



# Bichon Bites & Bytes

July 2013 Bichon FurKids Rescue

## The Perfect Dog for Us

By Laurie Kehler

After I first talked to Marti about a dog for our family I hung up the phone, turned to my husband and raised my eyebrows with skepticism. Not only did she say immediately, "I think I have the perfect dog for you. His name is Buddy" -- Hello chutzpah? How could she know that so quickly? -- but she kept referring to them as Fur Kids. "She's a bit gone over these dogs" my husband thought. But, she was the founder of the organization and she certainly knew the breed and each foster individually. We'll see, I thought to myself. "I want to meet several dogs when we fly down from Northern California," I said. "Not just Buddy." What a fool I was.



Over the last few years our ten year old son—an only child—kept asking, "Mommy, when can we get a dog?!!" We had sold our big home (with a big yard) two years ago and I kept putting it off. We now lived in a town home, no yard whatsoever. I always answered my son, "When we move into a home again honey. A dog needs a yard." But I started to notice that many people in our town home complex had dogs. They didn't need yards. They just walked them along the sidewalks and around parks. Most had happy, waggy-tailed dogs they had rescued. Each time I interviewed a dog owner on where they got their cutie they said, "Rescue. Do it! The dogs are the most grateful, happy and devoted you'll ever find."

I knew I wanted a Bichon. My husband had one when we first met and he was a total sweetie. I started looking online for the breed. Then I saw Bichon FurKids. Wow!! What a bunch of cuties! The deciding factor for me was that Bichon FurKids really understood the breed and that the dogs had been fostered. Thus, the fosters could get to know these Fur Friends and understand their quirks, likes and dislikes. I knew if I adopted from this organization we wouldn't be surprised. We would know if the dog was good with children/cats/other dogs. (And, I wouldn't have to potty-train!)

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**Don't forget to vote for your favorite Calendar Dogs! Voting is open until midnight of July 19th. See [www.bichonfurkids.org](http://www.bichonfurkids.org) for more info.**



Shop at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), and a portion of your purchase will be automatically donated to BFK.



Use [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), powered by Yahoo! whenever you search the Internet, and a portion of your purchase will be automatically donated to BFK. Make sure to specify BFK as your Cause!



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## The Perfect Dog for Us, continued

The other thing that really impressed me was Marti's approach to placing dogs. She talked about how some dogs needed other dogs to be around in the event we have to leave him at home for an hour or so. She also educated us about family lifestyles (older vs. younger with children, other pets, and temperments). She clearly thought a lot about both the FurKid and the family they would be joining in order to have a successful match.

After we flew down to Santa Barbara to our relative's house and then drove down to San Diego area, we started on our interview rounds. We had three 'dates' set up. Even though Marti said she knew the dog for us, I wanted other dogs to compare him to. We met our first Bichon whose owner was an elderly woman who had recently died. This dog immediately warmed up to my husband and I, but not so much my son (no surprise there). Then we were scheduled to meet with Buddy, and then another dog.



Buddy bounded out of the foster's car, wagging his tail. My son took his leash and walked him around. Then they sat on the grass together. Buddy was happy, confident and sweet. It was (as Marti said it would be) a perfect match. We didn't even bother to meet the third dog. We knew this was it. We were blown away with the package that Bichon Fur Kids sent us home with. The bed, blanket, toys, etc. were just amazing. Marti even talked to me by cell phone while I was standing in the pet food store, helping us pick out good brands of dog food for Buddy. Then we immediately got him a new tag. We were set. On the four-hour drive back to Santa Barbara, Buddy was content. When we got to my relative's home there, he happily sat next to my son on the couch and put his head in my son's lap. That night Buddy slept contentedly next to our son in his new bed. The next morning we took Buddy for walks along the beach and to an outdoor restaurant. He just dovetailed into our lives seamlessly.



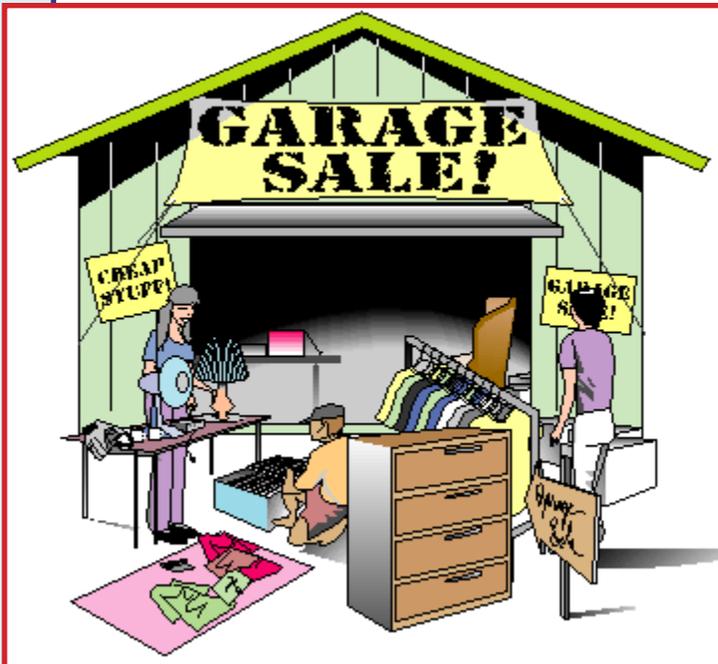
A few weeks later I knew my husband was crazy-smitten with him when I filled out a form for Buddy (for a doggy day care, where he plays once a week with other small dogs). The form asked, "In the event your dog is injured and we must take him to your vet, what is the amount of money you are willing to spend?" I thought my husband would say something like "Two hundred dollars." He turned to me and said, "How could you put a price on that? A thousand? Two thousand? Whatever it takes." My jaw dropped.

Buddy is sweet, eager to please, and extremely affectionate. He rides in the car with us all the time. We take him to restaurants. We walk with him on errands downtown. In fact, my concerns about not having a yard were totally unfounded. He probably gets more exercise/walks because we don't have a yard. When you have a yard, you tend to just open the door, let them amble out and do their business and then amble back in.

In the mornings he launches onto our bed like a gazelle and rolls around snuffing and snorting in his totally cute, doggy way. I'm not a morning person, but this little guy gets me smiling before I've even had my coffee. He's just a delight. My only regret is that we don't live down south so we could attend a Bichon Bash.

Marti was right. He is the perfect dog for our family!

# North County San Diego BFK Garage Sale



Bichon FurKids is having a garage sale!

**Where:** 6835 Urubu Street, Carlsbad 92009

**When:** Sat. July 13th

**Time:** 8:00-2:00

**Contact:** Vicky Hetrick, Fundraising Coordinator at: 760- 672-2258 or [vicky@bichonfurkids.org](mailto:vicky@bichonfurkids.org)

**Needed:** Anything you would like to donate. Clothing on hangars, please, and other items in boxes that can be stacked. All donations are also tax deductible.

Please help us to make this 'first ever' North County garage sale a huge success. Everything we sell means services and supplies for FurKids.

And don't forget to come and shop, too! Please

tell your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and everyone else you think would like to shop for great bargains and support our cause.

**chico's**  
thirty unforgettable years



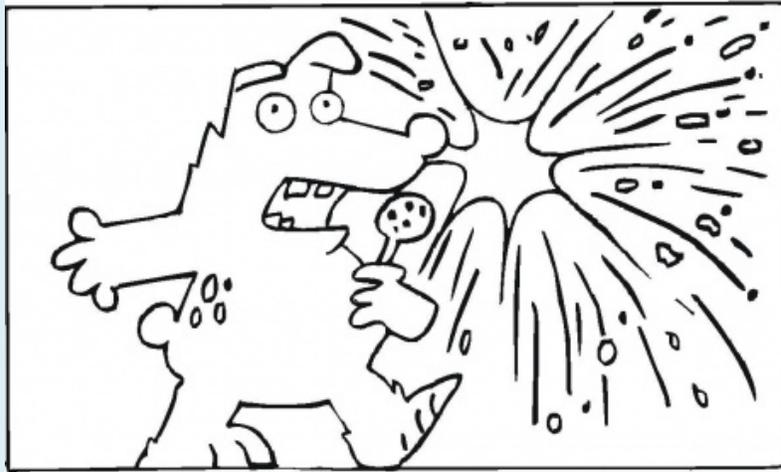
## FurKids and Fashions

Please join Bichon FurKids at Chicos in The Forum on Saturday, July 27th, from 10:00–3:00. Meet some of our adorable and adoptable bichons – and enjoy a memorable shopping experience at Chicos! A portion of all proceeds from this event will be contributed to our rescue group. We look forward to greeting you with Bichon wags and doggy kisses. Please tell your family, friends, and anyone else you think would enjoy a day of fashion and furkids.

**Saturday, July 27**  
**10:00–3:00**

**Chico's**  
**1925 Calle Barcelona**  
**Suite 161**  
**Carlsbad, CA 92009**  
**Phone: (760) 635-1034**  
**[www.chicos.com](http://www.chicos.com)**





## Fireworks Phobia - What You Can Do

With July 4th around the corner, pet parents are preparing for what this celebration inevitably entails: an anxious dog cowering in a corner at the sound of those scary fireworks. Here are a few tips to help your dog (or dogs) cope with their anxiety.

The first rule is this: Please keep your dogs tagged with your current address and phone number, and get them microchipped if you have not done so already. When you adopted your dog from Bichon FurKids, he or she was already microchipped, but you may have other dogs that are not. When the holiday arrives, please remember to keep your dogs indoors and ensure that there is no possible escape route. Think like a panicked dog. In their fright, dogs have been known to dig their way under a fence and out of a yard or even jump over one. Make certain that service workers who have access to your home or yard know to close doors and gates securely behind them. Better yet, delay their services until after the holiday. The July 4th holiday is the busiest time of the year at shelters for taking in escaped, terrified dogs. Sadly, in preparation to contain all of these dogs -- they must be held three days to give time for their owners to claim them -- most shelters euthanize otherwise adoptable dogs in advance. There is nothing more heartbreaking than knowing those dogs might have found homes if not for humans that were too preoccupied with festivities to secure their own pets.

If there will be fireworks (legal or otherwise) around your neighborhood, consider taking your dog someplace else where there won't be any noise in the area. If that is not possible, prepare a safe place in your home, such as a travel kennel or bed in a corner or closet (wherever your pet goes to feel safe). Play the TV or radio to muffle the sounds of the fireworks. It is appropriate to reassure your dog that everything is OK. Like children, dogs take their cues from us as to how to behave. Hugs and soothing talk can sometimes be all that is needed.

If you are not going to be home, have a pet sitter or friend check on the dog every three to four hours, to provide reassurance and to let the dog out to relieve himself-- supervised, of course. Make sure this person understands that your dog may panic and escape if doors or gates are left unsecured and there are fireworks nearby. Dogs have keen hearing and will hear noise that we cannot.

You can try using a Thundershirt to keep your dog calm. This is a tight-fitting shirt that applies gentle pressure around your dog's torso and has been proven to calm fear. For more information, go to <http://www.thundershirt.com>. Remember that you must introduce the Thundershirt gradually and at the right time, when your dog is calm, not when they are already so upset that they don't notice its effect. Many local pet stores sell this shirt.

If your dog must be with you at the fireworks presentation, send a calming message that they are nothing to worry about. It may be tempting to get caught up in the excitement, but to your dog, your shouts of joy are shrieks of terror. It might help to take your dog for a long play day or walk beforehand, so he is tired and calm at the outset of the festivities.

For additional tips on "noise-proofing" your dog for next year, see the following:

<http://dogs.about.com/od/dogbehaviorproblems/a/fireworks-phobias-in-dogs.htm>

<http://www.petside.com/article/dont-ignore-your-dogs-fireworks-anxiety>

<http://www.cesarsway.com/dogbehavior/hyperdog/How-to-Keep-Your-Dog-Safe-and-Calm-During-Fireworks>