



Sushi



April 26th 2008



Back in 1993, I received a phone call from a local animal hospital asking if there might be any way we could accept a young, vibrant and beautiful girl, to save her from euthanasia. I agreed, and went to the hospital that afternoon, where I met the owner, who, having ascertained I would take Sushi, then told me that she was clearly unwell, as she had been behaving badly for a while. She said that she worked long hours and left Sushi alone an awful lot, and she had now started to pee and even poop on her new white carpet and she simply could not tolerate that....Besides, she told me, the vet said that Sushi most likely had cancer in her ears and would require a great deal of treatment probably in a very short time.....

Sushi came home to BrightHaven that afternoon.



During her 7 years in So Cal, the insecure and fearful girl was always in the background – loved by everyone for her radiant beauty, but often too quickly dismissed as she did not show herself open to strangers, although desperately needing and wanting love. Stroked softly, she would respond with affection and charm and always wriggled in ecstasy, but the merest quick or heavy touch, or playful move of a hand would arouse her instant fear. She would respond angrily - hissing, and smacking hard with a declawed paw and then scuttling quickly into the closest basket to hide from her demons!



In those days Sushi lived mostly as a recluse, in, and around my bedroom and its garden area, not really mixing much with humans or cats unless approached by them. She often could be found under my bed in the “under bed city!!” – an area we provide for scared ones that prefer privacy!

In 2000 we moved to northern California, where sensitive Sushi found a little more courage and actually moved to the BH kitchen where we constructed a huge island, filled with tunnels and cat beds. She lived there and could come and go without much disturbance or interference from others. At last she had a house of her own where she could feel secure.



By 2004, when we again moved house to Santa Rosa, our Sushi had not really come out of her shell much more. She would find a chair in the garden by day if the house was quiet, but mostly preferred humans just one on one, and really only her family.

Sushi’s “time” came as we moved here to Santa Rosa – a stressful time for many of the older ones – but for Sushi it proved a period when she would finally come into her own! BrightHaven classical homeopathic veterinarian Anthony Krawicz was enlisted for her care and, with new found confidence she moved straight into the kitchen, becoming a happy voyeur from her place



of residence in one of the most sought after and desirable BH accommodations – the kitchen counter baskets!

For the last 3 years Sushi was front and centre; happy to hear friends and volunteers as they came to visit saying things like – My, my!! – Who *is* this gorgeous and glamorous white creature peeking from the huge basket in the kitchen? She always loved to be found beautiful and would lie on her back and wiggle coquettishly from a light and gentle touch.

Eric is the only BH cat to be here longer than Sushi and over the years they have bidden farewell to lots of old friends, so many of late.



Dr K took on Sushi with hyperthyroidism, renal failure and those awful ear polyps and gave her the gift of time and happiness, but, after fifteen stolen years it came time for her to leave.

You may recall the story in recent months about the animal communicator who, when asking permission to offer Reiki, was told by Sushi that she was soon to leave us – to claim a gorgeous black and white horse body. From that day forward we saw her decline – in health but never in radiance, and truly believe her to have been looking forward – never back.



Sushi died shortly after midnight and her journey was not easy. Her little life was filled with fears and insecurities, and her death followed suit. Fray and I were taking shifts. I was not there.... Fray dozed and could not help but briefly fall asleepand that was when dear Sushi chose to slip away. I believe that whilst I was with her, she could not let go and needed time and space alone to begin her journey. I do still wish she had been in my arms.

Yesterday, as Blanca sat with her, Sushi “showed” her a picture of the most beautiful white unicorn, standing in a field next to her, patiently waiting. We firmly believe that unicorn to be our BrightHaven guardian angel, come to escort Sushi to meet her dashing horse.



*"Make yourself familiar with the angels,
and behold them frequently in spirit;
for without being seen,
they are present with you."
St. Francis De Sales*

