

OBITUARY

Margaret Woodward-Sheridan **(Achenburg Dobermanns)**

It is with great sadness I write of the recent death of Margaret Woodward-Sheridan, writes Carol Smith.

The love of the Dobermann occupied a large part of Margaret's life spanning some 45 years and the deep commitment to the breed, has been appreciated by many.

Margaret's first Dobermann was a brown bitch Achen of Abbeywell Sired by Fusilier soon followed by a male purchased from Greg and Jane Parkes, Annastock Deutche Prinz of Catherdon who was shown in the ring up against the great Fred Cumow.

Later came a bitch from Bernard Aughton, Katina of Trevellis Sired by Jim Von Forrell, a German import. Out of this breeding came Ch. Achenburg Delilah who worked in obedience reaching a high standard and becoming the foundation bitch of Achenburg Dobermanns. Margaret campaigned Int. Ch. Kenstaff Triogen Toumado of Achenburg who was exported to Australia and later on was to import the first Dobermann to be made up in the UK Int. Ch. Vonklebongs Solar Encore of Achenburg, winning 13 tickets.



This keen devotion to the breed saw Margaret win high accolade in the show ring with many of her Dobermanns and engagements to Judge came along with appointments all over the world including Barbados, Hong Kong and all over the UK. culminating in Crufts. Margaret was amongst the very elite few to Judge Crufts twice.

When the Midland Dobermann Club was formed in 1967 Margaret became a founder member going on to hold many positions of responsibility: Show manager, secretary and finally Chairman. She encouraged new ideas and spear headed health projects to raise money especially for Cervical Spondilopathy.

Eventually Margaret went on to become the Chairman of The Dobermann Breed Council serving for 15 years, bringing to the position a great sense of fairness and integrity.

The Dobermann Breed Council undertook to organise many successful projects in the breed with Margaret's guidance, enthusiasm, and words of wisdom and many students have benefited from lectures on the breed at educational seminars.

In 2004 The Midland Dobermann Club presented Margaret with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her life's work.

Together with showing in the breed ring and the committee work undertaken, Margaret earned the respect of many in the dog world at home and abroad.

Indeed since her untimely death many owners of the breed have sent their condolences accompanied by their memories of a "lovely lady who was always willing to help and share her knowledge freely" who became a mentor to many exhibitors.

More recently, Margaret had returned to work for the Midland Dobermann Club and continued to raise money for Dilated Cardiomyopathy research.

Many owners and friends will remember the famous green tomato chutney and jams and the lavender bags sold by Margaret on the DCM stalls at the MDC Ch Shows.

Margaret Woodward-Sheridan's legacy is that her name is ensconced in the Dobermann and will be sadly missed and be of a great loss to the breed.

The funeral was held at All Saints Church, Cotgrave on 21st October.

Much sympathy to her son Michael and daughter Michelle and grandchildren.