

A BRIGHTHAVEN AUGUST UPDATE

Daily life is always hectic at BrightHaven – but never more so than this month. Richard and I began our preparations for our upcoming, exciting presentation at the 2nd Veterinary Hospice Symposium at UC Davis 5-7th September, when it became quickly obvious all was not well for some of our residents.

Chester



Accustomed to my secretary Chester's presence on my desk at all times, I knew instantly that all was not well when he moved elsewhere on August 10th. Over the years we have come to recognize such signs and realize their importance. Chester, in his twenties has all sorts of chronic health issues – stomatitis, (feline lymphocytic plasmacytic stomatitis) cancer and hyperthyroidism just to name a few.....We also knew his heart was under stress. Chester continued life up the hallway, near the front entrance and seemed very happy and well still – until just a few days ago when we saw his respiration increasing.....His old friend Dr Diana (Bochenski) came instantly to his rescue and is supporting him well with classical veterinary homeopathy. I see that time may be short though for my precious man, and my heart aches along with his as we share these special days together. Today Chester says he is feeling much better and consequently hungrier!

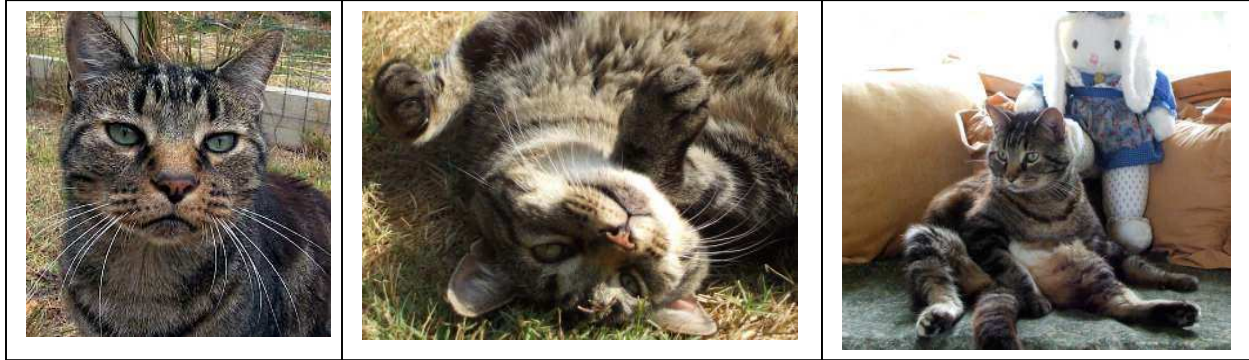
Vancouver



Vancouver is a man who loves life with a capital "L"! Around a week ago, he began to look more disheveled than his norm and started spending more and more time in the garden.....After watching him carefully for a while I decided to see what a blood panel would look like for him. Those of you following his special journey will remember he came to us a diabetic, hyperthyroid, with stomatitis and in chronic renal failure. Van has always suffered an eating disorder – Prader Willi, which lends him his ravenous appetite. It seems that dear Van's body has not been in the best of health much of his life. So – the blood panel told me that the only thing now wrong with Vancouver is his kidneys failing – and those very acutely now. The signs

and symptoms of his demise are there but Vancouver continues on with daily life in high energy and pure ecstasy in eating! At this time in his life we trust in his amazing doctor Jeff (Feinman) completely, and know that miracles can, and do happen. Vancouver? He completely endorses this belief and is waiting for his next meal.....!

Bobbi



At the same time Vancouver caught my eye I began to look at our handsome Bobbi also.....Just not eating quite as ravenously as usual and most often secluded in the garden a little more than normal. Bobbi has suffered stomatitis for years, along with some liver ups and downs! The only thing revealed by his blood panel was a life threatening anemia. Happily his very own, and another amazing Dr Jeff (Levy) has prescribed the purrrfect homeopathic remedy and, along with other immune and nutritional support Bobbi is already improving. His is a tricky path though and we are very well aware of its dangers.

A tough time for the BrightHaven family and you will see we have been facing another ordeal in the last weeks with Stefanie.....

Stefanie



One always hopes for a miracle, and we continue in this vein for our darling Stef., who had “pre-cancerous” polyps in her ear for many years until, several months ago, when one began to grow and change dramatically. It worsened over time and, then, as Stef began to fail rapidly we feared for her life. She stopped eating and began to look very frail and then, just at the time we entered that period of acceptance of “what is” and began to enjoy each and every day with her – things started to change. For the last several weeks her daughter SuzyQ had barely left her Mother’s side and was constantly distressed and depressed. Neither Stef nor Suzy could eat much and just spent their days in the garden and their nights in the clinic together.

As of a few days ago Stef's mass is shrinking. She feels sooo much better. Her tail is held high as she demands her next meal. Stef is in the garden in her normal spot and Suzy Q seems to have gone about her usual daily business, clearly confident that her Mum is OK for now!

Phew! We have no idea where this incredible journey will take us next, but suffice to say we are grateful for this remission and thrilled to see our darling girl feeling so much better and sprightly again. Dr Francie (Rubin) surely pulled the proverbial rabbit from the hat for Stefanie!

Darling **Hope** is going from strength to strength and I will be writing more on her incredible journey soon. She is now happily exploring the entire house and learning how to eat like any other dog!

Wonder is learning fast and behaving much better now, after spending lots of time having fun with BH old friend Suzanne at the Calistoga Vet Hospital where she is Manager. The clinic provides lots of dogs to play with and practitioners to learn some good things from. He is fast becoming a big favorite everywhere he goes and it is heavily rumored he will have a new name very soon.!

Can't forget to mention big **Harley** – who is amazing us all more and more as he scoots happily through the rest of his life. It's all thanks to those big red apples he says!!



.....and another cute note



Currently we have a beautiful dove who hovers near all the time, and is most especially seen in the early morning hours watching over Harley. We are also being inundated by hummingbirds and especially the friendliest dragonflies we have yet to meet. It seems Mother Nature is offering a helping hand!

(Here is Blanca with a gorgeous blue dragonfly who just did not wish to leave her!)

I'd like to finish with a little request for those of you who practice Reiki, or any other form of distant energy work to please send healing to our precious family for their journeys.

With love, blessings and gratitude to you all
Gail
xx