

Stewie the world's longest cat dies in Nevada

February 5 2013, by Scott Sonner



In this file photo taken July 1, 2009, Robin Henderson stretches out her Maine Coon cat Stewie outside of her home in Reno, Nev. The Reno owner of the longest domestic cat in the world says Stewie died Monday, Feb. 4, 2013 after a yearlong battle with cancer. Guinness World Records declared Stewie the record-holder in August 2010, measuring 48.5 inches from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail. (AP Photo/Reno Gazette-Journal, Andy Barron)

(AP)—Stewie the Cat, the longest domestic cat in the world at more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) long from nose to tail, has died.

Stewie was surrounded by family when he succumbed to a yearlong battle with cancer Monday evening at his Reno home, owner Robin Hendrickson said Tuesday. He was 8.

[Guinness World Records](#) declared Stewie the record-holder in August 2010, measuring 48.5 inches (1.23 meters) from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail.

Hundreds of fans flooded Stewie's Facebook site with memories and condolences Tuesday. The Maine Coon cat was a certified therapy animal that frequently visited a Reno senior center and helped promote animal welfare awareness with the Nevada Humane Society.

"Stewie was always very social and loved meeting new people," Hendrickson said. "He has touched many lives, and for that I am grateful."

Stewie's full name was Mymains Stewart Gilligan. Hendrickson bought him from a breeder in Hermiston, Oregon, in 2005. Last month, he attended the International Cat Show in Portland, Oregon.

"He did really well at the show, even though he wasn't feeling totally perfect," said Valerie Horton, the show's entry clerk. "He loved being there because he loved the public. He always did."

Officials for Guinness World Records did not immediately respond to inquiries about a successor to Stewie's record. The previous record-holder, Leo, a 48-inch(1.21-meter)-long Maine Coon owned by Frieda Ireland of Chicago, died several years ago.

Stewie was diagnosed in early 2012 with Lymphosarcoma, a malignant disease of the [lymphoid tissues](#). He responded successfully to [chemotherapy](#) and was declared cancer-free, but the remission period was brief and a vet recently found another, more aggressive tumor on his kidneys, Hendrickson said.

"I knew that although we could fight it, the end was near and so I wanted

to simply make him comfortable and let him enjoy the time he did have," she said.

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