



## **Nicki Fenwick-Raven Amisti Birmans**

### **Candidate Statement For The TICA Birman Breed Committee 2023**

My name is Nicki Fenwick-Raven, I am currently a Provisional Allbreed Judge with TICA and I live in the Essex, in the UK. I have been owned by Birmans since 1998 and I have been showing and breeding Birman cats since 2002.

In the UK I currently administer the Birman Cat Club Kitten List helping people to locate and secure Birman kittens into new families, working alongside Birman Breeders in the UK to promote the breed. My Previous roles in the Club include a term as a Committee Member and 5 years as assistant Editor of the club magazine, producing two publications per year.

From 2007 to 2015 I worked as an Area Co-ordinator for Birman Welfare & Rescue, now I run a successful Rescue and Rehoming Birman Programme. My work involves taking in, caring for, fostering and rehoming rescue Birmans. It's a highly rewarding role 99% of the time. 1% of the time is complete sadness. I give what I can with regard to time and effort and love to see the Birmans that come in given a second chance at happiness.

When I started breeding I was fortunate to have two very well respected and experienced breeders to call on for advice and guidance and I believe that it is important to all breeders to have a mentor to guide them. I have never forgotten the help and assistance I was given and I still appreciate it now. Having a mentor teaches you the value of knowledge and experience, nobody knows everything and there is always a place in life for education.

Whilst not a big breeder, I have produced two TICA Birman Lifetime Achievers and many IW and Regional Winners of which I am very proud.

By invitation I have written articles on the Birman breed for publications in the UK and Australia and have written a breed standard for a Judges conference.

My breeding program is about type and temperament, quality not quantity: I am constantly trying to improve my lines by researching pedigrees and matching the right cats to each other. It's important to encourage genetic diversity in any breed and working with other breeders across the World helps me to do that.

The health and wellbeing of the kittens I bring into the World is a primary issue and I spend a lot of time homing to the best possible homes.

I hope that in the future my cattery name Amisti will be remembered not only for the legacy of its show cats but also as a quality benchmark for selective, careful breeding.

My reasons for wishing to stand on the Birman Breed Committee:

To help continue to ensure the stability, health and standard of the breed by working together through discussion, continuous education, support and genetic diversity.

Achievable by working with and learning from other like-minded individuals across the World who are interested in securing the best future for the Birman breed not only as a show cat but as the fabulous companion feline that it certainly is.

Thank you for taking the time to read my candidate statement.

Nicki Fenwick-Raven  
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