



Bichon Frise Rescue of Northern New Jersey (BFRNNJ)
Division of Bichon Frise Club of Northern New Jersey
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Caring for Your Bichon Frise

Congratulations on adopting your new family member!

Remember that Bichons are family members. They are to be kept inside your home at all times with the exception of going out for walks, relieving themselves or for supervised play with their pet parents. They are NOT to EVER be left outside for long periods of time, unattended or tied or tethered.

Feeding: Generally it is best to keep your dog on a well-balanced dog food diet fed 2 times per day. We recommend Eukanuba Small Breed. (If your dog is not very active... the Weight control diet is best). For dogs that have allergies or are sensitive, Holistic Diets are better for them and we suggest these: Natural Balance, Innova, Wellness & California Natural. Do not change up your dog's food, dogs are not like humans and do not need a variety of choices to be happy. Dogs can get digestive problems if you frequently change their diet. We recommend Wet and Dry food for a well-balanced diet. You can give Wet food in the morning and dry food in the evening, or mix some wet food in with their dry both times. Try not to feed your dog people food... If you must feed people food, boiled skinless & boneless chicken is a good choice or fully cooked beef can be given on occasion. Please see attached information on TOXIC foods that dogs should NEVER be given.

Grooming: Bichons do not shed as they have hair not fur... so they need to be professionally groomed every 3-4 weeks. They are NOT the type of dog you can wash yourself, as they matt immediately if not groomed correctly. A groomer needs to fully comb them out from root to tip for their entire coat... then washed, conditioned and blow dried with a brush out so they don't matt and get that fluffy cotton ball look that Bichons are famous for. Once this is done... that lasts about 3-4 weeks before they need another bath... And they will need haircuts every 2-3 months depending on how long you keep them. This is true for any dog that has hair and not fur... ie: poodles, Portuguese water dogs, etc...

Vet Care: All dogs should see a vet for regular checkups at least once a year for pets under 9 years of age. For Pets over 9 (considered Seniors), we advise 2 times per year (every 6 months). Please also bring your dog to the vet for any injuries, or sickness that lasts more than an isolated event. Every dog should be tested for heartworm initially and then put on monthly heartworm prevention medication. We find that Heartgard chewable is a great medication and tolerated well by all dogs. Every dog should also be on some sort of Flea and pest control medication monthly. We find that Either Advantix or Frontline Top Spot for dogs is best. (Make sure you purchase the correct weight range for your pet.)

Oral Care: You should brush your dog's teeth daily or use other oral care products that are specifically formulated for dogs. If not kept up, dogs can get dental tartar which leads to dental disease and can then lead to severe illness or even death if infection spreads into bloodstream. There are some great products on the market by Tropiclean Fresh Breath (Sprays, foams and chews) that help in between brushings.

If you ever have any questions on the care of your new family member, please feel free to call me at 201-819-2411 or email me at nnjbichonrescue@yahoo.com for advice or questions.

Thank You,
Melanie Pellegrino
Director Bichon Frise Rescue of NNJ