

Averil Dawson

I have just seen a notification that Averil Dawson has died peacefully earlier today, I regret I have no further information at this time.

Averil was a GCCF judge and her prefix was Lyreva under which she bred Persians for a number of years, she had not judged for quite some time.

On behalf of myself and the Board we send our sympathy to her remaining family at this very sad time.

Averil is yet another sad loss to our depleted ranks,

I will update with more information should this become available.

John H Hansson
(GCCF Chair)
10th April 2020

It was with great sadness that I heard of the sad passing, peacefully in her sleep, of my good friend Averil Dawson, GCCF Judge. I purchased my first Persian cat 'Lyreva Blue Shalimar' from Averil in 1984 and we became firm friends. I felt very privileged to be asked to be Marc's godmother. Averil was a very well respected judge and was active on many club committees both within the GCCF and wider within her community. Ian and I went to visit her two years ago in the care home and she was very cheery but already looking frail. She was a warm friendly person who will be missed by all.

Jean M Stewart
Barleyfields Persians

It was with much sadness that I learned of Averil Dawson's recent death. She was a member of Northern Counties Cat Club Committee for over 30 years, and contributed much to our activities. A well-known and popular Persian breeder and Judge, cats bearing her Lyreva prefix were frequently to be seen on the bench and she was always happy to talk about the breed to owners, exhibitors and the public at shows. I personally have a vivid memory of a generous chicken roast dinner she pressed on two of us at the end of our 4 days' walk along the St Cuthbert's Way, raising funds for Cat Welfare. (We had left a car at her house in Bamburgh, where we ended the walk and the meal was a very welcome surprise). She carried on with her judging for as long as she was able, but eventually found the travel too much. We last saw her a few years ago when her daughter brought her to visit our show in South Shields, and it obviously gave her much pleasure. She is a friend and fellow cat lover we all miss. My condolences to all her family. It's a shame that under the present circumstances we will not be able to go to say a real goodbye.

Anne Al-Jumaili
Northern Counties Cat Club

I was very sad to hear about the passing of my dear friend Averil Dawson. I have known Averil since I joined the cat fancy along with my moggies in the early 1980s. At that time she lived in Low Fell near to me, before moving to her "dream" house in Bamburgh. There she kept dogs, ponies and chickens, as well as her beautiful cats - Averil loved all animals.

My first pedigree cat was bred by Averil. Natasha, a rehomed Blue Persian, joined our feline family for keeps. Despite Averil's tuition I was never able to do justice to the coat beyond

keeping Natasha comfortable. Nevertheless, I enjoyed stewarding for Averil and learned a lot about Persians, although later I chose to specialise in other breeds.

Averil was an absolute treasure. She was gracious and generous with help and advice on anything. In particular, once with assistance getting a very poorly cat to the vets and being a shoulder to cry on. Not to mention freely providing reassurance anytime at the end of the phone when I was a novice breeder.

We served on the Northern Counties committee for a long time. I greatly appreciated her numerous lifts as I don't drive and also enjoyed our long chats. When she wasn't judging Averil would join us on our club coach to shows as far away as Birmingham and London. In years gone by the National was an 8-hour trip departing Newcastle at midnight on the Friday. I usually wore jeans, very comfy shoes, and layers to peel off as the hall got warmer. Not so Averil - an elegant lady who took a smart change of clothes and tonged her hair just before the coach arrived.

We had a lot of fun times together, like when we and another friend went with the "dog" coach to Crufts, phew ... was that big! We got so fatigued walking round all day that I slid off a chair and made us all laugh.

I last saw Averil some years ago but she will always be fondly remembered as my mentor, confidante and true friend.

Linda Davison
Toreska British Tipped & Selkirk Rex