

Haven Happenings

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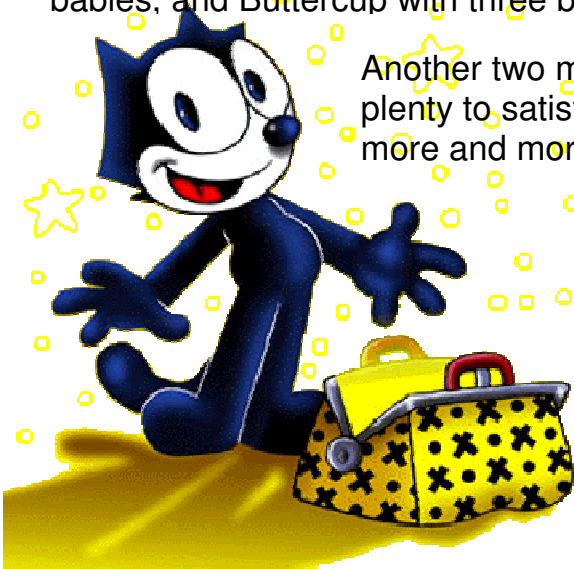
October 21, 2006

Issue #1

This issue: Dr Anne's exclusive Cat Tips, Neville, Tammy, and Ingrid's Cat Calendar!

Welcome to the first edition of *Haven Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter from Ingrid's Haven cat sanctuary, featuring an exclusive column by veterinarian, Dr Anne, as well as photos and news from the Haven.

The kitten season is upon me and every other shelter. I have Bodhi here with her four babies, and Buttercup with three babies born 23rd of September.



Another two mama cats are fostered out so I guess I will have plenty to satisfy everyone wanting a kitten – and there will be more and more and more to come.

Talk to the Animals was here in August filming a segment for the program, which was shown on TV on Saturday 14th October. The response from people has been fantastic and whatever worries I have had about the Haven and its continuation are all gone.

Long live the cats
Ingrid Arving



We have homes!

Here's just some of the lovely cats that have found loving homes in recent weeks.

Feline good: Cat tips with Dr Anne Fawcett



Dr Anne is a Sydney-based veterinarian and journalist. When she isn't working she is busy meeting the demands of her two black and white domestic short-hairs, Mike and Lil' Puss (not to mention the two very spoiled guinea pigs, Wanda and Magic).

Litter tray misfires, mishaps, misuse and total avoidance are signs that your cat is trying to tell you something. Ask yourself:

- Is there a medical reason? Conditions that can cause litter tray problems include urinary tract infections, kidney disease, trauma and age-related incontinence. Your vet can rule out medical causes.
- Is the tray clean? You might think so, but you're not standing in it. Remove solid waste at least once a day (ideally, whenever you see it) and change clumping litters at least once a week.
- What about politics? Litter problems can be due to anxiety or aggression between cats. You should provide at least one tray per cat plus one extra. This is especially handy during times of high stress like moving house. If problems persist you may need to consult a veterinarian who specialises in animal behaviour.
- Is the tray in the right location? Your cat should be able to go to the toilet in privacy. Don't keep the litter tray in the same area in which you feed your cat. They find this most off putting (wouldn't you feel the same?).
- Is the tray big enough? If it is too small your cat may struggle to aim. Adult cats need adult-sized trays. Overweight cats might need slightly larger trays (and a diet!).
- Is there enough litter in the tray? It needs to be deep enough to allow your cat to bury its waste. Clumping litters are most effective at absorbing moisture when the tray is filled to the 5cm level. This allows the litter to form a ball around the urine before it drains to the bottom of the tray, so the urine can be removed in a solid clump.
- Is it the right type of litter? Litter granule size and texture make a huge difference to your cat because the paw pads are one of the most sensitive parts of the cat's body. Sudden changes can cause litter tray mishaps. Cats don't appreciate surprises in the litter tray and they're likely to respond with a surprise or two of their own.

Neville settles in

You may remember Neville from the website. Here's a note from Neville's mum, Narelle:

"Neville is doing great. He has settled in well now and is not such a rascal anymore!

"Lately he enjoys nothing more than romping around the back yard and basking in the sun. At night he curls up in his bed and snuggles with his favorite toy, very cute."

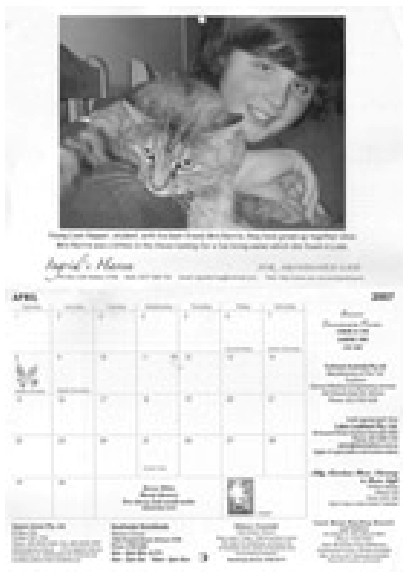


Feature Cat: Tammy



Tammy is a four-year-old pretty, pretty cat. It was actually very fortunate she ended up in the pound, after having been abandoned by her owner because Tammy had cancer in her left eye, and the eye had to be taken out. I hate to think what would have happened if she had been left on her own. But the gods are smiling on this little one, she has already got a sponsor as well - a lady in WA whose cat had the exact same problem, so there is a bond between them. Tammy and I are both confident this has brought her so much luck that any day soon that someone special will come and claim her for their very own.

Tammy is proudly sponsored by Cristy Baker from Perth.
Thanks for your contribution!



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**Ingrid's Haven cat
calendar!**

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**Proceeds go straight to
the cats.**

THANKS!

A huge thank you to Cathy Hutchinson and her father who designed, produced and printed the 2007 Ingrid's Haven calendar as volunteers.

And a big thanks also to Dr Anne, for her exclusive column, which she also provided as a volunteer.

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