

HAVEN HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2019, EDITION 30

INGRID'S
HAVEN

SAVE A LIFE



WELCOME TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF HAVEN HAPPENINGS

It's now almost winter and with risk of repeating myself, the kittens are still coming in. Have the cats realised that we try to stem the flow by desexing, and therefore breeding, all year round? They are of course gorgeous but let's face it - as long as we have kittens, very few adults are finding homes.

I have so many beautiful adults, why don't people see them? I made the grave mistake of adopting a kitten first when I was new in Australia. My step-children were coming for a visit and we needed a shed cat, although Elvis hardly saw the inside of the shed but it was a good excuse to get a kitten. The girl at CPA showed me all the adults - I realised in hindsight she tried to get me to take an adult - but ignorant as I was, I insisted on a kitten. Elvis did turn out to be the most loved, affectionate little cat-dog ever. My dog Ruphus decided he was dad and while Elvis was little, Ruphus carried Elvis in his mouth to put him into his bed and then hopped in himself. All very sweet. But you know, if you adopt an adult first, then you can add as many kittens as you want as kittens are not a threat to the first cat's territory.

Then of course I started volunteering at one of the big shelters in Melbourne. What an eye-opener that was! It is also the reason I am an absolute no-kill shelter. I was told about the pound system too and it took a while for it all to sink in. I believed a shelter was what the word stands for, but not so. So one of the local veterinary nurses and I rescued as many animals as we could. Cats were not impounded at that stage, that came later and I also ran a wildlife shelter. Well, we happened to lose our home and everything else and had to move and I couldn't care for wildlife in a small apartment so it became dogs and cats. Cat registration came in and the law was only two cats per household and people panicked. The pound was suddenly full of cats that had been dumped, surrendered, abandoned.

How did the owners choose which cat had to go? I also got reported for the dogs by a customer although I had a permit for my four dogs and my 17 cats but I did have three spare dogs awaiting adoption and lots of cats hidden away where no one should have gone. Save a Dog in Stonnington stepped in to take our pound dogs and so they rescued me too but this is how I became a cat shelter.

Thank you all who sponsor, all who volunteer, all who share on Facebook... you are the most supportive team of humans I know of.

Talking about sponsors, I have a new website as you may have noticed (www.ingridshaven.net.au) and after a certain cat believed my computer was an excellent place to spray on, the computer was ruined and a new Windows 10 one was bought. This new PC is covered every minute I am not around. But when this happened, I also lost all details of my sponsors and I set up a brand new Bendigo Bank account for the Haven exclusively.

Don't worry, all the money - in whichever account it is in - belongs to the cats but can I please ask you to contact me with your details (name, email address, phone number, etc) so that I can put your names up against the cats again. You are all so important to the cats because if it were not for you, I couldn't look after as many cats as I do. The new bank account is:

Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account number: 161 591 516
Account name: ingridshaven

Thank you so much for assisting with this.

Ingrid & the Cats



KITTEN FOOD DESPERATELY NEEDED!



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

- Royal Canin
- Hills
- Fancy Feast

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

Thank you for your generosity!

CAN YOU SPOT THE SIGNS OF ARTHRITIS?

Cats can develop arthritis at any age but it's most common in senior cats who are over the age of seven. Symptoms of arthritis can become especially pronounced during winter if your cat becomes cold.

By learning the signs of arthritis, you can recognise them early on and take action to care for your cat before their joints become too sore.

A cat that is arthritic may show many different symptoms. Some cats become less active and may sleep more than normal. Other cats may become anxious and restless.

They may also have difficulty finding a comfortable place to rest or a comfortable position in which to sleep.

And some cats become irritable and begin to avoid contact with family members, while other cats become more social, seeking out more interaction with family members.

Most cats with arthritis will have difficulty jumping onto the bed or couch, while others will start to mat their coats as they find it painful to turn and groom themselves.

If they have very painful joints, cats may be sore even when patted or picked up. Arthritic cats may have difficulty accessing the litter box and may urinate or defecate outside of the litter box too.

The pain resulting from arthritis may cause a decreased appetite for some cats. This, in turn, may result in weight loss.

Many cats become quite good at hiding the symptoms of their pain. As the symptoms of arthritis in cats can be gradual, knowing the behaviours that are normal for your cat and monitoring for changes in those behaviours will provide a good base for determining whether your cat is in pain.

If you suspect that your cat has arthritis, it's important to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian.



A HOW-TO GUIDE TO TRIM THOSE NAILS!

While many cats do not need their claws trimmed (such as outdoor cats who need their claws for defence and climbing), often our furry indoor friends need a helping hand to keep their claws at bay. Some cats will wear down their nails with routine scratching (hopefully on an approved scratching post and not your furniture!), but for others, we're responsible for their "pawdicures". Going to the vet or a groomer are options but trimming your cat's nails at home can be less stressful for your cat and cheaper and more convenient for you.

Start slowly

The biggest challenge to trimming most cats' nails is not the actual clipping, but having their paws handled. Whenever you are petting your cat, occasionally run your hand down each of its legs to the paw. At first, your cat will probably withdraw its foot. Don't worry - just continue petting as normal and then try again in a few minutes. Over time, your furry friend will realise that you aren't going to do anything scary and will let you touch their paws. From there you can gradually move up to holding each paw for brief periods of time.

A how-to guide

First of all, talk softly to your cat and hold them on your lap until they are as calm as possible. Then gently squeeze your cat's paw to expose the nail to be trimmed. You should be able to see the white hook at the end and the wider section with pink in the middle. The hook is the part that you want to clip back - it has no feeling, just like the end of your own fingernails. The pink is the "quick", which contains blood vessels and nerve endings. If you cut your cat's quick, it will both hurt and bleed. Once your cat's nail is exposed and you can see where the quick is, use your special pet clippers to trim the hook off the nail. Reward your cat with a treat or lots of cuddles, so they find the procedure both painless and rewarding.

Work in stages

Many cats won't sit still for you to trim all of their nails, especially when you are starting out. Clip a couple of nails and then give your cat a break and continue later. Depending on your cat's personality and patience, this might mean trimming all of its nails over the course of an hour or spreading them out over a couple days. As your cat gets used to this, you will be able to do more nails at a time.

Tips and tricks

Be patient. It is better for nail trimming to take a long time to complete than to have a bad experience that leaves both you and your cat dreading the next session. Make sure to get all the nails! Polydactyl cats - those with extra toes - usually have extra nails to go with those toes. The extra nails may not be in regular contact with the ground, which means they often will grow longer faster. If needed, you can wrap your cat in a towel to gently restrain it.

And finally, keep on top of your cat's nails so that they don't grow too long. Nails that grow too long can loop around to puncture your cat's foot, which is both painful and has a high risk of infection. A nail check once every two weeks is a good place to start, and you can adjust your trimming schedule based on your cat's needs.

REMINDER! PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTACT DETAILS TO INGRID

After Ingrid's computer was destroyed by one naughty little feline, she lost all contact details of the Haven's supporters.

It would be a great help if you could contact Ingrid with your details (name, email address, phone number, etc) so that she can put your names up against the cats again.

Please call or message Ingrid on **0417 360 700** or email **ingridarving@hotmail.com** to add your details. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



HAPPY TAILS

Hi Ingrid

Just wanted to give you a really quick update regarding a kitten we adopted from you around six weeks ago, Maya. Not sure if you will remember specifically, but she was a beautiful little tortoiseshell who had to be held for an additional week so what was suspected to be a hernia (but turned out not to be) could be investigated.

Maya has absolutely exceeded my expectations regarding how quickly she grew into her new home, her adopted brother Murphy, and her new life. She is lively, loving, cheeky, and honestly more than I could possibly have wanted from a kitten. She sleeps with us almost every night, learns how to jump even higher every day, and gets along with our pre-existing cat like a house on fire (at least, until it comes to food time when she insists that, despite getting more, nicer food than her brother, her brother's food is more exciting than hers...).

Our visit to the vet a couple of weeks ago was all positive - she is healthy and a good weight for her age.

Thank you so much for permitting her to come into our lives. She brings us so much joy each and every day, and I can't imagine life without her.

Alastair



Hi Ingrid

Just a quick note to let you know that Mika is making great progress. She's out from under the spare bed and now spends most of her time on her favourite spot on the couch.

She's still quite timid and fond of hiding but is getting braver every day and I'm discovering her cheeky personality - we had a breakthrough this week as she'll let me pat her now :o)

Cheers

Helen



Hi Ingrid

Chris and I would just like to say a big thank you for our little man, Theo. We are so in love with him and he has fitted in perfectly at home with his big doggie brother Ollie.

What you do is amazing!
So glad we found you!

Kind regards

Natalia and Chris



ADORABLE ADULTS FOR ADOPTION!



CORAL
Sweet senior

Coral is a senior FIV positive cat. She loves cuddles, she loves her food but one day she eats Felix lamb, the next day 'what is this, I want Fancy Feast, I don't eat meat, I want fish?' but we are happy to oblige because she is such a sweet cat and is in perfect health apart from the virus. Coral is not too keen on other cats, she doesn't fight or hiss at them but prefers distance, good with dogs though. Coral must have an inside home being positive.



GILLIGAN
Lapcat potential

Gilligan this little timid cat sometimes tries to be bold. 'You can pat me today but tomorrow you can't'. He is a darling, he wants so badly to become a lapcat, is there anyone who wants to take a chance on him? Gilligan is vaccinated against FIV, is great with other cats and dogs, maybe not young kids as he needs to build up his confidence.



MABEL
Rather affectionate

Mabel is nearing senior status. Mabel has lived as a fed free roaming cat all her life and is very used to humans but they never thought of desexing her. She is rather affectionate and I would love for Mabel to live out her last years in a caring home, finally free of child bearing, finally perfectly comfortable, not having to watch over her shoulder for anyone trying to harm her, be it humans or a tom cat with lust in his eyes.



DORA
A real beauty

Dora, look at this beauty. She arrived skinny and afraid but now struts around like she has always lived here. She may be a bit wary to begin with, will not come and smooch around your legs but once in a home you will have a devoted little feline. Fine with dogs and cats.



DAGNEY
So loving

Dagny, this super beautiful cat is so loving but she doesn't want to be taken by surprise. She prefers to see who approaches so I guess she has been whacked a couple of times. She is fine with the other cats but in her case I suggest to start with her and then add kittens. She has not been tested with kids but I can't see any reason why she would object to them.



MARCUS & MATTHEW
Bonded brothers

Marcus and Mathew are brothers and they are not to be separated. Marcus is a faux Russian Blue as all grey cats are now a days, Mathew is grey and white. The brothers are approx 5 years old and have a strong bond. They are fine with both cats and dogs.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email haventhappenings@hotmail.com and write "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.