

Andrea Dean

I live in High Wycombe with my husband Charlie and 2 neuter cats - 2 male NFCs aged 7 and 4 (Håkan and Kimmo). I have always loved animals and have lived with cats since I was a teenager. I have been involved in the cat fancy since the early 1990s, in both GCCF and FIFe. After retiring early I now have more time to support the cat fancy more actively again, and hope that my experience will be of value. I have an interest in breeding and welfare to support the health and well-being of our feline companions, and as I am no longer a breeder I can provide an impartial and independent input.

I have lived with cats since I was 14 when we got a female (old-style) Siamese kitten called Priscilla. Priscilla had one litter of kittens and Pippin stayed. When I got my own home, I wanted cats of my own and welcomed Marte and Small (an Abyssinian) in early 1990. Marte was a Norwegian Forest Cat from one of the earlier litters bred in the UK, and her breeder encouraged me to join the club - and so began my involvement with this lovely breed. I joined the NFCC and was very involved in the cat fancy for many years, occupying most of the NFCC committee positions over the years and was very involved in supporting the recognition of the NFCC by the GCCF and the transitioning of the breed to championship status. Back in the 1990s, it was not possible to participate in both FIFe and GCCF in the UK, but I travelled many times to Sweden and Norway (also other countries) to attend FIFe shows, steward and meet NFC breeders to learn about the breed. I was lucky enough to meet some of the original breeders and their cats, including Pans, Torvmyras, Christianias, and many more. In the 1990s I imported 4 breeding NFCs (3 through quarantine and 1 via the Balai directive) from Sweden and Norway. Today's arrangements are much easier for all concerned, especially the cats. I bred under the Volsung prefix from 1991, but our most recent litter was born in 2006, so you will only find Volsung cats in older pedigrees, and we lost the last Volsung in 2023. A few Volsung went back to Sweden and Finland, and it is descendants of these (Håkan and Kimmo) that I have more recently imported from Sweden and am showing today.