

#### Message from our CEO Roz Robinson

Hello all supporters

This is the time of year we reflect on what has passed during the last 12 months and the highs and lows. The doubling of our annual grant from the State Government, and the opening of our bereavement rooms and upgrade to a one stop cat retail store were both highlights for us.

Feedback from people surrendering their cats has been very positive with consensus being they are so grateful to have been able to farewell their cat in private.

Another positive for us is in the post lockdown world with people travelling again which has results in our on-site Boarding facility seeing unprecedented occupancy levels outside of school holidays and Christmas and Easter.

The endless stream of cats during what should have been our down time during winter has to a major low light with us reaching capacity on several occasions during winter, something which is unheard of.

Ten years on from the introduction of the Cat Act there are still too many undesexed cats, and people unaware of what the Act entails. Today, we received a cat in for desexing, along with her fifth litter of kittens for rehoming via Cat Haven - all previous litters had been given away undesexed. The Cat Act will be reviewed in 2024 and we are hoping along with the review, there will be a push from all stakeholders to inform, cajole or if needed, enforce the Cat Act to reduce the number of unwanted cats in WA.

Shelters aren't a place for any cat to be, and especially coming up to Christmas, we would love to see an empty shelter with all cats in loving homes. If you have been considering adopting another cat, please do it now, and help us to get as many homed as possible.

As we end the year, I just want to thank everyone who is involved with Cat Haven and its success. With close to 8,000 cats and kittens coming annually and being the only open admission cat shelter in the State, it takes a lot of people to keep us running and ensuring the welfare of all the cats entrusted to our care. I iust want to thank all our staff and volunteers who work tirelessly thought the year, and wish them a safe and happy festive season, hoping you get some time off to spend with those who mean the most to you, and yes, I'm including those with four legs. Thanks goes out to our network of foster carers, who open their homes and hearts to over 3,500 cats and kittens annually. You are truly worth your weight in gold. All our members and donors, whose support is essential to keep our operations going. To those who shop with us, and again assist with income. To everyone who adopted one of our delightful cats, maybe even for the first time, and discovering the joy of "owning" a quirky cat.

Wishing all of you the very best at this time of year, please stay safe and we will see you all in 2024.







@CatHavenWA



@cathavenau



www.cathaven.com.au

Please email Amber Ashford on marketing.coordinator@cathaven.com. au if you are interested in advertising in Cat Chat.

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## YES! I would love to help support the homeless cats of Perth by donating to Cat Haven.

#### **Enclosed is my donation of:**

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other	
All donations of \$2 and over are fully tax ded	uctible.
Credit Card I/we authorise that Cat Welfare instructions below:  Amount: \$	e Society Inc. to debit my/our credit card in accordance with the
Type of Card: Visa MasterCard	Card Expiry Date:/
Card Number:	_=
Name on Card:	Signature:
Your Name: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/	
Address:	Postcode:
Phone Number: Emo	ail:

#### **Direct Credit:**

Direct Debit Option: BSB:06 6130 Acc#:10430479

Please make your transfer description: Appeal/Surname

Please make cheques payable to Cat Welfare Society Inc and send your completed form to:

Accounts Cat Haven

23 Lemnos Street Shenton Park WA 6008



#### **Message from The Chair - Rob Orton**

As we approach the end of another year, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared at Cat Haven. I am honoured to share with you the highlights of 2023 and our aspirations for the future.

#### **Celebrating Successes:**

Strong Adoption Rates: This year has seen an increased success in finding forever homes for over 6,100 of our furry friends. Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, we achieved record adoption rates, particularly through our external adoption centre partnerships

Community Engagement: Our outreach programs flourished, bringing the community closer to our mission. From our Companion Cat Program to attending the Getting 2 Zero summit forum, we were able to positively impact lives and learn from industry leaders.

Foster Focus: Our foster program continues to grow with over 3,500 cats spending time with our dedicated carers. Having cats out of a shelter environment improves animal welfare outcomes by reducing stress.

Volunteer Power: The heart and soul of Cat Haven lies in the dedication of our volunteers. This year, we saw a 38% increase in volunteer engagement on grounds. We have also seen a strong return of corporate volunteers. Together, we've created a stronger, more vibrant community.

It would be remiss to thank everyone who supported and attended this year's Wet Dose Day – our annual open day – which was the largest and most successful ever raising over \$44,000 for the cats. A special thanks to those who volunteered in the lead up to and on the day as well as the numerous suppliers who gave of their time and services.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

While celebrating our successes, we acknowledge that our work is far from over. The challenges ahead are as significant as ever, and we are determined to face them head-on. We also look forward to actively contributing to the Cat Act review in 2024 taking lessons learned from the past decade since its inception.

Sustainability and Growth: As the demand for our services continues to rise, we are actively exploring ways to ensure the sustainability of our shelter. This includes planning for the partial redevelopment of the site to support existing and future demands. We will also embark on a new strategic plan to guide Cat Haven over the medium term.

Education and Advocacy: Our commitment to education and advocacy remains unwavering. We aim to intensify our efforts to raise awareness about responsible pet ownership, animal welfare issues, and the importance of spaying/neutering with, on average, 70% of incoming cats not having been desexed.

Technology Integration: Embracing technology will be key to enhancing our operations. From streamlining adoption processes to implementing digital health records, we are excited about the positive impact technology can have on our efficiency and effectiveness.

Financial Stability: Securing the financial stability of our shelter is crucial for long-term success. We will be working tirelessly to diversify our funding sources, strengthen donor relationships, and explore innovative fundraising strategies.

As we embark on this journey into the new year, I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has contributed to our success. Whether you've adopted, volunteered, donated, or simply shared our mission, your support has been instrumental.

Together, we are making a difference in the

Together, we are making a difference in the lives of animals, one paw at a time. Here's to a compassionate and impactful new year!

Purrgards, Robin Orton Chair, Board of Management





# All I want for Christmas is you!

We have hundreds of gorgeous cats and kittens that want homes for Christmas, with our numbers constantly growing here at Cat Haven we are running out of space to house them all. We are reducing the adoption fee for all adult cats over 1 year old to \$25 until Christmas Day! (excludes special breeds and External Adoption Centres).

Visit us at 23 Lemnos Street, Shenton Park, Adoptions are open 10am-5:45pm weekdays and 10am-4pm weekends. Or visit our website <a href="www.cathaven.com.au">www.cathaven.com.au</a> to see the cats in foster homes at the moment waiting for love.

If you can't commit to adopting, please consider fostering over the Christmas period, with people having time off this is a great time to welcome a furry friend into your home temporarily to get a break from the scary shelter environment. Scan the QR code to register your interest in fostering, we have so many cats that need your help.

Please share this with you friends, family and colleagues to help the cats of WA find homes this Christmas.



#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND KITTENS

Are the kittens visibly sick or injured?

YES

NO v

Take the kittens to a veterinary clinic immediately and call Cat Haven to organise a trap for the mum

Estimate the kittens age by what they look like







Eyes still closed or just beginning to open: 1-2 weeks old

Eyes open and alert, starting to become mobile: 2-4 weeks old Very mobile & talkative. Can eat food: 4-6 weeks old Very active and playful 600g—800g. 6-8 weeks old.

Can you see a nest or hiding spot?

Is the mum still around?

YES **\** 

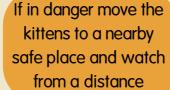


**√** NO

YES ,



Gently return the kittens to the nest where the mum cat can provide care



Key socialisation period. Call cat Haven to arrange a surrender appointment / trapping of the mum Take the kittens
inside if possible and
call Cat Haven to
arrange a surrender
appointment

What if the mum cat doesn't return after 3 + hours?



Call Cat Haven for advice on 9442 3600



What if the mum cat returns?



If she is friendly and approachable take them inside and call Cat Haven to organise a surrender appointment. If she is not approachable leave food and water nearby and call Cat Haven



# Wet Nose Day Success

We had our biggest ever Wet Nose Day on Sunday, 12 November 2023 smashing all our previous records raising \$44,300 gross plus adoption takings and sales of retail stock. We thank all those people that came down to support us on the day, our crucial volunteers for their efforts leading up to and on the day of the event, and all those people that donated books, bric a brac, clothes, plants and our fabulous bakers.

#### A huge thank you to the following individuals and businesses for their support to make Wet Nose Day such a success:

Allpet Products Mafuta Pty. Ltd

**Astor Theatre** 

Benara Nurseries

Betts Group

**Brooks Choice Relocations** 

Caroline Cattermole

Carisbrook Enterprises

Fisher Photography

**Fun Frog Facepainting** 

Gaye O'Loghlen

Hon David Michael, MLA

Houndstooth Studio

Ilona Jaksic

Kanga Markets

Katy Jaksic

Lin Pin Clothing

Lunaqwa

Lynda Guy

Monique de Jong

Paul and Ngaire Anderson-Johnson

Perth Cat Hospital

Perth Vet Emergency

Raw Meow

**Regal Theatre** 

Renata Wright

Scott & Associates

Tamara Clegg

The Carlisle Collective

Roz Robinson

Sabrina Bruni-Zappia

Shirley and Vaughan Patrick

Studio Noah

**Subiaco Antiques** 

Swan Valley Winemakers Associates

Vicki and Hazel Ainsworth

Waldecks Garden Centres

Wembley Golf Course

West Australia Symphony Orchestra

Wise Legacy



Our famous cat wall with over 400 cat statues and items turned heads!



#### Christmas Foods Dangerous to Your Cat's Health

The holiday season brings with it so many delicious treats and festive feasts. While it's tempting to share the joy of Christmas goodies with our feline friends, it's crucial to be aware that not all holiday foods are safe for our whiskered companions.

In the spirit of keeping our furry family members healthy and happy, here's a guide to the Christmas foods that can pose a threat to your cat's well-being.

#### Chocolate

As humans, we love chocolate during the holidays, but for our feline friends, it's a strict no-no. Chocolate contains is toxic to cats and can lead to serious health issues. Keep all chocolatey treats out of reach of your cat.

#### **Onions & Garlic**

While these aromatic additions enhance the flavour of our holiday dishes, onions and garlic are very harmful to cats, leading to severe health complications if eaten.

#### **Grapes & Rasins**

A common ingredient in many Christmas treats and cakes, grapes and raisins can be toxic to cats and may cause kidney failure.

#### **Dairy**

While the image of a cat lapping up a bowl of milk is a classic one, cats are lactose intolerant. Feeding them dairy products can lead to stomach upset and diarrhoea. Instead, opt for cat-friendly milks and treats.

#### **Drinks**

Alcoholic beverages are common during holiday celebrations, but they are hazardous to cats. Even a small amount can lead to alcohol poisoning, causing a range of symptoms from vomiting to more severe complications.

#### Christmas Desserts

Many holiday desserts contain artificial sweeteners like xylitol, which is highly toxic to cats. Keep an eye on ingredient lists to ensure that any treats shared with your cat are free from harmful substances.

#### **Spicy Suprises**

While some cats may be curious about spiced foods, overly seasoned dishes can upset their stomachs. Avoid sharing spicy foods with your feline friend to prevent digestive issues.

During the holiday festivities, it's essential to prioritize our cats health. As responsible pet owners, we can ensure a safe and joyful season by keeping these potential hazards in mind. If you suspect your cat has ingested any toxic foods, seek immediate veterinary attention.

A healthy and happy cat is the best holiday gift of all.



#### The **BEST** solution for all your Pet Waste needs



















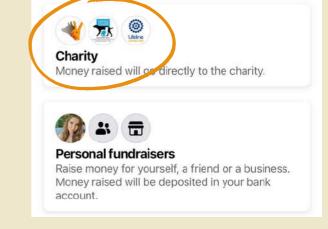


### Donate to Cat Haven in lieu of a Christmas present this year!

Did you know you can set up a fundraiser via Facebook for your birthday or Christmas? This means your friends and family will donate directly to the cats instead of a present. Here are some instructions on how you can make yours!

Step 1.





Create fundraiser

#### Step 3. Type Cat Welfare Society Inc. into the search bar



Step 4. Change to birthday or Christmas fundraiser for Cat Haven



#### Step 5.

Set a goal amount and click 'create'



Western Australia's premier cat welfare organisation, Cat Haven is an 'open admission' shelter which means we never turn away any cat no matter how old, sick or feral. As a charity, with very little government funding, we rely heavily on donations from the public and businesses to keep cats fed, safe and healthy until they find a home.

Over 8,000+ cats are surrendered to Cat Haven every year and we strive to find loving homes for as many of these cats as possible.

Facebook takes care of the donation processing with no fees.

Goal amount \$300	
Currency	
AUD	*
Fundraisers are public, so anyone them. Only people on Facebook cano fees for donations to charities, charity.	an donate. Facebook charge
Creat	

## Tree of Hope

Join the Tree of Hope Fundraiser: Share the Joy of Christmas Dinner for Cats!

This holiday season, let's come together to create a Tree of Hope for the cats at Cat Haven! Your generosity can make a purr-fect Christmas possible for our furry friends. For as little as \$3, you can contribute to providing a special Christmas dinner for cats in need.

How to Decorate the Tree of Hope:

\$3 covers a Christmas dinner for a cat

\$5 covers a Christmas dinner and a toy for a cat

\$10 covers a Christmas dinner and a blanket to sleep on for a cat

\$12 covers a Christmas dinner, a blanket and a toy for a cat

\$25 covers food and a warm bed for a week



Spread the word, share this post to your socials and invite friends and family to contribute. Scan the QR code to donate



## PVS Perth Veterinary SPECIALISTS

24/7 Emergency and Critical Veterinary Care

There is no appointment needed to visit our Emergency and Critical Care department. Simply bring your pet down to our team at 305 Selby Street North, Osborne Park. For any life threatening emergency, we recommend you call us whilst in transit on (1) 08 9204 0400.

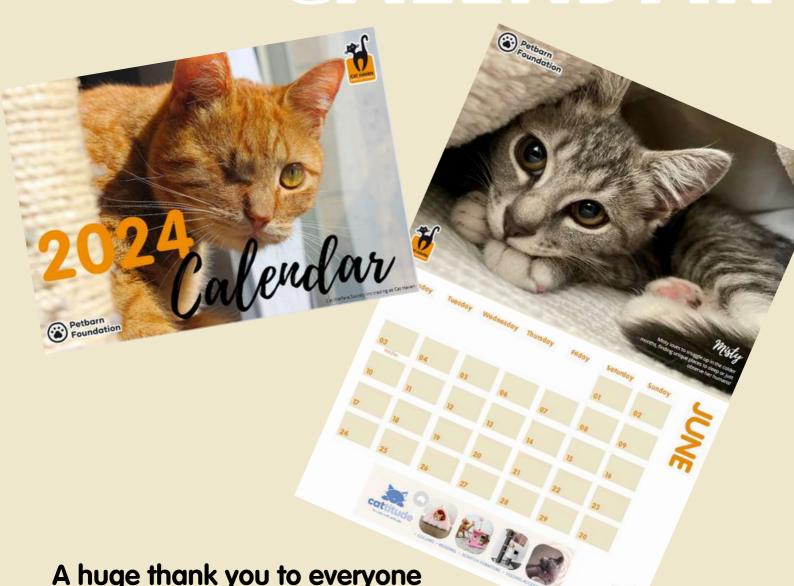


(@perthveterinaryspecialists



www.perthvetspecialists.com.au

# Cat Haven's 2024 CALENDAR



A huge thank you to everyone who nominated their beautiful cats for next years calendar.

We had an amazing number of entries this year at over 500!
We had so many votes and came to a top 13!

## **Only \$10!**

Head to www.cathaven.com.au or come in store to purchase yours!

## Becoming a Foster Hero: Why You Should Consider Fostering Cats with Cat Haven

Welcoming a furry friend into your home can be a rewarding experience, and for those considering fostering, the benefits extend beyond the joy of helping a cat recover from the shelter. Cat Haven offers a unique fostering program where they provide everything you need to care for a cat in need. If you've ever pondered the idea of becoming a foster carer, here are compelling reasons why you should consider opening your heart and home to these temporary feline companions.

Fostering directly contributes to the well-being of cats in need. By providing a safe and loving environment, you play a crucial role in helping cats transition from shelter life to their forever homes. Your actions can make a significant impact on their journey to finding a loving family.

It is an excellent way to experience the joys and responsibilities of pet ownership without the long-term commitment. It allows you to assess your readiness for a permanent furry friend while providing a cat with a temporary home.

Fostering saves lives. By opening up space in the shelter for more cats in need, by taking a cat into your home, you directly contribute to reducing overcrowding and providing individualised care that is often challenging in a shelter environment when cats are stressed.

There is a sense of community and shared responsibility in fostering. By joining forces with Cat Haven, you become part of a network of dedicated individuals working towards a common goal – ensuring the well-being of every cat, one foster home at a time.

Cat Haven supplies everything you need to foster except litter, making the experience both accessible and flexible. From food to veterinary care, they ensure you have the resources to provide the best care possible. Plus, fostering allows you to experience the unique personalities and characteristics of different cats.

Fostering comes with its share of heartwarming moments. Witnessing the transformation of a shy cat becoming more confident or seeing a onceneglected cat thrive under your care is immensely rewarding. The bond formed during fostering is a special one, creating memories that last a lifetime.

Becoming a foster carer with Cat Haven is more than just opening your home to a cat; it's a chance to make a lasting impact on the lives of these feline friends. With Cat Haven supplying everything you need, the journey to becoming a foster hero is both seamless and gratifying.

#### CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE





Don't forget to keep collecting those bottles and cans for containers for change. You can directly scan this QR code or use our Scheme ID:C10294441 to donate to Cat Haven when recycling. A great activity for the little fundraising champions in your life to raise money for the kitties.

#### Hello there, can I finally go to my furrever home?

#### Foster feature of the 10 longest fosters

We don't only have cats at the shelter... a large number of our cats are out in foster homes or at our External Adoption Centres. Some cats unfortunately don't handle the shelter well and often get very frightened with the new faces, noises and other cats. If it is the case that the cat can't cope in the shelter, we place them in a foster home where they are much more comfortable.

Our foster carers do a great job in turning a lot of these cats around. However, these cats out in foster often get overlooked by potential adoptees coming to the shelter to find their new companion. Here are a few of our cats that have been in foster the longest, to showcase how much they need furrever homes. Do you have space?

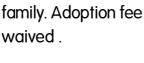
If you would like to enquire about any of these cats or any cats we have in foster please email fostercare@cathaven.com.au

There are so many more to view on our website www.cathaven.com.au

Gene



**859 days** in caré





**539 days** in care

#### Limba ID:173531

Limba is a very friendly 3-year-old boy that loves to show affection by giving lots of headbutts. He is very active, and loves play time and his scratchy poles. He is looking for his furrever home. Adoption fee has been waived.

#### Miss Maude ID:172356

A clean, non-destructive curious, cheeky 8-yearold girl looking for a warm couch and love. She looooves playing with her favourite lazer pointer toy and her foster bestie Samson. A quiet home preferred; her adoption fee has been waived.

#### Herman ID:173855

Beautiful Herman is 4 years old and ready for a new home. He loves his foster friends so a home with cats would be perfect for him. He is enjoying gentle pats and cuddles but needs a little extra patience settling in. Herman's adoption fee

has been waived.



**524 days** in caré

**523 days** in caré

Lovely Cantaloupe is 5 years old has such soft fur and loves to cuddle. He has a very sweet nature and wants to be with his people as much as possible. He is looking for a quiet home with owners that are around a lot of the day. His adoption fee has been waived.

Cantaloupe

ID:173889

#### **Sunshine** ID:174658



#### **Anthony** ID:175295



483 days

in caré

446 days in caré

#### **Pablo Picasso** ID:174398

Pablo is the most curious kitty you'll ever meet, he is 3 years old and oh so talkative. He loves to make biscuits when he gets pats but needs a little patience when he adjusts to a new space. Toy mice are his absolute favourite, his adoption fee has been waived.



**497 days** in care

#### Yarraman ID:175137

3-year-old Yarraman is a very good-looking boy, with striking features and is a big couch potato. He's a huge softie and is always well behaved. He is looking for a home without other pets as they scare him, he loves his humans so much. Yarraman's adoption fee has been waived.

#### **Floofy** ID:175369

10-year-old Floofy is looking for a retirement home. She is looking for a quiet home with no other pets, she loves to cuddle her foster parents on the couch or in bed any chance she gets. She has to take medication but doesn't even notice it in her food each day. Her adoption fee has been waived.

**454 days** in caré



**442 days** in caré

#### Navigating the Festive Frenzy **Understanding Stress for Cats**

It's important to recognize that the joyous season can also bring about stress for our feline friends. Christmas, with its fireworks, influx of new faces, and bustling, noisy households, can create an overwhelming environment for our more sensitive companions. Understanding these stressors and implementing thoughtful strategies can help ensure that our cats enjoy comfortable holiday season too.

#### Fireworks and loud noises

The sudden bursts of fireworks during Christmas and New Year's celebrations can be particularly distressing for cats. Their sensitive hearing makes these loud noises even more startling. To alleviate this stress, create a safe space for your cat in a quiet room with familiar items, providing a cosy space where they can retreat during noisy events. Consider using calming music to help drown out external sounds.

#### **New Faces and Crowded Spaces**

Cats are known for their territorial nature, and the introduction of new people during holiday gatherings can be stressful. Encourage guests to approach your cat calmly and avoid overwhelming interactions. Provide a designated quiet space where your cat can retreat if they feel the need to escape the hustle and bustle. Cat Haven Number Plates get yours at

www.cathaven.com.au

#### **Busy and Noisy Homes**

The increased activity and noise associated with holiday celebrations can be overwhelming for cats. Maintain a sense of routine as much as possible to provide stability. Ensure your cat has access to familiar hiding spots or elevated perches where they can observe the festivities from a safe distance. Consider using diffusers or sprays such as Feliway, which can help create a calming environment.

#### **Changes in Routine**

Cats thrive on routine, and disruptions to their daily schedule can lead to stress. Amidst the holiday chaos, try to keep feeding times and play sessions consistent.





#### PERTH VET EMERGENCY

Our team of emergency veterinarians and nurses are here to help when you need it most! No appointment is necessary. If you are worried about your feline friend, please phone our friendly team to help put your mind at ease.





Opening Hours Yokine:

Mon - Fri: 6pm-8am

Weekends & Public Holidays: 24 hours

Opening Hours Cannington:

Mon - Fri: 24 hours

Weekends & Public Holidays: 24 hours

Contact Information:
3/162 Wanneroo Rd, Yokine WA 6060.
Ph: 9207 5200.
T26, Primewest, 1490 Albany Hwy,
Cannington WA 6107.
Ph: 9207 5207. www.pve.net.au.







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The Value of Cat Haven Membership

Sign up to be a Cat Haven Member and start enjoy the benefits all year round!

Cat Haven membership provides;

- · 10% discount on retail products
- · 5% discount on boarding fees
- · Invitation to promotional events

Your membership of the Cat Welfare Society Inc will assist Cat Haven to improve cat welfare in Western Australia and to provide care and rehoming facilities for rescued and surrendered cats.

#### **Application Form**

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PERS	SONAL DETAILS		
Fullr	name:	_ DOB://	
Add	ress:		
	Suburt		
Ema	il:		
	ne:		
0	Adult Membership	\$50	
0	Senior Membership (60 years +)	\$35	Send form to:
0	Adult Lifetime Membership	\$1,000	Cat Haven
0	Over 55 Lifetime Membership	\$500	Reply Paid 83881 23 Lemnos Street
PAY	MENT DETAILS		Shenton Park
0	CHEQUE – attached, payable to Cat Well Cat Haven, 23 Lemnos Street, Shenton Po		WA 6008
0	<b>CREDIT CARD</b> I/we authorise the Cat We in accordance with the instructions below		our card
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Sign	ature:		
or on the p	ature I/We agree to support the mission and object line) upon this application being accepted. If a volu roper functioning of Cat Haven for the continued w of my membership.	unteer, I agree to follow all relevan	t policies and procedures to ensure
Plea	se sign here to cate your agreement		Date: / /
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It is a legal requirement for the Cat Welfare Society Inc to keep a register of members' names and addresses and to make this register available to any member for perusal and copying. Questions about this requirement may be directed to the Department for Consumer and Employment Protection on 1300 304 074.





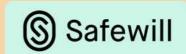


Write your will online with Cat Haven today for 50% off





www.safewill.com/cathaven





www.cathaven.com.au to get yours!

## **DAVEY'S STORY**

I volunteered at Cat Haven in 2009 for a brief period. During this time, a litter of black and white domestic shorthair kittens were brought in. They were huddled in a crate out the front of the reception area where I had been working. Davey was one of the kittens that was hissy and anxious, so he used to sit with me on my lap at the computer while I did some data entry tasks. I fell in love with him instantly and so I adopted him. When I arrived home with him, I told my parents that I was fostering him for a short period of time. 14 years later and I was still fostering him.

Unfortunately, last Tuesday, I made the decision to let Davey go over the rainbow bridge. He became very unwell over the last few weeks and I couldn't bear to see him suffer any more. I sat with him and cuddled him the whole time to make sure he knew he was loved and was going to be missed.

Over the years he developed a sweet personality. He was a smoochy boy and loved to wrap his tail around my leg while I was sitting on a chair or prepping at the kitchen bench. His favourite thing to do was to sit in the room with me. He would either be on my lap, on the floor on his pillow or on his favourite chair. He was also very smart as he worked out how to open his automatic feeder - when I caught him, it was like catching a child with their hand in the cookie jar.

I believe that when Davey arrived at Cat Haven he chose me, not that I had chosen him. He brought me so much joy and happiness and I miss him dearly. I hope that one day when I'm ready I will be back at Cat Haven in the hopes that another sweet boy will choose to share their life with me.

Warm regards, Davey's mum



## **TREATS FOR YOU** AND YOUR CAT





**CAT GRASS** 

**CAT GRASS** 

\$16.95

#### **RAW MEOW TREATS**

\$39.95



\$5.95 **CHURU BITES** 



\$10.95 **CAT GEM ART KIT** 



# PURRANDRMAL

**PURRNORMAL CATIVITY** 

\$19.95



**CAT HAVEN MUG** 





**EARRINGS** \$21.95

**NINE LIVES PLAYING CARDS** \$9.95





## We'll miss you

Yesterday Paige and I said goodbye to my very dear friend of 20 years, Kitty. He had lived a long and spoiled life and his passing was quick and painless. He leaves a massive gap in our lives. He was there every morning before work and every afternoon when I returned, for 20 years. As a kitten he played with my baby daughter whose 20th birthday is today (Happy birthday Paige). He loved new people and prawns and pate and baking himself near to death in the Summer sun.

He was a brave fighter, feared by all the neighbourhood. Even at 15 he still battled for territory fiercely with Simba, the much larger and younger cat next door.

Twice in his life, he went missing for more than a week. We lost him, mourned him and by some miracle he returned, but not this time. I walked through the dark house last night before realising I didn't have to walk slowly anymore in case I accidentally kicked him. Today I washed his little bowl and realised I would never put it out for him again. All the small things hurt like hell.

These are the things that made Kitty, Kitty. He loved when the shopping arrived because it could mean prawns or whipped cream or pate. He would meow at a closed door for 5 minutes instead of walking two metres to an open door. He was playful in the mornings, he didn't love being picked up but loved being carried around the house in a washing basket, exploring high

things and new places.



If his cries for food weren't being heeded, he would walk through the cupboard among the glasses because he knew it annoyed us. He never broke one though. If he wanted to wake Paige up, he would go into the bathroom and use the echo to meow at the top of his lungs, he would grab your hand in his front paws and squeeze it tightly against his chest to hug you, he would hold your finger with his claws, he would walk over me in my sleep to wake me up for feeding.

In his last years he lived on an electric blanket that ran 24/7. He had his thyroid medication as a topical cream because I didn't want to shove pills down his throat, he drank from a human glass on the coffee table in the lounge, we couldn't have appreciated him any more than we did. In the end, our last gift to him was make sure he didn't suffer a bad death.

He reminded me to show love to the things that we love in life, because even the longest time will never be enough. Never wait till tomorrow to show someone how much you care, buy them prawns, buy them prawns today, and if they are still here tomorrow, buy them prawns again, and pat them, and tell them that they are your kitty.

Rest in Peace my furriest little buddy guy. xxx







#### Preserve the memories of every whisker and purr. Explore Lawnswood's extensive memorial options for a meaningful tribute to your cherished feline companion.

At Lawnswood, we offer an extensive range of memorial options designed to honour and celebrate the life you shared with your beloved cat.

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## Deck the Halls, Christmas Decorations That Pose Risks to Cats

As we get into the holiday spirit, filling our homes with festive decorations is a cherished tradition. However, it's crucial to be mindful of our feline companions during this merry season. Some Christmas decorations, while pretty to us, can pose potential hazards to our curious and playful cats. Here's a guide to decking the halls with care and ensuring a safe environment for your cat.

#### **Tinsel**

The shimmering allure of tinsel can be irresistible for cats with a playful nature. However, ingesting tinsel can lead to serious health issues, including intestinal blockages. Consider opting for alternatives like paper garlands.

#### **Christmas Tree**

While the Christmas tree is the centre piece of holiday decor, it can present a host of dangers for our feline friends. Ensure the tree is securely anchored to prevent toppling, as climbing cats may knock it over. Watch out for the water in the tree stand, as it may contain preservatives or chemicals that could be harmful if ingested.

#### Lights

Twinkling lights add a magical touch to the season, but their cords can be enticing for curious cats. Chewed electrical cords pose a risk of electric shock. To prevent this, secure cords out of reach or consider using pet-proof cord protectors.

#### **Fragile Ornaments**

Delicate glass ornaments may break easily, leading to sharp edges that could harm your cat's paws or mouth. opt for sturdier, shatterproof decorations to minimize the risk of injuries.

#### **Candles**

Scented candles, though delightful for humans, may contain essential oils that are toxic to cats. Keep candles in secure holders and place them where your cat cannot reach them to avoid accidental ingestion.

#### **Artificial Snow**

Decorative snow sprays and snow globes may contain harmful chemicals. If your cat decides to ingest them, please seek veterinary treatment.

#### **Small Decorative Items**

Little ornaments or decorations that resemble toys can be appealing to cats but pose a choking hazard. Keep small items out of reach or choose larger, pet-safe alternatives.

#### **Strings and Ribbons**

Wrapping presents is fun but remember cats like to play with string, if ingested there are severe consequences and surgeries needed to remove them.

This holiday season, a balance between festive decorations and feline safety is key. By being mindful of potential dangers, you can create a winter wonderland that is both beautiful and secure for your furry family members.



# erly, a poor defenceless cat, was horribly umped in a bin at Dogswamp Shopping

Berly, a poor defenceless cat, was horribly dumped in a bin at Dogswamp Shopping Centre. When he was rescued, he was found starving and very dehydrated, we can only imagine the scary, painful the time he endured in that cold, lonely bin.

Berly's journey towards recovery has just begun, and it's clear that he has a long road ahead. Despite the trauma and neglect he has faced, Berly's spirit remains unbroken, he is such a loving, smoochy boy with a huge heart, he is enjoying his time in foster getting fed everything he desires.

He is resilient, but his body needs attention and care. We have consulted with vets at Cat Haven and they have recommend he needs some surgeries and a major dental surgery to bring him back to full strength.

However we can't do this alone, we are turning to YOU, our compassionate supporters to ask for your help fundraising for Berly's medical expenses. Your generous contributions will not only cover the costs of necessary surgeries and but also his ongoing care, including medication, rehabilitation and a warm place to recover.

Every donation, no matter how small, brings us one step closer to giving Berly the second chance at life he deserves. We firmly believe that with the support of kind-hearted individuals like you, we can help him!

"To think what poor Berly has been though is so heart-breaking, the team at Cat Haven rushed to his rescue as soon as he was found by the kind person at the shopping centre. Our vets were on standby and stayed back after hours to make sure he had everything he needed and wasn't in pain." Amber - Cat Haven's Marketing Coordinator said.

Lets come together as a community and show Berly that he is not alone. Your compassion will be endlessly appreciated by Berly and us at Cat Haven are immensely grateful for any support you can provide.

Thank you for your kindness and consideration.

Cat Haven Team

Warm regards,



Scan to donate to Berly



## MEET AMY Member of the Board

#### My nickname is:

The worst one is "Aimless" care of my high-school bio teacher

#### I was born in:

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

#### My star sign is:

Sagittarius (which explains how I ended up on the other side of the planet!)

#### I have siblings:

One younger brother and two gorgeous nephews



My favourite music is: 80's Hair/Glam Metal

#### My favourite movie is:

like asking me to pick my favourite child! But my first favourite author was Anne McCaffrey.

#### My best ever holiday was:

Peru and the Galapagos (I'm a Darwin fangirl)

#### What makes me laugh:

Dad jokes

#### Why I am so passionate about cats?

I remember begging for a cat when I was five and waging a (successful!) campaign to convince my dad, who ended up loving them just as much as the rest of us. While some people think cats are aloof and standoffish, I've always felt that they give back what they get. People always ask me why I have the coolest cats, and I say it's because I bring them up properly! I don't think cats give love unconditionally, which is why it is so rewarding when you earn their love and trust. They can be strong and independent on the outside, but like all of us just want to feel safe and loved on the inside.

#### My role on Cat Haven's board?

I joined the Board in August 2020, sit on the Board's People and Culture subcommittee, and stepped into the role of Secretary in 2021 when Rob became our current Chair. The Secretary works closely with the Board Chair, and is responsible for communication to and from the Board, including meeting agendas and minutes, and documentation for the AGM.

#### Why did I join the board?

After having been a fostermum for Cat Haven for 8 years, I had felt the satisfaction of working with such a great organisation to help so many cats find their homes. I was interested to think about supporting Cat Haven in a different way, and to see how I might apply my skills as a healthcare provider and business owner to working with a not-for-profit organisation. I hope that I've contributed as much as I've learned in my time on the Board—I am constantly surprised how much unexpected crossover there is between my Board work and my "day job"!

#### How many cats have I adopted?

While I was growing up, my family made a home for 5 cats including 2 orphans. I had my own cat "Kitten", who I took in as a stray in Uni, for 13 years. She was the spitting image of the grey tabby on the Cat Haven collection tins, and was the reason I decided to foster for Cat Haven! I've been fostering since 2012, and have lost track of how many cats have come and gone through my doors. I've had some long-term emergency boarders and challenging cases, and I'm always sad to see them go, but it means that I can help more.

#### What experience am I bringing to the board?

As a genetic counsellor I have a background in science and healthcare, skills in communication and education, and an evidence-based approach to action. I also work in governance, policy, and project management for our professional body. I also now manage my own private practice, and have volunteer roles in the genetic and cancer care spaces. I think all of this means that I bring an understanding of doing challenging work in an environment that is always tight on money and resources (and always high in numbers), while still bringing compassion to the work that we do.

