

From: Karen Richards [bikerchick@karenrichards.com]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2004 2:21 PM
To: bikerchick@karenrichards.com
Subject: Changing Gears - The Adventure of a Lifetime! Chapter 4 - Home Safe & Sound...

Just a quick note to say that I made it! Nearly 900 miles on a Harley with 22 other incredible women – what an amazing trip!

I know I owe thank you notes to many of you, and I will get to them very soon. I will also write a longer post-trip note and include pictures, but that will be a couple of days too, as I take a little time to deal with some sad news.

I found out this morning that my cat of 14 years, Girlfriend, passed away last night while being treated and boarded at the vet. I got in last night and was due to pick her up after work today, so, very sadly, I missed saying goodbye to her.

She had been diagnosed with cancer before I left on this trip, and had been ill for some time before that. I had been in touch with the vet throughout my trip and she had been up and down. It was quite the emotional rollercoaster for me in addition to all of the emotions of the event itself. The vet had hoped that she would at least have been able to come home and I'd have a couple of weeks with her.

While I'm very sad that I didn't get to say goodbye to her, I know it is for the best - somehow. It would have been so hard to make the decision to put her to sleep, and I know that it was her time to go, and maybe it was for the best that I didn't see her. I feel like she did me a favor in a way, but still feel so bad that she never knew that I was coming back for her. I had a strange feeling this morning as I was setting up her little space for her at home, that she wouldn't be coming home to use it.

So please bear with me for a few days, and I'll have an update for you all soon.

Warmest regards,

Karen

Karen Richards

"It's not the destination, it's the journey"

"Four wheels move the body, two wheels move the soul"

[Click here to find out about my Changing Gears adventure!](#)

