



# The BrightHaven Chronicles

BrightHaven – A Place of Miracles  
2010 summer edition



(Yes- a new name. I decided to revert to our original newsletter title of the BH Chronicles and do hope you will like it!)

There is so much going on in the world of BrightHaven these days that I hardly know where to start – perhaps at the beginning with BRIGHTHAVEN AND BLISS DEVELOPMENTS!

So many people are confused by our use of the name Bliss for our rescue group that we have decided to be simply BrightHaven and so from now on you may know us as many varied parts of BrightHaven. To give those of you who don't know us well yet I thought I would give you a little overview of what actually goes on under the BrightHaven umbrella:

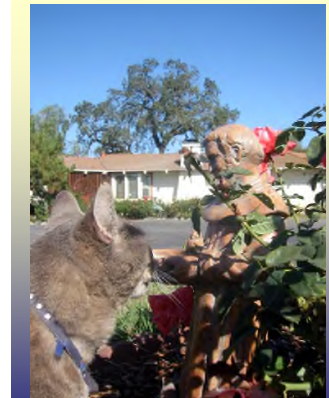
The BrightHaven family home in Santa Rosa, No. California:

- offers hospice care to our senior and special needs family of animals
- offers a natural raw meat based diet and classical veterinary homeopathic care
- offers an outreach and education program of seminars, workshops and literature
- offers consultations on wellness and elderly animal care – specializing in hospice and transition
- hosts fundraising events



The BrightHaven Rescue Group:

- saves senior and special needs animals from shelters mostly in the Bay Area but also nationwide
- provides a foster program
- finds loving homes through its adoption program
- offers a "Senior to Senior" program
- is creating a program to care for pets' lifetime care after death, either via sanctuary, hospice, or a foster and adoption process
- collaborates with other organizations in larger special projects
- seeks grants and works at fundraising endeavors



The BrightHaven Email Network:

- A large and ever growing database of animal lovers who help us find homes for senior and special needs animals rescued from shelters
- Helps owners forced to give up their senior or special needs pets

Upcoming for the future:

- We plan the expansion of our work in **animal hospice** to encompass more education, as well as community outreach. Several grant applications are in process and I will have more news soon on this exciting project.
- **Peaceful Journeys** is the title of my new book which is all about animal hospice the BrightHaven way. Friend and volunteer Lauren Urbais is co-authoring the book, which will include stories of the BrightHaven animals as well as some of my obituaries and favorite quotations.

- Last but not least – **Save the date. October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are set aside for Richard and I to present** our first weekend seminar here - a two day overview of our work. Day 1 will address the birth and mission of BrightHaven and our journey into the world of natural healthcare, leading to the many miracles of healing for which we have become well known. It will particularly address the care of a special needs or geriatric animal and our philosophy for life, better health and healing. Day 2 will be all about hospice care and transition, encompassing the subjects of pain and suffering, grief and the natural dying process. Anyone interested in attending should please contact Jessica at [Jessica@brighthaven.org](mailto:Jessica@brighthaven.org)

BrightHaven employs only three part-time staff, and everyone else on our team is a volunteer! We are always seeking new volunteers to help our mission, which is to help people to help animals, thus making the world a better place in which we can all live.

*Please consider joining us!! – there is plenty for everyone to do!*

## ANNOUNCING THE BRIGHTHAVEN RESCUE NEWSLETTER: “HAVEN TAILS”

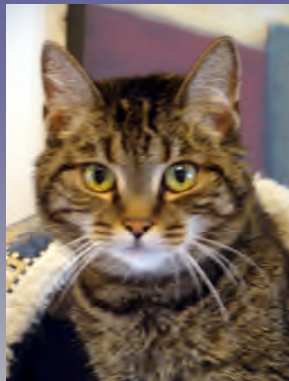
*coming soon!*



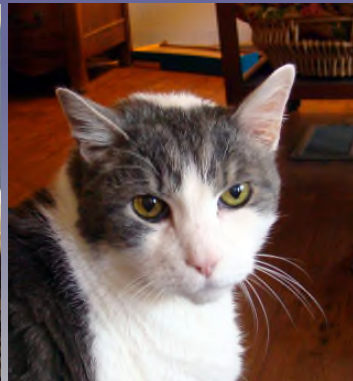
First of all I would like to welcome Bonita Berger to our wonderful team. Bonita is, amongst many other projects, planning to create our first formal newsletter to be geared exclusively to the BrightHaven world of rescuing animals. The newsletter will feature adoptable animals of all species, as well as some sadly relinquished by owners. It will carry the happy stories of adoptions, as well as offer features and articles. We also hope to invite subscriptions for advertising as we progress, to bring in a little funding for the enterprise – just another way for People to help People to Help more Animals!!!

## MOVING ALONG THEN, LET'S DO OUR “WELCOMES” FIRST:

June saw the death of long-time BrightHaven friend Agnes Frank and the arrival of her feline family at BrightHaven. Please meet Agnes's three very large boys and one little dainty Diana!



I'm dainty Diana!  
So far I've tried every  
bed in the house and  
love, love, love my life



I'm Pepito and I aim  
to be the next boss  
of BrightHaven!



My name is Mr. Magoo  
I'm 21, FIV positive  
& very happy to be  
here. I just don't like  
the food!



King Tut is my name!  
I am a scared-y cat  
and live under Gail's  
bed. Magoo is silly-  
I LOVE the food!

Hi! I'm Jack – Jack the lad you know!

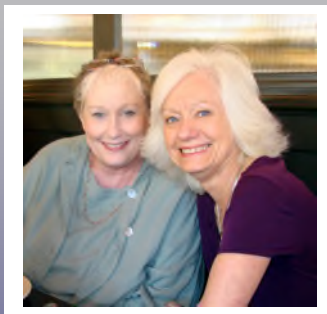
Ha! Gail and Richard couldn't resist my cute face when they heard I was to be killed in a shelter and so here I am, And I LOVE it. I was badly abused in my former life and have had to learn to trust again. Now I don't scream when anyone comes near me, but I do like to be the leader and in control, especially of the other dogs. Joey's OK I suppose, but that Molly and Hope are both soooo terribly sweet and gentle and so afraid of me that I just have to show them a thing or two. Such fun!



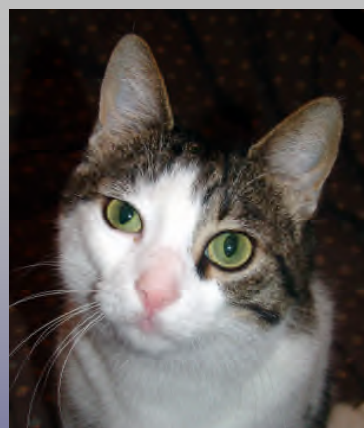
My name is Flora and I am 17 years old. My Dad moved away and I lived in the garden with some wild cats who showed me where to go for food, and some lovely ladies fed us. Then a nice veterinarian, Dr Corvin, came and took me to hospital and eventually I came here to BrightHaven. I'm not sure I like it here much yet. Everyone is very nice and I adore the food, but I feel very scared of all the other animals and – do you know how BIG the dogs are here??!! One of them even sits in a chariot with wheels. He seems quite nice though. I am hissing a lot and waiting to see if I can be happy here.



I am Sasha and I have a broken back I love BrightHaven as it has lots of wonderful gardens for me to play in. I can scoot as fast as any of the other animals can run you know!!



Here are our two Mums Susan and Gail!!



I am Talya and I come from Turkey! My back was broken when I was just a baby and I was rescued and brought to America. I can scoot the fastest!

NO!! We are not accepting new family members – RIGHT? Wrong, it appears, as they keep on coming. Actually Sasha and Talya are not permanent members of the BrightHaven family – or at least we don't think so at this time...maybe.....Susan Bell is one of the BrightHaven team of volunteers who lead our rescue group efforts and she has recently been very ill after back surgery complications. Two of her cats, both adopted via BrightHaven networking, are very special needs young ladies and so we bid WELCOME to Talya and Sasha, who will be living with us until their Mum is well enough to invite them back again.



Next I would like to ask for your prayers and blessings for some of our family who are just not feeling up to par at present. You know our policy by now I'm sure and will understand we offer healing for the greatest good of the animal and so we do not know whether they will be staying longer or leaving us soon.....

## PLEASE SAY HELLO TO PALOMA, BETSY AND EDIE



Paloma came to join us as Dorothy's friend 6 years ago, after a bout of mastitis threatened her life at a goat farm. She, Dotty, and more recently Mr. Murphy are all fast friends and firm favorites with BH visitors! A few months ago Paloma's appetite began to dwindle and we saw her mouth feeling uncomfortable and swollen around her jaw. A laboratory biopsy told us she has a deep abscess, but despite two antibiotics, she is still uncomfortable and not able to eat very well. She is stronger daily though, and so we wait and pray this mass does turn out to be an abscess after all. Paloma is concentrating on love and special treats to brighten her day as she heals.

**Laurie Lofton DVM Tere Crocker DVM**

You may recall reading of Edie in past newsletters, when she just arrived and laid down to die. In true Siamese style she informed us that "she" and not we, would decide the time, and bounced back to stunningly good looks and seemingly good health. Edie ridicules the fact she suffers hyperthyroidism, renal issues and inflammatory bowel dis-ease and greets each and every day with a smile and request for an early breakfast!

**Adriana Sagrera DVM**



.....and this is our darling and very tiny, Bets-Ann, now in her twenties and happy to live forever. Most recently Betsy relocated to my bathroom, gave herself up to the most awful diarrhea and laid herself down to die.....BUT along came BrightHaven magician Dr. Adriana Sagrera, who never takes "no" for an answer, et voila` Betsy is now back on my bed at night and sunning herself in the gardens by day.....each day is a true blessing!

**Adriana Sagrera DVM**

We know not when, where or why Paloma, Betsy and Edie's lives will end, but we tend to their every whim and need daily, and are constantly humbled by the way they request nothing (well except for saucers of milk at 6am for the cats and some very soft bread for Lomie, and a very, varied diet at present!) but honor us with their love and sweet happy faces!

IN MEMORY: "NORTON"

30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010



Almost three months ago our lives were blessed by the arrival of a large and velvety grey boy, Norton, who came to us fresh from his stay at the LA Agoura shelter.

We knew him to be deaf, 17-18 years old and that his owner had recently died and the family had left him at the shelter. Upon arrival Norton was very unwell and so we enlisted the help of our Dr Diana (Bochenski). For several weeks we wondered if he might leave to follow his beloved owner, but happily Norton finally came back to life and fast became a firm favorite with all who met him. He had the loudest purr I have yet to hear!!

Norton's days were spent in the garden, sunning himself, although he watched the clock closely to be sure to be first for breakfast, lunch and dinner!



Then came his fast decline.....a rapidly failing heart, coupled with a mass in the side of his face that fast depleted his energy. With some clever prescribing by Dr Diana, Norton felt good –one had only to stroke him lightly and the deep resonating rumble of his happiness would begin again. He declared too, that food had never tasted so good.

Just over a week ago I felt the urge to spend my nights on the floor at his side and we all watched him carefully by day. At bedtime yesterday he took a little baby food and then settled in my arms for the night. Just a little before 4am he awoke and gave a tiny groan – I stroked him and there came the enormous rumble of his purr...followed by two tiny groans, and Norton left quickly to find his future.

Please light a candle or send a special prayer for his journey.





# Vet's corner



And so this would seem to be the purrrfect time to introduce to you another of our wonderful BrightHaven veterinarians.

This month I would like you to please meet “the Magician”:  
Dr Adriana Sagrera.

Dr Adriana has offered her services as one of our veterinarians for almost two decades, during which time we have together witnessed so many miracles of healing and longevity that I cannot recommend her highly enough. Dr Adriana Sagrera has taken some of our most difficult cases; dogs and cats too, not only very sick, but wild too. She shows extreme sensitivity, compassion and understanding, whilst prescribing with care and accuracy. Her present charges, Betsy and Edie, are currently both delighted to report feeling much improved - again!!

Dr. Sagrera is committed to alternative veterinary medicine as a way to improve the health of pets in the most natural and non-invasive means possible. After graduating from Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987, she practiced traditional veterinary medicine for six years. During that time, she observed the effects of over medication and over vaccination of pets. She also saw cases where, although the diagnosis was grim in terms of traditional veterinary science, the pet improved with homeopathic care. Recognizing the success of the alternative veterinary medicine techniques, she began her studies in veterinary homeopathy in 1993 and became a certified classical veterinary homeopath in 1995. Her practice is based upon providing pets with gentle, effective treatment in a stress-free environment.

## **Natural Pet Care:**

(504) 834-2023 to book an appointment.

[www.drsagrera.com](http://www.drsagrera.com)

## 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@brighthouse.org](mailto:Jessica@brighthouse.org) or by telephone to 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.



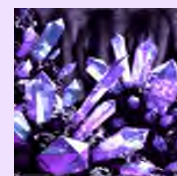
Here are just a few of our regular events to tempt your palette:



BrightHaven: is proud host for Kathleen Prasad's Animal Reiki classes. Levels 1, 2, 3 and teacher training are offered along with an annual Reiki retreat open to all students.

## CRYSTALS AND THE BALANCE OF ENERGY

BY CHRIS LOUKAS  
OF THE CRYSTAL PEOPLE



CRYSTALS, PENDULUMS, BODY BALANCE & BALANCE OF ETHERIC SYSTEMS  
DISTANT & GROUP HEALING. THE POWER OF CHOICE



*Energetic Tune-Up  
With Essences*



You are invited by Longwillow to an evening specifically designed to lift your spirit, ease your burdens and help you set a renewed course towards that to which you are called.



## Animal Reiki Share

Join us for an amazing monthly Reiki sharing with the wonderful residents of BrightHaven. Students of all lineages welcome. Light snacks will be provided. Participants will have the opportunity to work with different species and share their experiences.

Lauren Urbais, M.Ed.  
Level III Animal Reiki  
Practitioner/Teacher

707-794-8115 (office)  
707-888-3983 (cell)



Cathy Currea  
Animal Communicator  
& Humane Educator  
Animal Reiki Teacher  
925 671 9208  
[www.animalmuse.com](http://www.animalmuse.com)

Animal Communication Seminars and Fundraisers for BrightHaven

Do call us for more information and upcoming dates this year

# We need volunteers

We are becoming more organized, and identifying many areas in which we need volunteer help. Please review our list below and let us know if you or anyone you know, may be able to help in one of the areas mentioned:

## Please join us!!

Join a BrightHaven Rescue Committee – today!!!

Join us by becoming a BrightHaven foster or hospice home

Help with finding foster and adoptive homes

Join the senior to senior program

Help find supportive vets (conventional and alternative) – nationwide!!

Help maintain the BH Blog, as well as Face Book and Twitter

Help find pro bono/discounted printing for BH fliers, brochures and educational materials

Join our grant writing team

Join the fundraising team – or one event committee

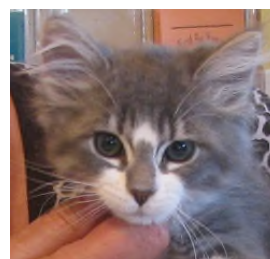
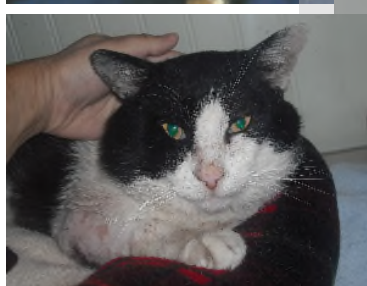
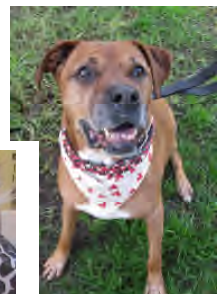
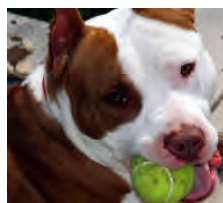
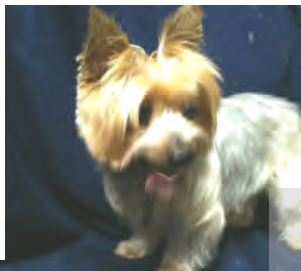
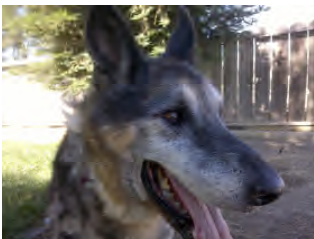
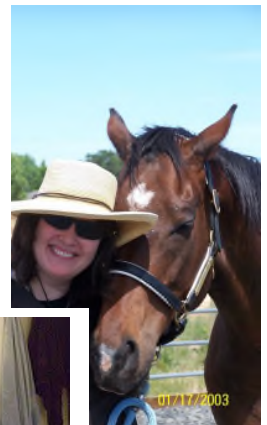
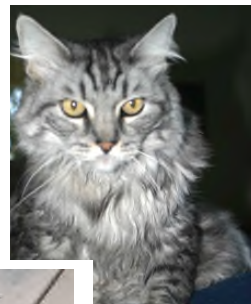
Procure silent auction items (wine, gift baskets, paintings, gift certs...)

Locate restaurants to partner with us to offer “BrightHaven” evenings or special dinners

Join the PR and Marketing Team



## A VERY FEW OF THE ANIMALS RECENTLY NETWORKED BY BRIGHTHAVEN:



“Haven Tails”  
Coming soon



# Urgent!!

*Hand over your money  
and no one will get hurt!*



## Seeking “Bounty” for BrightHaven

Dear friends,

Today 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 the BH sanctuary residents is 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](http://brighthaven.org)

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



Introducing Vicki Sims!  
Vicki joined our BH team on July 19<sup>th</sup>  
as the BH housekeeper and has  
already settled in like a duck to  
water! Vicki is no stranger to the  
world of non-profit living as she is  
well-known for her work with her own  
non-profit horse rescue: Sadie's  
Haven, in nearby Sebastopol.  
[www.sadieshaven.org](http://www.sadieshaven.org)



*Just a few little reminders in closing.....*

- A little raw meat a day keeps the vet at bay!
- Always have plenty of fresh, bottled or filtered drinking water available for your pet.
- Remember there is no substitute for fresh air and sunshine.
- Cats and dogs know what's best for them – fresh green grass is a great digestive aid.
- Always read canned food labels. Avoid by-products. Look for natural ingredients and avoid chemicals.
- Remember the BH Resource Guide is free.
- Consider supporting us by purchasing your copy of the BrightHaven picture book available at [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com). A free 15 page preview is available at [www.blurb.com/books/1093980](http://www.blurb.com/books/1093980)
- Consider sponsoring a BH resident.
- Please help us to help more animals by spreading word of our work.

Flea season is upon us again!  
Some useful tips BH style!

- Use a metal tooth flea comb
- Have a bowl of water containing couple drops soap to prevent the fleas from jumping out!
- Seek fleas around the head, neck, rump and base of the tail
- Consider using Fleabusters [www.fleabuster.com](http://www.fleabuster.com)
- Fleas are attracted to unhealthy beings
- Help your pet be as healthy as possible
- Consider a natural raw meat based diet – as Mother Nature intended
- Consider homeopathic care



PHEW – MOLLIE SAYS,  
THAT'S THE END!

MORE NEXT TIME  
FROM THE BRIGHTHAVEN  
FAMILY

WITH LOVE AND BLESSINGS  
GAIL XX

BrightHaven PO Box 1743 ~ Sebastopol ~ CA 95473  
[www.brighthaven.org](http://www.brighthaven.org) ~ [info@brighthaven.org](mailto:info@brighthaven.org) ~ 707 578 4800