



# Spirits in Transition™

options in end-of-life care for our animal companions

*Following Their Path - All The Way*

• Animal Hospice - [www.spiritsintransition.org](http://www.spiritsintransition.org) - Animal Hospice •

- Seminars - Support Help Line - Resources - Networking - Integrative Approaches -

## Spring 2010

### If we don't deem it impossible, it may well be possible!

### At BrightHaven, animal family members too get to live out their lives

BrightHaven is an animal sanctuary in Sebastopol, CA, where for over fifteen years now animals no longer wanted elsewhere have been given the care and love they so long for and deserve. The beautiful residence where Gail and Richard Pope definitely maintain an atmosphere very conducive to following fine British tradition by having a lovely cup of tea in the afternoon, over time not only

became home to hundreds of animals, large and small, but gradually moved from utilizing solely conventional veterinary medicine approaches to integrating holistic modalities also, including homeopathy.



More inside!



### Pig and Toad, what do they have in common ?

Trick question! Well, Harley the pig, and Ted the toad both got to live well after losing the function of their hind legs. Their good fortune has a name: BrightHaven! The magical place where last summer one of our Spirits in Transition seminars was held.

# America's Family Pet Expo or Phoenix Pet Expo See you there?!

In just a few weeks, Ella, Bunny and other Spirits in Transition volunteers who went through hospice experiences with their companion animals, are going to be at two large pet expos, to share with anyone interested in animal hospice care.

As at the fall 2009 expo described below, we will have information not only on **Spirits in Transition**, but also

- **The Nikki Pet Hospice Foundation** (founder of the annual International Symposium on Veterinary Hospice Care) , and
- **BrightHaven**, the amazing animal hospice sanctuary in California where our seminar was held in summer 2009.

**APRIL 16-18<sup>th</sup>, Costa Mesa, CA**

Click [here](#) for info

**JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>, Phoenix, AZ- Stadium**

Free Admission Click [here](#) for info

Please note: The booths will be listed in the programs under "BrightHaven".

*We would love to see  
& speak with you there !*



## Chester is still teaching

Dear Chester's mom Laura contacted the Spirits in Transition helpline when his veterinarians could only see what was no longer working, but not what still was working for Chester. At the time it just did not feel right to Laura to euthanize the spunky tomcat she had rescued years previously, since despite having a cancerous growth in his mouth and having to be fed already for some weeks with a feeding tube, Chester made it clear he was still up for being alive.

Instead giving in to the fear of possible complications, Laura kept supporting Chester, who even just five days out from his passing on his own, thought her husband's fishing lure made for an enticing toy! His case was one of the case histories presented in 2009 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Symposium for Veterinary Hospice Care** at UC Davis.

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2010**,  
the 3rd symposium is bound to happen,  
so pencil in the date!



## expo exposure 4 hospice

Here you see Ella's husband Jim, or rather Dr. James Armer, DVM, staffing the booth we had in fall 2009 at the Integrative Health Pet Expo in connection with the AHVMA's holistic veterinary conference.

The CD of Ella's 50 min. speech on "Caring for our Animal Companions through the End of Life" in Fitchburg, MA can be purchased [here](#) under code S8, "Hospice Care for Animals". In this presentation Ella gives an overview of current approaches to end-of-life care for animals in the United States.



**cont.**

Now BrightHaven has a side kick called BLISS (BrightHaven Loving Incredible Souls and Seniors). Its founders pledged to rescue the over 16 year olds and very special needs animals, primarily from shelters, and place them in foster, then permanent loving homes. All will be evaluated fully and some found hospice homes where needed with donated funds. Placements of those "who's only crime was to become elderly" happen mostly through e-mailing, so you could easily become part of this delightful endeavor, always rejuvenated by the success reports on those placed. Just contact BLISS through

[www.Brighthaven.org](http://www.Brighthaven.org)

## Calvin's Good Bye

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, we bid a fond farewell to 18 ¾ year old Calvin – just 9 days after Bunny's 92 ½ year old dad passed away. Bunny was giving hospice care to both of them at the same time and credits her animal hospice experience as being a precious gift to her as much as those she cared for.

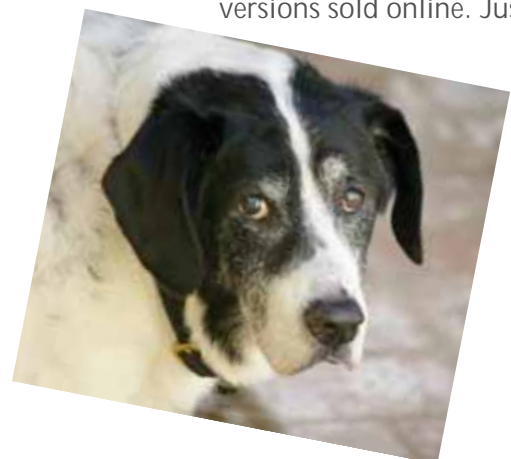
Calvin came to live with Bunny for the last couple of years of his life because he could no longer navigate his family's home with its tile and hardwood floors and many stairs. Calvin was Bunny's sister's family dog and though Calvin was VERY much alive, euthanasia loomed just around the corner due to the logistics of caring for him in his declining years.

Adding to what was learned through our seminar, and her experience in providing her dog Swany with hospice care 4 ½ years ago, Bunny learned much more from Calvin about special needs and geriatric care as well as the hospice process.

Calvin, through Bunny, continues his sharing with those who take on caring for a special needs senior all the way.

### So \$\$\$ don't get to decide...

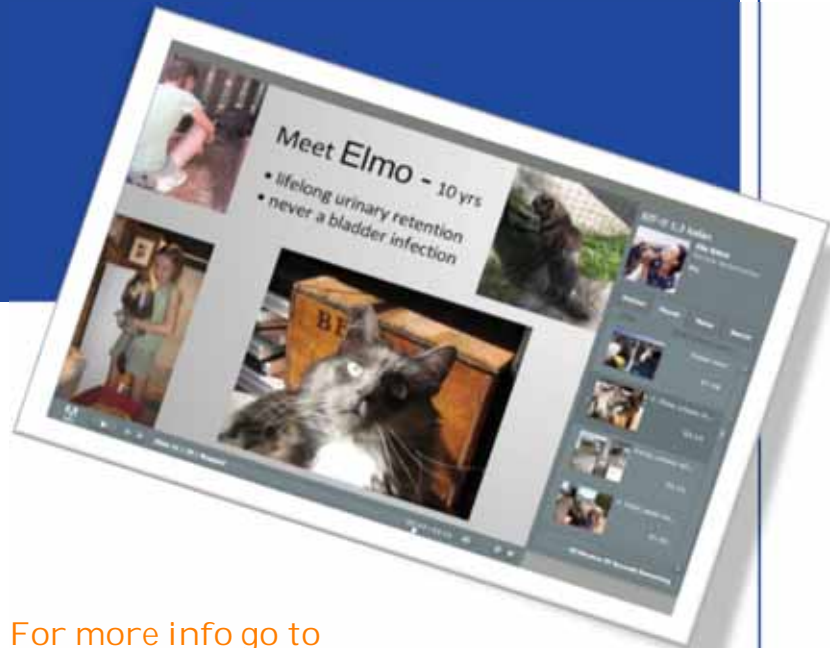
At Spirits in Transition, we are very aware of how often the quality of care or also the length of an animal's life gets limited by financial restrictions of the caregiver- much to their heart break. So one of our endeavors is to lay out options that include very low cost versions of helpful products that are currently available. Calvin on the upper left, fashions a very handy, almost no cost version of a sling, used to support an animal with a weak hind end. He also can tell you how to build a Quad chair (wheel chair for dogs who also lose strength in front), for much less than versions sold online. Just contact us!



# Spirits in Transition - **ONLINE SESSIONS** - First ever on animal hospice! available now !

Thanks to several very busy beavers our dream has become true to make education on animal hospice available also to those who cannot travel to a live seminar. Part 1 of the online classes "Spirits in Transition" is in full progress. Each month since December 2009 a new session has been released, and participants from the US were joined by those from as far as Australia and Italy!

*To the right you can see the type of visual display utilized for the online classes. You hear Ella's voice commenting as if you were right in a seminar, get to download handouts and can share your insights and participate in polls. Remaining questions you may have you can ask to Ella directly in session # 10, which is conducted as a webinar, also using the wonders of computer technology.*



For more info go to  
[www.spiritsintransition.org](http://www.spiritsintransition.org)

Ella with the "boys".  
From left to right:  
Willie, the Wild,  
Joyous Jim,  
Samson, the Best,  
and Chocolate Mousse  
who is playing hide and seek in  
Samson's shadow.  
The cats stayed at home, but  
we all say: **Namaste\*!**

(\*This is engraved in Ella's and Jim's wedding rings, and freely translated means:

**The divine within me  
greet the divine within you.**

For more delicious details see Wikipedia ☺)

