

Bichon Bits & Bytes

May 2012 Bichon FurKids Rescue

More Dog Food Recalls

We hate to have to keep reporting on pet food recalls, but here is another one that seems to keep widening in scope.

The recall involves dog and cat food manufactured in South Carolina by Diamond Pet Foods that is contaminated with salmonella. At this writing, there were 14 brands affected; however, this is what's known as a rolling recall, meaning the investigation is ongoing and more affected brands may turn up.

These are the affected brands so far:

Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul

Kirkland (Costco brand)

Country Value

Diamond

Diamond Naturals

Premium Edge

Professional

4Health

Taste of the Wild

Natural Balance

Wellness

Canidae

Apex

Solid Gold

To find out if your batch of any of these brands is affected, follow Diamond's press releases. The latest one is here:

<http://diamondpetrecall.com/diamond-expands-voluntary-recall/>

For some "food for thought" about the state of pet food manufacture, see this blog:

<http://www.honestdog.com/>



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A Letter of Thanks for Joey

Joey came into our lives after being abandoned at a shelter; he was dehydrated, hypoglycemic and had a prognosis of four hours to live. Thankfully he was rescued by the loving volunteers of Bichon Furkids and brought to the wonderful vets at Stonecreek. With their loving care, Joey was saved! When the time was right he came to our home as a foster. While we have been fostering for several years, Joey was the very first puppy we fostered - and that was exciting.



It was very sad that Joey was only a few weeks old and had already experienced the abuse and neglect of humans. Due to his poor health, Joey had also lost most of his hair. He was an almost bald puppy - a puppy with huge brown eyes and tufts of hair.



Even with his tragic start, Joey always had a sparkle in his perfectly round beautiful dark eyes. He never let his inhumane treatment affect his love and trust of humans -- or his ability to show them affection. He was just 5 pounds when he came to our home and begged to be picked up and cuddled like a baby.

From the start, Joey had a special place in our heart. Soon thereafter he found his forever home! After many years of fostering, the Schubert Family had finally "failed fostering!"

Joey is a calm, well behaved, boy with a strong desire to please his family. He shares his love equally among the entire family. No matter if you are sitting on the couch watching TV, playing X-box on the floor, practicing your guitar in a chair, or settling in for a nap, Joey will find a way to cuddle close to you. He loves to lie in your arms like a baby and will get comfortable in any position, as long as it is close to a human. When anyone in the family returns home, it is the happiest moment of Joey's day!



Joey even travels well! During the holidays he flew with us to Ohio (and never made a peep on the airplane!) We think he enjoyed playing in the snow even more than we did! All the kids in the neighborhood also love Joey and often they knock on our door, not to see us, but to ask if Joey can come out and play.

Joey is now a happy, healthy 15 lb. boy with an amazing full coat of hair! He is the love of our lives and makes our family complete. "Failing fostering" was the best failure of our lives!

Thanks Bichon Furkids!

Kendall (10) & Zachary (11) Schubert

Upcoming BFK Events

Last reminder for Bichon Bash X 2012



If you want to attend the Bichon Bash X this coming weekend and did not receive an invitation with registration details, you can register now at <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2012registration>. It helps us out if you register in advance, so that we can make sure to have enough food for everyone. Note that the Bash theme this year is "Foster a FurKid" emphasizing the point that without fosters, we cannot save lives - and there are many lives to save especially now in these pressing economic times. For more Bash info, see <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2012home>.

Come see us at the Fair!



The San Diego County Fair is coming to town in just a few weeks--and this year, BFK will be featured! Join us on June 26 from 11am-6pm to meet adoptable furkids, mingle with our staff and dedicated volunteers, and have some fun!



We can't make this fantastic opportunity a success without your help. The 2012 Fair theme is "Out of This World," and we need some truly spectacular volunteers to help us--and get free Fair admission (regularly \$13 for adults) to boot!

If you're interested, please contact Michele Olivier at michele@bichonfurkids.org or Marti Colwell at marti@bichonfurkids.org with the 2 hour time period you are available between 10am and 7pm. Please note that adoptable furkids will get priority status in the booth, so we can't promise that your adopted furkid will have a spot, but we will do our best to accommodate everyone.

If you aren't able to volunteer, please stop by and visit us on the 26th and say hi! We will pass along our booth location as soon as it is confirmed, but the event will be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds (2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard).

Also, please consider sponsoring a Fair furkid by visiting our website at <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/>. Your 100% tax deductible donation will help us get even more furkids to the Fair by helping to offset expenses which helps ensure that we get even more needy Bichon and Bichon mixes forever homes.

Super Pet Adoption

On Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m, BFK will be participating in the 6th annual Orange County Super Pet Adoption at the Irvine Animal Care Center, 6443 Oak Canyon Road, Irvine, CA 92618. This is Orange County's biggest pet adoption event. Over 100 exhibitors will be featuring adoptable animals, food, low-cost pet services, merchandise, and more. Admission is just one dollar! Get all of your questions answered at:

http://www.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/cs/animalcare/events/super_pet_adoption.asp



More news you can use!

A New Way to Protect Our FurKids: Bear Mace

We are all aware of the number of coyote sightings in neighborhoods ranging from Escondido to the border and from Tustin to Placentia. As the days get longer and we are able to take more walks with our furkids, we are often asked: how can I best protect them on our walks?

One of our very own fosters, who unfortunately lost a bichon to a coyote attack, told us about bear mace. Developed by the makers of Mace pepper spray, the spray is the strongest EPA approved animal repellent. The spray can is small enough to carry, has a range of 35 feet and a shelf life of three (3) years. Let's keep our furkids safe for many, many more years to come. If you are interested, you can find more information at: <http://www.guardian-self-defense.com/bearspray.htm>



Orange County Pet Expo Highlights

Bichon Furkids participated in the Orange County Pet Expo from April 20-22. There was a large turnout, both in terms of BFK volunteers and their pets/fosters, and in terms of attendance by the animal-loving public.

A number of visitors expressed an interest in fostering, and we are pleased to report that as the result of this event, we now have three GREAT people who are now fostering - and one will be adopting one of our furkids! That means we now can save three more lives.

Many other people stopped by our booth simply to inquire about the breed or to say that they have a bichon at home and how much they love their furkid. Considering how populated the booth was with visitors throughout the show, the number of questions our volunteers answered, and the welcome addition of our new fosters, we can confidently say that OC Pet Expo 2012 was a rousing success.

Keep your FurKids Healthy

Your neighborhood Pharmacy can now give you access to discounts on a wide variety of pet medications. Alberstons has been very supportive of Bichon FurKids and our mission. The Carlsbad store and its manager, in particular, have appreciated what we do for the local community. In return we wanted to let you know that Albertsons Pharmacies throughout Southern California can also help with your furkid's medication.

 **Albertsons**
Helping to Keep Your Pet Healthy
Your Resource for Discounted Pet Medications

 **pet savings program™**



Just bring your pet's prescription to their pharmacy, show your Albertsons discount card to the Pharmacist - and he or she will be happy to fill the prescription. If the local pharmacy does not have the prescription medication you need on hand, they will order it for you. You can also order your pet's medication online or by calling toll free at 1-800-866-0514. Please help us to support the companies who, in turn, support Bichon FurKids.