

November/December
2004



An Animal Sanctuary ~ A Non-Profit Organization

BrightHaven's mission

BrightHaven is a retirement retreat and sanctuary for over 90 senior and disabled animals. BrightHaven is committed to the rescue, care and enhancement of the lives of these special animals. BrightHaven is also dedicated to a program of research and education arising from the extraordinary results seen when the balance of natural feeding, holistic care and modern medicine is used in a loving family environment.

“People helping people to help animals”



L-R: Bobbi (cat), Mindy (vol), Kirstie (Pope) Cricket (dog), Richard, Gail, Joey-D, Connie, Roger (K's fiancé)



“Emily”- in black – contemplating Bruce (L), and Georgette as Christmas fayre!!

We are BrightHaven. a family - a sanctuary - a way of life.

Every BrightHaven animal or human has his or her own unique story and experience that has brought us all together.

We are a sanctuary where each and every life will be honored, respected and cared for the rest of their days.

Their days will be an accumulation of treasured recollections of kind words, gentle touch, warm beds, delicious food, soft kisses, and immeasurable love.

We are BrightHaven and we are led by a rhythm of positive energy, where we invite all methods of healing to unite to find balance for body, mind and spirit.

BrightHaven is a way of life: It is long days filled with endless work, It is filled with joy and miracles, sharing and caring, laughter, loss, tears, healing and love. Once you have experienced the magic of BrightHaven it will never leave you.

Dearest friends,

Well, Thanksgiving flew by quickly this year, with Richard and I taking three wonderful days off to entertain our family here at home with the animals. Thanks to Susanna, Suzy and Sam, - Kirstie and fiancé Roger, along with Justin and his wife Rebecca joined us for three days of fun – lazing late in bed - exploring Sebastopol and dining out in all manner of wonderful places, without animals treading in our plates – such a novel experience for us!!!

We are now fast approaching the Christmas season with everyone getting busier and busier. BrightHaven will be sending out our seasonal Membership Drive letter in the mail shortly and I do hope you will all decide to renew your membership or find it in your heart to send us a Christmas donation for the animals, especially “Thomas Bentley”, about whom I shall be writing a little further on in this letter.

I encourage you to email me your address to ensure you have a place in our mailing database, and please spread the word about BrightHaven to some of your friends or colleagues who love animals and may like to look at our website – www.brighthaven.org or receive my newsletter by email.

Contents this month:

1. Animal news
2. The last month at BH
3. A family profile
4. Volunteer news and profile
5. The BrightHaven video
6. Around and about at BrightHaven: Events, What’s in the pipeline and Special projects.

1. Animal news and updates

At this point I usually begin with a few updates on the progress of some of our newer arrivals, but in this Christmas month I would like to begin a little differently:-

As most of you will no doubt be aware, we treat our residents here almost exclusively with homeopathy and have a terrific team of volunteer homeopaths who help guide the health of our animals. In this season of joy and gratitude I would like to offer our loving and most sincere thanks to the select group of professionals who go above and beyond any call of duty to help our animals by day or night.

If you may be considering using the services of a professional veterinary homeopath for the health care of your animal friend, I would strongly advise you to call any one of our BrightHaven veterinarians – listed below in alphabetical order: Remember you can consult with them by telephone – a blessing indeed!

Dr Magda Aquilla 864 220 9125	Dr Jeff Levy 413 268 3000 ***
Dr Christine Barrett 530 637 5235 ***	Dr Laurie Lofton 401 568 4154
Dr Dee Blanco 505 986 3434	Dr Charles Loops 919 542 0442
Dr Diana Bochenski 805 688 2334 ***	Dr Adriana Sagrera 504 834 2023
Dr Pat Bradley 501 329 7727	Dr Dawn Waltonbaugh 352 797 9443
Dr Larry Bruk 415 381 0723 ***	Dr Todd Webster 505 899 4214
Dr Christina Chambreau 410 771 4968	Dr Michelle Yasson 845 658 3923
Dr Jeff Feinman 203 222 7979	Dr Arthur Young 772 286 3897 *** The BH
Dr Anthony Krawitz 561 241 7177	farmyard is in his care!

*** Over 3 BrightHaven animal patients at any one time!!!

My sincere and everlasting thanks and Christmas wishes must also extend to our other healthcare professionals:

Vicki Allinson: Bowen pain therapy and Animal communication 928 445 3939

Tere Crocker: Conventional Equine care 707 543 8186

Dr Robert Goldstein: The Healing Center For Animals 888 533 5162

Dr Lisa Pesch: Acupuncture -Veterinary Healing Arts Center 707-874-3828

Emily Bauman: Clean and Happy Pet Grooming (707) 585-0848

Dr Nancy Walters: Occidental Veterinary Hospital 707 874 2417

And to.....

Dr Doug Coward: The Animal and Bird Clinic of Mission Viejo, in Southern California
– for his eternal friendship and ready advice! 949 768 3651

And so let's now talk about animals!!!

...and so this is **Blue** – happy and playing again!

Blue is receiving acupuncture treatments regularly from Dr Lisa Pesch and I am sure you can see the change in this boy! What a treat it is to see him leaping and playing and having fun –here with a catnip toy! Blue adores his new natural diet, is gaining weight – and already developing rich and luxurious fur. Even his eyes are starting to shine with growing health. Poor Blue still suffers a little embarrassment at having his bladder and bowels expressed, but the whole process is sooo much easier since his therapy, that we are confident his journey will become easier as time progresses.



You may have already read about the recent arrival of the girl chicks – **Scarlett** (O’Hara) and **Melanie** (Wilkes), from “Gone with the Wind” by Margaret Mitchell. If not please visit our web site at

http://www.brighthaven.org/new_arrivals.html
to read their story.

Sam is now their proud “Mother” and the girls are happily training him to do tricks. They love to be carried around on his arm – and even on his head on occasion! It is clear this is a labor of love for them all, and today the girls proudly presented Sam with their first egg – and in his eyes it was undoubtedly golden!!

Sam is now in charge of all the BrightHaven “birds” and is happily making preparations to rescue more of these cute girls from a Lake County shelter.

“Thomas-Bentley”

After Chris Smith’s heartwarming story in the Press Democrat at Thanksgiving, Bentley has become somewhat of a celebrity around here!

If you have already read Bentley’s welcome story you will recall that he was run over by a car and suffered multiple injuries... a broken back, fractured pelvis and leg.

Being taken to Dr Nancy Walters of Occidental Veterinary Hospital was his second big break (pardon me please!!!) as this lovely lady fell for this cute boy and determined to save his life, with the skill and talent of Petaluma specialist Dr Russ Gurevitch.

...and so Bentley came to live with us the day before Thanksgiving with a new hair cut, many sutures and a big smile. He wasted no time at all in demonstrating his determination to walk again as he performs his antics daily to balance on his one unstable leg. He has made it clear that whatever it takes – that he is going to be VERY MOBILE!! Look out Brighthaven!!!!

We are hopeful he may walk again one day and in the meantime plan various therapies as well as a new wheelchair with which to race with Joey-D and Ollie!!

Of course one must not make the mistake of reckoning without the input of our “Timmy”, who lost no time at all in educating Bentley in the art of scooting. After many discussions regarding mice, dogs, diet, trees, grass and other such feline nonsensicals they have agreed to practice together often to ensure that Bentley acquires the correct level of mischievousness – whether he walks - wobbles dangerously on one leg – or scoots.

Tim maintains that it doesn’t matter much what you do – as long as you have fun doing it!

Tim says this is his motto and Bentley has agreed to follow it well:



“Learn as if you were going to live forever. Live as if you were going to die tomorrow”.
-Mahatma Gandhi

Meet “Dafne-Ann”

You will by now have read the sweet story of Dafne-Ann’s arrival at BH this month.

http://www.brighthaven.org/new_arrivals.html

Her human Mother of fourteen years recently died leaving Dafne-Ann bereft and then subsequently diagnosed with stomach cancer. Dafne-Ann is already quite well settled into a small but very pretty and private cubby located just off the living room, which she has found to be purrrfectly located for room service!!

This shy girl is surprisingly already out n about quite a lot - hates the cold weather and loves to seek a cozy fire-side lap or preferably a shoulder to perch on. Suzy is seeking a new vet for her and I will update you on her progress next month.



Spike



As the weather gets colder daily, Richard generally keeps a fire blazing in the living room hearth at night. Both Dafne-Ann and Spike were very happy to demonstrate their pleasure for us to photograph!

Poor Spike has had a harrowing month due terribly painful, swollen and ulcerative tissue in his mouth. Thanks to the miracle of homeopathy he is now starting to eat again and can happily be seen playing - as well as taking his “life in his paws” as he unmercifully claws at my furniture!! I plan a serious discussion with him soon to discuss a possible New Year’s resolution!

Chester



This month has also been a scary time for Chester as he found himself having most of his teeth removed as he became unable to eat due to a possible cancerous mass in his mouth. A biopsy happily revealed no cancer but the old dreaded disease “stomatitis” – well known over the years to Brighthaven. Happily Chester is already responding well to homeopathy. His mouth is almost back to normal and his large and healthy appetite has already returned with a vengeance! You have only to look at the glow in his eyes to see his progress!!! What a very handsome chap he is!

2. The last month at BrightHaven

A Gentle Dental Day

.....and what an exciting one it proved to be as we watched no less than seventeen lucky cats and dogs receive the tender loving skills of Peigi and Maia who are so well practiced at their art that we were both humbled and awed by their work for the BrightHaven animals. Should you be concerned about a dental using anesthesia for your animal friend – please do not hesitate to give the ladies a call. I just know you will be thrilled with the results you see. You would be very welcome to call us also for our comments and recommendation. Quite frankly we can hardly wait until their next visit and already have the animal line-up planned!! Here are Peigi and Maia visiting with our goat girls Dorothy and Paloma.



Peigi Cleminshaw
Hounds Tooth Check
510 381 2924

Maia Bazjanac
Maia Bee Teeth Cleaning
510 325 7098

NAPPS

October the 15th and 16th saw the NAPPS Southwest Region 2nd Annual Professional Pet Sitter Rally, held this year at the Clarion Hotel in Millbrae. The conference was organized by BrightHaven volunteer Jan Brown, and was again an outstanding success offering seminars, a round table discussion as well as sponsor and vendor tables, not to mention an outstanding vegetarian lunch! Jan offered BrightHaven literature and had promoted us well as she later proudly presented us with a donation of \$614.00.

Please think of us if you have an animal loving friend, family or work colleague who might just be interested in planning a small function.....and could perhaps donate a portion of the proceeds to Brighthaven!!

Thanks to the Brighthaven volunteer team!!

November 13th was the day chosen for this year's volunteer brunch and this year we chose the Chinese Restaurant Fu Zhou in Santa Rosa as our venue. The restaurant offers an outstanding buffet and we were happy to see a huge turn out on the day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A weekend at Brighthaven!!

This month an interesting thing happened at BrightHaven. One of our volunteers, Keri Epperson came to stay with us and in doing so gave us food for thought in a very different way!

Keri recently moved to Sacramento and consequently cannot now visit us as often as she would wish to spend time with her favorite goat girl – Dorothy.

Keri came to stay with us last month and tells me that spending a Saturday night with a BH cat in her bedroom and experiencing the feeding regimens both Saturday evening and Sunday morning, not to mention Richard's cooking Saturday night.....was an invaluable experience.

Keri gave us a lovely donation for her pleasurable (if busy!) stay-over and suggested that we make this available to anyone who might like to experience "life at BH" in a little more detail!!!

So.....we are now considering making this available for anyone wishing to subject themselves to an “in-depth” Brighthaven experience.
Please let me know if you would be interested to kick off the proceedings with a New Year booking.
More details follow below in our calendar of events.....

Animal outreach

As you know, Brighthaven offers sanctuary to the senior and disabled, but we are always concerned as we receive numerous calls and emails regarding other animals that we are unable to accept. In recent months we have been working hard to extend our network of concerned citizens and organizations to work together to try to help some of these animals and I have been greatly encouraged by the success stories ensuing. So far each one we have taken on has found either a foster or a permanent home.
A huge vote of thanks then to all of you out there who are helping us in these endeavors. I encourage you to pass along my email address to others who may wish to help spread the word. The more we can expand our network the more animals can be saved.

In this light I would also value the names and email addresses of other rescue folk or organizations out there who would love to join with us in expanding this mission.

The Rose Ceremony

Last month’s Rose Ceremony was a very small, simple and lovely affair as we honored our “Boots” and “Edwina”, <http://www.brighthaven.org/memorial.html> along with “Luciano”; beloved corgi of BrightHaven friend Susan Corso.

Please see the calendar below for our next month’s date. We would love to welcome you.

3. A family profile

Enid Margaret (Souster), generally known to all as Margaret - is my Mum!!



Margaret left her much loved home in England to come and live with us after my Dad Douglas” died, and has been living here now for almost a decade!! She lives “next door” and is just a few short steps down a pathway should she – or we (!!) need help. I suspect I derive my love of animals (and roses too) from my Mum as I simply cannot recall a time growing up when we did not have a cat or dog or even a family of gerbils living with us. She even tolerated my stick insects as I became more diverse in my love for “beings”. Mummy shares her small home with her own happy band of seven cats – all Brighthaven rescues of course, but can often be found next door checking on the lonesome or sick and giving them her love and attention. Dave – our only large and outdoor dog adores her – and says it is definitely nothing to do with the treats she may offer as she passes through on her ministry of love!

4. Volunteer news

Our volunteer profile this month is Christy Johnson.

You will by now have seen or heard Christy's name mentioned quite often around here as she brings joy to our world, and especially with her remarkable ministry to the animals. Christy is a gentle soul, beloved by humans and animals alike and who would ever guess that this sweet lady leads a double life – and the other half is that of a busy professional managing a large office team. Should you find Christy at home in Santa Rosa, you would not be surprised to find her curled up with her husband Rick as well as their five adorable felines! Christy heads up our BH volunteer team and does orientation tours as often as she can fit them in.



Here you can see Christy sharing a joke with Ollie as they rake leaves together!!



You will recall my report last month that **Scharleen Oxendine** has volunteered her services to help us with all things “computer” as well as web site maintenance. Well Scharleen has been spending time teaching Susanna some of the tricks of her trade! So – watch out for all their changes and updates coming very soon now!!

Scharleen is also working on a new design for our database, which I know will keep Susanna smiling cheerily for months to come.

Many of you have commented on the incredibly beautiful design of our web site and for this, special thanks go to the very talented **Kim Hughes**, who can be contacted by telephone: 707.933.9774 or at her portfolio site: www.kimhughes.net.

Colleen Caubin is our resident pet portrait artist.

Her work has graced magazine covers and hangs in collections across the US.

Colleen has graciously donated a portrait pastel painting for our membership drive and everyone has a chance to win.

Your donation, however large or small to BrightHaven this season will automatically register your name in the drawing, to be held on January 5th 2005.

Please visit our web site for detailed information.

** Colleen can work from photographs, if you are too distant for her to come personally.





Marigolds and Midnight.

This was one of my first paid commissions nearly 25 years ago, and it's still one of my favorites. Midnight was your typical scruffy black altered tom; not really interested in having his picture done. I snapped a few shots down on the floor, and on my way out took a picture of some marigolds that caught my eye by a brick wall. When it came time to do the portrait, I combined the two. Midnight's guardian, told me afterwards. "That spot on the wall is his favorite afternoon nap place and you captured his expression perfectly".

Hearing that made my heart sing, and it's always what I strive for in my work.

"This is a pastel painting of Henry, an old cat I saw in Carson City Nevada. He lived at a tiny garage/ gas station run by a really old cowboy. This guy was tough as nails - missing teeth, broken nose, spitting tobacco, but he had such a soft spot for this cat. I was struck by the light and the mood and created this from a photo I took".



** To ensure receipt of your membership drive letter please call the BrightHaven office (707 578 4800) or email us at info@brighthaven.org

5. The BrightHaven video

You will recall that Dawn and Jason of Fine Dining productions have been working on production of our video and they now tell us that it is ready, and so we are eagerly awaiting their visit to present it. The talented and accomplished Fine Dining Productions have already created training videos for the SPCA of San Francisco and we are thrilled that they offered their talents to Brighthaven. More next month.....

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

Date: December 12th 2004

A weekend at Brighthaven

For a tax-deductible donation of \$200.00 you can enjoy an overnight stay 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.

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

6b Special projects we are asking for your help with this month:

We have to get busy with our permit application to the County and, as part of that process we require the services of an **architect** to draw up our plans for the future BrightHaven. If you know someone who may be able to donate his or her services or at least give us a great deal – do please call me.

We would love to find a printing company that can help us with the enormous printing costs for mailing our newsletters.

Men required please!! It seems that us girls just can't cut it!! Sam is getting desperate for help with on-site building projects e.g. farmyard houses/shelters, fencing for horses, pigs and goats, painting and all sorts of maintenance issues –both indoors and out.

6c Help with our wish list – some products you may be able to contribute to help

For Christmas first!!!

All sorts of cat toys, including catnip mice, feather wands and also any type of cat scratcher (Trader Joe's are good) or scratching posts – The cats dream of tall, carpeted condos to climb on and sleep in!

Baskets and any type of cat beds are always welcomed! (Second hand is always good!)

Dog wraps...for the little dogs to help with their incontinence problems! Ollie will thank you for Alfie will thank you for	Care-a-Lot: www.carealotpets.com or 800343 7680 *Male doggy wrap* Item #4870 Color: Plaid Size M Item # 4871 Color: Plaid Size L
Toner cartridges	Hewlett Packard ColorLaserjet 4550N Black (C4191A), Magenta (C4193A), Yellow (C4194A), Cyan (C4192A)
HP Color LaserJet 4550N	Drum Kit
Diapers for Tim:	Pampers – <u>Stretch</u> – 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!

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 make a difference.

With warmest regards,
Gail Pope
Founder and President

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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