

# BRIGHTHAVEN'S JANUARY UPDATE

Happy new year to everyone! – A little late I know, but we are still struggling to keep up with the fast pace that January has brought to BrightHaven, and better late than never I say!!!

CHRISTMAS AT BRIGHTHAVEN was wonderful this year as we were joined by our sister Stephanie and her daughter Elkie, plus our son, Justin flew up to join us from Southern California. Our daughter Kirstie, husband Roger and grand-daughter, Emma all live close by in Santa Rosa now, and so we had a real family gathering for the holidays – all three weeks of them!!

Starting off then with just a few BrightHaven silly animal holiday snaps to get us in the mood!

Top row: Edie, who has to be in on everything – Blanca with Bailey – and Panther, reluctantly!!



Left, is dear Furbee always ready to join in – and right is sweet Betsy, tired after a long day on my computer!



## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EDIE

Last month I ended with the words: *“We know not what future days will hold for Beauty, but, with the help of the amazing Dr Adriana once more, we hope and pray this may turn out to be just the beginning of the next chapter of her sweet life. Beauty is eating us out of house and home and says she is here to stay for a very long time!!”*

Well, her recent blood panel says she is nowhere out of the woods yet – Edie says “Ridiculous – there are no woods

around here”!! This lady is fast turning out to be THE most amazing spirit. She is truly a feline of the Oriental persuasion and literally has taken over the BH household. She has slept in every bed in the place and explored every inch of our house until selecting her favorite spots. Edie is to be found mostly these days reclining happily in the center of my bed, the comfiest couch or waiting in the food prep room for her next wonderful meal! This girl just relishes her natural diet and her fur is finally becoming sleek and glossy with very few remaining matts to remind us of those awfully dark early days.

Edie has a journey ahead we know – She is somewhat incontinent, for which she makes no excuse and, with a flip of her imaginary fan – just moves to a new bed to await the housekeeping staff!

I will leave it to a few of her most recent photographs to tell her story!



AND NOW FOR THE MAIN REASON FOR THE DELAY IN MY PRODUCING OUR NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH!!!!.....

INTRODUCING:

**“BLISS”  
BRIGHTHAVEN:  
LOVING  
INCREDIBLE  
SOULS AND  
SENIORS**

For the past several months, BrightHaven has been working with some extraordinary women who volunteer at animal shelters in Contra Costa and Orange counties. Recognizing the work BrightHaven was doing in seeking homes for a variety of pets with special needs, these women contacted me and asked if I would feature some of the vulnerable animals from the shelters on our flyers to the BrightHaven mailing list.

Most of us know that many shelters do not even attempt to seek homes for elderly, disabled, or ill pets. These animals are held for up to seventy-two hours, then are euthanized. Working with BH, these shelter volunteers began identifying at risk animals and sending their stories to me. Flyers were made, and people responded. BH and the volunteers negotiated longer holds at the shelters so transportation could be arranged.

Thus BLISS - BrightHaven: Loving Incredible Souls and Seniors, was born.

The BLISS program is being designed to rescue animals that are in immediate danger of being euthanized, particularly seniors. We want to make their last days, weeks, months, or years comfortable and in homes where people love and protect them.

I have asked a longtime BrightHaven friend and supporter, Joelle Yuna, to help us develop this rescue network. Joelle will work on the infrastructure to make sure we have the resources— foster homes, potential adoptive parents, hospice care, pet transportation—to accommodate the animals we remove from shelters and to streamline communications throughout our network.

Many friends of BrightHaven have sent emails offering to help.

If you haven't, please do.

If you have, look for an email from Joelle getting you involved with BLISS.



## A LITTLE FAMILY UPDATE NOW FOR THE AMAZING MS STEFANIE

So many of you are still asking me about our dear Stefanie's progress - I am sure you will all remember her roller coaster ride with her health last year -

Well she is just checking in to say hello to you all and to let you know she has never felt better!

Stef adored the turkey fare during the holiday season and actually managed to gain a little weight. She also tells us she has been lucky to engage her own personal, and terribly attentive hairdresser - in the form of dear Johnnie who, like any great stylist is just never satisfied with his work.....



## SIMON

January has been a somewhat hard on the heart month at BrightHaven as we said goodbye to a dear feral boy we named "Simon". I have just written his obituary and you will find it posted on the BrightHaven web site on our "In memoriam" page. I will also attach it with this newsletter.

I had not the pleasure of really knowing this wild boy for long, and can barely believe he tore my heart asunder so quickly as



he departed this earth. My obituary finishes with these beautiful words, which seem so appropriate in his memory::

*Like a comet blazing 'cross the evening sky, gone too soon.  
Like a rainbow fading in the twinkling of an eye, gone too soon.*

*Shiny and sparkly and splendidly bright.  
Here one day, gone one night.  
Like the loss of sunlight on a cloudy afternoon. Gone too soon.  
Like a castle built upon a sandy beach. Gone too soon.*

*Like a perfect flower that is just beyond your reach, gone too soon.  
Born to amuse, to inspire, to delight - here one day, gone one night.  
Like a sunset dying with the rising of the moon, gone too soon,  
Gone too soon"*

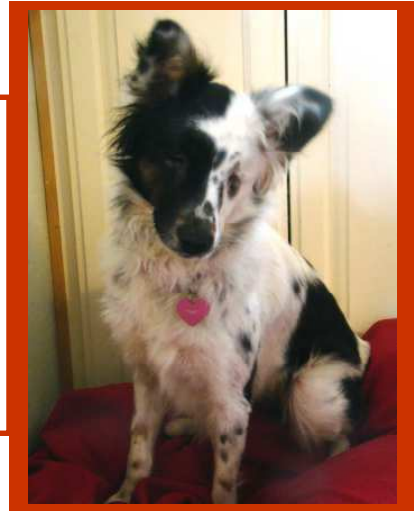
*Lyrics by Buz Kohan. Music by Larry Grossman.*

*Sung by Michael Jackson for Ryan White, a little boy who was a hemophiliac, and died of aids from a blood transfusion.*

*Simon too, had aids, and was gone too soon.*



After Oliver's death last month, Joey and Jessica, along with dear Hope, wanted to stop by to bid you a quick hello and to say all is well!!



I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH A LITTLE MORE ABOUT BLISS and a little more about our needs and how you might be able to help us, if you are able! Your love, prayers and blessings alone will be so much appreciated!

Along with the establishment of BLISS, we will be increasing our involvement in rescuing elderly and/or ill pets from shelters with high euthanasia practices. We are looking for friends who might help us defray the costs necessary to accommodate these vulnerable pets in loving homes.

We realize that many of our supporters, who love and care for animals, are unable to take in these pets for foster or hospice care. Others who are able, cannot always afford the costs.

The first item is the fee for a routine blood panel (\$60-120), which all pets need before we can ask someone to take an animal into their home.

The second charge is an adoption fee of \$25 to help cover the modest expenses of our rescue network.

This last week, we all worked diligently to find homes for:



Simon - a one-year-old blind, cream and chocolate point, male Siamese mix.  
AND WE DID!!

Our second success was a home for Orangeman, a 12-year-old short-haired cat (orange, of course) with a marbled fur pattern.  
He has a great personality.

Lastly this week, we placed a 20-year-old, crème and lynx point, neutered male, who was surrendered due to illness.

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

Would you help us?

Any donation you can make will benefit BLISS (and be tax deductible)

Please go to [Brighthaven.org](http://Brighthaven.org)

or send your check to BrightHaven. P.O. Box 1743, Sebastopol, CA 95473



STEFANIE SAYS:  
PHEW -THAT'S THE END!

MORE NEXT MONTH  
FROM THE  
BRIGHTHAVEN FAMILY

WITH LOVE AND  
BLESSINGS  
GAIL  
XX