

THE BIRMAN CAT CLUB

PET BIRMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS *Information & Guidelines for entering*



The Pet Birman of the Year Awards were launched In Summer 2000 by the Committee to demonstrate that the Club values the support of all its members whether breeder, exhibitor or pet owner, and to celebrate all the many pet Birmans by giving them and their owners a voice. Those who breed or have bred know well that a litter of Birman babies may, if you are lucky, have one that is "show quality": the others may have lovely broad heads, super eye colour and many of the other desirable attributes, but fall short on the correct feet markings or perhaps have another certificate withholding fault. In other respects they will have the beautiful looks, personality and temperament that we all love and are adored and cherished by their owners just as much as if they had titles and dazzling rosettes.

Now is the time to enter our annual Awards and give your own special Birman the opportunity to be voted **Pet Birman of the Year 2017**. If your Pet Birman's character, personality or life experiences so far have that special something to grab the attention, why not nominate him or her by writing to describe why you feel he or she (or they, if you have a specially close pair) should be a winner in our 2017 Awards. A sensitive appreciation of your Birman's traits and special habits (with a little writing skill to bring him or her to life!), and the motivation to put fingers to keyboard are all that is needed! If you wish to write your story as if by your Birman, this is acceptable. There are several criteria for the basis of a lively and well-written short story to appeal to the Committee panel, for example:-

- Special companionship – with humans, other felines, or even other species!
- Notable adventures or experiences
- Combating serious illness or injury
- Unusual qualities, such as ESP
- Especially endearing habits e.g. food fads, or funny tricks

The Awards are open to all pet Birmans owned by paid-up club members both in the UK and abroad, including those who are shown here in the Pedigree Pet classes of the Household Pet section. Birmans shown under their pedigree names, those kept for breeding and, regretfully, deceased Birmans, are **not** eligible. A former stud or queen retired from breeding and re-homed as a Pet may be entered by his/her new owner if a member. Members who have entered in the past and been unsuccessful are welcome to enter again, with the same or a different cat.

THE AWARDS

THE WINNER RECEIVES:

The Pet Birman of the Year cup
(to engrave and hold for 1 year)
with an AGM trophy Certificate
A 6" engraved salver trophy to keep
A personalized rosette
A Certificate with photo

2 RUNNERS-UP EACH RECEIVE:
A 5" engraved salver trophy to keep
A personalized rosette
A Certificate with photo

In the event of the Winner being from overseas, the owner will receive only the salver trophy with the other prizes, as posting the returnable cup is not practicable.

OWNERS OF ALL ENTRIES WILL RECEIVE A COMMEMORATIVE ROSETTE FOR THEIR BIRMAN

Please send your nomination story, of up to between 1500-2000 words (not more, please or it may be edited) to Club Trophy Secretary JANET OSBORN by post or by e-mail as a Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format document, no later than 30 OCTOBER, with a photo of your Birman. Full contact details are on the attached entry form, which must accompany your story, please. All the stories are submitted to the members of the Committee in a uniform style (without owners' or breeders' full names or cats' pedigree names, to avoid any bias). The Winner and two Runners-up are decided by their individual votes on a points scoring system and are notified as soon as possible thereafter.

All three stories will then be featured in the Spring 2018 issue of the magazine and the winner will also be published on the Club's website. Other entry stories may also be published. The prizes are presented at the Club's Annual General Meeting in May.

Any queries about the Awards, please contact Janet Osborn, 0151 625 6641, lingcomb.birmans@virgin.net
I look forward to receiving your entries!