

# OBITUARY

## Dr. Timothy Durkins, D.P.M.

1953–2002

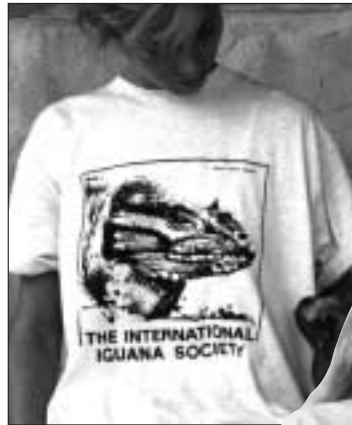


Of all the wonderful friends I have made through the International Iguana Society, I will always remember the remarkable Dr. Timothy Durkins (“that’s DPM, not DVM! I’m a podiatrist, not a veterinarian!”).

Many who attended the IIS barbecue at the CT Iguana Sanctuary some years back will fondly remember “Dr. Tim,” who sat serenely on my back porch and regaled visitors with tales of his many eccentric extended family members and the love of his life, the irascible Miss Sukieman Bardudi. Suki was a six-year-old female Rhinoceros Iguana, who Tim regarded as part goddess, part spiritual familiar, and part demanding roommate. When Suki died of a pervasive liver infection, Tim was devastated. With chronic health problems that had left him unable to work for many years and a diagnosis of cancer, Tim needed another animal to fill his life. That animal was Dash, a four-year-old male Rhinoceros Iguana that I had raised. Dash was never able to actually live with Tim as endless chemotherapy sessions left him weaker and repeatedly hospitalized. To the very end, Tim believed that his disease would simply go into remission at some point and he and Dash would go home together. A copy of the *Iguana Times* was always in Tim’s hospital room and iguana photos at his bedside. He would occupy himself with ideas to raise funds for the IIS and iguana conservation, and with producing handwritten manuals for me on how to care for the various rescued reptiles that end up in my house. The animals and I will all miss Dr. Tim dearly. A donation to the Blue Iguana Fund has been made in his honor.

AJ Gutman

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