

Dear friends,

We started the Siberian Cat Foundation On Behalf of the Siberian Cats in 2010. We have achieved a lot these past years, but every beginning is difficult. Improving the Siberian Cat breed, but also to become more knowledgeable and retain the willingness. The goals we've set were not only for improving the Siberian Cat breed but also enlarging the knowledge and the willingness to keep the breed as it was centuries ago, when it first came to our attention and to keep the breed standard.

Also keeping the breed as healthy as can be, which means become better informed about health issues like f.e. testing for (genetic) diseases. Also the knowledge of the pedigrees and the gene spreading are very important. Only to illustrate what I think is important: f.e. inbreed is not always very bad but a very solid knowledge about this matter is a must in order to breed responsibly. Breeding with foundation lines needs more than only taking a cat from a forest and putting it in a breeding program. It is only for those breeders with a distinguished knowledge of this matter. Using a stud countless times is harmful for the gene spreading. I think we have partly achieved this goal. More breeders started testing for f.e. HCM, PKD and FIV/FeLV, also the contracts for kitten buyers and also for breeders are used more frequently as well as the chipping of the cats and kittens. Unfortunately we were not able to reach everybody and convince them of the importance of our message. The solidarity amongst breeders has improved somewhat, but not as much as I had hoped for. The kitten buyers were also on our list of achievements. We have tried to enlarge the knowledge of the potential buyers and we give them guidelines for the important things like the allergies and what to look for when visiting a cattery, to be able to distinguish the good from the bad.

In the past year I had to deal with multiple health issues, hospitalization and operations. It became more difficult over time, to accomplish the tasks of leading the foundation. As founder of the Foundation I have always felt the responsibility to lead the Foundation and its volunteers and stand by them. Now I have to admit it is impossible for me, in this condition, to lead the Foundation. Because my name is connected to the Foundation there is only one way to deal with it and take my responsibility in regard to the Foundation. It really saddens me to say but I had to decide to end the Foundation.

However, my love for the Siberian Cat is too big to just do nothing. I have decided to make an informative website where many of the articles of the Foundation will return. Also, I will commit to the breed and keep writing articles and publish them on this website. Perhaps in the future I will start something else for the Siberian Cat, but right now I have to choose my health as priority nr. 1. I did not want you to feel betrayed by your trust in the Foundation and after a long talk I have found Patty Boonders ready to take on the Kitten-, Stud list and Adoption cats. This will not be totally as the Foundation lists but in a smaller setting. All people who agreed to the Internal Rules of the Foundation are already on the website she has built. The address is www.siberischekittensteekoop.nl. I know this service will match the Foundation and it will satisfy you. I want to wish Patty good luck in fulfilling the task. Hopefully you will support her in my belief in this website. This service will still be free of charge, just like the Foundation.

The planned Siberian special in November in Wassenaar will, unfortunately, not take place. It saddens me but there is no other way.

Our promise at the start of the Foundation was to give 10% of the donations to a good cause for the cat. We have chosen a donation to Pawpeds for their pioneering work, in the area of health

for the Siberian Cat and all other breeds. Also the cash remainder after dissolving the Foundation will be donated to Pawpeds.

I hope that more breeders are going to take part in the courses given by Pawpeds about the health programs as described by them.

I would like to thank everyone for the confidence put in the Foundation. In particular I would like to thank the Board and the other volunteers of the Foundation for their efforts and the many hours spent on the Foundation.

I wish everyone good luck and hope I have contributed to the awareness of responsible breeding and this is certainly linked to love for the cat, any cat. Also, I wish much love and joy to the (potential) kitten buyers who now or in the future will enjoy our wonderful breed.

For those who are curious or just faithful, the address of my new website is www.siberischekat.info. I hope to see you at my new website. The website is still under development and will be adjusted every time, the layout will be adjusted in due course.

I wish you lots of love, success and health for you and your cats and maybe we will meet again either on paper, internet or in person.

Bianca van Lith