

OBITUARY

Claudia Ursula von Tscharnner



A familiar and trusted voice, now quiet.
 A loved one no longer with us.
 What stays with us are love,
 gratitude and memories.

On May 29, 2024, Claudia lost her battle with cancer, which she fought with courage and dignity. She was a ground-breaking pioneer of veterinary dermatopathology in Europe, a founding member of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology and a committed contributor to the International Society of Veterinary Dermatopathology. Her influence as a caring mentor and teacher spread worldwide, as she inspired many dermatology and pathology residents by promoting their training. When reviewing difficult cases, Claudia often used to say: "I need to sleep over this and look at it tomorrow again with a fresh mind set" - such an important lesson I learned from her and carried with me throughout the years as a pathologist; amazing how not forcing the issue, and having this second evaluation often helped to reach a diagnosis. Thanks to her, together with Julie Yager and Gail Kunkle, we have some of the most valued input about equine dermatopathology from Dr. Toni Stannard's case collection, which was published in a special issue of *Veterinary Dermatology* (Volume 11, Issue 3, September 2000).

Her kindness, sense of humor and love for people and animals made her easy to be around. Even

times when she had her all so common episodes of misplacing things, which elicited a sudden crisis mode and ended in quick relief and laughter when "misplaced things" were usually relocated close by. "Larger than life" is an expression that best describes Claudia. She approached all days and all people in her life with an incredibly positive state of mind. Many of us have endless fond memories of spending time at Claudia's home. An outstanding cook, these long evenings were filled with wonderful food, endless laughter whilst sharing stories, and of course, the most wonderful wine. She rarely said anything negative; except when tasting bad wine, which she had no tolerance for, and never hesitated to dispose of down the drain.

Claudia's love for animals was endless and her home was always alive with dogs and cats. She loved nature and wildlife and never missed a chance to travel and explore in the company of good friends. She was a gifted photographer, sharing her exquisite pictures with us after her return. She had a soft spot for horses and enjoyed horseback riding for many years. Many of you likely do not know that she was an excellent skier, growing up in the mountains and downhill ski racing in her youth; surely part of the reason she needed knee replacements later in her life. Even still, Claudia stayed highly active, going on long walks with her dogs, riding her bicycle and hiking with friends.

We will miss you terribly Claudia. Thank you for your friendship, the support you offered over the years and the laughter we shared. We raise a glass to your life lived at its fullest and will carry many wonderful memories of you in our hearts.

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