

## BRIGHTHAVEN'S DECEMBER UPDATE

**STEFANIE** must come first. You will recall reading of our dear Stef a couple of months ago, as she shed a large mass from her left ear, and then happily returned to normal life...that, and the easier burden of living with chronic renal failure!

Well it seems that all was not really well, and normal again for her, despite her renewed vitality and appetite, and she soon became terribly ill again – this time suffering awful inflammatory bowel issues, which we realized might well be related to that other deeper issue.

Several weeks ago we were resigned to her “leaving” when a new homeopathic remedy was to restore balance, and Stef is currently defying the odds by eating well and gaining weight. There is a spring in her step once more and life is for the living she says – albeit a roller coaster one! Our eternal thanks to her Dr., Francie Rubin!

Stefanie is clearly teaching us to live in the moment in love, and with joy, and not look forward or back!!



### NO!! WE ARE NOT, ABSOLUTELY NOT, ACCEPTING NEW RESIDENTS!!

Right? - Well, I'm looking a little silly again this month as our outdoor population has swollen yet again with the rescue of one more rooster and two ducks! More about them in a minute as I would like first to tell you of the most adorable dog who came to live, and die with us this month.



**EMMETT** came to live with us on the 18<sup>th</sup> November and walked right into our hearts. He died just three days later. You may recall his name as that from one of my recent fliers...Emmett and his sister Sissy were left in a shelter, both very ill and Sissy at 13 years old, very heavily pregnant. Our wonderful rescue friend Dacia quickly raced into action and implored me to send out a flier. Of course I did and the amazing Debra stepped forward to offer the sanctuary of her home for the pair. Her veterinarian quickly realized the dilemma of their health and felt it kindest to euthanize Emmett, and try to help Sissy, who was a little stronger, fight for her life and puppies. Debra could not face the act and so Emmett came here to die in love the BrightHaven way.

You can read my words in memory of this darling dog in the attachment to this newsletter. The obituary will also soon be available on the BrightHaven website: [www.brighthaven.org](http://www.brighthaven.org).

So, now time for introductions to the newest members of our fowl family:-

Many of you will already know of the wonderful work done by our friend Laura Bradshaw of Healing Heart Sanctuary in Utah, but if not, then please visit Laura's wonderful web site: [www.healingheartsanctuary.org](http://www.healingheartsanctuary.org).

Well, as winter approached Laura was having duck problems – actually that of finding an appropriate winter place for two of her gorgeous children.....well she worked it out – and here they are – happily settled in now at BrightHaven!!



Reggie

MEET  
RONNIE  
&  
REGGIE



Ronnie



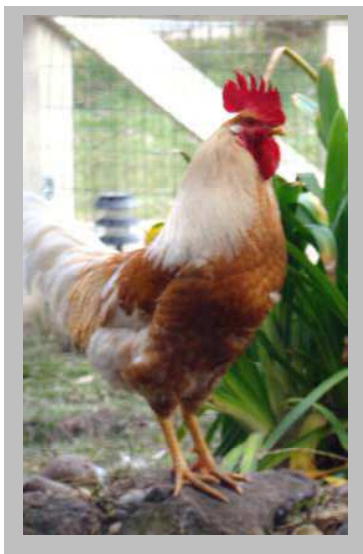
After a scary first few days getting to know the geese and chickens, and being bullied a little – Ronnie and Reggie charmed their way into society and are now happily swimming right along with geese, Bruce and Odette, as well as sharing food with the feisty roosters Ted and Louis!



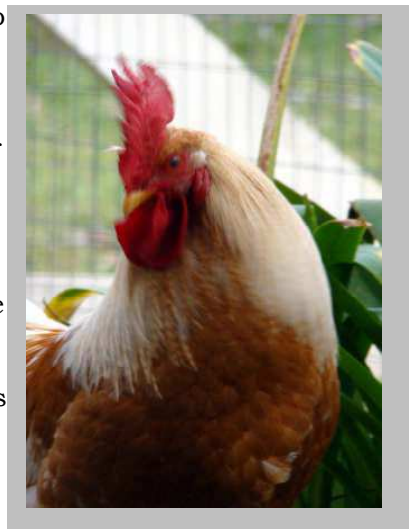
And so, talking of ROOSTERS..

As you may recall, Fray has the job of looking after the BrightHaven fowl, and has been adamant we do not have room for more. She was not terribly amused to have her family increased by two ducks I can tell you!!.....so imagine the look on her face as she implored for help for the magnificent rooster she recently found foraging for himself and sleeping in a local tree....!





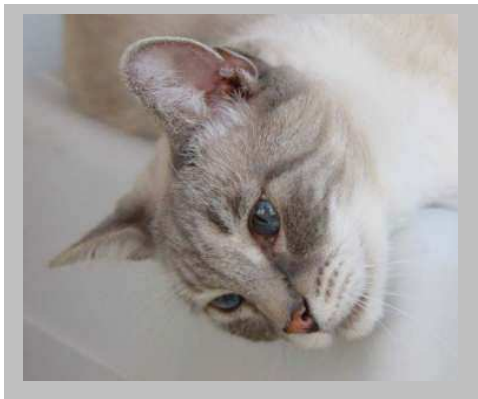
Meet **JAKE!!** – a once seen, never to be forgotten, beauty of a bird. Jake is **HUGE**, treble the size of our feisty rooster boys, Ted and Louis and yet they bullied him without mercy for days, along with naughty Odette and bossy Bruce. I guess he had to be taught the rules of his new digs! Girl chicks Kate and Pam clearly thought him cute right from the start and were often to be seen sneaking up on him for a closer look!! Happily he has now been officially accepted by all, and it is lovely to see them allowing him his share of food from their bowl, as well as snuggling together high on their shelf at night in the chicken coup.



This month comes time for you to meet one of the long time BrightHaven miracles and, at 26 years of age, our current eldest family member – discounting the humans of course!!



**OLIVER** is already known and loved by everyone who has been blessed to cross his path. This amazing feline has such a wonderful, sunny temperament and story, that he has been written



about, snapped for calendars, and featured in an Animal Miracles TV segment by KPAX television. His story was subsequently sold to Animal Planet and is currently being shown eight years later, world-wide! Impressed yet? You bet!

So – Oliver's claim to fame you might ask?

One day, many years ago when BrightHaven resided in tranquil Trabuco Canyon, in sunny So. California, I received a call from good friend Joanne, who, in those days worked at the Pasadena Humane Society. Joanne told me the story of a magnificent feline of the oriental persuasion, who had been very badly mauled by a dog. It was Joanne's job to euthanize this charming boy to put him out of his misery, but, upon gazing into his bright blue eyes, she could not – and took him quickly to a local vet for help. His front right leg had to be amputated and his many maggot infestations and wounds with torn flesh, repaired.....but then where could he go? Really no need for me to enlarge upon that part of the story!!!

So - upon arrival at BrightHaven the first thing Oliver did as he literally toppled from his carrier, was to fall into the arms of the first dog he met – a huge over-bred, deaf, blind, and somewhat aggressive Australian Shepherd named Sgt Pepper! They became lifelong friends and to this day the cat who had been almost killed by a dog, has never lost any opportunity to show his love to any dog, large or small who has crossed his path. This photograph shows the love they shared until Pepper's death in 2003.



2004 proved a great year for Oliver as it heralded the arrival of another great source of joy in his life – Joey the Chihuahua, who lived in a wheelchair – another special needs soul. The two became great friends and there are many photos depicting their close relationship.

Below here Oliver is shown in another well-known BH photograph with all the ginger cats in the well-known breakfast scene snapped by artist Colleen Caubin. This is a very poignant picture for us, as all but Oliver, Johnnie and Fred have since departed BrightHaven.



To the right meet Hope – a special blind and brain impaired girl well known to most of you already. Hope is, of course the latest love in Olive’s life - another Aussie to remind him of his true love, Pepper! You can see how she too, adores him!

For the last several years Oliver’s heart has been struggling to maintain balance, and as a result his breathing has gradually worsened and begun to sound raspy. Along with his amazing Dr. – Pat Bradley, we continue to dream that Olive will follow Frazier into the 30’s but see this may really be a dream. Olive, for that has been his long term nickname, is unconcerned about his breathing and his coughing, and, although in his twilight time, remains happy and loving, maintaining nothing to be a problem.

Life is good – just a bowl of cherries he says and, as his long time friend Stefanie, continues to live in the moment, in joy, until the next dog comes along..!

Both Stef and Oliver would like to hold up a paw at this point in support of classical veterinary homeopathy and ALL the BH veterinarians to whom we owe so much!



I can see no finer way to close this edition than to join with Oliver and Joey to very simply wish everyone the most wonderful holiday season, and to try in vain to express my sincere and warm thanks to you all for the love, support and friendship we have received this year.

BrightHaven is a place of magic and miracles, and to be able to share it with the world in so many ways is our dream come true.

With my love, blessings and gratitude to you all

Gail  
xx