

Catrina Simpson

Funeral is Wednesday 17th April at Huddersfield Crematorium @ 13.15 Donations in lieu of flowers to be divided between Cancer Research and Kirkwood Hospice.

On Friday I was informed Katrina Simpson had died on the previous Monday. Katrina had been ill for a number of years and whilst the seriousness of her illness was no secret, to be notified of her death was nevertheless something of shock.

Katrina bred and showed Orientals and Siamese would still pop into the odd show periodically, never failing to say hello and to see how everyone was faring.

I don't have any further details at the moment, if I hear anything further, I'll post on the website.

My sincere condolences to her family at this very sad time.

John H Hansson

It is with great sadness that I write to record the passing of Katrina, who was a long-time loyal and trusted friend.

We first met in 1988, when she and Brian came to look at a Blue-point Siamese kitten I had bred. As soon as I met Katrina, I knew that we would be friends and that she would love and look after the kitten.

Both of these instincts proved to be sound – the kitten became a Premier, always beautifully presented and easy to handle (the result of much lap-sitting and cuddling at home!) and Katrina and I spent many happy days at shows, where she would often steward for me, and in between shows putting the world (and the Cat Fancy!) to rights on the phone. She was a very skilled and competent steward, able to handle the most difficult and reluctant of exhibits, and with a natural eye for a good one. She herself bred many titled Siamese and Orientals under her Westgarth prefix, latterly being particularly interested in Cinnamons, though she had a weakness for Oriental Torties which she always blamed on me, as the first one she ever met was my Ch Kirash Tamarisk. As soon as she saw her, Katrina said "I want one of those!" and she did in fact own and breed several Tortie champions over the years.

She would have made an excellent judge, though that held no attraction for her – she preferred to enjoy breeding, exhibiting and stewarding, always maintaining that she was too outspoken to navigate the sometimes hazardous waters of the Judging Scheme. The welfare of the cats was always her first concern and she was quick to make her feelings known if she believed that anyone was not treating their animals properly. Katrina loved all animals and in fact the last time I saw her, just three days before she died, she informed me that she had always wanted a pet mouse!

Katrina's final illness made the end of her life very difficult, though she met the challenges it threw at her with stoicism and her usual strong will. Her final passing was sudden – she was cheerful and very much herself during that final visit and I felt sure that I would be seeing her again. Sadly, that was not to be, and Brian's phone call giving me the sad news was a real shock.

I will miss my dear friend greatly and send love and sympathy to Brian and her family.

Janet Starr
GCCF Judge