



INGRID'S HAVEN

SAVE A LIFE

Haven Happenings
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ingridshaven.net.au

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



I am afraid I am repeating myself sometimes when talking about kitten season. Christmas was rather scary with over 70 kittens arriving almost at the same time. Two of them are still here.

Then there was a lull and I started to think that we are getting somewhere with the breeding cats but oh, no. Last week 18 more kittens turned up asking for lodgings, then 13 more arrived on the Monday. My brain has been working overtime desperately trying to fit them all in, getting them de-sexed and sorted. I think I finally have it under control, but I have been very absent-minded because I really wasn't prepared for all the newcomers.

The number of cats surrendered to the pound is staggering. And I mean *owned* cats that are already chipped and de-sexed.

In this last lot there was a little chap I call Bailey that made me rather sad and upset. Bailey's owner was tracked via his chip, but they had moved and didn't want him any longer so surrendered him. Bailey is almost completely furless on his back with sores that he tries to scratch but can't reach. He suffers from flea dermatitis. When he was left to fend for himself, he found it hard to find food, he lost weight and his immune system dropped so the fleas moved in and made his life a living hell. Bailey had a couple of baths and I don't know if anyone has seen the water after a badly flea-bitten cat... it turns bright red from all the blood the fleas have sucked out of him. Bailey will be alright but think of all the other abandoned cats out there that once had a home. They are NOT doing alright. It is NEVER OK to leave any animal to fend for itself – more often than not they succumb to a horrible decline that ends in death. This is a kind of abuse that no one really sees as abuse and takes action over, but it is abuse and there should be a penalty to these owners – a heavy penalty.

Building of the new smaller enclosures has started with the help of my 'boyfriend' Mark. Mark is doing a fabulous job with them and it will be great when the cats can move back in. They are a bit squashed right now, having to share with the felines in The Last One, but I am really proud of my cats for their good behaviour. Once all this is done, I have an inspection coming up but it is nothing to worry about. The Shire stands behind me but I have to follow the Domestic Animal Act. My accident with my knee and foot delayed progress somewhat, but I am fully back on my feet again even though I very carefully keep an eye on Eddie when he has a ball game going.

Thank you all for reading; for supporting the Haven the way you do by spreading the word; donating; volunteering; fostering; and making so many wonderful cat-related items to the Made It store and the markets.

Ingrid and the Cats

Is it better to own two cats (or more!)?

Contrary to behaviour myths about being loners, most cats do well with other cats. Here are some reasons why as well as some tips if you're thinking about adopting two cats or more!

Some people mistakenly assume cats are loners and that they prefer to keep their own company and not socialise with other felines. Because of this, many cats are destined to live alone, without the benefits that come from socialising with their own species. Most are social and enjoy the company of other cats, especially bonded pairs. And, cats who don't initially know each other often become best buddies after they are gradually introduced. Here's what to know about having two cats – or more!



Two cats can chase away each other's boredom

Often cats are left alone for hours every day with very little mental or physical stimulation while their favourite people are at work. Singletons can become bored and morph into couch potatoes, become depressed or develop troublesome behaviours. Having two cats or more keeps them all entertained – playing, cuddling and sometimes just sharing a room together.

Kittens provide fun for each other and teach life lessons

Kittens, by design, are little energy machines. Everyone and every item in their world becomes a target for stalking, pouncing and play. It is impossible for people to become full-time playmates for these little ones. A perfect solution is adopting more than one kitten – they keep each other occupied and entertained. Youngsters learn valuable life lessons when they play with each other. Playing teaches social and hunting skills, and it helps the youngsters understand and define boundaries.

Adopting another cat saves more lives

Adopting two cats who are buddies or introducing a potential friend to a resident kitty saves lives. Every time a cat is adopted from a shelter, a new cat takes the adopted one's place, eager for a new home. Adopting cats makes room for more.

When adopting two cats (or more!), keep these points in mind:

- **Try to adopt litter mates** – ideally, adopt two cats from the same litter who enjoy each other's company. Because they have known each other their whole lives, they usually settle into their new home without squabbling.
- **Adopt two cats who are bonded to each other** – it is less stressful to adopt two cats who are already best buddies than to integrate an unfamiliar cat with the resident cat, and they usually transition to their new home faster, with minimum anxiety. Never separate a bonded pair from each other as they will often grieve.
- **Gradually introduce two cats to each other** – as a general rule, it is easier to integrate kittens together than adults. Because cats are by nature territorial, it takes time for them to accept an unfamiliar kitty into their homes. Always keep cats who do not know each other separated and gradually introduce them.
- **Adopt two cats who are the same age and activity levels** – it usually works best to introduce two cats to each other who are around the same age and have the same energy levels.
- **Know your cat** – not all cats enjoy living with their own species. Some adult cats who have spent their whole lives as only cats do not adjust to living with other felines. Others, when gradually introduced to newcomers, will accept new cats as part of their households.

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!



Quote of the day

“There are few things in life more heart-warming than to be welcomed by a cat.”

- Tay Hohoff -



Happy tails



Hi Ingrid

Earl Grey is doing well in the Kolber household. He has settled in and I'm so delighted he is a lap cat! He's still as mad as he was at the haven - don't let the photo fool you. He can sprint the entire house in less than five seconds and does this regularly! He loves playing behind doors and trapping himself in rooms when we're not home.

Squiggles mostly tolerates him and lets him know when he gets too much. But she does often enjoy playing!

Thank you for giving me Squiggles and Earl Grey - they are a delight and just so loving.

Xx



Dear Ingrid

Just an update on our beloved Horatio Tibbles (formerly known as Robert)...

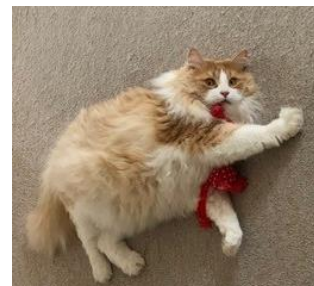
He continues to be the emperor of our household. He is such an affectionate cat but still remembers that he is the master and is happy to wake us up for midnight snacks, playtime when he demands it, and always finds a quiet corner around the house when he needs to chill out from the stresses of being such an important cat.

We continue to try and keep his girth under control, but he just loves food too much. He loves the new Ziwi food from New Zealand and has developed an insatiable appetite for freshly cooked prawns. We only indulge him occasionally with the prawns, but he loses all manners when he smells them cooking.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead.

Kindest regards

Seuwandi, Andrew and His Royal Highness Horatio Tibbles



The purr-fect cards for any cat lover...

Sorry there's no
take your cats
to work day.



som^{ee}cards

After trimming your
demanding cat's
nails, remember to
take some time for
yourself. Three out
of 10 ain't bad!



som^{ee}cards
user card

I'm fine with
being a cat lady
if dating you is
the alternative.



som^{ee}cards

No, I don't want to
come to your cat's
birthday party...freak

My dog is getting
married that
weekend.



som^{ee}cards
user card

There's a person or
three cats out there
for everyone.



som^{ee}cards
user card

There's nothing like
watching cat videos to
help me pass the time
until I can see my
cat again.



som^{ee}cards

I feed my cats better
than I feed myself.



som^{ee}cards

My cat and I have
decided to stay
in tonight.



som^{ee}cards