

## Remembering Pat Cole

By Kathleen Donnelly

Kind, fun-loving and passionate about horses, Pat Cole brought joy to every NCDA event. Many NCDA members first met Pat when she had her large Thoroughbred, but the horse that all remember the most, was her beloved Swedish Warmblood Oz. Oz was Pat's steady partner and not only was he Pat's horse, but he was the family horse. He patiently taught Pat's children how to ride and Pat cherished the moments she could see her whole family enjoying the beauty of dressage.

As Oz aged, Pat found a new horse—Inspirado. Inspirado lived up to his name as Pat was inspired to not only do dressage with him, but ventured out on trail rides. Together Pat and Inspirado gained the confidence to explore the outdoors and some of her favorite trail rides were out at Bobcat Ridge. Pat also showed Inspirado in a NCDA schooling show and was thrilled at how well he did.

Pat loved NCDA and she was present at almost all the various activities to volunteer and make everyone feel appreciated. Pat would make sure all new members felt welcomed and included. Pat volunteered as the NCDA treasurer from January of 2009 to 2016. As a board member she always thoughtful, open to new ideas and truly listened to what others had to say. Pat, a CSU Veterinary Pathologist, made sure NCDA had free meeting rooms at the veterinary teaching hospital. In addition to reserving the meeting room, Pat generously offered her house to host many NCDA Christmas Parties and events, including a drum circle to work on rhythm and tempo.

Pat always stepped up when needed with a smile and generosity. She volunteered not only her time, effort, and home, but even filled in as a "Master of Ceremonies" at a NCDA Halloween Ride. She organized all the costumed horses and riders, kept everyone safe and orderly and proceeded to arrange a parade and games on horseback. Everyone at the event had an enjoyable and entertaining day due to Pat.



Pat is dearly missed by all who knew her, but her spirit lives on through NCDA. This award not only honors a beautiful person, but is a tribute to those who continue to keep Pat's passion, character, and joy of dressage alive by volunteering for NCDA.



### Pat Cole: a Colleague and Friend

Contributed by Hana Van Campen and Kathleen KilKelly

Pat was a lover of art and culture and so it seemed natural that she also loved the beauty and romance of Dressage. Pat had three geldings she partnered with in dressage over the years; a big, gray OTTB, a dark bay, big gaited warmblood named Oz and her beloved Andalusian, Inspirado. Oz was Pat's steady partner and helped teach her daughters to ride. Raised in the foothills, Inspirado was at home on the trails as well as in the dressage arena. His confidence gave Pat the confidence to explore the big outdoors on horseback. Some of our best memories were of rides on the trails at Bobcat Ridge. Hana Van Campen



I was very happy to learn that NCDCA will honor Pat's volunteer work! She held the office of NCDCA Treasurer from January 2009 until January 2016, and kept us apprised of our finances and arranging payments for various NCDCA expenses. As CSU faculty, she was able to reserve a classroom for us every month at the CSU VTH from November 2008 to April 2016, thus making sure that we had a place to meet, at no expense to the club. We held official NCDCA meetings and gave various presentations there. From 2008 to 2014, Pat hosted the NCDCA Annual Christmas Party at her home on Paradise Lane, organizing almost everything in the way of food. It was a great place to meet and socialize – she did it all in a very casual and relaxed way, seemingly without effort! In 2011, on the spur of the moment, we decided to have our first NCDCA Halloween Ride with costumes, but neglected to include a “Master of Ceremonies” to keep organization once we showed up with costumed horses and riders. Pat stepped right in and, with her dog, Ben, acted as our “Master of Ceremonies” and kept everyone safe and orderly. She had us parading and playing games on horseback for a successful and very fun event. Pat also hosted 2 NCDCA events, “Have You Got Rhythm?” at her home in 2013 and 2015. Members really enjoyed the drumming circle challenges and found the exercises helpful to understanding rhythm and maintaining a steady tempo – important components of the Training Scale.

I think Pat helped out at almost all our activities when she could. I was always impressed by the careful, thoughtful manner that she brought to all our discussions and decisions. She was always open to new ideas and truly listening to what people had to say. Pat was very easy-going and I don't think much could get her flustered – very relaxed about almost anything – whether trying to keep a bunch of spooky horses in costumes safe, allowing a bunch of people to come to her home for a party, or mediating differences of opinions within our organization. She truly loved all animals and kept dogs, cats, rabbits and horses at her home as well as adopting animals in need.

Kathleen Kilkelly





2011 NCDA Halloween Ride



Pat and Ben



Celebration of Life for

# Patricia Cole

1950-2019



June 6, 2019

5419 Paradise Ln, in Fort Collins

*Paulo maiora canamus*

—Virgil

Please visit the following website for information regarding donating in Pat's name:  
<http://www.gomilescans.com/obituary/Patricia-Cole-1/>