

## **Elisabeth Amies**

It is with great sadness (and shock) that we learned today, of the sudden death of Elisabeth Amies on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, aged 84 years.

Elisabeth who bred her beautiful Burmese under the prefix Walkabout (probably because of her association with Australia) was a long-standing, hard-working and enthusiastic member of the cat fancy. She was a committee member of the Burmese Cat Club for many years and then of the Burmese Cat Association. Elisabeth threw her great energy into fund raising for both clubs and was often seen at cat shows selling her homemade fudge, jams and so forth whilst talking knowledgeably about our beloved breed to all. She was always interested in how your show day was going despite not being "bitten by this bug" herself.

Elisabeth was a well-travelled, well read and cultured person who was a delight to know and always a wonderful companion.

She will be remembered and missed as the true lady she was.

We send our sincere condolences to Michael, Toby, twin sister Bridget and family and friends.

## **Jan Bowen, Sue Chase, Sharon Neale and Anna Virtue**

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I am deeply sorry to have to tell you that Elisabeth Amies, our Vice President, died very suddenly on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

When I wrote to the Committee to tell them of Elisabeth's passing, the messages that came back were all that we have lost a true lady, who made people feel at ease with her genuine warmth and kindness.

I first met Elisabeth over forty years ago when I was starting to learn about welfare work at the Burmese Cat Club. Not long afterwards she moved to America with her husband Michael for his work but we kept in touch. Then, when they returned in 1998 our friendship really blossomed. To me she was a mum, a sister and a very close friend all rolled into one.

Elisabeth was committed to the Burmese Breed in its true form. She was a founder member of the Association and her strength, enthusiasm and many talents were vital in the early days when she was Membership Secretary, personally welcoming each new member, and doing so much to help establish our Website. She served on the Committee for 10 years and was particularly active at our shows, greeting everyone with a big smile and always ready for a chat from her base at the raffle table. She made notelets to raise money for our welfare work but it was her homemade fudge that was always the first to go!

Elisabeth and Michael have a son, Toby, who is a film Director and who they are very proud of. They also had an [adopted] daughter, Catherine, who died in 2010 when complications with her diabetes developed and a suitable organ donor could not be found. Despite their grief, they responded by working tirelessly for many years to raise awareness of the need for many more donors, particularly by educating the young. Catherine, in spite of her poor health, became a donor – as did Elisabeth. They will both be commemorated for their gifts on the Organ Donation Memorial at Worcester Royal Hospital.

When Judy Potter, our then President, died Elisabeth and Michael rehomed one of her cats, Harry Potter, and, of course, he worked his way into their hearts and their bed. Elisabeth desperately wanted to put him on exhibition at our show last year as a tribute to Judy and her excellent breeding. Everything had been prepared including drapes for the pen but,

unfortunately, Harry died the night before. Elisabeth was broken hearted but somehow managed to run the raffle as usual from a table right next to the empty pen. I have no idea how she did it ... but that was Elisabeth. Toby continues in the family tradition of living with a fine Chocolate Burmese (given name Lorenzo, family name Whistle from his distinctive purr)

I will miss her very, very much and it will be a long time before I can think about her without a tear in my eye.

**Maureen Smith**  
**Chairman**  
**Burmese Cat Association**