

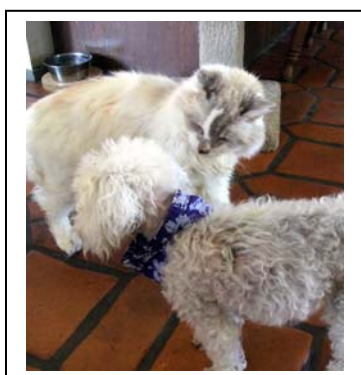
“Ralph”



Ralph came to BrightHaven almost two years ago to die... a familiar story? – Yes indeed, and also with a familiar ending too!

This old boy was relinquished for euthanasia at a shelter and found his way here. We then discovered he was indeed deathly ill and with little time left. Ralph had cancer, awful anemia and also that dreaded feline disease of the mouth – stomatitis and he was already weak and wobbly, with little time.

There seemed little hope, but with the odds against us we set to work to tame this angry old, sick man who seemed to only wish to kill us all!



But – then the old familiar magic of BrightHaven started to work as Ralph realized we were trying to kill him too – but with kindness and love, good food and wonderful energy medicine that truly made him feel better. Against all odds he slowly improved and became a member of the family, although still retaining his feisty nature and refusing to allow me to properly groom his beautiful, long white but matted coat, let alone accept my love.....!

With his previous sad life behind him and despite his feisty and fiery nature he only knew only love here at BrightHaven - I am so very happy that it finally won through and he allowed me into his heart. In his last days he left the old curmudgeon behind, enjoyed his days in the sunshine, loved his food and shared his bed with friends Barney and Charlie who came to help him on his long journey.



As time finally caught up, I saw him failing and soon to leave us. From that moment on he accepted my love and returned it and allowed me to hold and cuddle him – an honour those who knew him will truly understand.

Ralph spent his last night cuddled in my arms in my bed as he began his slow journey to the stars. He gradually left his fears behind him and at 430am he drew a sweet last breath and left.



*"The soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience."
Emily Dickinson*

February 27th 2007

