

BRIGHTHAVEN OCTOBER UPDATE

Busy days at BrightHaven as the BrightHaven Network flourishes, proving our motto of “People helping People to help Animals”. Much going on always, and time now to update you on family matters this month.

VANCOUVER



You will recall reading last month of Vancouver’s long period of winding down to leave this earth. Well dear Vanman finally died on Friday 2nd October at 5:27pm. Vancouver died in my arms with Richard and Fray both present, and I want to mention that his passing truly was the most sweet, gentle and peaceful of all.

Van was truly in a state of bliss for the last several days of his life and in his last hours and minutes that state did not change for even a second. He almost wore a serene

smile on his face and was able to maintain eye contact and give a gentle squeeze of his paw right to the end.

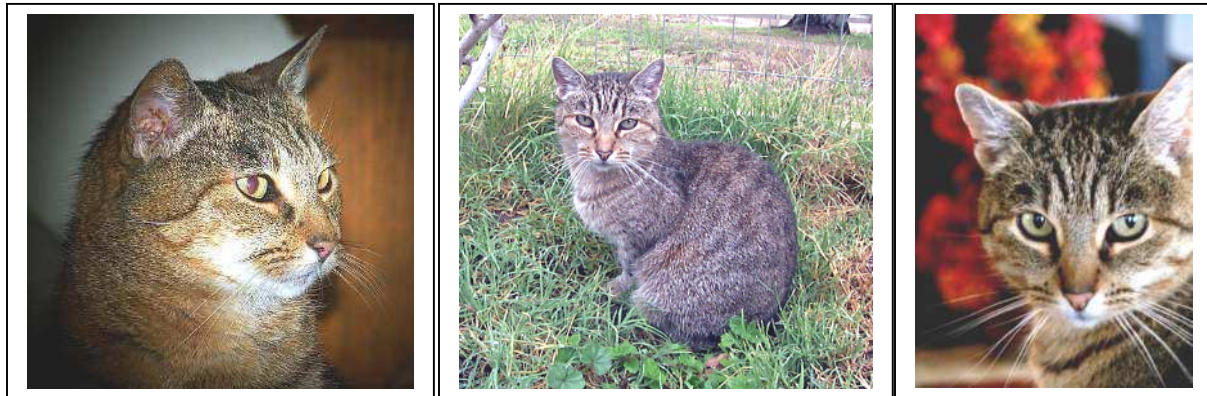
Soon, I will find the right time and words to write more of this special guy who was clearly a human being accidentally caught living in a cat being body - I have never known another like it. He made us laugh daily at his antics and was a favorite for so many. He will be sorely missed.

Van’s favorite tree in the garden, where he spent so much of his life, was a beautiful, old, weeping Wisteria and so it was fitting that when Vancouver was honored in our three day celebration of his life, the table and vases were filled with blooming wisteria branches.



Now for some more animal news.....and time to meet one or two animals you may not know!

This is sweet **BETSY:**



Bets – Betty Boop – or Bets-Ann, which is Richard’s favorite name for her, has been our family member since July 2003 when her loving lady owner died and Bets, along with Brothers Oscar and “T.T” came to live with us. Her brothers have both passed on but dear little Bets continues to thrive! Many people never get to meet or know this somewhat shy and solitary little girl – and I say little as she actually is very tiny. Betsy is a diminutive Manx lady, in her late teens, with a cute bobtail. Bets has never mixed much with the other cats, but is always “there” in the background – watching and apparently a very integral part of our feline society. I wanted to introduce her to you as Bets was a close friend of Vancouver’s and spends her daytime life out in the garden which was his choice too. You can also see her above – as she came by to pay her respects to her friend as he lay dying last Friday.

The adorable Bets-Ann has a thyroid problem and some renal issues, but with the wonderful help of Dr Adriana Sagrera who has been her long time classical veterinary homeopath, she looks good, feels good and eats well. Since Vancouver’s death Betsy has slept in my arms every night.

And this is dear **FURBEE.....**

Over the years many visitors to our home have been touched deeply by the story of this gorgeous boy-man with the bright blue eyes.

Furbee has lived with us almost all of his nine year life and his is a story of love, courage and sheer determination. He has been the inspiration for many human beings as he has overcome his disabilities over and over again to prove his deep love of life and his ability to heal despite the gravest of odds.

Furbee was just two tender weeks of age when he was casually tossed from the window of a moving car! Happily this was witnessed by the driver travelling behind, who swerved to a halt and raced to help the tiny white kitten lying injured in the road. She raced Furbs to the closest vet who, realizing the kitten had sustained major brain damage, decided to wait to see



if he could even survive the night ahead..... Well “tomorrow” did come for this special soul and so also did the day come when he was able to go home with the lovely lady who saved his life.

It was clear from the start that Furbee was not to be a normal cat. He could only walk in circles and appeared to be blind, plus he was already having multiple seizures daily. The intense spirit blazing from his so blue eyes made it clear he had the determination for survival and so eventually he came to live at BrightHaven. Dr Chris Barrett had happily accepted the challenge of his medical care from the very beginning and still cares for him to this day. Within a short time Furbee proved his brain did have some function as he learned to use a litter box and then followed that endeavor by remarkably learning how to walk in straight lines – well sometimes!!

Nine years later Furbee is a BrightHaven institution – a wise, tender and gentle soul who is so well loved for being just who he is. Furbs is like a young specials needs little boy-man who has sweetness and charm just flowing from his beautiful eyes. He is sometimes prone to temper tantrums as his limbs refuse to go where he wishes or he is startled by a sudden or unaccustomed noise, such as a dog barking in his ear! Even though he mostly walks in circles, he can find his way around our large house by following my voice or the enticing sound of dinner plates!!

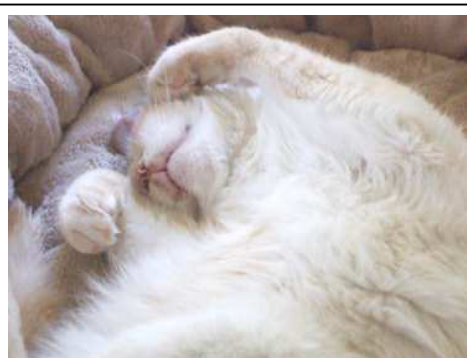
Furbee’s happy existence is only disturbed by his random bouts of seizure activity. Sometimes he will have clusters of seizures every few hours, with as many as twenty in a day. With homeopathic remedies at the ready we have watched in amazement as this boy recovers over and over again after days of seizures – to actually seem stronger with age.



For years Furbee’s bed has remained close to our front door where he is on hand as people arrive and depart. He is not disturbed by raised voices, the vacuum or even by the telephones often ringing. Interestingly we have noticed that his seizures seem only to be provoked by certain things - a full moon or other Equinox events, as well as an air of sadness or boisterous energy in the house. Furbee had two seizures just yesterday, but they were his first in six weeks – a huge improvement of late. Over the years we have learned to see them simply as his brain’s way of releasing its tension.

Several years ago we were astonished to realize that other cats when ill or dying would often seek out this special cat and curl in his arms to be loved and cared for in their time of need, and these days it is heartwarming to see the sight of Furbee with yet another needy soul clasped tight to his warm body in love and compassion. Furbee lives in a very different world than most and dwells deep inside. He does not communicate as most others – we see that – but communicate and live happily he surely does, and is greatly loved by all.

I am proud and pleased to share some of his sweetest moments from the family album:





A LITTLE OF FURBEE'S LIFE AND TIMES

Shown left giving solace to Tigger as he was nearing the end of his life.



and right, providing a warm and snug place for dear Lily to lay her head as she was dying.

Here, left, Furbs is cuddling Lucy after she crept into his bed for some of his special brand of loving at the end of life.....

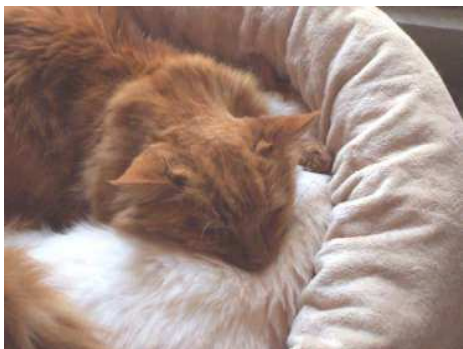


And right he is giving comfort and warmth to old Mr. Woody as he neared the end.....

When Blue was dying he too found he needed a cuddle from that special gentle soul



And right, dear Dafne Ann cuddled close in her last hours.



Shown on the left here is darling Trevor, close to the end of his life, and spending time with the one he knew would bring love, peace and joy to his journey



And right a classic picture of him in the middle with Lily and Tigger who both needed his support at the same time....



Here left and right you can see how Furbs likes to sleep when there is no-one needing his special care and he is snuggled in his own bed for a cozy nap!!



Well, that was quite a marathon!! I hope you enjoyed meeting our Betsy and Furbee – I surely have enjoyed the introductions!

A few very short updates to finish then.....

HOPE continues to do well – still not quite eating on her own – but continuing her amazing progress. Next month she is proud to be a featured animal at Linda Tellington-Jones' celebrated TTouch event in New Mexico.



CELLebration TO HONOR THE MAGIC AND SCIENCE OF TTouch!



Please join us as we gather to marvel at how TTouch has changed the lives of people and animals, watch demonstrations, listen to experts from around the globe, participate in the development of TTouch's future, share stories and revelations – and so much more! All in the charming pueblo of Santa Fe, New Mexico!

This event is only held every two or three years, so be sure to capture this one and hold it in your heart! November 5-8, 2009

You can find out more by visiting the Tellington Touch Training website: <http://www.ttouch.com/>

WONDER is seeking a new name and we are currently trying out Lucas – or maybe simply Luke, which means light giving. We think it suits him but would be grateful for your suggestions.....??

Fresh from our successful presentation at this year's 2nd annual veterinary hospice Symposium, Richard and I have pledged to present our own seminar on animal wellness and also hospice care and transition. The two day event will be presented here at BrightHaven and we would love to hear from you if you might plan on attending and also if you would like to tell us about topics you would like covered. We promise to confirm a date in the near future.

I shall finish for this month with a cute photograph of our very own **JOEY**, who has happily recovered from a recent and nasty bout with a very high fever. Joey is so rambunctious and vital in daily life that we tend to forget he is a paraplegic and prone to this kind of illness. Happily he is feeling great again now and sends you all his love.

With my love and blessings
Gail
xxx

