

Haven Happenings

Haven Happenings, Issue #21
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ingridshaven.net.au

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



The weather is warming up and this means kittens as always in spring. I have a number of mama cats here with babies as well as babies without mamas. Some are being hand-reared whilst some are being fostered by real mama cats and they all eat like there's no tomorrow. Little growing bodies need a lot of nutrition and the 'feeding stations', as I call the mothers, need lots of high quality food to be able to keep up with the demands put on them.

The award for 'Mother of the Year' goes to Tamika who arrived from the pound with her two newborns and just days ago accepted another four little orphans.

Tamika heard their hungry cries, flew out of her nest and helped me put them back in with her. She started cleaning them and then lay down for a much-needed feed for the babies.

Her own two kittens looked on with startled faces but they need not to worry, there is plenty of milk for them all.

All the pens in the kitten shed have been replaced with ones that meet the standards of the Animal Act. Tim, who is a professional welder, started on this mega job last summer and recently Tim and his lovely wife Leanne came over and installed them all. The cleaning has become so much easier. The cats love the heights and can sleep on any shelf they want, most preferring to be high up so that they can view the going-ons. Tim did all this as a volunteer and I am constantly wondering how I will ever be able to thank him. Tim's middle name is Battersby and if you go to the [Haven website](#), you can see Battersby, a very special cat who is named after Tim.



Nothing of all the work that goes on at the Haven could ever be accomplished if it wasn't for the 'vollies' and the supporters. I can't say often enough how awed I am that you are staying with me year after year – come hail, rain or sun. Then there are the fantastic people sponsoring; donating money, food, bedding... you name it. Unfortunately all the cats' medical bills have to be paid for, they eat rather well too in terms of both quality and quantity, they need warmth in winter, they need fresh litter every day, and the list goes on as everyone with pets know. Never have I had to deny a cat surgery if a cat needs it – be it taken eyes out, amputate a limb or ears, chemo – although I am very strict with the chemo as it does wreak havoc with the cats' bodies. This is all thanks to the support I get and I know that if I really struggle I do get help if I ask for it.



Simba is a cat who had chemo for eight months for leukemia. I honestly didn't think he was going to make it as he stopped eating halfway through the treatment and I had to handfeed him for a couple of months till my vet suggested a medication that increased his appetite.



Simba made a full recovery, moved up to the house and comes down every day to oversee the work going on with the other cats that are still waiting for their 'forever homes'.

I am well aware of that Simba's cancer will come back one day not too far in the future but to see this happy, healthy cat today, I must say all the struggles were so very well worth it. Everyone that sees Simba now exclaims over how well he looks and I have no regrets. Simba is going to have the best of everything for the remainder of his life.

Ingrid & the Cats

Ingrid's Haven 2016 cat calendar out now!



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 order your calendar today, please send a cheque or money order with your postal details to the address below, or email Ingrid at ingridarving@hotmail.com for details on how to make a direct deposit.

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Quote of the Day

"A cat has absolute emotional honesty:

human beings, for one reason or another, may hide their feelings,

but a cat does not."

— Ernest Hemingway



Litter tray problems?



One of the most common reasons a cat or kitten ends up being abandoned is problems with the litter tray, or house-soiling. These issues can become habitual, so it's important to resolve them as soon as they're noticed.

There are many reasons why a cat might be avoiding its litter box.

Firstly, seeking advice from your vet to rule out any medical issues such as UTIs, Feline Interstitial Cystitis or bladder stones is crucial. Once you determine the issue isn't medical, there are many things you can do to help your cat feel safe and comfortable to use its litter box.

- Scoop each litter tray at least once a day – cats are very clean creatures and if the box is too dirty, they'll find somewhere else in the house to go. Give the litter box a thorough cleaning with baking soda and warm water once a week to eliminate unnatural odours.
- Choose a litter box based on the size of your cat – the litter tray should be about one and a half times the length of your cat.
- Spread a shallow amount of litter – about 2 inches is generally a good amount.
- Avoid liners and litter boxes with covers/lids. A covered box isn't cat-friendly (even though it might be nicer for us!) and often makes the cat feel too confined. Covered boxes also often create more odour because fresh air doesn't get into the tray to dry the soiled litter.
- In multi-cat homes, you should have the same number of litter boxes as you have cats. Sometimes having one additional litter tray helps too.
- If the location of a litter tray is too bright, loud or social, try moving the litter box to a more private but easily accessible location for your cat. Avoid placing the trays near where your cat eats and sleeps.
- In general, cats like an unscented, soft litter for easy for digging and covering. Texture is important when it comes to litter. There are many different litters on the market that have been created to appeal to the convenience of the owner but in many cases they are just a litter box problem waiting to happen.
- Most importantly, don't punish your cat for going outside of the litter tray – this will only stress your furry friend. Punishment is often counter-productive and also means you are assuming your cat is misbehaving and in reality, he isn't. If a cat isn't using his litter box it's because he feels he can't, so it's up to us to help figure out why.



Happy tails

Hi Ingrid



In April, just before Easter, we adopted two sisters – a tortoiseshell you used to call Elvira, who we named Calico, and her tabby sister who we named Poplin. At the time they were five and a half months old and still with their mother and brother.

We feel these are the most beautiful cats imaginable and we are incredibly lucky to have them. I still think they are so lovely in nature because they were so very well looked after at Ingrid's Haven.

They are chalk and cheese in temperament as well as appearance. Calico is fine-boned and light in weight, fast moving, very quick-witted and loves to jump and climb and pat around tiny little things, such as a large piece of Kitty litter or a food crumb.

Poplin is a big boofy thing, much heavier and often seems engrossed in her own little world and loves to play with toy mice. She pats them around and carries them from place to place. Poplin is by far the more timid, but as time passes is becoming more secure and more overt in seeking affection from us.

Calico is very affectionate and adores my partner, Dave. She seeks him out frequently during the day and sits on his long legs in the evening. Calico is the type you let come to you. Poplin is also very affectionate but shy about asking for it. She loves to roll on her back for tummy pats and seems thrilled if you're passing and stop to pat her. She often sits on my lap in the evening.

We recently bought a house and will move in later this year. We're planning to get a cat enclosure for them once we're sorted. In the meantime they're indoors. I'm looking forward to the enclosure - I think they'll love it.

It's hard to get photos of them together, or good photos at all, really! As soon as they see the camera, they move. But I've attached a picture for you.

Kind regards to you and all at Ingrid's Haven,

Christine



More happy tails

Hi Ingrid



It's Sal here - Charles' aka Charlie's Mum.

I adopted Charlie exactly three years ago today and as I have every other anniversary I just wanted to let you know we're still going strong!

Charlie is one of the best things that has ever happened to me, and I can't imagine how I got by without him around before. He is the most beautiful boy and soul.

Thanks to you I have him and I'm so grateful!

Hope everything's well, and keep up the amazing work!

Until next year!

Thanks again, Sal and Charles :)

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<https://www.facebook.com/Ingrids.Haven>

Cat cartoon!



My name is... what?!



Move over “Kitty” – check out some of the wackiest cat names going around at the moment...

1. Katy Purry
2. Leonardo DiCatprio
3. Fuzz Lightyear
4. Edward Scissor Paws
5. Sophistikitty
6. Sir Theodorable Purrsalot
7. Brad Kitt
8. Catrick Swayze
9. Senor Meow
10. Whiskerus Maximus

Cuteness overload!

These unusual animal friendships will completely melt your heart...

