

Betty Brown

It was with great sadness that the Birman Cat Club Committee received the news of the death of Miss Betty Brown.

Miss Brown was one of the founders of the Birman Cat Club in 1969. She was the club Secretary from its inception in 1969 until 1990. Additionally she was the Membership Secretary and had responsibility of dealing with club trophies and rosettes. She also found time to write, print and distribute a club magazine. In later years she became a patron of the club. She was Vice President of the club and took an active interest in the club's development and running.

Betty Brown was a much loved and respected Birman breeder judge until her retirement.

In 1969 she imported one of the early Birman stud cats Solomon Von Assindia and bred some outstanding Birmans under her Smokeyhill prefix. Many of our breeders started their careers with Smokeyhill Birmans and Solomon Von Assindia was prominent in many pedigrees.

Betty has been retired for some time but still kept in contact with club members and will be remembered with great respect and affection.

Jim Warrender
Chairman
29th December 2020

It was with great sorrow that I heard the news of Betty's death on Boxing Day, at the wonderful age of 94. She was a very special lady who will be sadly missed by the Birman world.

We had begun corresponding regularly by letter (Betty did not possess a computer) during my years as Editor of the Birman Cat Club Magazine, when I asked her to write her *My Life in Cats* story for the Winter 2012 issue. From this I learned that, even with her very full life comprising her various Birman Cat Club roles over the years, judging at cat shows, and running her boarding cattery and kennels in partnership with her friend Joan, she found time for and enjoyed travelling. She wrote with pleasure of a very enjoyable South African holiday and a safari in Kenya they had taken, both of which she loved. She concluded that article by saying that she had always been of the opinion that those of us who were active in the Cat Fancy in the '60s, '70s and '80s had the best times.

Betty was also a very keen tennis fan who much enjoyed watching Wimbledon each year, and she would write with comments on some of the players, many of which gave me a giggle. One of her last letters mourned the loss of this year's tournament.

Rest in peace, dear Betty, I shall miss our correspondence contact.

Janet Osborn
(Lingcomb Birmans)

I was very saddened over Christmas, to learn of the passing of Miss Betty Brown. I first met Betty when I joined The Birman Cat Club in 1977. She was a founder member (1969) of the club, and was the club's first secretary for many years. She published the club's newsletter for many years. She bred top quality Birmans under her world-famous prefix,

Smokeyhill. She imported a Seal male, Solomon Von Assindia (bred by A. Hackmann, Germany), who sired many titled Birmans around the world. I was lucky enough to have one of his Seal daughters, Smokeyhill Mit Sue, as one of my foundation breeding queens. I remember when my wife and I went down to Folkstone, where Betty lived, to collect Mit Sue. Betty had us in for tea, and a lovely visit. Then she showed us Solomon! What a thrill to see him in the flesh!!!

Betty became a judge of Birmans and Colourpoint Persians, which she also bred under her Smokeyhill prefix. She was widely respected for her keen eye, her help and encouragement to many Birman owners and breeders. This past summer she turned 94. Anne Madden suggested to all of us in the club, to send Betty a birthday card. I did so never expecting a reply. I was blown away when I received a 5 page, hand written letter!!! She thanked me for the card and for remembering her. She remembered old times, the Birman breed, the club and all the memories we shared. I will treasure the letter.

Betty was a legend in our Birman world. She will be forever remembered for her contributions to the Birman breed, and to The Birman Cat Club, which she dearly loved. It was a great honour to have known her. I know her legacy will continue as long as there are Birmans on this earth.

David Redtfeldt
President of The Birman Cat Club