

In Memory of Kaethe Rodarty

June 10, 1921 - March 10, 2008

The Sloughi has lost a wonderful and devoted friend, advocate and admirer of many years, Kaethe Rodarty. Kaethe's passion for the Sloughi was sparked by her life in Saudi Arabia and Libya for more than two decades, where she encountered and owned both Salukis and Sloughis in their native lands. Kaethe's deep regard for all animals was a focal point in her life, and one for which she will always be remembered fondly by her family and friends.



Kaethe Rodarty with Tagiurie el Sian in California in 1974.

Kaethe was born in Bentheim, Germany (Kaethe Brose), and in 1949 left Germany, crossing the Channel to work in England. It was on that voyage that she met her future husband, Carl Rodarty, and they were married on Bahrain in the Persian Gulf in 1950. Carl was an employee of ARAMCO in the region, and they made their life together in the surrounding areas of Saudi Arabia for 11 years and then also lived in Libya for 11 years as well.

Kaethe was drawn first to the Salukis of Saudi Arabia, encountering her first there in 1950 and becoming the devoted owner of her first in June of 1955, when she was gifted with a tan feathered bitch, Laila (Shaikh x Habiba; both of Umm as-Sahik, Al Hasa Province, Saudi Arabia). She and Carl owned, bred and also exported other Saudi Arabian Salukis after Laila, working closely with long-time devoted Saluki fanciers in the U.S. such as Mrs. Esther Knapp and Mrs. William Eltiste.

Farhan of Mumtaz-i-Javanadmi with Kaethe Rodarty.

Kaethe's interest and devotions for the Sloughi was further ignited in Libya in 1962 when she and Carl became the owners of a brindle bitch there. Unfortunately, the details surrounding this bitch (which they owned there in Libya into the 1970's) escape my recall here. However, in 1969 while still in Libya, Kaethe also happened upon two young Sloughi littermates from the Sian tribe,



bred by Mohammed Djauj. These two pups, Tagiurie and Jamiela, would eventually become pieces of the breed's history in both America and Europe. Kaethe kept the young dog Tagiurie with her, and the little bitch, Jamiela (subsequently in studbooks and pedigrees as 'Damiela' and 'Djamiela') went with the family of Heather van Duyvenbode to the Netherlands, as they and the Rodartys were forced from Libya as Khadaffi came to power there. As Kaethe settled with her family in Ventura, California in 1973, Tagiurie became the first Sloughi known to have been imported to the U.S., while his sister Damiela went on to become a significantly influential brood bitch in Europe, being bred first to Amen Ouled-Nails in 1971 and then to Sahib de la Ruine in 1973. From Damiela's first litter of 7, only one male, Karim, went on to produce progeny (7) of his own, while from her second litter (13 pups!) by Sahib de la Ruine, five of the siblings went on to produce progeny themselves, making Damiela the grand-dam of some 60+ additional handsome Sloughis carrying her bloodline, one which continues in many of our pedigrees today.



Ibn Farhan with his cat friend Mr. Gray at the Rodarty's home

After settling in the U.S., Kaethe's interest in the hounds remained active, and she was instrumental in furthering the preservation of the desert-bred Saluki and the Sloughi. Until her passing, she remained an active member in the Society for the Perpetuation of Desert-Bred Salukis (SPDBS), whose registry of direct desert-descent dogs is now recognized these many years later by the American Kennel Club, as well as being a long-time member of the U.S. parent club for the breed, the Saluki Club of America. Her avid interest in the Sloughi also continued.

Farhan of Mumtaz-i-Javanadmi (left) with his mate, Tounsia Kahloul de la Treille.

After the passing of her beloved Tagiurie el Sian in the U.S., Kaethe imported to the U.S. from Mrs. Braakman in the Netherlands a great-grandson of his sister Damiela, descended from her breeding to Sahib de la Ruine, through both a daughter and son from that breeding, Amira el Cid and Illa'al el Cid, which together had produced the lovely World Champion (1980) Bluedon's Zaherit Eltofah. She had been bred in 1981 to Int. Ch. Barry Min Ahrar al Maghrib, producing the Mumtaz-i-Javanadmi 'F' litter, from which Kaethe was sent Farhan. In the U.S., Farhan would later become the sire of the litter (bred once to Tounsia Kahloul de la Treille) which ultimately prompted the formation of the first breed club for the Sloughi in the Americas, the Sloughi Fanciers Association of America, of which Kaethe was a founding member as it was established



in 1988, and remaining an Honorary Member until her passing. From that litter Kaethe retained Ibn Farhan who greatly resembled his father, and he also remained a supreme joy in Kaethe's life until his passing as a grand old gentleman.

Among her many fine qualities, Kaethe was also always a gracious hostess in her own home. As I met her in the late 1970's through a mutual friend of ours, the late Gisela Cook-Schmidt (Reckendahl), Kaethe would always welcome us to her home and encourage us to visit, have some tea with her and enjoy conversation about dogs and other interests. Kaethe also developed an abiding interest in the Azawakh, through her association with Gisela, and became the owner of one of the bitches from the first U.S.-born Azawakh litter (Reckendahl 'I' litter) as well as a founding member of that breed's first club in the U.S., the American Azawakh Association. Kaethe was always also especially devoted to her beautiful blue and gold Macaw parrot, Pretty Baby, who would inevitably 'tease' her into a loving scolding by screeching when Kaethe went to talk on the telephone. Over the years Kaethe also greatly enjoyed her Koi pond and the Doves which she kept in the peaceful setting of their garden there in Ventura.

Kaethe will be greatly missed by many.

Submitted by Jack McGuffin
Lake Elsinore, California
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