



# Bichon Bits & Bytes

March 2012 Bichon FurKids Rescue

## Dog Food Contamination Problem

Please check your shelves. If you purchased **Kirkland Canned Lamb and Rice from Costco** at the end of last year you may have purchased contaminated food.

**Look for cans with an expiration date of June 23, 2013.** If you have any cans with that expiration date, please contact Renee Carleton at the Pet Food Bank immediately! ([woof@thepetfood-bank.com](mailto:woof@thepetfood-bank.com)) **DO NOT FEED THIS FOOD TO YOUR DOGS!!!** Do not return them to Costco.

Renee lost two of her dogs after feeding them this food, and found out others who fed this food to their dogs also lost their pets. Renee is working to confirm the toxicity of this food and to ensure the safety of other dogs who may be exposed to this product. If you are unsure whether you have the contaminated food, please be safe rather than sorry, and do not use it.

## And a word about sago palms ...

Many of us have these beautiful palms in our yard, but it's important to learn about their hazards. The sago palm is ranked as the second deadliest plant for pets. (Number one is the lily.) The sago is not really a palm, but a member of a poisonous group called cycads. All parts of the plant are toxic, not just the seeds or nuts. Common signs of ingestion include vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, depression, seizures and liver failure. Most pets that come in with liver failure almost always die

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals released data last year that suggests sago palm and other cycad-related poisonings jumped more than 200 percent during the last seven years. The ASPCA stated that "50 to 75 percent of those ingestions resulted in fatalities," and that 90 percent involved dogs.

Please be aware of the dangers of this plant, not only if there is one in your own yard, but also at the homes of friends and family where your pet visits. And, don't forget walks with your pet - it only takes a second for a curious dog to gulp down a sago seed or a chunk of plant. For more information, see the article at the following link:

<http://www.oeregister.com/articles/messiah-237105-jeanie-sago.html>

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# A Note From Happy Adopters

Dear Bichon FurKids,  
Foster Mommy Karen and Daddy Mike,



"Fonzie"  
at the shelter...

We had great trip back and a wonderful first night. Dexter (formerly Fonzie) is sooooo wonderful. My heart is gone. Dan is falling in love too. Dex is a great little guy and we will love him to our dying day.

He is the perfect dog. He slept all night in his bed from day one. At night when HE thinks it is bedtime he goes into his crate on his own. He is learning commands down, up, no He already knew come. He runs so fast when you say come you can almost see sparks on the pavement. We bought a mesh harness. He definitely likes that better.

He learned the doggie door in one day. When he is bored he goes out the door to lie in the sun and comes in when he feels like it. Yesterday Dan was putting together a patio table

in the porch and Dex went outside, laid down and watched until he was done. (Making sure he did it right.)

Dex is so gentle with our grandkids and our autistic one laughs and giggles constantly. He follows her around while she is here.

Anyway, we got the BEST puppy ever! Hope life is good for you.

Puppy hugs,  
Margie, Dan and Dex

(And thanks from Dexter to Anna-belle for finding him at the shelter and making him a FurKid.)

... now "Dexter" ...  
at his forever home



# And a Note From a Happy Adoptee ...

*Happy New Year Marti,*

*I want to thank you and BFK so much for taking such good care of me and thank my foster mom, Marna, and her family too. I want you to know life is really good for me. I have a family that loves me soooo much and a big sister (who is actually little). Her name is Lilly and she and I and mom and dad take a walk each morning. Lilly and I love to run and play. We both like little squeak toys and have a basket of toys to choose from. Sometimes we go to the coast and walk on the beach or go sit outside at a restaurant. I really like that.*

*Mom and Dad say I am so affectionate and I make sure everyone gets some lap time. I am always cuddling with someone in the family. I am a happy boy, a good listener and I am really good on my walks. At Christmas, Lilly and I got to go on a driving trip to meet Gramma. She fell in love with me too.*

*Thank you for all you did to rescue me and help me find a forever home.*

*Love, Jake*





## Why use a harness?

For many dogs, a versatile harness is a great alternative to a collar as they can eliminate pressure from your dog's neck — preventing possible trachea and neck injury. From a training perspective, dog harnesses are useful for teaching your pup not to pull as the pressure from a harness is more evenly distributed around your dog's body. Finally, some crafty dogs are occasionally able to slip their heads out of their collar, but since a harness fits around the whole body, pup is less likely to accidentally escape.

### Function, Fashion & Fun!

There are more harness styles to choose from than ever before! Easy to use Buddy Belt harnesses, and flexible fabric harnesses all have their own advantages and benefits.



### How to introduce a new harness

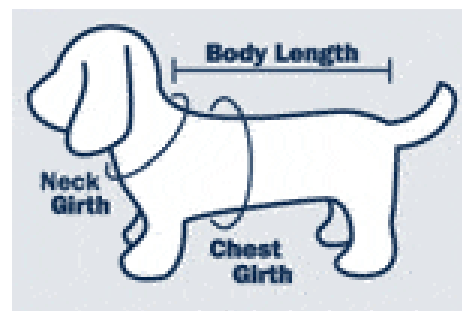
When introducing a new harness, be sure to give lots of praise and treats to ensure a positive association with wearing the harness. Your pooch will soon realize that harness means "we're going somewhere fun." Let your pup wear the new harness around the house for a few hours — allowing time to adjust to the new feels before you go out on your first jaunt.

### Sizing Tips

Ensure your harness easily slides over your dog's head or around his body and so he is able to comfortably and freely move about, yet it should still be snug enough so he can't slip out of it. Once the harness is on your pup, adjust it properly to ensure a comfortable fit without any irritation. See the tip box to the right for additional sizing tips.

See the diagram for harness design features.

- Measure your pet precisely to ensure an accurate fit.
- Measure behind pet's front legs and full circle around to the shoulders.
- If your pet's measurements fall in between two sizes, we suggest ordering the next larger size.



Article by Colleen at Pawtopia (<http://www.pawtopiatraining.com>)



# About Tags and Chips

## What do I do if my pet is lost?

Contact the appropriate chip company immediately to report your pet as lost.

-- AVID 800-336-2843 or 951-371-7505

-- HomeAgain 888-466-3242

## What happens if I'm on vacation and my pet is found?

Anyone finding a stray pet can take it to a local vet or shelter and they will scan the pet at no charge. They will give you the chip manufacturer and ID and the finder can call in to report a found pet. Both chip manufacturer's maintain a database and will provide the owner information when you provide the chip number. They will ask the finder to provide details including their name, where the dog was found and how the owner can get the dog from them. If they choose to take the dog to a shelter, the shelter can do these steps.

## How do I register my dog's microchip so the listing has my name and address?

With either microchip service, any change of ownership requires a new owner registration. BFK adopters are considered new owners and will need to pay registration fees charged by the microchip companies. When registering their microchip, the new owner should send a copy of their BFK Adoption Contract with their microchip registration form so there will be no question about the change of ownership

[www.avidid.com](http://www.avidid.com)

Their registry is called PETtrac.

What is the cost to register with PETtrac? You pay a one-time fee of \$18.50 (soon to be \$19.50) for a single pet or \$50.00 for all your pets (up to 5 pets). There are no annual fees but there is a \$6.00 charge for information changes.

[Get an AVID PeTrac change form](#)

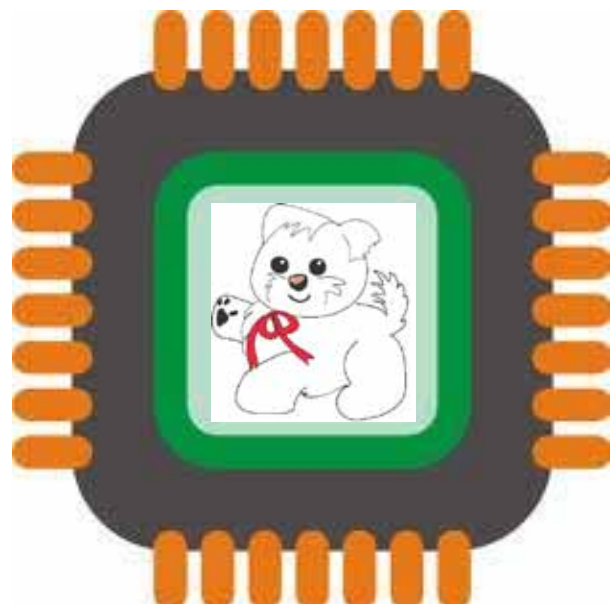
[www.homeagain.com](http://www.homeagain.com)

888-HOMEAGAIN (888-466-3242)

What is the cost to register with HomeAgain? You pay a one-time fee of \$14.99 for a single pet for an annual Full Service. After that, you have FREE lifetime limited (tracking) services.

[Get HomeAgain change form](#)

Ed. Note: We ask that, when you adopt a FurKid, you either buy or make a tag that includes his or her name, your name, address and phone number. Please also be sure to transfer your pet's microchip information to your name and address. The following information is provided as part of a FurKid Owner's FAQs.



# The Bichon Bash X 2012 is just around the corner!

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

**Location: Irvine Animal Care Center**

**Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The invitations have been sent! So 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. The address of the shelter is:

6443 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618

Pre-registration is from March 1-April 30, and is \$20 per person / \$60 for family of 4. Beginning May 1, the admission is \$25 per person.

This year we celebrate our tenth Bichon Bash since we began rescue in 2005 and it promises to be the very best ever! We'll have the Parade of Rescues, adoptions, lots of vendors, fun and informative demonstrations, contests, raffles and more!

The annual "Bichon Bash" is the primary fundraising event to support our rescue efforts. As those of you who have attended previously know, this is a truly special event. A few of our volunteers are working feverishly to finish putting 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).

If you know bichon lovers who you think should attend, please direct them to this link for an invitation: <http://socializr.punchbowl.com/parties/1939946-9th-annual-southern-california-bichon-bash>

For additional information, including a pre-registration link, vendor and demonstrator applications, sponsorship information, reduced-rate hotel accommodations, and more, please visit the Bichon Bash X pages on our web site at:

<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2010homewww.bichonfurkids.org/bash2012home>.

**Come see us at the Bash!**



Please mark your calendars ...

# BARK IN BALBOA PARK 6

## A FREE FESTIVAL AND ORGAN CONCERT FOR PETS AND THEIR MUSIC LOVING FAMILIES

### FREE-WILL DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO BENEFIT THE SAN DIEGO HUMANE SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO, CA - San Diego Civic Organist Carol Williams and the Spreckels Organ Society present Bark In Balboa Park 6, a festive organ concert especially for pets and their music loving families on Sunday, March 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

Music lovers young and old are invited to bring their beloved pets on leash to enjoy family-friendly, animal themed music and a pet and people parade across the Spreckels Organ Pavilion stage. Representatives of the San Diego Humane Society will be on hand with pets to view and adoption information.

Bark in Balboa Park 6 is free. Donations will be accepted to benefit the San Diego Humane Society.

The mission of the Humane Society is a cause near and dear to Williams' heart. "My own pets are very dear to me," explains Williams, "and the Spreckels Organ Pavilion is one of the few places in San Diego where we can enjoy great music right alongside our furry family members. What better place to inspire and engage the community in ending animal suffering?"

Carol Williams and the Spreckels Organ Society produce Bark In Balboa Park as an annual event in support of the San Diego Humane Society.

The Spreckels Organ is the largest outdoor organ in America and one of a few pet-friendly music venues in San Diego. Free concerts are presented each Sunday at 2 p.m. as well as on Monday evenings in the summertime. For information about these concerts visit [www.sosorgan.org](http://www.sosorgan.org) or join the Spreckels Organ Society Facebook page.

