

In Memory of Maureen Gentles

It is with heartfelt sadness that the cat fancy here in Perth is mourning the passing of our dear friend Maureen Gentles, aged 61. Maureen was a regular exhibitor and ran many shows over the years.

With her love for the red-heads, it was not long before a little cinnamon Somali kitten called Joylinear Rudolph bred by Carole Carroll captured Maureen's heart. Rudi was a dream to show and would regularly compete in the Group 3 Desexed section. Maureen's successes with Rudi were many, including Best Group 3 Desexed Cat in Show at the 2010 ACF National in Perth under Allan Raymond, and Best All Breeds Desexed Cat in Show at the Perth Royal Show in 2010 with Barbara La Rocca.

Sadly, Maureen passed away in November after a long battle with cancer. Maureen you are now free of pain. I am sure that you are now looking down on us with Lois, who was also a Somali exhibitor who sadly passed away and you are both cheering on the Somalis.

I was introduced to Maureen in 1998. I had gone to a Cat show in Perth, just as a spectator. I had recently bought a little part-Somali kitten called Tiggy, and on talking to some of the exhibitors they told me I could enter Tiggy in the Companion section. I was then introduced to Maureen who told me that there was a Companion cat show coming up. She encouraged me to enter and that was my introduction to the Feline Fancy in Perth.

Maureen gave me a lot of help and encouragement, something she did for everyone, especially newcomers. I was so pleased when she decided to give Rudi a home. She loved Somalis, Cinnamons being her favourite.

She will be very missed by all who knew her.



Carole Carroll

I first started showing in 2007. I remember seeing Maureen dashing around with slips of paper in her hand going up to judging tables to get clarification on a judging slip. At this time Maureen was showing a Companion and also a desexed Persian. I had been showing Tarek for a while when one day Carole brought a little Cinnamon Somali kitten to the show. That was it. Maureen fell in love with him and she was hooked.

My two Somali neuters, Rossi and Tarek, and her Rudi, were always benched together and I would often hold Rudi and comb him for Maureen. At a show Maureen usually could be found working on the catalogue, and she would always let me know how well my boys had done. Maureen did not mind as long as a Somali was in the top placings and she would often pull judges into line over cross-judging.

Maureen you will remain in our hearts forever, however your presence will be greatly missed.

Lynne Moorman



Cool Cats Rule

By reputation cats are aloof and solitary creatures, displaying affection only grudgingly. But this popular perception turns out to be unfair. While many are surly, this comes down to their breed. Others are far more genial.

In London, a study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Behaviour* recently involved 129 cats from 14 breeds, as well as cross-breeds. The cats ranged from kittens to cats more than 20 years old. They were a mix of males and females, with some desexed and some entire.

Owners were asked a series of questions, ranging from how their cat reacted when they entered the room, to how it behaved around strangers and the vet. Each cat was given a friendliness score according to the responses.

Lynne Moorman

The study ranked breeds according to friendliness, from the most affectionate to the least. Those identified as the most unfriendly were the domestic non-pedigree cats. The researchers found the Sphynx to be the friendliest. Other pedigree cats to score highly included Maine Coons, Birman, Siamese, Russian Blues and not surprisingly the Somali.

