



# Bichon Bits & Bytes

February 2012 Bichon FurKids Rescue

## Update on Holly's Puppies

Here's an update on Holly's seven adorable puppies...Heidi, Harmony, Harlowe, Hayden, Harley, Harrison, and Hogan. You read about them in the last newsletter, and here they are - several weeks older and even cuter. Won't you **be their Valentine** and give them a forever home? The puppies are now ready to meet adopters and to go home in early March.



**HEIDI**



**HARRISON**



**HARMONY**



**HOGAN**



**HARLOWE**



**MAMA HOLLY**



**HAYDEN**



**HARLEY**



**PUPPIES PUPPIES PUPPIES !**



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# Making a Difference in A Child's Life: The Story of Nikki and Lindsey

Editor's Note: As many of you know, the tagline for Bichon FurKids is Making A Difference in A Dog's Life - and for most of us, having children grow up knowing and experiencing the unconditional love of a dog is also part of our mission. So when a family came to us last October looking for a bichon for their daughter, we were delighted to help (we always are!) As we found out, there was a lot more to that story and we wanted to share the story of this amazing family, and young lady, with you.

**N**ikki is a very beautiful, brave and optimistic little girl. Her life was that of a typical young girl filled with school, activities, friends and family. In November of 2010, however, that world changed significantly, as Nikki was diagnosed with "end stage renal failure", the result of an auto-immune disease.



Nikki's parents, Wes and Lynn, immediately began to take her for treatments, while researching options. A kidney transplant is one of those options - and may happen this summer. There have been consults and meetings with experts throughout Southern California. Nikki's care now involves a dedicated team at the UCLA Medical Center who have been working with Nikki and her parents, Wes and Lynn, to get - and keep- Nikki healthy.

In October 2011, Wes called Bichon FurKids and told us about his desire to have a young dog or puppy to be Nikki's companion - and to help her through her illness and be there to aid in her recovery. We agreed that would be a blessing, if we could find the right dog at the right time.

No sooner had the adoption process started, however, than Nikki had to be hospitalized. She brought her laptop with her to the hospital. On the home page was a photo of a little bichon girl that made Nikki smile. But, as a result of her illness, Nikki was not allowed to even meet that little bichon for a few more weeks. Lindsey's foster Mom, Janice, stayed in touch with the family and believed that Lindsey was that special dog who was meant to help Nikki.

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(Making a Difference, continued from previous page ...)

In November Nikki's situation stabilized. Wes, Lynn and Nikki met Lindsey - and fell in love. Because Nikki had spent the previous four weeks receiving infusions and was tired when she returned home, Lindsey needed to understand and to adjust. She seemed to sense what was needed and did her best to settle in and be there for Nikki (as well as her Mom and Dad.) The family hoped that Nikki would feel well enough, in time, to take Lindsey on walks.

At Thanksgiving, one of the prayers Nikki offered was her thanks for being home with her family and for her companion, Lindsey. Over the next month, Nikki felt better than she had in more than a year. A note from Wes and Lynn in December indicated that their Christmas had been busy with visits from family and friends - and that Lindsey was the beneficiary, as she was able to coax attention (back and tummy rubs) from almost every person who visited. They told us that Lindsey was doing her job well, taking Nikki on walks several times a day. On Christmas day, the family took "the poochness" (aka Lindsey) to the beach for the first time. While Lindsey didn't appear to like walking on the dry sand, she did enjoy the wet sand, water, and having birds to chase.

On January 27, 2012 Nikki was admitted to UCLA again for observation. Fortunately she was able to return home the next day. Here is a note from Nikki's journal as to how much Lindsey has added to the lives of Nikki and her family.

*"Lindsey (Poochness) is doing great. She is really feeling at home. She is really, and I mean REALLY attached to my dad. When we came home she ran upstairs looking for him, but was sad when he was not there. So she waited all night downstairs for him. Such a good companion! I can't wait to see how excited she'll be when he gets home today. :) I'm also really enjoying my little furry friend. I am sooo glad Tor Tor (the family tortoise) came out from sleeping. Poochness was especially glad to see her little friend again. Every morning she has to go check on him. I'm not so sure he likes her though, but she never gives up hope."*

Nikki's school mates were moved by Nikki's journey and wanted to help in some way. They came up with the idea of making and gathering things that could be given to other children with medical conditions. The blankets were one of their projects. Nikki has given a number of these blankets to deserving children in the hospital as well as the out-patient dialysis unit.

This amazing young lady, and her parents, continue to show us what love, courage and faith look like. We wanted to tell you about this family, to honor them and to share, in Nikki's own words, what having Lindsey has meant to her. We hope it touched your hearts as it did ours.

Thank you Nikki, Wes and Lynn for allowing us to be a part of Nikki's life. Good job, Lindsey!



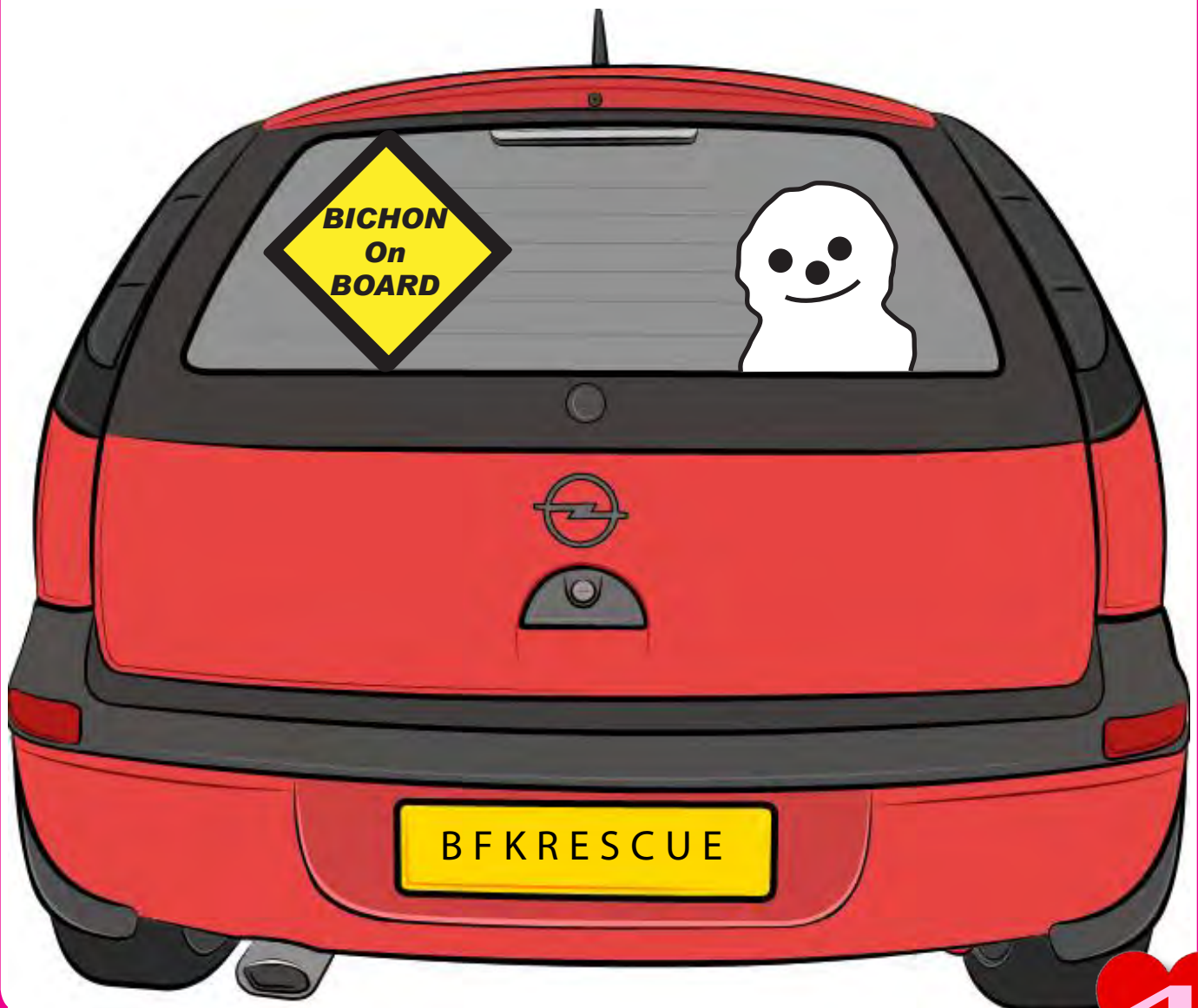
## DRIVERS WANTED (AND NEEDED)

Want to help but can't foster? Love to see new places and meet new people? Want to make a difference for a FurKid or two? We need your help!

Every week FurKids need to be transported to groomers, vets and foster homes. We rely on our volunteer drivers to get them there - and are grateful for their help. We DO need more people who are willing and able to transport our fluffs primarily throughout San Diego or Orange County (and not for great distances usually, either.)

Sometimes we have days in which to plan; other times it is more immediate like when we find a FurKid that needs to be moved 'right away' due to a medical situation, to be exited from a shelter or who needs to be some place other than where he or she is at that moment.

If you have time and a love for bichons, we NEED you. And if you love to organize transports, we need help with that too! Please email [marti@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:marti@bichonfurkids.org) and say "I'd like to drive a furkid" - and we'll be in touch. Thanks for helping us help them!



Please mark your calendars ...

## Saturday, May 19, 2012

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 19th, 2012 for the annual celebration of our FurKids and their wonderful families. Orange County is proud to once again host the Bichon Bash at the beautiful Irvine Animal Care Center, recipient of the 2007 Shelter of the Year Award, situated on five acres that looks more like a park than an animal shelter. This year we celebrate our tenth Bichon Bash since we began rescue in 2005 and it promises to be the very best ever!



A few of our volunteers are working feverishly to put this event together and they could really use your help. If you are interested in participating in the planning or on the day of the event, please contact Michele Olivier at [Michele@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:Michele@bichonfurkids.org).

Invitations will go out beginning in March, so if you have bichon lovers that you would like to be invited, please let us know.

For additional information, please visit the Bichon Bash X pages on our web site at: <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2010home> [www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2012home](http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2012home).

## April 19th through Sunday, April 22nd

It is our pleasure to again participate in one of the largest, consumer pet expos in the world - America's Family Pet Expo at the Orange County Fair & Event Center. We have been extremely successful with our booth over the last four years and we feel the Pet Expo is a "must-attend" event for our organization. The purpose of the Pet Expo is to promote responsible pet care among current and future generations of animal lovers, so what better place to promote our rescue efforts.



This year's event begins on Thursday, April 19th for Exhibit Set Up, and run through Sunday, April 22nd and we need your help covering the schedule at our booth. The show schedule is as follows:

Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 20, 2012 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, 2012 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 22, 2012 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Can you volunteer for 2 to 3 hours on any of the three show days or can you assist with the set up on Thursday? We maintain a minimum of 3 volunteers in our booth at all times. We will be promoting Bichons and our rescue efforts, looking for potential adopters, volunteers and supporters. All fosters are urged to plan to bring your FurKid for the exposure at the event. Each year we have been able to place at least one FurKid in their forever home. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring their own little FurKid so we can show our wonderful breed.