

Haven Happenings

Haven Happenings, Issue #25

Spring 2017

ingridshaven.net.au

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



Spring finally has arrived!

On Sunday morning, 20 August, young Betty gave birth to four little ones. Although I always worry about the kittens and the homes they might go to I still get that maternal, clucky feeling with kittens. Then somewhere in the suburbs unknown to me, Mervette had two boy kittens outside in the cold. Mervette had an owner but she wasn't interested in the cat at all. Luckily for Mervette, her owner has a cousin who is a bit more concerned about cats' welfare. When this human heard the young mother was outside with her babies, she asked if she could take Mervette to a shelter. I agreed, the cousin agreed and Mervette's owner agreed... but Mervette did not arrive. Then I got a call saying Mervette had moved the kittens, then another call saying the kittens were dead so would I take the mother cat only? Yes, yes, and yes. I was told over and over that the kittens had been seen dead by a neighbour.

Mervette arrived at the clinic, was de-sexed and all the rest of it, and the vet nurse told me the clinic had been told the kittens couldn't be found. So that nagging feeling I had had about the kittens blossomed. Onto the phone with Mervette's owner, pleading with her to go back and look, and not to give up. At first she was reluctant but I convinced her and four days later they were found and brought up to the Haven to be reunited with their mother.

We all think animals don't have feelings but I can assure you they do. Mervette's happiness in getting her kittens back was plain to see. She purred, gave them a good cleaning and then lay down to feed them. She wouldn't let them out of sight and although a very placid cat, she would not let us touch the kittens until a week later when she knew we would never hurt them or take them away from her.

My bet is that these two little ones were fed by another stray mama cat – and yes, a mother cat can continue to produce milk even though she has been de-sexed if she is stimulated.

And then Missy arrived giving birth to three little girls a couple of days after entering the Haven. Thank god all these little ankle biters have their own feeding stations. All we have to do is feed the mamas to keep their intake high, and relax.

Thank you all for your support of the Haven. Without you all, this place could never operate as it does.

Ingrid & the Cats



A-choo! Does your cat have springtime allergies?

Springtime is a fine time for your cat to pick up a seasonal allergy from all the pollen, spores, grass seeds and dust flying around. Allergies are no fun at all for your feline friend as they can cause excessive scratching and even chewing of irritated skin.

The bad news is that if your cat isn't protected from allergies, their allergic reaction can steadily worsen each year. The good news is you can protect your cat by knowing how to identify the key signs of seasonal allergies and getting them treated immediately.

Here are five symptoms to look out for:

Skin irritation

When your cat starts to scratch and lick more than usual, they might have an allergy. The itch can be so awful that they bite or chew their skin! Rubbing against furniture is not uncommon, and all of this adds up to irritated, and often inflamed, skin.

Hair loss

Skin allergies that are left untreated mean your cat will scratch, lick, chew and bite their skin so much that they can suffer hair loss. If your pet is allergic to grass seeds, they'll start to lose fur on their feet first. When cats are itchy they tend to over groom. If you start to notice your cat's coat thinning, this may mean their skin is irritated.

Red sores

When your cat's skin is seriously irritated by an allergy, scratching and biting can break their skin, and wounds can become infected. Bacteria then builds up at that spot and red sores appear. These sores ooze pus and can spread quickly.

Ear infections

Pollen and seeds can creep into your pet's ear and cause them to have incredibly itchy ears that, left untreated, can result in ear infections. Again, the signs that this is happening are scratching and vigorously shaking their heads.

Runny nose and watery eyes

Sometimes cats get respiratory problems from allergens and this causes them to have human-like symptoms such as a runny nose and watery, red eyes. They might even start to cough and sneeze too.

Allergens can be picked up outside and stick to your cat's coat, belly and paws, and can get inside their ears and nose. Check your cat's paws and groom them regularly to help get rid of pollen, dust, spores and seeds. Keeping your cat's bed clean and vacuuming the carpets regularly will also help to keep the allergies at bay!



Kitten items desperately needed

Ingrid's Haven is in urgent need of the following brands of wet kitten food:

- Royal Canin
- Hills
- Fancy Feast

We would also very much appreciate other items for kittens including toys, tunnels and climbing towers.

Please call Ingrid on **0417 360 700** or email **ingridarving@hotmail.com** to arrange the drop-off of items.

Thank you for your generous support.



Happy tails



Hi Ingrid

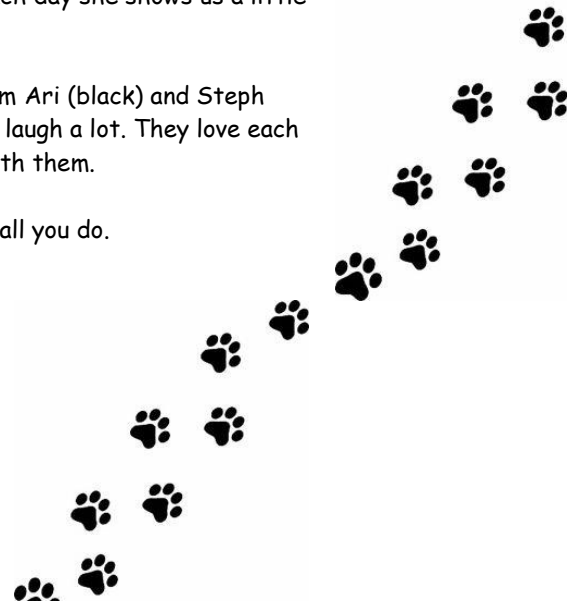
Wow, what a ride we have had with these beautiful babies over the past weeks.

Our Smokey has come a long way and now although uncoordinated has started playing with the kittens and their toys. She spends her nights sleeping between our pillows on a fluffy rug but if she gets cold will snuggle down under the doona. She found it hard at the start but each day she shows us a little more of herself. She has a playful side but also is very timid.

And the kittens, well they are just BAD kittens!!! Our boys renamed them Ari (black) and Steph (white). They climb, jump and play like there's no tomorrow and make us laugh a lot. They love each other and are quite keen to befriend our dogs who have been amazing with them.

We can't imagine our life without the chaos now. Thank you, Ingrid, for all you do.

Jenni Whyte



More happy tails!

Hi Ingrid

I was just enjoying my routine morning snuggles with my beautiful boy and thought I'd give you an update.

Nearly two years on and Caydon is still healthy and very happy.

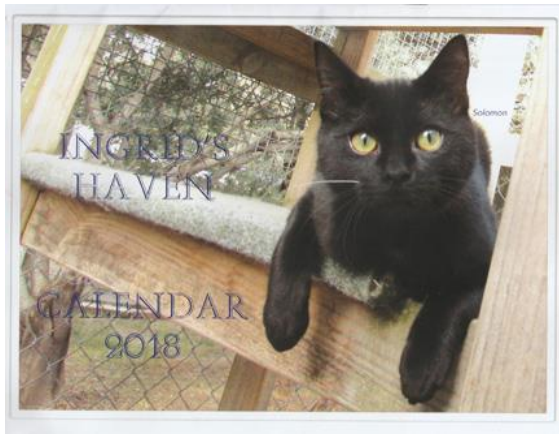
Not just loved by Daniel and I but also very loved by our friends and family. He is probably the most snuggly cat I have ever known of! He always needs to be on a lap and loves being wrapped up in a blanket (just like in this picture taken this morning).

I hope that everything is well at the Haven and more cats are being adopted.

Rachel and Caydon



The 2018 Ingrid's Haven cat calendar



The Ingrid's Haven cat calendar is the *purrfect* Christmas gift for friends and family with busy schedules!

Keep track of your important occasions and enjoy the beautiful imagery of 12 special Havenites.

All proceeds from these gorgeous calendars go straight to the cats!

Colour \$20 (including postage)

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to the address below, or email Ingrid at ingridarving@hotmail.com for details on how to make a direct deposit.

Ingrid Arving, PO Box 323, Broadford 3658, Victoria

A huge thank you once again to Cathy Hutchinson and her father Michael who designed, produced and printed this calendar as volunteers so they could help the cats.

Michael sadly passed away recently – he will be missed and his support of Ingrid's Haven will never be forgotten. Our thoughts are with Cathy and her family.

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