



Bichon Bits & Bytes

November 2011 Interim Issue Bichon FurKids Rescue

Eat this, don't eat that! What's a dog to do ???



Dangerous Foods for Dogs

Editor's Note: As we enter the holiday season BFK wants to remind you that there are some foods that are dangerous for furkids and other dogs. In the next issue we'll tell you about some foods that you may want to include in your dog's diet. For now, please be aware of those that are dangerous.

Who can resist those big brown eyes and cute doggie grin? Can a little reward from the table really hurt your dog? Well, that depends on what it is and what's in it. In fact, there's a lot of people food your dog should never eat. And, it's not just because of weight. Some foods are downright dangerous for dogs -- and some of these common foods may surprise you.

Sugary Foods and Drinks

Too much sugar can do the same thing to dogs that it does to humans. It can lead to obesity, dental problems, and possibly the onset of diabetes.

Onions and Garlic

Onions and garlic in all forms -- powdered, raw, cooked, or dehydrated -- can destroy a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia. That can happen even with the onion powder found in some baby food. An occasional small dose is probably OK. But just eating a large quantity once or eating smaller amounts regularly can cause poisoning.

Grapes and Raisins



Grapes and raisins have often been used as treats for dogs. Although it isn't clear why, grapes and raisins can cause kidney failure in dogs. And just a small amount can make a dog ill. Repeated vomiting is an early sign. Within a day, the dog will become lethargic and depressed. The best prevention is to keep grapes and raisins off counters and other places your dog can reach.

Milk and Other Dairy Products

Milk and milk-based products can cause diarrhea and other digestive upset as well as set up food allergies (which often manifest as itchiness).

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(Dangerous Foods for Dogs, continued)

Macadamia Nuts

Dogs should not eat macadamia nuts or foods containing macadamia nuts because they can be fatal. As few as six raw or roasted macadamia nuts can make a dog ill. Symptoms of poisoning include muscle tremors, weakness or paralysis of the hindquarters, vomiting, elevated body temperature, and rapid heart rate. Eating chocolate with the nuts will make symptoms worse, possibly leading to death.

Chocolate

Most people know that chocolate is bad for dogs. The toxic agent in chocolate is theobromine. It's in all kinds of chocolate, even white chocolate. The most dangerous kinds, though, are dark chocolate, chocolate mulch, and unsweetened baking chocolate. Eating chocolate, even just licking the icing bowl, can cause a dog to vomit, have diarrhea, and be excessively thirsty. It can also cause abnormal heart rhythm, tremors, seizures, and death.



Fat Trimmings and Bones

Table scraps often contain meat fat that a human didn't eat and bones. Both are dangerous for dogs. Fat trimmed from meat, both cooked and uncooked, can cause pancreatitis in dogs. And, although it seems natural to give a dog a bone, a dog can choke on it. Bones can also splinter and cause an obstruction or lacerations of your dog's digestive system.



Avocado

Avocados contain a substance called persin. It's harmless for humans who aren't allergic. But large amounts might be toxic to dogs.

If Your Dog Eats What It Shouldn't

Dogs explore with their mouth. And, no matter how cautious you are, it's possible your dog can find and swallow what it shouldn't. It's a good idea to always keep the number of your local vet, the closest emergency clinic, and the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center --(888) 426-4435) -- where you know you can find it in an emergency. And, if you think your dog has consumed something that's toxic, please call for help at once.

Hopefully as a result of knowing what not to feed your furkid, you can avoid having to make that call!

Enjoy the holidays with your furkids, your family, and your friends!



A dopting Our Bichon, Race We want to thank Bichon FurKids for your rescue organization and the website with pictures and bios that helped us, and others, to find just the right bichon :) And we wanted to share our story.

Before adopting Race I had been researching a long time to find the right kind of dog. Once I discovered

Bichon FurKids I knew I found the kind of dog that would be perfect for my husband and me.

Race was the first Bichon I went to see in Oct. 2008. He was named Kip at the time and I was told he had been rescued from a shelter, was neutered 2wks prior and was in the process of being housebroken. None of that mattered--I knew when I first saw him that he was perfect. (We renamed him Race because he LOVES to race and after Race Bannon (the character on the Johnny Quest cartoon from the 70's. Both have white 'hair').



Race is very affectionate, loves to play, cuddle, ride in the car, play in the park, and greet and give kisses. His groomer calls him "lover boy" :) Right away I could tell he had a happy personality as he wanted to be on our lap and give kisses and hugs all the time. I thought he might be difficult to housebreak given his age (about 18mo to 2yrs according to the vet report). It turned out he was very easy to work with. He was so happy and just wanted to part of what ever we were doing.

We found out almost immediately that he had issues with bigger dogs. I found a great trainer who suggested he may have had a bad experience on the streets or maybe had not been socialized properly as a puppy.

When we recently moved to Colorado Race saw snow for the first time.

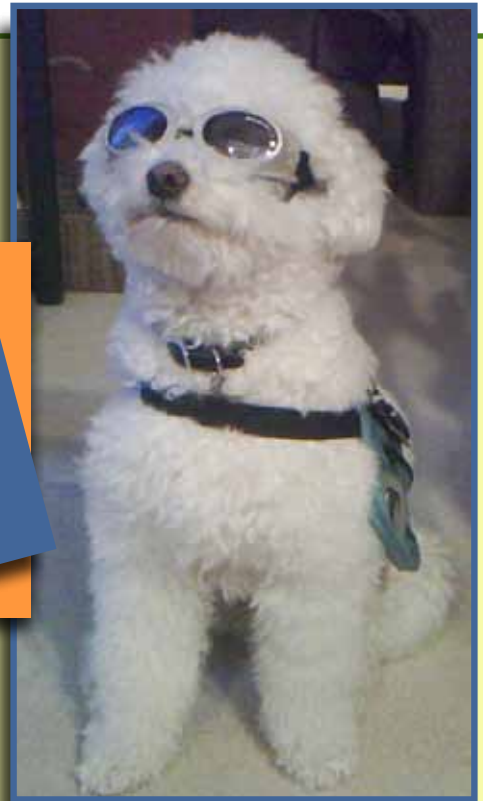
He had so much fun running after the snowflakes and biting them as they came down. After we moved Race also met his new best friend Bo--a big black lab. Race didn't know what to think about Bo right away so he didn't behave his best, but Bo was older and more patient (Bo just stood there as if saying "really?"). It didn't take long before they became best friends. Since then Race gets excited every time we visit Bo. He even recognizes the neighborhood before we get to it.

I have to admit he's not perfect. He has a weakness for chasing squirrels and rabbits and can't seem to help himself with the urgent need to warn us of the terrible UPS and FedEx trucks making deliveries.

Despite a few quirks, Race has been a great blessing in so many ways. He makes us smile even if we have a bad day and snuggles when we don't feel well. He always seems to know what we need.

Race has become an irreplaceable member of our family and we can't imagine being without him. I tell everyone who asks that I got Race from the Bichon FurKids Rescue.

"Lover Boy"
Cool-Kid
finds
forever
home !



-- Michael & Melissa Bannen - and Race



Have FurKids, will travel !

Dear BFK,

I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the absolute joy that our adopted "kids" have brought to my husband and me . We adopted a bonded pair, a year ago October, that we named Max and Mandy (FKA Romeo and Juliet) and they are fantastic!

They are both extremely smart and they take wonderful care of each other. They love to play, they perform the "Bichon Blitz" (Run full-out around the dining table and coffee table in the living room) and Max loves to retrieve his squeaky toys for my husband, Mike. These little guys are some of the best travelers we've ever experienced. They love their travel crate and we don't even know they're in the car until it's time to air them out. Both kids love to snuggle, but, Max is the ultimate snuggler. (Mandy has my big strong husband wrapped around her little paw, especially when he's holding her and she looks up at him with her big brown eyes!) =) My husband even purchased a pull trailer for his bicycle, so, the dogs can ride along with us. (They loved Monterey!)

I lost my Bichon, Nikki, in 2002 when she was 17 yrs. old. I had raised her from a puppy and I didn't think I would be able to love another dog the way I did Nikki. I was wrong! These little guys have filled my heart with joy.

Thank you, again, for bringing Max and Mandy into our lives.

*Warmest regards,
Mike and Bobbi Deering*



Max 'n
Mandy



2012 Bichon FurKids Calendar



The donation per calendar is \$20.00 and shipping/handling is \$4.60.

You can place your order on our home page and we will ship as many as you need to you!

www.bichonfurkids.org

Or you can send a check to:

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

Please order now and remember: your calendar donation is tax deductible! Together we are saving lives and making a difference!

The Bichon FurKids 2012 Calendars are going fast!

Get your stash while you can!

We have a limited supply of calendars, and they're flying out the door! Now is the time to order a supply to give to the people on your holiday gift list who love Bichons, love all dogs, or just plain love animals and love to help them find comfort and happiness.

Our calendar features some of the many little furkids we have rescued - and we hope the smiling faces (yes, Virginia, bichons do smile!) on these calendar pages will brighten your days in the year ahead.

Remember...All monies earned from the sale of these calendars will go towards helping a furkid in need.





On behalf of the BFK staff,
volunteers, fosters, and most
importantly of all
-- the FurKids --
we wish you a very happy
Thanksgiving holiday.

