



The BrightHaven Chronicles



BrightHaven - A Place of Miracles
2010 autumn edition



Hello everyone!

Such busy times and the months fly by so fast don't they?! The autumn leaves continue to fall at BrightHaven and what more beautiful sight could there be I wonder.....

In this edition I will be updating you on new sanctuary residents, Cleo and Sylvie, along with an introduction to another of the BrightHaven veterinarians - Dr Jeff Feinman. With Christmas just around the corner, there will be news of our holiday event, as well as upcoming seminars and fundraisers. Also - an announcement regarding 12 new residents that you will not wish to miss!!

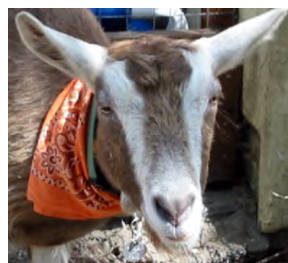
But first, a little update on life at BrightHaven and what is in the pipeline at present.



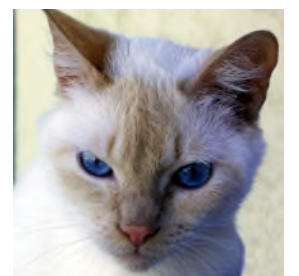
New BrightHaven web site AND video!!!!



Yes - we are excited to announce that BrightHaven will soon be offering a brand new web site which will reflect all the new work we are doing in the areas of rescue and also animal hospice. We are very sad to lose our much loved old site but will ensure that all the information is unchanged - just more!! Our friend Inori Theis is designing the new site for us and doing a grand job!



Well, we could not have a new web site without a new video in production to join it, could we!? I am thrilled to let those of you who love our video, know that Fine Dining Productions, who created the original video, have very generously offered their talents and time in the creation of a piece to represent our evolving face to the world!



MOVING ALONG THEN, LET'S DO OUR "WELCOME'S" FIRST:



Meet "Cleo"

Is this one pretty lady or what!?!?

Dear Cleo came to us after her owner could no longer look after her and was taken into care. This well balanced elderly lady lost no time in settling right in to daily life, although she had difficulty choosing whether to live in the kitchen or in our bathroom. Being a water babe meant clearly that she had to choose a place with free access to water, and finally the bathroom won, although at first we had to leave a tap running for her! The installation of her very own fountain won the day and now Cleo feels she has it made!

The wonderful Dr. Jeff Feinman has accepted her as his patient and so we are hoping to soon find new balance for Cleo who suffers hyperthyroidism and does not have a great appetite for the BrightHaven diet – yet!!



"Sylvie"

Alex and Robin Horvath, when shopping for their feline supplies at a local pet store recently, found themselves unable to resist the beautiful 11 year old Lynx point Siamese mix waiting quietly and fearfully in a cage for someone to save her.....

Sadly, after just a couple of days they realized that Sylvie was not simply fearful and not eating because of her change of abode, but that she was actually ill. Having rushed her to their veterinarian, Dr. Katheryn Hinkle of The Animal Hospital of Cotati, they were devastated to be informed she was in acute renal failure and in need of critical care to try to save her life. Unable to afford treatment, the Horvaths' reluctantly signed Sylvie over for euthanasia and left, to mourn her sweet life.



But then – Dr. Katheryn’s heart took over as she found herself unable to resist the sweet sad face of Sylvie and she began treatment with intravenous fluid therapy and all that modern medicine could offer, and especially with Bio Resonance therapy in which she specializes. Having loved her tour of BrightHaven just a week or so prior and already committed to our work, Dr. Katheryn could not resist picking up the telephone to see if she could “twist my arm” on Sylvie’s behalf. How could I resist?

And so, on the 2nd of last month this darling girl came to join our family - and find a path to better health we prayed. With a diet of daily fluid therapy, lots of immune and organ support and lots of raw organic beef liver and London Broil, Sylvie is improving steadily. She has gained over a pound in weight and is finally the queen of my bedroom – but please don’t tell Sophie, Cleo and King Tut, who are already not entirely amused to be sharing my bed at night with this determined little princess who smiles at them sweetly and then, head down just goes where she pleases...generally sprawled on top of me – or Joey, whose face she dearly loves to tenderly lick!!

We know not what Sylvie’s future entails but now, as we know her better, she is ready to really begin her BrightHaven journey under the auspices of Dr. Adriana’s classical veterinary homeopathic care. Her days are now rosy - spent mostly in the company of King Tut, as they lounge together on my bed just waiting for the next meal to be served and chatting about the world of mice and more.....



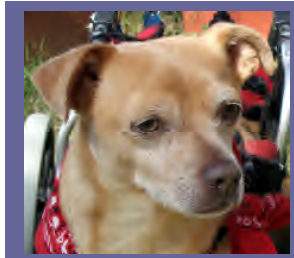
An exciting announcement:

Many of you have enjoyed reading my booklets “As Time Goes By” and “Into the Light”

which chronicle the journey of a senior or hospice animal through their golden years and then lead you on their passing through transition. Old friend and BrightHaven volunteer Lauren Urbais has been working hard with me to co-write a new and very much updated version. Our new work will be contained in just one easy handbook and should be available very soon.

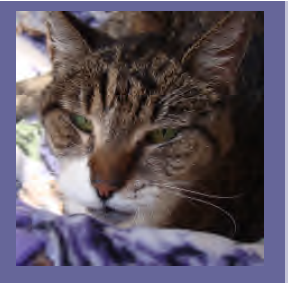


You will be delighted to know that Colleen Caubin’s original artwork for both booklets will still be featured at the beginning of each section and, even more thrilling is the news that Colleen has agreed to work on the creation of a brand new cover for our work.



We all waited with baited breath to find out who Colleen had chosen for her subjects and now I can reveal that, for this special cover piece the chosen pair will be:

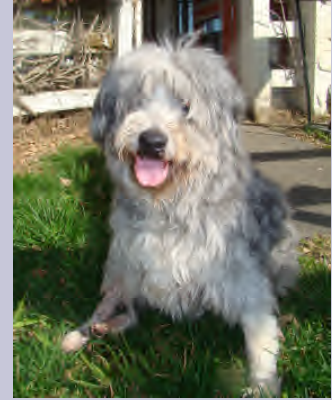
Dear Joey – the Chihuahua in a wheelchair who has become our mascot and my dearest love, and darling Cleo the cat, who you have just read about on page 2.



Cleo spends most of her life gazing upon her lovely reflection in the bathroom mirror and so perhaps this is the stardom for which she has been long awaiting. Perhaps I may use “Reflection” as a part of my title...hmmmm Watch this space for our announcement and the release date!!

Oh, Joey? You know how he loves to be in on everything!

And now a little time in memory of our loved ones recently departed:



This grey shaggy bundle of love came to live with us in her 17th year of life – a happy life, filled with all the joys and fun of family that a dog could wish for. Although Mollie's body was aged and failing, her spirit was not, and so she came to us to live out the rest of her days.

Well, those turned out to be wonderful days as dear Mollie soon stole the heart of all who came to know her. Mollie loved life and her food and cared not about her wobbly legs, failing eyesight and hearing loss and least of all about the many accidents as she could not make it to the garden on time....!! She lived a life filled with happy days, joy and better health (courtesy of her wonderful veterinarian Dr. Jeff Levy) and I am sure regretted not one moment of her time on this earth.

The day she sat down never to get up again, was a sad day for us all, but during those down days our Moll remained as happy and dear as ever, as she gradually made plans to leave this life. We know we are all better people for knowing this lovely lady.



You will have recently read of the death of another BrightHaven matriarch – dearest Betsy, or Bets-Ann as we fondly called her. Betsy joins the ranks of those animals we have loved who have defied all the rules and lived on regardless of expectations.

This dear little bobtail girl stole the hearts of many with her sweet ways and recently, in her early twenties, dear Bets-Ann had become terribly tired, eating less and less each day and sleeping more and more.....just like any human approaching the end of their days. I am happy that Bets chose to depart whilst in my arms as usual on our much used blow-up bed, with Fray, Richard and me in reverent attendance. For now the house is quiet as we all honor her sweet self and cherish the many memories of all the happy times we've shared over the last seven wonderful years.

Please remember her in your prayers, light a candle in her memory and send a little loving energy to light her way!



We are so sad to have said fare-thee-well to our dear and silly goat girl Paloma, who died as she lived – with such sweet grace and dignity, for which we shall forever be grateful. Paloma joined us at the tender age of two back in 2004 and leaves her best friends Dorothy and Mr. Murphy to mourn their loss.

I will soon be writing in memory of Mollie, Betsy and Paloma and you will be able to read more of their lives and times in the memorial section of the BrightHaven web site.

Now time to meet another of BrightHaven's special veterinarians:



www.homevet.com

Telephone: 203-222-7979

Email: drjeff@homevet.com.



Jeff Feinman has been a BrightHaven veterinarian for some years and I am delighted to have this opportunity to present him and his wonderful work to you. In September, Dr. Jeff celebrated the 25th anniversary of his work in veterinary practice and today HomeVet, the practice he founded in 1987 and its online counterpart www.homevet.com, are not only serving local pet owners, but are attracting patients from around the region and the nation.

Do visit Jeff's web site soon – it offers pet care libraries, a web store, pet care books, educational forums for pet lovers, and more, to help consumers of veterinary services make informed choices for both their beloved pets and themselves. It is considered one of the Internet's largest reliable sources of natural pet care information, plus Jeff has invited us to present a page on the site to represent BrightHaven, our work and philosophy.

Over time Jeff has helped many BrightHaven cats and dogs achieve better health and I am so happy he is currently in charge of the care of cats Cleo, pictured previously, and Johnnie, who are both looking forward to a healthy future under his expert wing!



Dr. Jeff graduated with dual degrees in molecular biology and veterinary medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. He was chosen as one of the select University Scholars and admitted to veterinary school at age 19. His interest in homeopathy began as related to human ailments, and his studies not only led to curing his own lifelong seasonal allergies, but to a recognition that the principles apply to all living beings.

Dr. Feinman is currently Chairman of the Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy (AVH) Education Committee, and is a past president of the AVH (theavh.org). He practices and resides in Weston, CT with his wife Amy.

Upcoming events at BrightHaven

Moving along to news of our upcoming events and, in our quest to promote holistic education, we are now expanding our program to incorporate more seminars and events. We would love to welcome you to BrightHaven in the near future and if you have any questions regarding any of our programs, please do not hesitate to email Jessica at Jessica@brighthaven.org or call her on 707 578-4800.



BrightHaven offers seminar participants a unique and exceptional experience among our animal family in a tranquil and prestigious setting in Sonoma County's countryside. We also invite holistic animal health practitioners to inquire about bringing your seminar, workshop or conference to BrightHaven in the near future.

Here are just a few events to tempt your palette:

~January 2011~

Reiki Level 1 and Animal Reiki Training: The Basics

With ***Kathleen Prasad***

Saturday and Sunday, January 15 & 16, 2011

12noon-5pm both days

\$250/person (50% proceeds will be donated to BrightHaven)

info@animalreikisource.com

www.animalreikisource.com/animal-reiki-summer-retreat.html

Animal Jin Shin Jyutsu

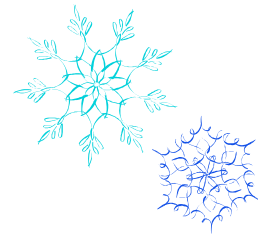
With ***Tom Wilson***

Saturday and Sunday, January 22 & 23, 2011

11am-5pm both days

\$240/person (40% proceeds will be donated to BrightHaven) Contact Tom: 707-795-6121

www.animalata.com



BrightHaven Volunteer Orientation Day

With ***BrightHaven Staff***

Saturday 8th January

Tours: begin at 12noon

Orientation: begins at 1pm

PLEASE RSVP: jessica@brighthaven.org

~February 2011~



Reiki II and Animal Reiki Training: Advanced Techniques

With *Kathleen Prasad*

Saturday & Sunday, February 4 & 5, 2011

12noon-5pm both days

Tuition: \$300 (50% proceeds will be donated to BrightHaven)

Contact Kathleen: info@animalreikisource.com

www.animalreikisource.com/animal-reiki-summer-retreat.html

~March 2011~

Reiki Level III and Animal Reiki Teacher Training

With *Kathleen Prasad*

Saturday & Sunday, March 5 & 6, 2011

12noon-5pm both days

Tuition: \$1,000/person (50% proceeds will be donated to BrightHaven)

info@animalreikisource.com

www.animalreikisource.com/animal-reiki-summer-retreat.html



Animal Hospice Seminar

With *Tom Wilson*

Saturday & Sunday, March 19 & 20, 2011

11am-5pm both days

Tuition \$240 (40% proceeds will be donated to BrightHaven)

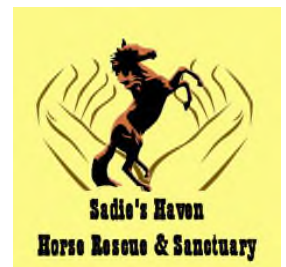
Contact Tom: 707-795-6121

www.animalata.com



And now for an exciting "STOP PRESS"

I am so pleased to be able to announce the arrival of Sadie's Haven Horse Rescue and Sanctuary at BrightHaven.



Yes – right!! When one drives into BrightHaven these days one will be surprised to find we now have 12 more horses grazing contentedly in our pastures!

You will recall reading last edition of our newest member of staff – Vicki Sims, who is President of Sadie’s Haven Horse Rescue. Well, Vicki’s horses were somewhat wet underfoot in their rented pasture and, with the heavy rains coming, Vicki was becoming more and more anxious for their welfare.

When you realize that Sadie’s Haven was established to rescue and care for senior and special needs horses, you will understand why we decided that it would be a purrfect match for us to extend a welcome! Last weekend proved to be a busy time as the horse trailer came back and forth both Saturday and Sunday until all the horses were safe and sound in their new home.



BrightHaven’s three – Daisy, Paris and Bellestar were a little surprised by the arrival of all their new “friends” and there was much racing around for a short time until the “hellos” and “who are you’s” were complete, but peace and calm now reign in the pasture! In actual fact it was really surprising how quickly everyone settled in and life returned to normal – well perhaps a little different now, as you can see from these glorious, or muddy, photographs!!

Hopefully you will soon be able to come and visit to meet Pancho, Coso, Kitty, Buddy, Mr.C. Gonzo, Sassy, Nattie, Honeybun, Gypsy Rose, Apache and Copper.

I do have to get serious now though, and mention that old subject of money.....Both organizations are 501©3 non profits and will continue to operate independently, although with almost identical missions we plan some joint seminars, events and fundraising in the very near

future. So far we in are in the planning process for equine Reiki as well as TTouch, acupressure and other holistic practices. Please do visit Vicki's web site at www.sadieshaven.com to learn more about her wonderful work.

Whilst on the subject of money.....I know, I know.....but it is terribly hard for non profit organizations of all sizes to survive in the present economy and I hate to bombard you with pleas, but we really are in need of help.

Seeking "Bounty" for BrightHaven

To our dear friends,

I am appealing for your help for our operation.

The costs involved in running our entire organization are huge!!

Every week brings more stories of animals in danger of being euthanized because they are simply too old, too disabled, too ill, too scared or shy to be held in a shelter for adoption.

We save their lives and the costs are enormous.

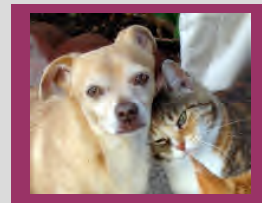
The day to day finances of the care of our sanctuary residents are also astronomical.

Won't you help us please?

Any donation you can make will benefit the animals and will be tax deductible.

Please visit brighthaven.org

Or send your check to BrightHaven, PO Box 1743, Sebastopol, CA 95473



Volunteers are the mainstay of a busy non profit – and we need more!! Perhaps there is something you can do to help us? – You do not have to live nearby either – There are many tasks to help that can be done from your own home – wherever you live.....

We need volunteers

Join a BrightHaven committee – today!!

Fundraising – Grant writing - PR and marketing – Internet relations
Foster and adoptions – Senior to senior program – Veterinary partnerships

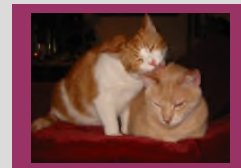
We need help in so many areas and currently our greatest need is to find **a volunteer coordinator** to help us all work more efficiently as a team.

As already mentioned you do not need to live near to BrightHaven, although we also have opportunities for you in-house if you might be interested!

Our next volunteer orientation and welcome day will be held January 8th

12pm for tours and followed at 1pm by orientation

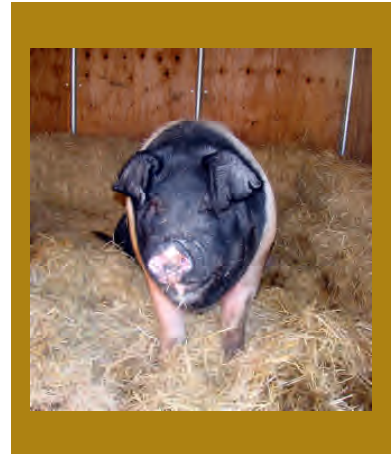
Please email Jessica for more information and directions at Jessica@brighthaven.org





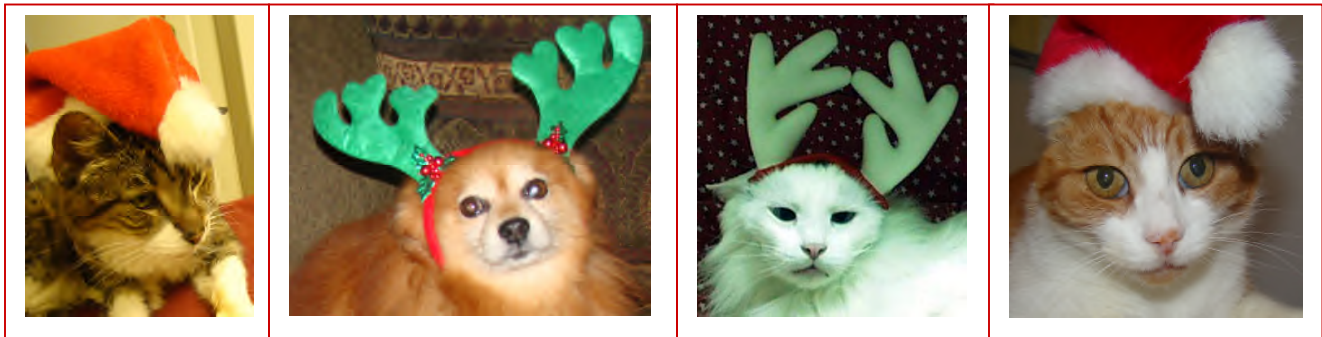
Time now for one last little update – and for all his fans out there, Harley wanted to drop in to say hello and how are you?

As the rains worsened, Harley scooted into his house and is now snug and cozy for the winter months – surrounded by straw bales. Of course at the first sign of sun he scoots right outside again and it is simply such a pleasure to see this paraplegic pig having such a gay and glorious time in the autumn of his life.



He did make just one little request for me to pass along to you in this season of giving – right – you know what it is by now huh? Yes!!!!!!!!! Of course – BIG RED APPLES please, to fill his Christmas stocking!

As we head into this holiday season of cheer and goodwill, I thought I would finish off by sharing a few silly photographs of some of our animal family, as well as a couple of the family pictures taken at last week’s Santa Paws event!!



Saturday the 11th December heralded the first BrightHaven Santa Paws event “Paws meets Claus for a Cause”. Richard and I dressed up as Santa and his Mrs. and photographs were taken of our guests with their pets. Refreshments were partaken of – there was holiday shopping at our little Christmas shop and tours of the sanctuary were given. Christmas music piped through the sanctuary and fun was had by all.



From left to right:
Gail, Jessica (in front) Richard,
Joey (in front!) Vicki (in antlers
as her hat became too itchy!),
Blanca and Fray.



So, the holidays are upon us and, all too soon we will be ringing in the New Year – so what better time for me to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude to you, our wonderful members, for your continued support through yet another year. Whether you donate, support the BrightHaven network by passing along the word of animals in need, volunteer, foster, adopt, involve yourself in one of our committees, help with events...oh my! The list is endless – and whatever you do, we are all so grateful to know you and have you as a part of BrightHaven.

BrightHaven is expanding rapidly and our work in the rescue and care of senior and special needs animals is becoming well-known. So too is our work in the growing field of animal hospice education as well as natural healthcare. I feel confident that, together we truly are making a difference for animals, thus helping to make the world a better place for us all. Thank you so much.

May I wish you a splendid season filled with everything you wish for, and nothing can say it finer than one of my favorite quotations:

**What is Christmas?
It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present,
hope for the future.
It is a fervent wish that every cup
may overflow with blessings rich and eternal,
and that every path may lead to peace.**

~ Agnes M. Pahro

With my love, blessings and so much gratitude to you all
Gail
xx