

Newsflash! The Bichon Bash rain date is Sunday, June 14. Tickets still available. See page 3!

For the Love of Kyra

A tale of two Laurens

By Lauren Chesley

I discovered the Bichon Furkids Rescue after my beloved Bichon Frise, Pikachu, passed away last summer. Inspired by the incredible stories on the rescue's website, I decided to volunteer. Although I wasn't ready to adopt a dog, I was able to help with an online auction and fundraising event. Shortly after the event, Marti told me about a dog at the North County Animal Shelter who had been attacked by a coyote. The dog survived, but due to quarantine requirements could only be released to a foster home with no other dogs, a rare occurrence among fosters. I agreed to meet Marti at the shelter and pick up the dog — a skinny, scared little girl, shaved badly with big brown eyes and abundant energy. I called her Kyra, a Slavic name meaning "strong woman."



As Kyra's quarantine period wore on, it became impossible for me to take care of her on a daily basis, and Kyra's future was once again in jeopardy. But Kyra's good fortune continued, and Marti called to tell me that another volunteer, Lauren MacArthur, had answered her call for more help. Marti explained that Lauren had also recently lost her dear companion of 17 years, a Bichon named Bailey. Thankfully, Lauren was willing to help foster Kyra during the quarantine period. Marti also mentioned that Lauren and I had more in common than just our name and that I would enjoy meeting her.

For the rest of Kyra's quarantine, she lived with Lauren most of the time. When Lauren's work required her to travel, Kyra stayed with me. Along the way she worked on her manners and learned quickly.

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Fosters Needed

To get a Foster Application, please go to the BFK website at:
<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/volunteer>

Donate to BFK

Select Bichon FurKids as your charity at smile.amazon.com, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to BFK.



Use GoodSearch.com to search the Internet, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to BFK. Make sure to specify BFK as your Cause!



Bichon FurKids Rescue
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 Fax: 760-966-1702
www.BichonFurKids.org
www.facebook.com/bichonfurkids
info@bichonfurkids.org
 6965 El Camino Real,
 #105-425,
 La Costa, CA 92009
 Tax ID: 20-3652098
 Marti Colwell, President

 Find us on Facebook

For the Love of Kyra (continued from page one)

Meanwhile, I discovered that Lauren and I indeed had a great deal in common; including a silly sense of humor I had all but forgotten. Our "shared custody" arrangement led to many long conversations, both heartfelt and hilarious, and hundreds of texts and photos; a chronicle of Kyra's daily activities and accomplishments. Sharing responsibility for Kyra made it possible for both of us to fall in love with this extraordinary dog and still meet the demands of our busy lives.

All along, Marti was Kyra's steadfast advocate. She shared each crisis and triumph with us, and never wavered in her belief that Kyra was where she belonged.

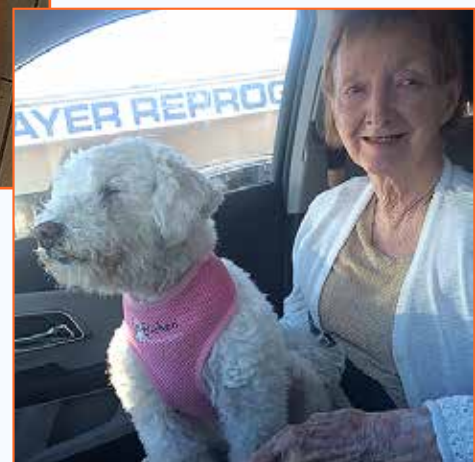
When Kyra's quarantine ended, she was fortunate enough to attend "Bichon boot camp" with Susan Ijames, a wonderful furkids foster mom. There, Kyra became more confident and trusting. Finally, she was ready for her forever home.

Lauren knew that her work schedule made it impossible for her to adopt her, and she was devastated. Kyra had become an important part of my life as well, so we decided to try something different. Lauren adopted Kyra, now known as Kyra Lou, but I care for her when Lauren travels. When Lauren is home, Kyra accompanies her wherever she goes, including frequent visits to Lauren's mom at a local nursing home. All the residents of the home eagerly await Kyra's arrival, especially Leila, a 101-year-old dog lover, who lights up the moment Kyra trots through the door.

Our arrangement works well for all of us, especially Kyra, who now has two moms who love her, and many new friends who dote on her and look forward to her visits. Whether at home with one of her Laurens or visiting her many "grandmas", she is pampered and loved dearly.

So this long story has the happiest of endings. Kyra has the best of both worlds, and I have a great friend who shares my love for the furkids, especially one very special girl who has healed our broken hearts. And as for Marti, she has once again demonstrated her uncanny ability to know the best way to help pups...and people too!

Editor's note: The need for fosters has never been more urgent. See the last page in this newsletter for a flyer that you can copy and post at your vet's office and other places where good potential fosters can be found.



NEW DATE!

JUNE 14!

**TICKETS
STILL
AVAILABLE!**



The Bichon Bash is now on **SUNDAY, JUNE 14!**

Get your tickets now. **Bring the whole family. Bring your friends. Bring your FurKids!** Enjoy a day of fun, food, shopping, raffles, and more!

Sunday, June 14, 2015

Irvine Animal Care Center

6443 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information and to get your tickets, go to our website:

<http://www.bichonfurkids.org/bash2015springhome>

Or send a check to the following address, but hurry so that we get it in time to get you registered:

Bichon FurKids

6965 El Camino Real

Suite 105-425

Carlsbad, CA 92009

Registration donation: \$25/person \$75/family of 4

Tickets also available at the door.

Here are just some of the vendors who will be offering their exciting products and services:

- Party Time Photo Booth
- Pupologie Pet Stores
- BUnique Crystalized Creations for Dog Fanciers
- Bark Bling
- Boomerangs's All-Natural Gourmet Treats
- NuVet Labs Supplements for your Pups
- Emma Sophia Handcrafted Purses and Totes
- Pet-Pac Pet Evacuation and Travel Kits



Call For Entries

Bichon FurKids Rescue
2016 Photo Calendar Contest

Larry
2014 Calendar
Third Place



Freddie
2015 Calendar
Honorable Mention



Truman
2014 Calendar



Toby
2015 Calendar
First Place



How to Enter

First, visit <http://www.bichonfurkids.org/donations> to pay the entry fee.

Second, submit your FurKid's photo in high quality jpeg format to:

seeyanap@yahoo.com

Include your name, FurKid's name, phone number, and your donation receipt number in the body of your email.

Contest Opens: Tuesday, July 7, 2015 • Entry Deadline: Tuesday, July 28, 2015.

Entry Fee: \$25 for the first photo entry • \$15 for each subsequent photo entry

There is no limit to the number of photos submitted.

The photos may not include people—FurKids only!

Winners will be selected by a panel of jurors and announced on or before Friday, August 7, 2015.

The **FIRST** place photo will be honored on the cover of the 2016 Bichon FurKids Rescue Calendar. **SECOND** and **THIRD** place photos will each be featured on one of the calendar months. Two **HONORABLE MENTION** photos will share one calendar month, and 36 photos will be featured on the nine remaining calendar months! That's 41 chances to have **YOUR** FurKid featured on a calendar page! Plus, **ALL** submitted photos that are not featured will appear somewhere, so every photo entered will be included in the calendar. Of course, the real winners will be the FurKids, because **ALL** contest proceeds benefit the life-saving efforts of Bichon FurKids Rescue.



HELP US HELP THEM, PLEASE!

Loving foster and adoptive homes needed for rescued Bichons!

Our FurKids are fostered in loving local homes an average of two to three weeks. Bichon FurKids pays for all vetting and supplies. You, as a foster parent, provide love and training.

YOU can truly make a difference! YOU can help us save a life. And fostering can be a tax-deductible contribution, too.

Please Help!

Bichon FurKids Rescue

Call: 858-408-1937

Email: info@bichonfurkids.org

www.bichonfurkids.org

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