

# Haven Happenings

[users.ssc.net.au/ingridshaven](http://users.ssc.net.au/ingridshaven)



**Haven Happenings, Issue #2**  
**March 8, 2007**

**Welcome to the second issue of *Haven Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter from Ingrid's Haven cat sanctuary.**

## **Kitten news**

Kitten season has been going for many months now, the influx might have slowed down a little but I still have 30-odd kittens here in various sizes and they are all so delightful. The sponsors Rosemary and Michelle have donated a CatMax kitty enclosure and it is being a hit both with the kittens and myself. The kits enjoy being outdoors so much and it amazes me how much energy the little ones have. I can spend time I don't really have much of just watching them play and wrestle with one another.

## **An awfully big adventure**

Little Gisela, one of Giselle's kittens, has moved interstate to Cooma, NSW. She flew off with Virgin Blue to join her family who had been looking for a fluffy black female for some time and found her at the Haven. It is heartbreaking to wave goodbye to a kitten at the airport, they are so small taking on the trip all by themselves but dad met her at the other end and they are very happy with her, much loved kitty this one. Good luck in life to her and all the other little ones that have left me, I will never forget them and I remain their guardian parent all their lives.

## **Toulouse**

[Toulouse](#) has now outlived himself by two months. He was given nine months to live by the veterinarian when he was released from the pound but he is over that time limit by two months. Could it have something to do with his girlfriend Zoffoff, my Burmese, and all the high quality food some of the sponsors have donated to the sick and elderly cats I have. He lives inside with us and has formed a special bond with my husband who he has trained to open doors for him when he wants to go outside.

## **Seniors ... and the salon**

I need help from you to find homes for the older cats. Winter is fast approaching and I worry so much about the long-stayers. Grandpa has had a hair cut at Salon Ingrid and looks a mess but at least he has no more tangles. I never had any training as a hair dresser and some of the cats show evidence of this, but Grandpa is happy anyway as long as he has food in front of him every second hour or so, or he lets me know in no uncertain way. He has got a powerful meow to remind me of him. He also spends most of his time curled up in my armchair.

*Continued ...*

[Cameron](#) is a senior with the softest coat. He is a wonderful affectionate cat but will not tolerate other cats in a home. Here he gets along with his feline friends because he has to but he has proven to be very dominant in home surroundings. But he will be the utter companion to someone, just loves to be near you, purring away.

[Misty](#), and here my heart sinks, will she end up like [Larry Holmes](#) with a tribute on the [Past Guests gallery](#)? She is 16 years old and has been with me since 2000 when her owner died. She is healthy but, of course, she needs special food like senior dry food and she also gets renal dry food as well as fresh meat which she looooves. Misty is low maintenance, doesn't ask for much but some cuddles and then likes to sleep a lot in a warm spot. Sometimes I wish I didn't have the Haven because then I could take in these old cats and give them a last year(s) of happiness so they can die knowing someone loved them in a home of their own. It would only take so little to give them this, giving is to put your own feelings aside in that of the cat's, and I do believe if anyone is great enough to offer Misty a home the repayments in knowing Misty's happiness was needier than that of self, the rewards of having given will be paid back a hundred times. Misty will be getting another medical check up in a few weeks.

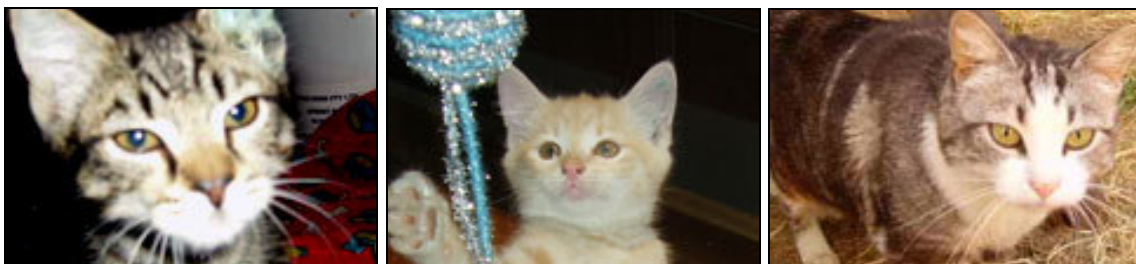
### **Call for foster carers**

Is anyone interested in fostering or know of someone who is? I have a number of cats that will benefit greatly from living in a family environment. They might be timid and will need to get their confidence in humans restored. I stay on as their owner till they either come back here or get a new home but as things stand right now, they are not likely to find a home as they hide with any visitor arriving. All foster cats will get a medical check up before being fostered out and I will remain in contact on a regular basis with the carer. Three of the Beveridge cats went to a foster home and they have been transformed and I cannot thank Lee of Diamond Creek enough for her work with these three young ones. Well, to be honest, Lee fostered them so well she kept them in memory of PussCat, a sick stray cat she found and cared for during nine months till he passed away of feline aids.

I hope you enjoy the news letter and I thank you all for your support

Till next time ...

*Ingrid & the Cats*



**We have homes!**

Here are just some of the lovely cats that have found loving homes in recent weeks.  
[See more cats that have found forever homes in our Past Guests gallery.](#)



## Feline good

Cat tips with Dr Anne

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

**In this issue of Haven Happenings, Dr Anne talks about cat abscesses ... what they are, how to recognise them, and what to do if you find one.**

### **When it comes to cat fights, prevention is better than cure...**

Outdoor cats are exposed to other cats in the neighbourhood, which means they may be at risk of getting into a cat fight. The term "cat fight" is often used in reference to trivial arguments between humans, but a real cat fight can knock your cat around.

Often an owner will bring their cat in and tell me that the cat went missing for a day or two, and has been tired and off its food since it came home. These cats are often exhibit generalised pain, hissing or howling when they are touched anywhere on the body.

Any kind of bite wound can be nasty, but bite wounds from cats tend to be among the worst. All animals (including us) carry a cocktail of bacteria in our mouths. However, cat teeth are so fine and sharp that they leave a tiny puncture hole. The skin and muscle close over this wound, leaving the bacteria to multiply without hindrance in a warm, moist environment. It's like having an injection of nasty bacteria. The result is inflammation of surrounding tissue (cellulitis), which can progress to an abscess (essentially, a pus-filled lump).

Signs to look out for include: puncture wounds in the skin (may not be visible beneath fur); painful lumps; pus discharging from wounds; general painfulness (hyperaesthesia); lethargy and decrease or loss of appetite. Cats may be reluctant to bear weight on a limb that has been bitten. Abscesses can occur anywhere on the body, but commonly occur on the face, limbs and around the base of the tail. Sometimes abscesses are subtle and hard to find. In other cases they may be very obvious – facial abscesses may be the size of a golf-ball.

Affected cats may have a raging fever (hence they go off their food). Abscesses require veterinary treatment. Obviously affected cats will need a course of antibiotics, but we also need to remove the focus of infection. That often means lancing the abscess, removing any unhealthy or dead tissue, and cleaning the area. This is a procedure we perform under a general anaesthetic. If we don't lance or drain the abscess, the antibiotics can't penetrate the wall of pus to attack the bacteria, so the infection will remain.

*Continued ...*



*This fellow has large cat fight abscess in his left cheek (right hand side of picture). Notice how uneven his face is. This abscess was lanced under a general anaesthetic, the cat received antibiotics and he has made a full recovery.*

Cat fight abscesses can be life-threatening. In rare cases infection can spread to the lungs, causing a serious condition called pyothorax (pus in the chest). Cat fight related infections can also cause damage to the kidneys and the heart, due to dehydration and the presence of bacteria in the blood. In practice I have found that cats involved in multiple fights throughout their lives succumb to kidney failure relatively early. The risk of these complications is reduced if cat fight abscesses are treated early.

The other problem is that cat fighting is the major mode of transmission of infectious diseases like Feline Immunodeficiency Virus – also known as feline AIDS. This is not the same as human AIDS and you can't catch it from your cat, but it can reduce your pet's lifespan. Your vet can perform a blood test to detect FIV in your cat. There is currently no cure.

There is an FIV vaccine available in Australia, but not all veterinarians recommend it. If you think your cat is at risk of exposure to FIV, discuss vaccination with your veterinarian. Alternatively you can eliminate the risk of cat fight altogether by keeping your cat indoors, or minimise the risk by desexing your cat and keeping him or her indoors at night.

## Fabulous feline photos



## Happy Tails

An email from Cathy, who tells all about how Haven cat Blake has become an integral part of the family ...



Hi Ingrid,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for letting us to adopt Blake. Blake is so very friendly, intelligent, and lovely cat. He does well with our other cat (Kitty) they sleep and eat together, enjoying each other's company. Blake is an intelligent cat. He can easily learn new tricks. He also loves to play hide and seek with my son. Blake takes good care of my son as he follows my son where ever he go and alert me if my son going out the front door. And that was really amazing for a cat do that.

Well honestly I really don't know what the best words to describe Blake. All what I know since he came here there is no more dull moment in our life. We are so lucky to have him and he is the most wonderful cat I ever seen that we can no longer ask for more!!!

Maybe without you Ingrid we can never have cat like Blake.

Actually we are not treating him like a cat but we are treating him as a new member of our family.

Thanks again Ingrid and more power...

Cheers,  
Cathy

## New on the website!

[Cats slideshow – just a few of the cats looking for homes](#)

[Past Guests gallery – just some of Ingrid's cats that have found forever homes](#)

## News watch

Here are two articles that Haven Happenings subscribers will enjoy. The first is about a cat's amazing journey home. The second is a dog story ... Many people think there's "something wrong" with pound animals. This news item illustrates how untrue that idea is. This dog deserves a medal, not a death sentence in the pound ...

### **Cat walks 150km to return to owner**

Thursday Mar 1 09:43 AEDT

Molly the moggy has probably used up at least one of her nine lives during a remarkable four-month trek home. The New Zealand cat has defied the odds to travel 150 kilometres to be with her owner - Mary-Lee Hight - after disappearing while on a family holiday to the beach at Pauanui in New Zealand's north island last October. In what was surely an astonishing feat of navigation, Molly crossed a river and somehow found her way back to the home in Hamilton she had lived in for only three weeks. A stunned Hight was reunited with Molly on Sunday, when she saw her on top of the family's garage roof.

Although a little skinnier the eight-year-old Molly was none-the-worse for her four-month adventure.

"She has always been a good hunter so I knew she would be able to catch birds and mice and that sort of thing," Hight said.

"Her coat is very shiny and in good condition. Her eyes are very bright and she's got no marks on her at all," she said.

Hight thinks the greater mystery was how her little black cat found its way back to the house, wearing no ID tags that could have allowed a friendly stranger to assist her.

"She must follow her own scent from the house. It is incredible," Hight said.

### **Hero dog dragged woman to safety**

February 3, 2007

**THOMASVILLE, Ga.** A wayward dog is being hailed as a hero for saving a Georgia woman's life.

Shannon Lorio, 36, said her car careened down an embankment, tossing her through the rear window and leaving her sprawled, cut and bleeding, on the vehicle's trunk. She said the German shepherd found her bruised and battered on the trunk.

She said he pulled her by her shirt collar, dragged her about 50 yards through briars to a highway and let her lean against him so she could flag a passing motorist.

Lorio said the dog, now nicknamed "Hero," is always going to have a special place in her heart. She bought him a bone and some treats.

Hero's previous owners gave him to a Humane Society shelter because he kept wandering off. But he won't be there long.

At least 50 people have offered to adopt him. A dog trainer has agreed to see if Hero has the right stuff for search and rescue work. Lorio said she can't adopt Hero because she already has six dogs.

[users.ssc.net.au/ingridshaven](mailto:users.ssc.net.au/ingridshaven)

[ingridarving@hotmail.com](mailto:ingridarving@hotmail.com)

ph: 0417 360 700.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, email [havenhappenings@hotmail.com](mailto:havenhappenings@hotmail.com)  
and write "unsubscribe" in the subject field.