

**Dog Writers Association of America** 

# TUH DRAFTS

"Arctic Serenity" © Cori Solomon

inside . . .

2015 Writing Competition News Search and Rescue Cadaver Dogs Danny the Town Watch Dog Members News: 2016 Bernese MD Calendar Selfie Tins for Dog Lovers DWAA Facebook page



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lda W. Estep, Esq., President PO Box 295, Bunn, NC 27508 252-478-6088, iwestep@earthlink.net

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Robert H. McKowen 297 West Main Street, Leola, PA 17540 717-656-9300



## Alan Alford

As many of you know, DWAA lost an active and long-time member when Alan Alford died on August 12, 2015. Alan served DWAA over the years in multiple capacities, including the Board of Governors, the Hall of Fame Committee, and Treasurer. Many of us also knew Alan as the owner of Fresh Pond Travel in MA where he arranged for dog enthusiasts to attend various dog shows both in the U.S. and internationally.

Alan and his many contributions to DWAA will be greatly missed. His family requests that memorial donations in his name may be made to Buddy Dog Humane Society Inc., 151 Boston Post Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776.

## Germinder & Associates, Inc.

Lea-Ann Germinder, a long-time member of DWAA, has volunteered the services of her agency to provide public relations services to DWAA. Germinder's website Goodnewsforpets.com will serve as DWAA platform to promote programs and reach potential members and sponsors.

Lea-Ann commented, "I am thrilled to begin this new relationship with DWAA, which is an organization near and dear to me. I have met so many outstanding members over the years and look forward to our agency promoting and publicizing this wonderful organization of highly skilled dog writers, bloggers and journalists."

Germinder & Associates, Inc. is based in New York City and provides strategic counsel, digital publishing content, and national campaigns for niche markets including animal health and pet products. The newly redesigned **COLU** by Ida Estep

website Goodnewsforpets.com and associated social media channels form a digital platform that curates news of interest and importance to informed pet parents inclusive of the veterinary profession and pet industry.

Lea-Ann Germinder may be contacted at Lgerminder@germinder.com

or @lgerminder or visit the websites at www.germinder.com or www.goodnewsforpets.com.



by Marsha Pugh

June 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015
Opening balance 16,608.32
Income Applications
Total income 3,240.00
ExpensesBank Charge149.90Computer Services2,853.08Design (newsletter)800.00Printing138.68Repayment (moved to savings)720.31
Total expenses 4,661.97
Checking ending balance 15,186.35 Savings balance 1,101.37



Welcome, new members

Bright, Christy (P) 12427 Carriage Hill Drive Houston, Texas 77077 281- 705-3354 info@shaggydogeats.com

Flietner, Maureen Blaney (P) W4068 Faro Springs Road Hilbert, WI 54129 902-989-2458 Maureen@mbfcommunications.com

Harbert, Karen (P) 11333 E. Limberlost Rd. Tucson, AZ 85749 520-760-8994 aelwydcwc@aol.com

Hohenhaus, Dr. Ann Elizabeth (P) 1175 York Avenue11C New York, NY 10005 212-329-8612 ann.hohenhaus@amcny.org

Miller-Young, Jody (P) 700 NE 16th Terrace Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 917-770-3970 jody@barkandswagger.com Sanchez, Rebecca (P) 3246 W. Viewmont Way W. Seattle, WA 98199 206-257-9579 chieffuzzydude@mattiedog.com

## **Membership changes**

Arango, Mary Fish 2200 Camp Baker Road Medford, OR 97501 maryfisharango@gmail.com 805-570-8899

Mitchell, Elaine mitchellcavaliers@gmail.com

Walkowicz, Chris delete home; cell only, 309-737-2625 walkoway.dogbooks@gmail.com

# E-mail changes to the 2014 membership roster

Bass, Cheryl: mystics999@aol.com Burns, DVM, Jean: florestaah@earthlink.net Brown, Tammi: brownie81565@aol.com Conner, Daryl: yankeegroomer@aol.com Christensen, Wendy: wendy@wendycats.com Kolehouse, Bobbie Lee S: bobbie.kolehouse@gmail.com Kalmanash, Angela: ackalmanash@ruffwave.com Rogers, LuAnn Stuver: lsr48@aol.com Wolf, Steven: sedonacollege@gmail.com Wright, Susan: susan@puppy\_dogs.com

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**ruff DRAFTS** Vicky Clarke, Editor

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## www.dwaa.org

## ruff DRAFTS

send all material to Vicky Clarke, editor 1138 Mohea Road, Unionville, NV 89418 775-538-7331, uziduzit@wildblue.net

issue deadlines~

Spring, March 1 Summer, June 1 Fall, September 1 Winter, December 1

The editor reserves the right to refuse and/or edit material, and is not responsible for errors in difficult to read copy. Every attempt will be made to publish information accurately. Submission implies right to publish all or in part. Unsigned or misleading material is not accepted. Material published is the opinion of the author and does not imply endorsement by the editor or DWAA. Neither editor nor DWAA assumes liability for information contained herein or typographical errors. Reproduction of photos and editorial is forbidden without permission.



**Christy Bright** 

Christy started with a love of shelter dogs, stray dogs and many volunteer hours spent at a rural animal shelter. After college, Christy worked a short time in a veterinarian office. She also spent many days in the obedience ring and hunt test arena with a big goofy chocolate Labrador named Ruger.



Nutrition had always been important. She can remember many conversations with other dog handlers discussing what brand of dog food was higher in protein, what food gave your dog the best coat and what food helped keep your dog at a good weight. Christy wrote her first dog treat cookbook, with amazingly styled photography, <u>Shaggy Dog Eats!</u> to provide a nutritious way to make your own dog treats.

<u>Shaggy Dog Eats!</u> has become a family effort. It's an accumulation of taking something her family loves and developing it into something so much more. It's a mixture of rescue, love, passion, community and soul. A percentage of every purchase is given back to those still searching for their soul mates.

Christy is currently working on a special diets treat cookbook and a book just for cats. <u>Shaggy Dog Eats!</u> will be published June 2016 by Sterling Publishing.

## **Maureen Blaney Flietner**

A daily newspaper journalist for 25 years, I am now an award-winning freelance writer, a photographer, and a designer/artist. Dogs (and horses and cats) have been part of my life both personally and professionally. I've written about dogs, horses, and veterinary topics for <u>Trends</u>, <u>PetsMatter</u>, <u>ImproMed</u>,



<u>FarmLife</u>, <u>The Horse</u>, and <u>Hobby Farms</u> among others. My photos or art have appeared in magazines, newspapers, websites, custom cards, and calendars.

My life has been enriched by the company of five wonderful dogs – so far – three cats, four horses, and a pony. I've fostered dogs and rescued kittens at our rural Wisconsin property. After we had to euthanize our last dog, Tony, a large mixed-breed sweetheart who lived to 16, I've had to take a "heart break." Someone once told me that you get used to the losses as you get older. I haven't found that to be true.

I enjoy research and interviewing experts which I do when writing about veterinary care, personal finance, marketing, human health care, remodeling, and more for clients. I develop newsletters for clients and nonprofit animal welfare groups, have written leveled readers for the educational market, and am working on nonfiction and children's picture book manuscripts.

## **Karen Harbert**

I've been a dog lover all my life. "Look what followed me home" was a common phrase during my childhood but my brother had allergies so pets were out of the auestion.

My husband and I were newlyweds when we got a German shepherd puppy from his sister, then accompanied them to a match where I saw my first corgi. Back home I researched both corgi breeds, decided I liked the tail, and



then learned that a member of my obedience club was expecting a Cardigan litter.

My second Cardigan came from the late Pat Santi, past Secretary of DWAA, when she still lived in California. Pat and I eventually served together on the CWCCA Board.

I have been president of two regional Cardigan clubs and served multiple terms on the national club Board of Directors. I have been editor and writer for national and regional magazines and a contributing writer for the <u>AKC Gazette</u> and the Canadian national club newsletter.

Dogs I have owned or bred have earned approximately 100 championships and a good number of obedience titles. I have judged Sweepstakes at a National Specialty in Canada and at a National Club supported show in the U.S.

For years, a dear friend and I did dog show circuits all over the

U.S. and Canada. I kept a travel diary of the adventures and misadventures on those trips. Finally, my friend challenged me to turn our adventures into fiction and <u>Murder at the Dog Show</u> was born. There are nine books in the series on Amazon, with the tenth, <u>Fifteen Shades of Merle</u>, being finalized for publication in October.

## Ann Hohenhaus, DVM

Dr. Ann Hohenhaus is a third-generation veterinarian who received a BS from St. Mary's College of Maryland, with honors, Phi Beta Kappa and her DVM from Cornell University. She has achieved American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine board certification in both Oncology and Small Animal Internal Medicine. In 2014, Dr. Hohenhaus was honored by the Foundation for Biomedical



Research with a DeBakey Award for Excellence in Journalism for Dogs Go To Bat Against Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Dr. Hohenhaus practices veterinary medicine at The Animal Medical Center. She has written extensively on oncology and transfusion medicine and is listed as an author on 17 publications for clinical research conducted on dogs with spontaneously occurring diseases including: mast cell tumors, melanoma, osteosarcoma, and anemia. She authored 16 veterinary textbook chapters and has a manuscript in press on canine sarcomas.

Dr. Hohenhaus serves as the hospital's spokesperson and speaking to national media outlets about issues related to veterinary medicine. She writes a pet owner educational blog for The AMC and at Vetstreet.com. She served as a blogger for WebMD and has created content for publications such as <u>Ladies Home Journal</u> and <u>Real Simple</u>.

Dr. Hohenhaus lectures nationally and internationally, most recently in the Netherlands and in Cape Town, South Africa.



## Emma Kessler

My driving interest has always been the study of animal behavior. As a child, I spent countless hours observing wildlife. I was active in 4-H, and kept an animal news bulletin in my bedroom. My parents were supportive of my pursuits, no matter how dirty, creepy, or crawly they were. My mother still credits <u>My Family and Other</u> <u>Animals</u> by Gerald Durrell as helping her survive.

As a young adult, I worked all

sorts of jobs, and studied art and gender studies at university. As I was completing my BFA, I brought a Welsh Terrier into my life. Up until

then, my wide variety of interests and experiences seemed unrelated. I didn't realize it at the time, but this little bundle of muscle, teeth, and fur would be the catalyst in bringing together nearly all of my life's studies.

I was surprised by the reactions of many, trainers included, to this young terrier's behaviors. I saw his potential when others didn't, and was determined to go it alone if I had to. I started a blog about life with high-drive terriers to find a venue to talk about training methods that work with this type of dog. The more I wrote, the more people contacted me. I am now certified with the CCPDT as a professional dog trainer, and my blog (milesandemma.com) has allowed me to meet and help people around the world with their wild, wiry terriers. Dog training is what I love. Writing, photographing, and illustrating about it is often what I think about before bed, and the first thing when I wake up. I am excited to join a group that feels the same.

## Jody Miller-Young

It was all Sophie's fault! A little practice dog coat made for Jody's Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, Sophie, got such a positive response on the streets of New York City, that it wasn't long before she was designing and making more under her brand, Couture by Sophie (www.couturebysophie.com)

Stop, wait... strike a pose. Before entering the pet fashion space,

she spent 30 years as an entertainment publicist, wrangling celebrities on red carpets and working with reporters from all facets of the media. She ran her own firm, JLM PR, Inc., representing such interesting characters as Russell Simmons, Iggy Pop, John Mellencamp, Roger Waters, Duran



Duran, Earth, Wind & Fire and many more. When she retired her company in its 25th year, she knew she wanted to do something completely new. Miller-Young chose to go back to school at the famed Project Runway's Parson's School of Design to study fashion, with the intention of starting a small, luxury, custom brand. It was then that she made that practice dog coat and the rest, as they say, is history.

Jody gets her swagger on and so can you . . . The desire to share her great fashion finds with others led her to create Bark & Swagger, the live stylishly blog (www.barkandswagger.com). On Bark, Jody gets to offers tips, talks trends, write reviews and conduct interviews with experts of interest in the dog world. She also devotes a regular column to shelter dogs and the hero angels who advocate for them. What could be more fun than that?

Jody is also the Fashion Editor of <u>Hamptons Pet</u>, the luxury lifestyle magazine celebrating the charmed lives of pets living on the East End. On her Pet Life Radio show, Bark & Swagger, she shares the love we feel for our pets, and the beautiful, fun fashion and home décor available to them.

http://petliferadio.com/barkandswagger.html

# **2015 Writing Competition News**

## by Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, Contest Chair

What did dog writers and artists do this past year? Create an outstanding volume of materials dedicated to spreading the word that dogs are terrific. I know this firsthand because, as you can see from the photo, contest entries of canine books, articles, art, and DVDS fill my living room.

What you can't see are the hundreds of additional articles received online. This year our new website enabled entrants to submit materials with only a few clicks and, despite a few glitches in the system, many people opted to forego the tedious process of copying and mailing.

It's a good thing I've worked out a system for processing these entries. First, I get a glass. Next, I look for ice. I think you know what comes next. Depending upon how many packages or e-mails I'm opening, I'll either fetch the mix, or skip it entirely and head for the straight stuff.

Seriously, with the exception of a pina colada once a year (okay, maybe twice a year), I



don't really drink, but this contest season I've certainly thought about starting.

By the time you read this, all entries will be accounted for, with some on their way to the judges. How does the judging work? Three judges evaluate each entry by assigning a numerical score. Once the scores are tabulated, three finalists are chosen and one Maxwell winner is selected. Categories with large entries often merit additional finalists.

Many thanks to everyone who entered the contest, and to our judges and sponsors of the Special Awards. Finalists receive certificates and the winners will be announced at our Awards Banquet in NYC. I hope to see everyone who entered the contest at this event.



## 2015 Contest Judges $\sim$

Many thanks to the following contest judges for volunteering their time and expertise on behalf of this year's entries:

Mary Abram Elizabeth Ackerman Terry Albert Skye Anderson Joanne Anderson Dee Anderson Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell, Esq. Mary Fish Arango Emelise Baughman Lisa Begin-Kruysman Sheila Boneham Mara B. Bovsun Carol Bryant Shelley Bueche Susan Bulanda Corally Burmaster Caroline Coile Susan Crawford Deb Eldredge, DVM Susan Ewing Sarah Ferrell Kerri Fivecoat-Campbell Denise Fleck Sue Furman Tilly Grassa Ranny Green Linda Kay Hardie Dusty Hellmann Elizabeth M. Jarrell Nancy Kay, DVM Pilar Kuhn Debra Lampert-Rudman, M.Ed. Diana Laverdure Barbara Magera Linda Marsa Lori Mauger Sandy Mesmer Marilyn Miller Pat Miller Eve Adamson Minkler Peri Norman Nishikawa Liz Palika Emily G. Patterson-Kane Audrey Pavia Allan Resnik Holly Ocasio Rizzo Tim Robbins Florence Scarinci Fran Pennock Shaw Ernie Slone Cori Solomon Kim Campbell Thornton Arlene Weintraub Michele Wojciechowski Deborah Wood Christine M. Zink, DVM

The New Journalism of Dog Writing how to get yourself published in the 21st century

DWAA is trying something new for February 2016 and you're not going to want to miss a minute! We're still planning an awards banquet for the Sunday before Westminster, but that's not all. Join us that morning for a seminar with speakers who will help you learn how to be a productive (paid!) writer in the 21st century.

The New Journalism of Dog Writing seminar will be held Sunday, February 14 at the Hotel Pennsylvania from 9:00 a.m. to noon with 40 minutes at the end for a Q&A period with the presenters. Before the seminar begins, there will be a DWAA general membership meeting from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

The price is just \$125 for the entire day if you register before January 15, and \$140 for late registrations. The non-member price after January 15 will be \$160. Editor appointments will be an additional \$10 for every appointment (more information to follow on our website).

Seminar presenters will be  $\sim$ 

Ranny Green • Past DWAA President, discussing being creative with one's abilities in today's tight freelancing market.

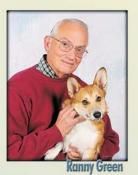
Mara Bovsun • AKC's Family Dog editor, describing how to use meetups and media to promote projects and as a way to gather information on specific topics.

**Carol Bryant** • Professional blogger, helping everyone understand the ins and outs of blogging.

Larry and Charlene Woodward • Dogwise Publishing, explaining the difference between working with a niche publisher and with a publisher who focuses on material for the mass market, as well as giving tips on how to develop an audience and turn into an in-demand author.



Gayle King introduced Carol Bryant as, "A dog lover of the highest order," when she and her Cocker Spaniel appeared on Oprah Radio's Gayle King show. She is a frequent media contributor, appearing on television, radio, and in print. A quest speaker at conferences and seminars about dog products and travel, she also has a passion for growing social media and helped one client land the "best dog blog" honor. Carol writes for Pet360, Hamptons Pet Magazine, and also works with BlogPaws pet blogger social media community and conferences. She has helped numerous pet industry clients obtain coverage in various forms of media. She is the founder of Wigglebutt Warriors whose heart beats dog. ™ Visit Carol at FidoseofReality.com.



A longtime (1972-2008) Seattle Times features writer, copy editor and pet columnist and multi-winner of DWAA Maxwell Awards in newspaper column and feature categories. He spent nearly two weeks in Louisiana, post-Katrina in 2005, writing stories for The Times while embedded with Noah's Wish pet disaster relief organization. In 2013, he spent several days in Newtown, Connecticut, following the shooting massacre in Sandy Hook Elementary School. He was the first U.S. journalist allowed in the school to interview staff, students and parents. Ranny is a co-director of the Westminster Kennel Club media team. He writes a monthly feature and dog-book reviews for www.seattlekennelclub.org and regular features for goodnewsforpets.com. In 2013, he was inducted into the DWAA Hall of Fame.



An award-winning writer and editor for the American Kennel Club's publications and websites. She has also served in many other capacities for the organization, not the least of which is being the AKC Beagle Mascot, Bailey, at several events. When she's not being the dog, she practices and competes in agility, running, and tricks training with two Leonbergers, Emily and Cleah. She also has the great privilege of watching over her 15-year-old yellow Lab, Maggie, the one-time death-row inmate who gave her the wonderful gift of a life with dogs.



Larry and Charlene Woodward

Charlene and Larry are the founders and owners of Dogwise.com and Dogwise Publishing. Founded in 1987, the business focused originally on marketing books at dog shows and through a mail-order catalog. Dogwise Publishing was founded in 2001 and is now the primary focus of the business with an emphasis on books of interest to dog trainers and enthusiasts. Larry is the chief editor and Charlene is the acquisitions manager. They live in Wenatchee, Washington.

# The New Journalism of Dog Writing Seminar and Writing Contest Awards Luncheon

## Sunday, February 14, 2016 Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001, 212-736-5000

Seminar 9:00 am to noon Editor appointments available noon to 1:00 for seminar attendees only (register for editor appointments at DWAA.org)

Luncheon follows at 1:00 pm

Annual Writing Contest Awards Ceremony held in the Gold Ballroom beginning at 2:00 pm

## DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION of AMERICA Annual Writing Competition

## Seminar and luncheon/awards ceremony reservations $\sim$

\$125.00 per person until January 15, 2016

\$140.00 per person, DWAA members' rate after January 15, 2016

\$160.00 per person, non-members after January 15, 2016

\$90.00 per person, banquet/award ceremony only

Luncheon menu (please choose one per person):

..... Rigatoni with grilled chicken, sweet sausage and vegetables tossed in light tarragon cream

..... Grilled salmon fillet lime beurre blanc

 Name of person making the reservation

 E-mail

 Number of reservations

 Guest name(s)

Send U.S. mail reservations to Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer P.O. Box 787 Hughesville, MD 20637

Questions? E-mail: marsha\_pugh01@comcast.net, 301-274-3435 You may also make reservations and pay online through PayPal at www.dwaa.org

# **Cadaver dogs bring closure to families affected by tragedy**

by Sharon Pflaumer

Recovering deceased victims after an accident or a natural disaster, or from the scene of a crime or an act of terrorism, is difficult but important work. By reliably finding human remains, specially-trained Search and Rescue Dogs called Cadaver Dogs help bring closure to the families of those affected by tragedy.

Early in the morning on Saturday, April 17, 2004, a 21-year-old Northern Illinois University (NIU) student named Marlon D. Blue went missing. He was last seen by friends around 2 a.m. at a DeKalb, Illinois bar and eatery, when he left for a party at an apartment complex.

With the hope of finding the missing young man, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office put out a request for a Search and Rescue (SAR) Dog and Handler team to look for him on Sunday. Cathy Wolf, DVM, a veterinarian in Mendota, Illinois, and Rough and Smooth Collie breeder, responded to the "call out." She also was a volunteer SAR Dog Handler with the Midwest K9 Emergency Response Team based in Paw Paw, Ilinois.

After Wolf loaded her gear, she called to two of her Smooth Collies. On command, the tri-color duo jumped into their crates in the back of her conversion van. With the hope of finding the missing student, Wolf set off on the 50-mile drive to DeKalb in the pre-dawn darkness.

Once there, Wolf began the search for the missing student with Gracie (Shepherd's Only by Grace, n/e, HIC, SAR Mantrailing, AWCA AOM), who was trained to track live persons. After Gracie was allowed to sniff a cotton pad scented from Blue's t-shirt, which had been found in a parking lot, Wolf commanded the Smooth Collie to "go find." Gracie tracked Blue from the parking lot to an apartment complex where a friend of the missing student lived, then, on to the edge of a large retention pond, where she eagerly strained on her leash. Gracie wanted to finish her track but couldn't because the scent trail ended there.

Now, Wolf turned to her other Smooth Collie, Mystery (Shepherd's Mysterious Ways, n/e, SAR Cadaver, AWCA AOM), who was trained to track the scent of human remains on land and when a body is submerged under water.

Wolf and Mystery worked the shoreline, beginning on the far side of the pond. Slowly, they worked their way back to the place where Gracie had alerted. Just as they reached it, Mystery also began showing intense interest and alerted by barking.

To pinpoint the location of Blue's body which was likely submerged, Wolf and Mystery boarded a DeKalb County Sheriff's Office boat. Slowly, the boat began quartering the section of the retention pond nearest to where both dogs alerted onshore. Mystery hung her head over the boat's side as she tried to pick up the missing student's scent above the water's surface. It wasn't long before the Smooth Collie began showing interest. Her sniffing became more intense as she picked up "whiffs" of scent.



Gracie trailing on grass in pre-dawn light. Credit: Mary Heinrich. Water search: Cathy Wolf, DVM, and Mystery. Credit: Mary Heinrich.

Although Mystery never did a trained alert on the water by barking as she had done on land, Wolf was confident the change in her dog's behavior was an indication Blue's body was submerged directly beneath them or nearby.

A dive team was called in. Blue was pronounced dead at



10:15 a.m. after his body was pulled from 12-ft. of water. An autopsy was later performed, which showed there were no indications of foul play. Because Blue had removed his t-shirt, it appeared he had gone for a swim in the pond and may have been unable to climb out because of the slippery, muddy bottom. (Some theorized he may have fallen into the water.) It was likely he was intoxicated at the time of his death according to local authorities. Although the case of the missing NIU student sadly came to a tragic end, his family had closure thanks to Wolf and her two Smooth Collies.

Wolf has since retired from SAR work but continues to practice veterinary medicine at the Mendota Companion Animal Centre, P.C. Gracie and Mystery now await her at the Rainbow Bridge.

## SAR Dog Certification

SAR Dogs are certified through several organizations such as the North American Search Dog Network. Typically, dogs initially are certified as either Mantrailers or Air Scenting/Area Search Dogs.



Coyote searching for survivors or human remains in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He was Koenig's third SAR Dog and certified in Trailing, Cadaver, Water and Article Search. Credit: Cadaver Dog K9 Search Specialty Associates.



Marcia Koenig and Coyote (Sitz von der Hose) after Korean Air Flight 801 crashed in Guam in 1997. Credit: Cadaver Dog K9 Search Specialty Associates.

Mantrailers follow the missing person's scent left behind by his footprints on vegetation. In order to do this, the dogs first sniff an article with the missing person's scent on it. (An article such as piece of the missing person's clothing is put in a bag. Cotton pads, which absorb the person's scent from the article, also are put in the bag. SAR Dogs are allowed to sniff one of the cotton pads instead of the article. This procedure ensures the missing person's scent on the article is not compromised by repeated human handling, i.e., whenever the article is touched by a person, it absorbs their scent.)

Air Scenting/Area Search Dogs also are allowed



to sniff something with the missing person's scent on it. Then, they quarter back and forth in front of their handler like hunting dogs, as they search for airborne "whiffs" of the missing person's scent. Once they pick it up, their quartering narrows until they hone in on its origin, i.e., the location of the missing person.

After receiving additional training, SAR Dogs may be further certified for disaster, wilderness, snow, water, and cadaver searches. Disaster search involves finding victims buried or trapped by rubble after a natural disaster such as an earthquake or a man-made one like 9/11. Wilderness search involves finding victims lost in rugged terrain such as parks or unincorporated lands. Snow search involves finding victims buried by an avalanche in a mountain range, at a ski resort, etc. Cadaver Dogs, or Human Remains Detection Dogs as they are sometimes called, search for the remains of deceased persons in the form of a body or body parts on land or when submerged under water.

"King County Search Dogs gets call outs to search for missing people who may or may not be alive. While we always hope to find a missing person alive, Cadaver Dogs can find them even when they're not," Marcia Koenig says. She and her husband, Andy Rebmann, founded the non-profit organization, which provides volunteer SAR Dog and Handler teams for call outs by the King County Sheriff's Office in Seattle, Washington.

Koenig has been involved in SAR work since 1972. She is a founding member of the American Rescue Dog Association (ARDA), the Texas Unit of ARDA, and Northwest Disaster Search Dogs. Over the years, she and her dogs have responded to hundreds of call outs. Her current SAR Dog is a high drive German Shepherd Dog named Raven (M-Raven Sitz von der Hose), who is certified in Area, Cadaver and Water Search. Raven has responded to 73 call outs to date and is Koenig's 4th SAR Dog.

"On several occasions, we have been involved in searches for forensic evidence," Koenig says. "For example, sometimes the authorities want us to find a crime scene. Cadaver Dogs can do that by detecting the location of body fluids in soil. Or the authorities may have a bone and want us to find the rest of the bones."

Sometimes dog and handler teams are called out to look for someone who is a possible suicide. In that event, they only respond if the person is unarmed or if they've been missing for at least a week.

"Occasionally, we get call outs for situations where we don't know what we will find," Koenig reports.

## **Training aids**

When SAR Dogs were first trained back in the 1970s, they were mostly "live find" dogs, i.e., dogs that search for people who are still alive. Training Cadaver Dogs was difficult back then due to the lack of available "training aids" according to Koenig.

"The best we could do was to take a dog up to the subject of a search who was found dead. With the permission of the sheriff's department, we allowed it to sniff the deceased body. That was the only way we could train a dog to recognize the scent of human decomposition." (While live people each have their own unique scent, all human decomposition gives off the same scent or odor.)

Eventually, a company began making a training aid that could be purchased: a product called Pseudo Scent that closely replicates the odor of a dead human body.

"As the human body decomposes, a wide spectrum of volatile chemicals is given off. Pseudo Scent contains some of those same chemicals. In addition to training the dogs on Pseudo Scent, we can now legally get soil taken from underneath where a human body decomposed. Or we can train Cadaver Dogs by using blood- or body fluid-stained clothing worn by a person when they died. Some companies also sell human teeth and pieces of bones. In states where it's legal, placenta also may be purchased to train Cadaver Dogs. It's not legal, however, to purchase human body parts," says Koenig.

## Modern Cadaver Dog training

Given the current ready availability of training aids, Cadaver Dog training has changed radically. Instead of allowing the dog to sniff a decomposing corpse, a handler begins by setting up a row of concrete blocks.

"We put a training aid like a human tooth or a piece of bone in an open glass jar and set the jar inside one of the concrete blocks. Next, we take the dog along the row of blocks; stopping momentarily to point out each one to the dog. When the dog hits the "hot" block, the one with the training aid inside it, we click a clicker and reward the dog if it shows any interest at all - even so much as turning its nose toward it."

After the dog begins to reliably show interest in the "hot" block, a trained alerting behavior is added. This could be a "sit," "down," or "bark" depending upon the requirements of each individual SAR Dog Unit.

In addition to the dog's "natural" alerting behavior, a trained alerting behavior is taught. Natural alerting behavior is something the dog does without prompting whenever it detects the odor of human decomposition, i.e., the dog's posture might become more alert or rigid, its pace might slow, or its sniffing might become more intense.

"Although we try to read the dog's body language carefully, we always add a trained 'alerting' behavior because you don't always know for sure when the dog has found the scent," adds Koenig. "This is particularly true of new handlers, who tend to think everything their dog does is an indication they found it. If we're looking for something very difficult to find that's buried, for example, and an inexperienced dog and handler team think they've found it, we have an older, more experienced SAR Dog proof the find."

From this point on in the Cadaver Dog training process, the dog is commanded to do the trained alerting behavior as soon as it shows interest in the hot block and is immediately

rewarded when it does. After sufficient repetitions, the dog pairs the trained alerting behavior with finding the scent and being rewarded so it "alerts" automatically.

"We do small area searches next, where we might conceal the training aid in bushes on the edge of a grassy field and have the dog find it. Once the dog can find the training aid in a small area, we place it in a slightly larger area and so on. We also begin hiding the

scent by covering it with some leaves, burying it very shallowly with dirt or hanging it from a tree branch. We keep adding different things to make finding the scent more difficult and rewarding the dog each time it does. Eventually, the dog learns to reliably find the scent wherever we hide it at any location."

## Land and water searches

Cadaver Dogs work on land and water. In either location, a decomposing body gives off volatile chemicals as already mentioned. As the odor of the chemicals disburses, it fans out in cone shape. On land, the scent cone may be moved by wind or tamped down close to the ground by rain. On water, in the case of a submerged body, the scent rises to the surface in the shape of a cone. Once there, the scent may hover directly above the location of the submerged body on a still day, or be blown about by wind and carried downstream by currents.

Just as an Air Scenting/Area Search Dog quarters out in front of its handler when searching for airborne whiffs of the scent cone on land, a dog and handler team quarter sections of a lake, pond or river in a low-sided boat when searching for the scent cone given off by a submerged body. The dog hangs its head over the side of the boat in order to better detect whiffs of the scent



cone. When the dog picks it up, the dog does natural alerting behavior(s) as described above. The dog does its trained alerting behavior when the boat is directly above the source of the scent cone where the odor of human decomposition is the strongest. The handler then marks their location with GPS and divers are called in to retrieve the submerged body.

Submitted by author; originally published in Dog News, September 2015.

Marcia Koenig training Raven on trailing. Credit: Cadaver Dog K9 Search Specialty Associates.



Raven descending stairs during a boat search; a good example of why agility training is necessary for SAR Dogs. Credit: Marcia Koenig.



# Danny the Town Watch Dog How you and your dog may help your community

## by Gail C. Parker

Rebel was my first Irish Setter. I soon learned I knew nothing about training a puppy. I grew up with a dog we rescued and he was already trained, plus my grandparents would have taken care of that, all I had to do was walk King and play with him. Life was good.

I found out very quickly Irish Setters need a lot of exercise. We attended obedience school and walked often and covered miles. As I learned more about my chosen breed, I found out about showing and other activities one can do with a dog. By the time I bought my second Irish Setter, I had learned about pet therapy. Renegade excelled at it and loved doing it. I was still learning but it was obvious Setters like to have a job to do and they want their humans involved.

Years have passed and I now have my fifth Irish Setter. Danny came from a very sad situation. His owner died and the remaining spouse had mental and monetary problems. Danny and his siblings were not fed. It was also obvious someone had yelled and thrown things at him. I couldn't even throw a soft toy inside the house in a direction away from him without Danny cringing in fear. He did get over that by watching neighborhood children having fun playing ball. It was clear, though, that taking him to a nursing home would not be a happy experience for him. There are too many strange and loud noises for one thing. He had been through enough in my opinion. I still wanted to do something with my dog besides taking long walks. Luckily, the opportunity to participate in something useful came our way via the local Town Watch group.

For those not familiar with Town Watch it is a nationally recognized group of citizens who help keep their area safe and clean. They alert police to possible dangerous or criminal activity, they report graffiti, sinkholes forming in streets, and anything else that might affect the quality of life in a community. They are not police and do not get involved in anything dangerous. Their job is to try to improve things and make everyone's life better. There is a captain for each group. I wanted to join but the group for my area required members to drive their assigned territories at night. I cannot drive after dark and wanted my dog involved. I knew we could see, hear and smell more things on our walks than anyone driving in a car with the windows shut could possibly notice. I kept telling people they should let Danny and me join. Then, one day, I saw a notice: new people were in charge of our local group AND they were instituting "Dog Walkers Town Watch." This is also a national group and is affiliated with the regular Town Watch organization. I was thrilled. Danny, my husband, Carl,



and I joined immediately.

Danny and my previous Irish had seen many things I knew would be useful if we had a place to report them. I also knew we had already been doing our own form of Dog Walkers Town Watch. I had returned wallets, a purse (left outside a business by a woman on a cigarette break), postage stamp books, scared off kids grafitting the school just because we happened to walk by and they didn't want to be seen, and even a burst water pipe in a house that was spewing water out the top of the basement door. I knew we could make a difference if we had an official group and people to teach us how to improve what we were already doing.

Our first training session included a talk by the Community Affairs Officer from our police district. She was informative and seemed to genuinely like dogs. We would receive tags for our dogs designating their special status as Town Watch dogs. We were taught how to give descriptions to the police. I never thought much about it, but there are many things you should look for and remember if you see someone committing a crime. They gave us printouts with drawings of the different types of guns that may be used by a criminal so we could identify those as well. Another factor to learn is the type of car you need to report. "Car" can be over a



multitude of vehicles. What make, model, color, dents, and other identifying markers did it have? I know that sounds kind of dangerous – talking about guns etc. – but we don't endanger ourselves or our dogs (I would never risk my dog being hurt!). These lessons are to help us aide the police should we ever have to describe something we have seen.

By joining this group, I have started to pay more attention to my surroundings. I have also let others know I belong to the group in case they have any problems. Our group has a private Facebook page where we report anything we think needs attention. The group leaders take it from there.

Another bonus to belonging to the Dog Walkers group is that we have no set schedule or route; we patrol when it works best for us.

I would like to share some of the many things Danny and I have done in the short time we have been patrol members.

Danny and I noticed bins in the parking lot of the pharmacy. They were put there for people to donate clothing by dropping them in the bins. The problems were: clothing, toys and other debris scattered outside the bins, one bin that was really damaged and dirty, all the bins taking up parking spaces and I found out no one from the pharmacy had given the company permission to place them there. They sell the clothing; it does not help any charity (newspaper article info). I reported the bins and the mess. Not only did our group have the bins removed, the parent company which owns the drug store has forbidden any more bins to be placed in their parking lot.

When you walk your dog in the city you meet lots of people. I found out an automobile had been parked at the corner of one street for months. It was accumulating trash underneath it and that just leads to insects and vermin. A lady I know who lives on that street told me the neighbors had been trying to get the city to help them but were getting nowhere. They wanted the car either removed or the trash situation taken care of right away. I happened to know the law regarding cars parked for more than 48 hours in one spot: they have to be moved. I reported it to my group. When someone suggested nothing could be done about moving the car, I cited the law. The car was removed and the people on the street were very happy. They had been phoning city departments for weeks with no help, our group got it done in days.

I believe Danny and I can make a real difference by belonging to this

group. He can alert me to sounds I cannot hear. He has already led me to a homeless person sleeping in a doorway behind a shop. I wouldn't have turned down the alley if not for Danny insisting we go there. This had to be reported in case the man was a threat to the people living in the nearby homes as it is very dark out back night. Help would, of course, have been offered to the homeless man.

This is also a way to make people aware of what a nice breed the Irish Setter is; my Danny is friendly and children love him. In fact, the squirrels and the birds come right up to him! At the same time, when we walk after dark, I know anyone who may have less than noble intentions will think twice about bothering me with Danny by my side.

Even though Danny's pet therapy was limited to visiting an elderly lady in her home instead of going to a nursing home, he is contributing to the community. He is a wonderful representative for his breed and for adopting a rescue dog. I am proud to have my Danny at my side.

Gail Parker lives in the Mayfair section of Northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with her husband, Carl Weber, her Irish Setter, Danny, and their five cats (Magic, Patrick, Brandie, Athena and Leo). She writes for the Irish Setter Club of America's Memo magazine and the Canine Collectibles Courier. Gail is a two-time Maxwell winner with several nominations as well. Danny and she have been doing Dog Walkers Town Watch since last year. Her cats fulfill their jobs by being lap warmers. Gail is on the Board of DWAA and has been a member since she obtained her first Irish Setter. She also volunteers for Irish Setter rescue and will do home checks for any rescue that needs her help.



by Janice Biniok



Hmmm . . . e-books? What good are those? You can't even chew them up!

member Jews

**Bernese Mountain** 



## 2016 Bernese Mountain Dog Calendar

(Petprints/ Avonside Publishing) I am proud to have been the exclusive



photographer of this calendar since 1996, making this the 21st consecutive calendar. I will be happy to provide more info, if you wish. Bernd Guenter B.Ch.Guenter@t-online.de



## **Selfie Tins for Dog Lovers**

by Loren Spiotta DiMarie

As dog writers, every now and then an unexpected and fun project falls into our laps. Here's what happened to me.

In one of those "small world" coincidences, I recently started working with a childhood classmate, David Little. David and I grew up near each other in New Jersey and attended the same elementary and high schools. Fast forward a few decades. We chatted at our classes' collective 50th Birthday celebration and again last year at our 40th High School Reunion.

David is president of Nouveautes USA, Inc., a chocolate manufacturer and distributor who lives in suburban, New Jersey. I'm an animal book author and publicist working from my countryside home in rural New Jersey. My husband and I share our lives with six dogs, two rabbits, an Amazon Parrot, 25 small pet birds and a Koi Pond. My beloved, Quarter Horse lives at a farm nearby.

With our vastly different careers, you must be wondering what type of product we could possibly be working on together. David has come up with a great new gift concept: The Selfie Tin. By coincidence, the publisher of a pet magazine I'm writing for and helping to promote also knows David. He suggested we work together. Imagine his surprise when he learned of our childhood connection.

The Selfie Tin is fun and easy to create. Dog Lovers go to www.selfietin.com, download a favorite photo for the cover of the tin then select gourmet treats, cookies, biscotti, jelly beans, chocolate, dog biscuits or cat treats. Next they create copy for the tin and select an optional decorative ribbon. The tin is then shipped anywhere in the U.S. Round and square tins are available.

Any type of high resolution photo can be used for the Selfies, however, David specifically asked me to head up the Animal Kingdom division as he likes to call it. I'm happy to do so because I personally love the concept. I'm constantly taking photos of my own and well as friends pets, and enjoy creating the Selfie Tins. I've made five since Father's Day for family and friends and everyone was surprised and delighted with their personal gift.

I thought fellow DWAA members would enjoy learning about the Selfies for personal use and/or be interested in highlighting them in their publications' new products columns and/or Holiday Gift Guides.

I'm including pics of a few sample selfies. That's me in the dog house with some of my pack.

Feel free to contact me if you would like more information about the Selfie Tins: author@LorensReadingRoom.com.

# **Dues renewal notice**

Payment of dues, \$40

Dues payments are due by March 1

## DWAA annual membership runs from March 1- February 28



Please fill out the required fields below, cut along the dotted line and mail this form to Marsha Pugh, Treasurer.

Name		
Address		
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Home Phone		
Work or Cell Phone		
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Choose one:		
Professional (paid)	□ Associate (not paid)	
To insure complete information, are you:		
🗖 a freelancer	or, employed by	
Make check payable in U.S. funds to DWAA and send along with this page to Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer		

P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637

marsha\_pugh01@comcast.net

## NOTE: Your dues must be paid to be included in the 2016 DWAA membership roster



Susan Ewing, Secretary 66 Adams Street Jamestown, NY 14701



No dog writer is an island

## by Shelley Bueche, DWAA Facebook administrator

I am the Facebook admin for the DWAA dog page and I thrive on input, suggestions, dog and writing-related content, unrelated content, you get the picture! So, if you haven't done so already, please, visit the page and post with whatever is on your mind at the moment. And if you have already posted, thanks, and please continue to do so in the future!

I have been a DWAA member since 2008 and also a longtime columnist with <u>Just</u> <u>Labs</u> and the <u>American Kennel Club's Family Dog</u> magazine, specializing in writing about working Labrador retrievers/Lab mixes and other breeds for my columns. I have been a "dog person" for all of my life. My grandparents raised miniature schnauzers, my mother owned Pekingese and other breeds (at the end of her life when she was tethered to an oxygen tank she owned a wily Jack Russell terrier if you can imagine), and I am a fan of all breeds. Currently, my husband and I are empty-nesters and we share our downtown Austin condo with a rescue Chihuahua mix, Del.

I particularly enjoy reading narratives of heroic canine exploits as well as watching amazing animal videos on Facebook, especially when I am conducting "research" for my columns. I garner numerous ideas from other people's postings online, so please don't be a stranger, stop by, introduce yourself, and post a Grumpy Cat video today!

Note: The DWAA owes a huge debt of gratitude to Shelley for doing a marvelous job maintaining a superb Facebook presence – thank you very much, Shelley!

