Partner Transfer Coordinator at the San Francisco Humane Society. They had received a senior three-legged FurKid who had accidentally 'bitten' his owner during a seizure (his first ever!) and the adult son responded by taking this pup, Woofy, to his Mom's vet and telling (not asking) the vet to euthanize him. When the vet refused, the son then took him to the Humane Society with the same request. At that point they reached out to us. We knew we wanted to help this little guy and reprinted the plea on our Facebook page.



*"We have a really sweet old man poofball who is down on his luck and looking to find love again. His name is Woofy! Woofy is around eight years old and had been with his person for his entire life—she is an elderly woman and he was her constant companion.*

*Sadly, around two weeks ago, Woofy had a seizure. It was his first. His owner panicked and tried to grab him while it was happening and Woofy somehow bit her. It was not a severe bite by any stretch, just broke skin on her finger.*

*Unfortunately, Woofy's owner's son really hit a gasket over this incident. He placed his mum in the hospital (he stated she had some other stuff going on) and then attempted to abandon Woofy at his vet's.*

*When the vet called him on it, he picked Woofy up and brought him to our shelter and specifically requested we euthanize him.*

*Woofy is a nice dog. He's sweet and affectionate and motors around great for an aging tripod. We have not observed additional seizures while he has been in our care, but we are not able to monitor him 24/7, so it is possible that he has had seizures when no one is here. But, overall, he's stable, cheerful, and incredibly sweet. He is a well-loved dog who really got thrown out on his bottom due to no fault of his own.*

*Woofy was in my office this morning with my little gremlin bulldog who comes to work with me, and he did great with her. He's just a gentle guy who doesn't really understand what the heck went wrong over the past few weeks.*

*Continued on next page...*

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### Donate to BFK

The staff of Bichons FurKids is paid only in the love of what we do. Your entire contribution will be used to offset the expenses of the FurKids we rescue, and it is tax deductible. Please click the yellow button above to donate or go to: <https://bichonfurkids.org/donate/> We and the FurKids thank you!

### Fosters Needed

Without loving foster homes, we cannot rescue FurKids in need. To apply to be a BFK foster, go to: <https://bichonfurkids.org/volunteer-foster/>



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](http://www.BichonFurKids.org)  
[info@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:info@bichonfurkids.org)

[@bichonfurkids](https://www.facebook.com/bichonfurkids)  
[@bichonfurkidsrescue](https://www.facebook.com/bichonfurkids)

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

Tax ID: 20-3652098  
Marti Colwell, President





## Cover Story, continued...

*Woofy has limited options due to the bite on his record, which really stinks, because it wasn't even a deliberate bite. Just was seizing and chattering. I know it's a longshot to find a three legged senior with a bite history a rescue spot, but I know you're so good with the extra special cases, I had to try.*

*Anyways! I'm attaching Woofy's records here and pasting a link to view a video of him bouncing around in the park. We're really rooting for this guy!"*

*Can you help?*

Your response to this notice was an outpouring of concern for Woofy, anger at the maliciousness of the son, mixed with a mandate to ensure that Woofy not be abandoned by 'the system.' We were delighted when returning adopters from Arizona read the plea and, separately, both husband and wife commented on wanting to help him.

A seizure causes a pet to lose awareness of what is happening to and around them. One of the symptoms of a seizure is rigidity of the legs; another can be chomping of the teeth which can result in bites to any human who attempts to assist their pet. (That is the reason veterinarians advise pet parents to stay clear of their pet's head during an episode.) In Woofy's case, the adult son considered the seizure a 'bite' — and saw it as the reason to remove him from his person and the only home he had known.

Any type of bite puts a "mark" on a shelter dog's record and, sadly, it does not typically end well for a pup unless a rescue steps in. In this case, the shelter staff believed in the goodness of Woofy—and so did our amazing BFK community. Thanks to your dedication and donations, Team Woofy was able to transport him to Southern California where his amazing adopters (yes, the returning adopters who read about Woofy's situation and responded by driving to So Cal to bring him home!) officially adopted him and brought him to meet his FurKid brother and FurKid cousins in Arizona.

This outcome for Woofy was the answer to so very many prayers—and was the encouragement that we rescuers needed. We will keep you updated with Woofy's progress as he settles in to his new home, receives wonderful veterinary care and lots of love from mom Christine, dad Jeff, FurKid brother Brady and various FurKid 'cousins.'

**Editor's note:** *Woofy went to his new vet last week and had bloodwork done. He was diagnosed as having stage 2 kidney disease which they will begin to treat.*

*That was a bit of a surprise; however kidney disease is somewhat common in many bichons as they age. The good news is that Christine and Jeff are already onboard with doing what they need to do to help Woofy live as full and complete a life as he can for many years to come.*



# Pippi: A Very Special Forever Foster

By Marti Colwell

***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 chronic or terminal health problems, disability, 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, with their medical expenses covered by Bichon FurKids through the Forever Foster Program.*

This is Pippi's story—and a chapter of mine, as well—because Pippi was my own Forever Foster who crossed the Rainbow Bridge this year as the oldest Forever Foster in the history of the program. 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 Humane Society where Pippi shut down, wouldn't eat, walk or interact. She was truly depressed and it showed.

With help from San Diego 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 home 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 take her to the foster home in Los Angeles. 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.

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

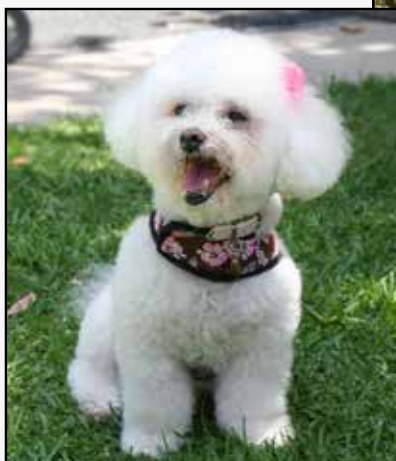
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she met. I mentioned that she had been depressed in the shelter and had not been eating or interacting—and that I could not understand why I was so emotional about helping her to move on.

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.)

Jim passed away two months after Pippi arrived. She, Kylie, Quincy and Kimmie were my lifesavers. The saying, “Who Rescued Who?” certainly applies here. I was grateful for each and every day with this little ‘monkey’ who was young at heart and always at the head of the pack. Toward the end, she didn’t see particularly well and had selective hearing, but she ran around the yard like a little gazelle. She backed up Quincy when someone came to the door (not that he needed the backup, but she considered that her job) and happily joined or displaced whoever was in the bed closest to my desk. In short, she was a delight and much beloved member of our pack. Pippi was a special friend who joined our family and helped me through my most difficult of times. She was an amazing and loving companion, a spirited, happy and delightful pup who added so much to my life. I couldn’t have loved her more if she had been with us her entire life. That is the reward for being a Forever Foster.

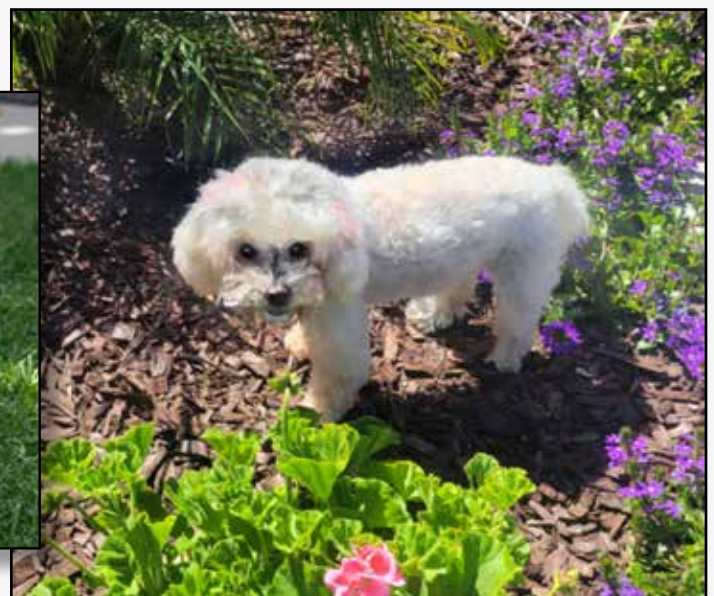
Soulmates Lindsey (left) and Pippi. My husband Jim thought that, just maybe, Lindsey sent Pippi to us because they both had so much in common and because I missed Lindsey so much.



Pippi in her favorite hangout: the closet in our bedroom!



Introducing Pippi at the Bichon Bash





Woof~~er~~ful!

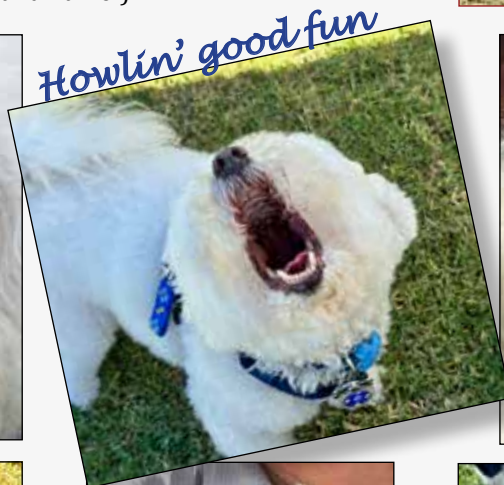
## A ~~Good~~ Time Was Had By All at Bichon Bash 2023!

One of the highlights of the past 20 years is gathering together our precious FurKids and their proud families for the Bichon Bash! It is such a joy seeing hundreds of (mostly) white fluffs running, playing, sunning and entertaining us and one another at the Bash.

The joy of seeing so many little ones who are now healthy, obviously happy and definitely well loved is the reward for what we, in rescue, do! A big shout-out to our Foster Families who make all of this possible! And a second shout-out to our returning adopters who entrust us, again, to add a new FurKid (or two) to their families.

Your support and compassion mean the world to us. It is what keep us going and growing.

Now, sit back and enjoy these photos (and see how many FurKids you can identify and name!)



*Howlin' good fun*



*Continued  
on next  
page...*





*Continued  
on next  
page...*





*A shout-out to our Youth Volunteers—*



*Thank you!*



*And our Vendors...*



*And our Bichon Bash Committee...You make it all happen.*

#### **Bichon Bash Committee**

**Chairperson:**

Sabina Rank

**Committee Members:**

Mary Arden

Ruth Ashley

Cherie Bauer

Marti Colwell

Judy D'Addieco

Doug Eisberg

Charisse Huetter

Michael Merrigan

Laurie Paurazas

Michele Ramirez

#### **Masters Of Ceremonies**

Marti Colwell

Tod Howarth

#### **Registration**

Cherie Bauer

#### **Photography**

Photo Fun Photo Booth

#### **Signage**

Jeannie Ortmann

Michele Ramirez

#### **Raffle/Silent Auction**

Laurie Paurazas

#### **Online Auction**

Mary Arden

Laurie Paurazas

#### **Centerpieces**

Jeannie Ortmann

#### **Finance**

Michele Ramirez

#### **Graphic Design**

Judy D'Addieco

#### **Sponsorships**

Michael Merrigan

#### **Website**

Deb Gibb

#### **Social Media**

Natalie Simmons

#### **Volunteer**

Charisse Huetter





# 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 remember that when entertaining, some of the listed food items may be even more prominent, so make your guests aware, too.

## Foods and beverages:

- Chocolate (especially dark chocolate)
- Coffee/coffee grounds
- Caffeine-containing beverages
- Coconut water (high in potassium)
- Raisins and grapes
- Onions, onion powder, garlic, chives, leeks, nutmeg, cinnamon
- Macadamia nuts
- Alcoholic beverages
- Xylitol (artificial sweetener in gum, diet/low-sugar foods. *One stick of gum could be enough to kill a small dog!*)
- Seeds from apple, apricot, cherry, and plum (and pits)
- Avacados, mushrooms (most kinds), green or unripe tomatoes, raw potatoes

## Household items:

- Detergents and fabric softener sheets
- Fertilizer and plant food
- Prescription drugs
- Rat/mouse/insect bait
- Antifreeze (it smells sweet so pets love to lick it from a floor or street). Most bottled solvents, cleaners, oils, etc. are toxic (keep all such items on high shelves)

## Outside your home:

- Sago palms
- Kalanchoe
- Fire sticks (Euphorbia Tirucalli, a.k.a pencil cactus)
- Aloe vera
- Castor bean or castor oil plant
- Milkweed
- Tomato plants
- Ivy, American holly, and mistletoe
- Amaryllis, tulips, lilies, hyacinths and daffodils
- Cyclamen and begonia
- Oleander
- Chrysanthemum
- Lantana
- Angel's Trumpet
- Azaleas and rhododendron
- Wisteria
- Dieffenbachia

Also harmful to pets are heavily salted or seasoned foods, yeast dough, animal bones, and fatty cuts of meat. For more items and information, see the links at right.



Links you can check for additional information include:

- <https://www.ucdavis.edu/one-health/garden-plants-toxic-to-pets/>
- <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>
- [https://ucanr.edu/sites/poisonous\\_safe\\_plants/Plant\\_Toxicity\\_Levels\\_523/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/poisonous_safe_plants/Plant_Toxicity_Levels_523/)
- <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/certain-foods-and-household-products-can-be-dangerous-to-dogs/>



# BICHONS: What To Consider Before Getting One

by Cyndie Adams - Leverre's Bichon Frises

Bichons are wonderful, funny, loving, happy, playful, smart dogs, BUT they are NOT for everyone!! Bichons have some special needs and quirks that people need to be aware of before deciding if this is the breed for them.

## Grooming

The most obvious consideration is their coat care. Bichons require A LOT of grooming to look like a Bichon and to be healthy. They must be thoroughly brushed (daily is best, but weekly is mandatory) to prevent matting of the coat. They should have their hair cut every 4-6 weeks, and depending on the area in which you live, this can be costly. If you are considering this breed, be prepared to figure in the cost of getting the dog groomed on a routine basis.

## Personality

Bichons were bred as companion animals. As such, they want to be with their people.....all the time! Many Bichons do not do well when left alone for long periods of time on a daily basis. They can suffer from separation anxiety, which can lead to depression, destructive behavior, personality changes, fear, excessive barking, and housebreaking problems. Bichons are an "in your face" breed. They want to be with you, and when you are in the house they will follow you everywhere, they want to be on your lap or snuggled next to you when you are sitting down, they DEMAND attention!

## Housebreaking

Housebreaking can be a big issue with the breed and one of the main reasons that Bichons are placed in rescue or given up to shelters. It will depend on the dog's personality and the start that it gets from the breeder as to how difficult it will be to housetrain the dog, and Bichons are notorious for being difficult to housebreak! Some dogs "get it" quickly and some dogs



take a long time before they are housebroken. If you are considering this breed, you MUST be prepared to have accidents in the house, and you MUST be prepared for housebreaking to take time! *[Editor's Note: If your Bichon continues to have accidents or your male marks, many websites and stores offer a variety of "belly bands" for males and similar items for females. Check the BFK website at <https://bichonfurkids.org/shop-bfk/#BellyBands> for some that we recommend.]*

## Training

Bichons like to think that they DESERVE to be waited on... and if not properly trained, they WILL run the house. In order for a Bichon to be a good family member it is important for the owner to obtain some basic obedience training for the dog. This will require some

time and nominal expense, but it will be worth the effort, especially for the new dog owner.

## Life-proofing

Bichons are inquisitive, nose-y dogs. Be prepared to lose some personal articles if you leave them in reach of the dog! This attitude also applies to the outside world. If you do not have a secure, fenced in yard, you MUST have the dog on a leash at all times when it is outside! If you let the dog off leash, or do not hold onto the leash, the dog will take off to investigate new things, run just for the fun of it, or chase cars, squirrels, etc.

## Now you know

Bottom line...If you have the time, patience and resources to cope with all of the preceding characteristics of the breed, you will not find a better dog to be your best friend than a Bichon!



# I Rescued a Human Today

**H**er eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her.

**I**wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

**A**s she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

**S**oon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.

**I**was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved.

At least I could save one.

*I rescued a Human today!*





## Order your 2024 Calendars today!

*There's nothing like the gift of a brand new year...a year full of hope...of renewed opportunity...and so many other good things that make life worth celebrating!*

The 2024 Bichon FurKids calendar is ready to order for holiday gift-giving and, of course, as a gift to yourself! This colorful package celebrates every month of 2024 with photos of the adorable FurKids who participated in our calendar contest. The theme for 2024 is "Home is Where the FurKids Are," acknowledging that our FurKids enrich the feeling of "Home"... wherever that may be for each of us.

The BFK Calendar not only makes a great holiday gift, but it's also the perfect birthday or anniversary gift for any Bichon lover! And remember, all proceeds go towards the needs of incoming FurKids.

The price is \$25 and includes shipping and handling for one calendar.

### To order from the Bichon FurKids website:

1. Go to <https://bichonfurkids.org/bfk-calendar/>
2. Click **Buy Now**.
3. Enter the number of calendars that you want to order, then click **Continue**.
4. You will be redirected to PayPal, where you can pay with your PayPal account or pay with a credit/debit card.

### To send a check by mail:

- Make the check payable to Bichon FurKids and let us know how many calendars that you want to order.
- Mail the check to Bichon FurKids, 6965 El Camino Real, #105-425, Carlsbad, CA 92009