

March/April 2005



A healing arts center for animals

BrightHaven,
an animal place of love and learning,
where senior and special needs animals are cared for
naturally in a unique family environment,
is dedicated to implementing innovative and high quality practices
and the sharing of knowledge from our experiences of healing,
through our programs of education to help people to help animals.



Sammi enjoying the Spring sunshine



A view of BrightHaven from the pond

Dearest Friends,

Hello everyone!

With the coming of spring we are excited to announce some changes at BrightHaven – all for the better of course!!!

BrightHaven over the last few months has been looking at its role in animal well being for the future and upon considering the many animals we have saved and the vast amount of knowledge we have gained, has decided to embrace a direction that will ensure our work will endure and be able to reach many more deserving souls.

After many hours of meetings and brainstorming sessions we have decided on the following exhilarating plan:

- BrightHaven will carry on with its important work of rescuing senior and special needs animals.
- BrightHaven will commence an outreach program to help individuals care for their animals with special needs in their own homes.
- BrightHaven will offer a wide range of consultation services to the public; advising on elderly animal care including the management of chronic health problems, the natural diet, behavioural issues, and also the circle of life process of death and grief.
- BrightHaven will start a series of seminars, lectures and discussions bringing its wealth of knowledge to thousands of pet owners and helping thousands of animals.
- To ensure we are dynamically ready to forge ahead with the above we have completed two very important steps
 - a. BrightHaven has defined its very essence with the following statement.

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- b. BrightHaven has produced a new awareness campaign with a suite of tag lines that can be attached to its name " BrightHaven " - a reason for animals.

As part of these exciting changes we have also taken the step of updating our logo, which now describes who we are more clearly. (The artwork for this is not quite ready at the time of printing and so you will see it next month!) This is most exciting for us knowing we can touch many more animals with our new direction in one year than we could previously help in a lifetime.
I will keep you posted on our progress.

CONTENTS THIS MONTH:

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2. The last month at BH
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4. Volunteer news and profile
5. "Brighthaven Miracle stories"
6. Around and about at BrightHaven:
Events, What's in the pipeline and Special projects.

The San Francisco New Living Expo

Date: April 22, 23, 24th 2005

Over 250 Exhibitors~Over 150 Speakers~Natural Foods Dining~Expo Bookstore~Workshops

http://www.newlivingexpo.com/archive/index_2003.html

Please come and visit our booth!!

1. ANIMAL NEWS AND UPDATES

Spring....renewal, reflection and change.

Once again Spring is upon us and BrightHaven is buzzing with excitement, as animals and humans alike are energized by the new season. We are all being teased by the warm days that tempt us to believe the rains have passed and summer is around the corner. Spring is a glorious time of year and it seems that every moment we are reminded to stop and witness the magic of renewal and change.

We are delighted to see our old fogies – cats and dogs alike enjoying their lives with new vigor. When we see a 21 year old cat leaping and playing with a sunbeam it is a reminder of the reason for BrightHaven.

The BrightHaven fowl are chasing each other and ruffling their feathers – happy to find a convenient mud-bath in the drying soil. The goat girls are happily frolicking in the new luscious green grass and jumping about unable to contain their excitement. The horses are shedding their no longer needed thick winter coats....In fact, after Sam finished grooming Bellestar recently, they both appeared to be standing in a snow bank of fuzz. The horses all seem to be filled with the fever of spring and are bucking, and rearing to show their approval.

One person who is surprising and delighting us with his spring fever is 19year old Ollie, who seems to have totally forgotten his age and recent immobility as he is seen careering and actually jumping with delight in his wheelchair as he waits impatiently for his next walk in the gardens. He tells us that he is considering placing an ad for more volunteers to be able to handle the demand for his walks!!



Ollie (left) sunbathing on the front porch with his friend Tim



More spring pictures!
Christy Ollie and Joey-D
enjoying the sunshine and
Margaret taking advantage of the
weather to start her planting for
the year!!

Won't you please join with us in our appreciation of the incredible metamorphosis that comes with the renewal and changes that are brought to us by this beautiful time of the year.

2. THE LAST MONTH AT BRIGHTHAVEN

THE BRIGHTHAVEN TEAM IS LEARNING REIKI!

On March 1st and 2nd BrightHaven was honored to have Kathleen Prasad, Reiki Master and founder of Animal Reiki Source, teach a two day workshop for our entire staff and four friends. The beginning Reiki course was a perfect addition for the continuation of our ongoing learning on how to help balance and heal our loved ones.

The first day of the workshop was focused on the background of Reiki and techniques for practice on humans. Kathleen set up two massage tables and the humans, who were quickly joined by many of the BrightHaven cats, began taking turns working on each other. As animal people it was a nice change to focus healing on each other, something we all probably need to spend more time at. Although focused on the task at hand, the cats brought their various points of humor to the situation to be sure we didn't take ourselves too seriously.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to our animal friends and how Kathleen, through years of experience with hundreds of animals, has found what she feels is the best approach to have successful treatments with Reiki healing. Everyone enjoyed the days tremendously and we are all sharing stories of our experiences using Reiki on both our animal friends and some humans too. Kathleen is a wonderful teacher; her devotion and respect for animals combined with her gentle but powerful nature made learning Reiki a joyous experience for us all.

Kathleen has offered to do another beginning Reiki workshop for anyone interested and also a level two course once all of us "beginners" are ready. She will also be coming to BrightHaven once a month to contribute her healing skills for the animals here and has invited anyone to come who would like additional instruction or has any questions for her.



Please contact Suzy at suzy@brighthaven.org or call us 707 578 4800 if you are interested in learning Reiki.

A WEEKEND AT BRIGHTHAVEN!!

I am delighted to report that we are already receiving bookings for this year and would just like to remind you that we now offer

“Bed and Breakfast – with a difference” here at BrightHaven!!

You will have the comfort of your own bedroom and bathroom with access to a lovely little garden. Perhaps one of the many BrightHaven residents will choose to spend the night with you. You will be welcome to experience animal feeding time Saturday evening and also Sunday morning. You will also have the opportunity to get to know Gail and Richard better over a glass of wine and dinner. Gail and Richard will be happy to discuss your animal concerns (or not!) during your stay and, of course you will be welcome to stay at BrightHaven and be part of our family during your visit or take the time to go wine-tasting or exploring in the gorgeous local countryside.

The cost: a tax-deductible donation to BrightHaven of \$200.00.



The San Francisco Marine Mammal Center meets BrightHaven!



Thanks to BrightHaven volunteer Susan Burns we have, over the last few weeks been priviledged to take turns to visit and volunteer a little at the San Francisco Marine Mammal Center and have been truly awed by the amazing work done there with such special animals in need. This week we were lucky to return the favor and have Susan introduce TMMC volunteers Richard Vance and his lovely wife Kate to BrightHaven’s animal family! You can see them pictured being escorted by Joey-D and Susan.

<http://www.marinemammalcenter.org/index.asp>

A BRIGHTHAVEN STAFF MEETING!!



Fray, Gail, Suzy and Blanca

Suzy can always be relied upon to make us see the funny side of the situation!!

ANIMAL OUTREACH

In accordance with our new direction, BrightHaven is pushing forward with the expansion of our outreach program. We are dedicated to building a program that is really committed to helping people help their own animals, as well as doing what we can to orchestrate the rescue of many more needy animals in the community.

The BrightHaven outreach program will have two main areas of focus:

1. The BrightHaven email database of like minded friends of BrightHaven as well as rescue organizations.
As most of you know I have been working hard at this project and have recently sent out a good many stories and have been delighted with the responses received. We have been successful in helping almost all of the cases taken on so far.

We are now receiving many applications and are accepting appeals on behalf of animals who qualify for BrightHaven entrance, but that sadly we must refuse.

You can help please in the following ways:

- a. By allowing me to add your name to my list – if you are not already receiving these appeals.
 - b. By telling friends and family of the project and asking them to send in their email addresses also.
2. The BrightHaven “at-home” program.

Suzy and Sam are just starting to build and develop our “at-home” program and hope to have it available in the near future. The program is being designed with the blessing and cooperation of the veterinary community with whom we will liaise very carefully to better serve their clients. The service will require a veterinarian referral or approval.

The at-home program will offer the following services:

- a. In-home visits by a BH team member to help with advice and care of a chronically ill animal.
- b. Tuition of simple medical care – ie: the administration of subcutaneous fluid therapy, or other care which may be needed and unable to be performed at home by the animal guardian.
- c. Advice regarding behavioral issues – on site where we can better observe the problem!!
- d. Advice to help improve nutrition, and to find the best quality natural diet for your special needs animal.
- e. Help with the care of a senior, special needs or disabled animal.
- f. A valuable lifeline of support will be available for those with questions and concerns as an animal is reaching the end of their life.

THE ROSE CEREMONY

Since my last newsletter we have held three ceremonies – the first with the lovely Lila Devi

LILA DEVI

This time, we were fortunate to have a special friend of the animals, Lila Devi Stone, leading our ceremony. Lila is a minister with the Ananda Church and has adapted their ceremony for humans, called an astral ascension ceremony, for pets who have passed.

Lila is a spokesperson for the animals, helping people work in harmony with their animal friends.

She has created a line of flower essences and written books, one of which is *Flower Essences for Animals, Remedies for Helping the Pets You Love*.



Lila also sings beautifully and brought her guitar along with her.

We all spent a most delightful afternoon filled with joy, laughter and also a few tears.

Thank you Lila!

The second ceremony was held on March 13th and Richard and Gail being out of town that weekend, was ably conducted by Susanna, who even offered poetry to our guests.



The third ceremony took place Sunday April 10th, when we were delighted to welcome several new guests to BrightHaven, including Nancy Lawson who visited us all the way from Australia to meet her late Mother's cats T.T., Oscar and Betsy.

We would love to welcome you to any BrightHaven Rose Ceremony. They are held on the second Sunday of every month at 2pm.



3. A FAMILY PROFILE

SUZANNE TOMLINSON

You will no doubt by now be familiar with the bright and cheery smile with which Suzy greets each and every BrightHaven day! Suzanne joined the BrightHaven team in the fall of 2002, after a varied veterinary technician's career. She had an interest in holistic medicine and decided this would be a great way to learn more. Well, of course Suzy got caught up in the addictive world of natural medicine very quickly and became completely hooked! – Not to mention that she also fell deeply and irrevocably in love with all the BrightHaven animals too!



Suzy at work in the BH clinic



Suzy shown here with her darling Kaya

Suzy's daily responsibilities are varied, all the way from daily medical care with Sam's assistance, to fundraising, PR and Marketing.

This bright, versatile and bubbly young lady has recently expanded her talents to organizing our wonderful team of volunteers.

Suzy loves to give tours of BrightHaven, which she does with a huge sense of pride. Suzanne lives on property too, with her own family of 2 dogs and 3 cats who all, of course love their natural diet and lifestyle.

2. VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are sad to be saying farewell very soon to our friend and volunteer **CONNIE ATTEBURY**, as she relocates to the Washington area.



Connie is shown here with her best friend Tim

Connie has been helping out at BrightHaven since we arrived from Southern California and will be a sad loss, and especially missed by our dear Tim who is her very close friend. Connie sadly said goodbye to her own two beloved cat friends, who left this earth in recent months and has subsequently been a participant in many of the BrightHaven Rose Ceremonies as she shared her happy and poignant memories with us.



Here you see Connie with another BH good friend, Mindy Nasland.

Our thanks and good luck wishes go with you Connie!

5 BRIGHTHAVEN MIRACLE STORIES"

Bentley continues as a shining star at BrightHaven these days as he continues to amaze everyone by his ability to rise above his disabilities. Here is a cat with a broken back of several months, who is able to get up on to the furniture, my bed and a window-ledge with ease and alacrity and as if that wasn't enough to impress us all... not only can he now WALK he can also RUN and JUMP with ease!!!

Is this boy a miracle or what?



As so very often happens here, we are truly humbled by the courage and the strength of a special needs animal, like Bentley who shows an easy ability to rise above or conquer a disability, find another way forward and always wear a huge smile upon his face!!

6 AROUND AND ABOUT AT BRIGHTHAVEN

- a. What's in the pipeline.
- b. Special projects
- c. Help with our wish list – some products you may be able to contribute to help us.

6A. WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE?

The San Francisco New Living Expo

Date: April 22, 23, 24th 2005

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Please come and visit our booth!!

The next Rose Ceremony to be held at BrightHaven
The ceremony is held on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

Date: May 8th 2005

A weekend at Brighthaven

Date: Please call the BH office for available dates.

Seminars in 2005 –venues to be announced
- In conjunction with Animal Wellness Magazine
Merritt Naturals and Prozyme Products.

Date: Watch for more details soon

Watch out for the BrightHaven Un-brunch

Coming your way very soon!

BrightHaven mugs, T-shirts, mouse pads and License plates: **Available now!!**

For a donation of \$50.00 we will be please to send you any of the above items, personalized with the animal of your choice, except of course the license plate holder and for that you can choose the wording to appear on the bottom from either:

Happy healthy animals or A reason for animals

Please email Suzy at Suzy@brighthaven.org to place your order and arrange the details.

6B SPECIAL PROJECTS WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP WITH:

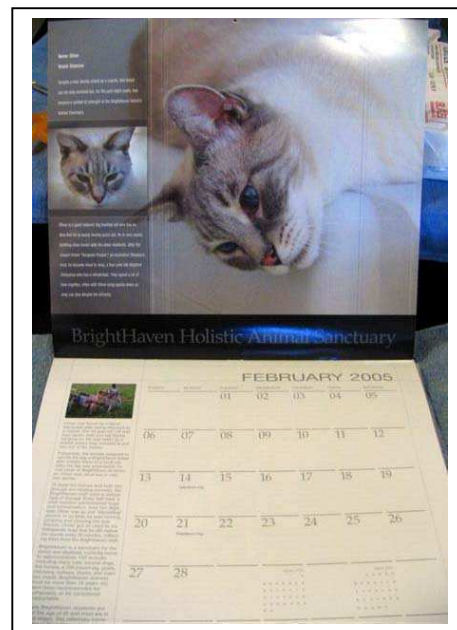
SAVED BY A WHISKER

is a very special, and extremely beautiful calendar that features Animal Welfare and Rescue Organizations. It features inspiring stories and pictures of many rescued animals and there is a separate cat and a dog calendar too. Of course any profits go directly to help the animals. The calendars are the dream and brainchild of a wonderful lady called Ami Dempsey, who has worked tirelessly for the last two years to launch this project. For the present Ami and her husband have financed the project and struggled to make ends meet. They are determined to make this effort a grand success and benefit a huge amount of animals but they need YOUR help. We are selling the calendar this year for \$20. (plus s&h) and Brighthaven will accept a donation of \$5. per calendar. With your support enough can be made this year to enable Ami to sell the calendars more cheaply next year as well as donate much more to the world of rescue.

Brighthaven is proud to announce that “Oliver” the cat is featured for Brighthaven this year and debuts as Mr February.

Joey-D is very happy that he managed to sneak into a picture too!

We are doubly proud to announce also that Susanna is responsible for the beautiful photography for February.



Come on now folks – You just have to buy one now – don’t you – please??????

Spring projects!!!

We are still seeking people to volunteer to join a team day to help us with our on-site building and maintenance projects e.g. farmyard houses/shelters, fencing for horses, pigs and goats, painting and all sorts of maintenance issues –both indoors and out.

A huge project we are sending out a plea for help with is our cat gardens. Since our arrival here in Santa Rosa we are proud to achieved lots of redecoration and changes to benefit the animals. We have even managed the basic construction of some cat garden areas. Basic being the word!!!

We need to turn these areas into the beautiful and tranquil settings our animals have been previously used to.

We must – provide a watering system

We must – provide patio areas and hardscaping

We must – provide flower beds and fill them with bushes and suitable cat proof plants and trees for fun and shade.

We must – provide areas of lawn upon which to sunbathe and for eating too!

We must – provide water holes...well actually water features are our aim – such as rockeries with water flowing and fountains – excellent for Feng Shui purposes too.

So – all in all – we have a mammoth task. We boast of the beauty of BrightHaven and are determined to live up to it once again. Please consider helping us in any way you are able.

- Come and help us – call Sam at 707 578 4800 or email Sam@brighthaven.org for information and team day dates
- Donate towards the construction work
- Donate towards our purchase of plants, trees, fountains, and other features.
- Donate towards our purchase of cat friendly outdoor furniture
- Donate towards our purchase of suitable climbing and playing outdoor amusements!

6C HELP WITH OUR WISH LIST – SOME PRODUCTS YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO HELP

Play room furniture and toys

Coolaroo's® Small Pet Bed (for pets up to 35 lbs) **Item Number/Name:** CL317263 - Small Pet Bed
<http://www.outdoordecor.com/cgi-local/SoftCart.exe/online-store/scstore/p-CL317263.html?L+scstore+v1zk6968Overture-Manufacturersf968a96+1111714945>

Baskets

Wicker baskets of all sizes – the cats just love them!!

Diapers for Tim:

Pampers – Stretch – 8-14lbs

Diapers for Ollie, Alfie and Joey-D

Poise Pads – Extra Plus (60 count pack)

Glucose strips for blood testing
for diabetics: Arthur and Vancouver:

Any pharmacy; Accu check Comfort curve glucose test strips

Paper towels:

Your choice!

**** STOP PRESS**

Long time Brighthaven friend, homeopath and educator Dr Dee Blanco has started a delightful new way to offer her educational workshops and I am thrilled to be able to explain this new project to you. Dr Dee has decided to offer tuition on topics very close and special to our hearts:-

Nutrition for cats and dogs

and

The Vaccine Controversy

By telephone consultation - as part of a small group.

The cost: \$90, which gives one and a half hours consultation time and also allows question time.

You can reach Dr Dee to make an enquiry or a booking at 505 986 3434.

Dee has been helping, guiding, and giving us her inspiration for many years now and I heartily recommend you to take advantage of this special offer.

I know you will enjoy every single moment of your tuition.

Well folks, that's the latest from BrightHaven for this month. I do hope you have enjoyed catching up with our news. Please let me know by email if there is anything you would like me to include in future newsletters. I will be happy to add or change the content.

The BrightHaven vision is important for animals and humans alike.

**Albert Schweitzer once said
"A nation can be judged by the way it treats its animals"**



Please join with us as we work towards making this world a better place where people will join together with people to help animals.

Together we *can and are* making a difference.

With warmest regards,
Gail Pope
Founder and President

***Please note our new P.O. Box mailing address:**

You can donate to help our cause.....
by check, cash or money order
by credit card via our web site,
or simply by telephone to our office
or by PayPal at www.paypal.com

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