

Haven Happenings

Haven Happenings, Issue #26

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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 season just gone saw so many kittens and every single one, almost, had the flu upon arrival. It was been a battle to medicate them all – cleaning their eyes and putting ointment in them but lo and behold it seemed to be viral so Lysine was a great help in clearing mucky eyes up. We got there in the end but it is heart breaking to see these little sick creatures arriving with eyes shut closed and runny noses. Some couldn't smell their food so there was a lot of hand feeding happening to get them kick started. I assume it has to do with the weather being so up and down.

Some very old and run-down cats also arrived this summer with the exception of Max who is the oldest at 19. Max is a sprightly young man despite his age. Had I got this cat without knowing his true age I would have estimated him to be 14 or 15 years of age. Max is hyper thyroid and has the beginnings of kidney failure which is only to be expected in a cat his age. He doesn't let these minor matters stop him from living life to the fullest though. He demands his food four times a day and it has to be fish although I am trying to get him to eat some meat as tinned fish only isn't good as it lacks in vitamin E.

Despite having advertised this lovely cat on social media, Max so far hasn't had much luck in finding that elusive last home. Unfortunately, he is not too fond of other cats which makes it a bit difficult.

The weather, as everyone knows, has been very hot over the past month. It puts a strain on everyone but working as volunteers is something extra when the temperature reaches 40 degrees. The Haven's volunteers always show up regardless of the weather – they never let the cats down. They sweat, they have red faces, they gulp water like fishes, but they keep on working and they do it for the cats with smiles on their faces. I have so much respect and admiration for them all. Where would the Haven be but for the volunteers? It takes a special kind of person to show up when rostered on without fail even if it could be tempting to take a 'sickie', but no one does because they know if they don't come the cats will be without clean beds, have dirty enclosures and the list goes on. I have said it before and I say it again, Ingrid's Haven has the most dedicated vollies on earth.

We still have some months of hot weather ahead of us and I pray every day when it is hot and windy that we won't have a repeat of 2009. Anything can spark a fire – an arsonist, power lines, a cigarette butt thrown out casually, glass bottles that are everywhere along our roads. May we be spared another wildfire, thinking of all the animals that suffer immensely during one, be they native or introduced.

I hope everyone will have a great 2018 and as always thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your support of the Haven cats.

Ingrid & the Cats

Cat litter dos and don'ts



Cats do a great job of making a mess of their litter boxes, but they aren't that great at clean-up.

After your kitty covers up its business, the cat's part is done.

This leaves you with the dirty and often smelly job of making the litter box fresh and clean.

Try these helpful dos and don'ts to help keep both you and your BFF happy and healthy.

DO: Keep things clean

Cats like things to be clean. Make sure you remove solid waste daily and change the rest of the litter regularly, as well as give the litter tray a thorough clean.

DON'T: Keep changing things up

Do some research up front and you're more likely to have success right from the start. Take your time to select the right litter for you and your cat and find the perfect litter tray. Most cats prefer fine-grained litters, presumably because they have a softer feel. Once things are going well, stick with what is working and avoid changing things up as this can be unsettling for your cat.

DO: Find a perfect place for the litter tray

Cats like routine so selecting a perfect place for their litter tray and then keeping it there will make it easy for them to know where to go when they need to go. A quiet, dark place where they can have privacy, and a spot not close to their food source is ideal. Avoid placing litter boxes next to noisy or heat-radiating appliances. Some people prefer to provide their cats with a covered litter box. While covered boxes can increase privacy and decrease the amount of litter that flies from the box when your cat buries their business, there are some potential downsides. An "out of sight, out of mind" little box is easy to forget about, which may lead to a dirty box with odors trapped inside (which is even less likely to be appealing to your cat). Covered boxes can also be difficult for larger cats to turn around and position themselves in, and may lead to easier ambushes upon exit.

DO: Supply the right options

If you have more than one cat, you'll need more than one tray. A good rule of thumb is one tray per cat at a minimum. Make sure the litter trays are in different places and that your cat (or cats) can easily find and access them. Be careful in choosing the right size tray for your cat – check they have enough room to move and scratch and that they can easily climb inside it, regardless of whether it has sides or a cover. Litter also shouldn't be more than two inches deep.

DON'T: Scold your cat

Your cat isn't being spiteful if they have an accident or develop an aversion to using the tray and getting angry at them could potentially make them fearful of you and their litter trays. This is their way of telling you something is wrong, so take a step back and work out what the issue is.

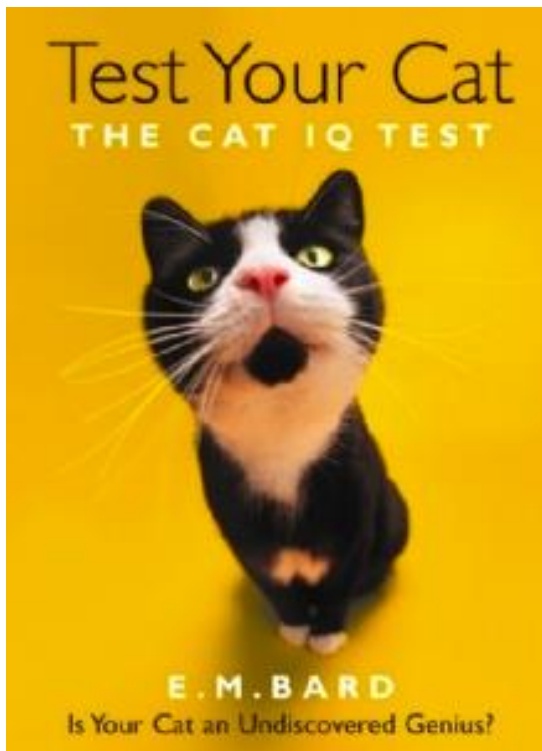
DON'T: Ignore a problem

If your cat is having trouble using their litter tray or suddenly develops an aversion to it, the quicker you respond and work towards fixing it, the better the result will be. Eliminate common issues and don't ignore the problem as the longer it exists, the more challenging it will be to rectify.

Source: Petbarn



Fun reading! Is your cat an undiscovered genius?



How clever is your cat? Can your feline friend make sounds upon request? Or predict a change in the weather?

Or is your cat the type who falls off ledges while sleeping? Or continually runs into walls or doors?

You can find out how smart your cat really is by giving him or her the Cat IQ Test – a simple, four-part intelligence test.

By observation and by using everyday household items, you will be able to measure your cat's co-ordination, communication and social and reasoning powers.

The perfect gift book for cat lovers everywhere!

Why not set aside a Sunday afternoon, see how your cat stacks up in the brain department, and of course, have a good laugh!

Quote of the Day

"Cats have it all — admiration, an endless sleep, and company only when they want it."

Rod McKuen



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

Well, it's been two weeks since I adopted little Castor and Pollux. To say that they have fitted in well to the household is an understatement.

From day one they have been full of mischief, affection and entertainment. Initially I was concerned that they might find my dogs intimidating, but from day two they were sharing their beds and food bowls.

Onyx, my 11-year-old cat who I adopted from the Haven when you were based in Wallan is also becoming accustomed to their antics and is now comfortable sharing a household with them.

I have a wonderful cat enclosure where they spend their time observing the many birds perched in our gum trees and the rest of the time they are climbing up on screen doors, running down the hallway in pursuit of ping pong balls and chasing after each other.

Thanks for allowing me to adopt these incredibly adorable kittens and for saving such precious lives!

Jo xx



Catching some zzzzzzzs... cat style



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