

Dog Writers Association of America



ruff DRAFTS

Spring 2015

inside ...

complete coverage of the 2014 Writing Contest Awards Banquet
A Tribute to Will Judy: The Man Who Brought America to the Dogs
For Every Dog a Blog: How to Start a Successful Pet Blog
New member bios and member news

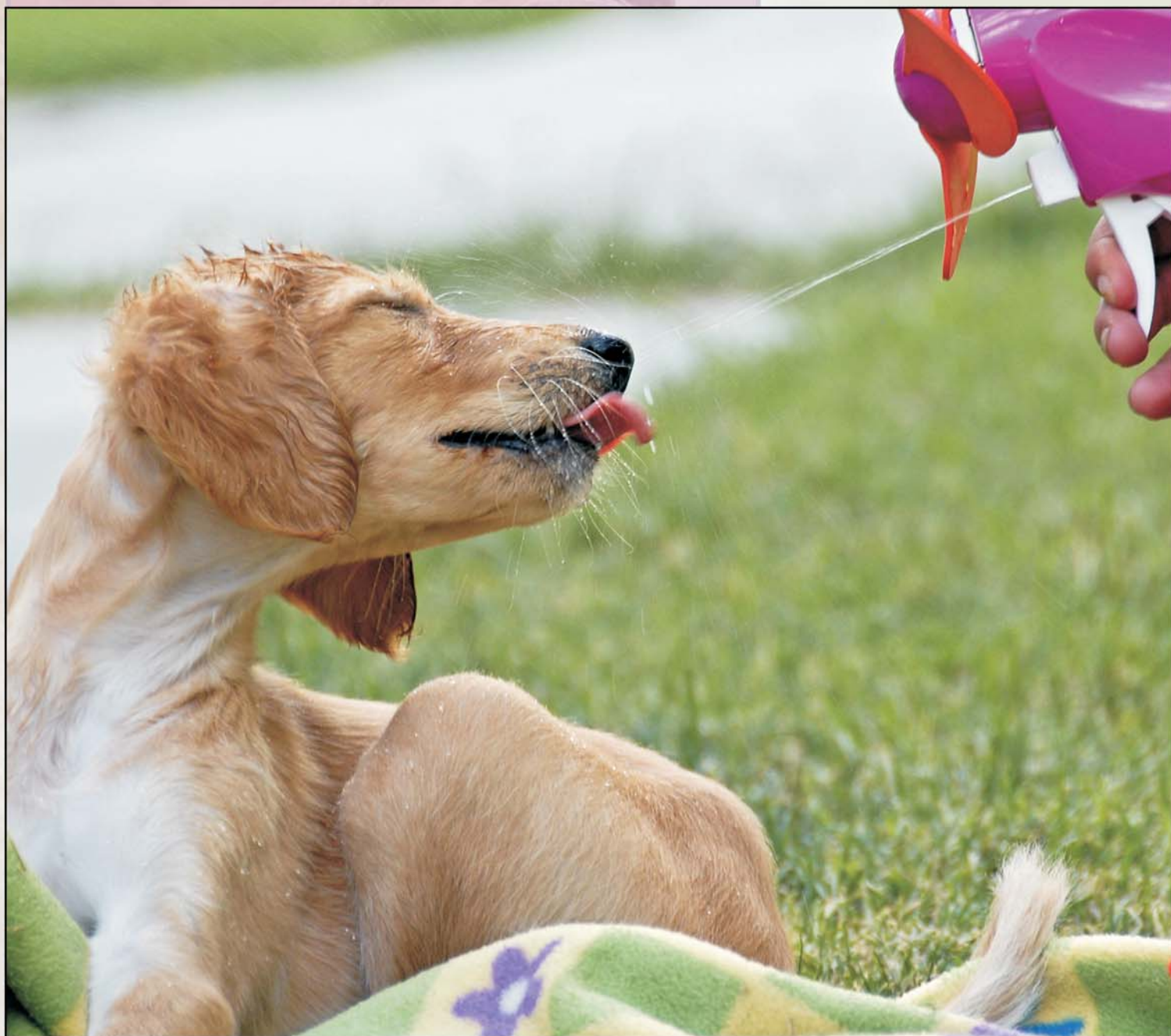


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I would like to introduce you to my most recent rescue, Sadie Mae. She is a good southern girl from the mountains of West Virginia.

As some of you know, for years, I had taken the two dogs pictured with me above into the local county schools to talk to the kids . . . well, I talked, the kids paid attention because they got to pat the dogs afterwards . . . and I handed out materials covering pet care, local options for inexpensive pet food, spay/neuter, etc. Sadly, over the past year-and-a-half, I lost both boys to diseases of old age: cancer and kidney failure, respectively. So, I was searching for another dog, hopefully two, who would be good at this job.

I have discovered that visiting in schools and dealing with groups of kids takes a specific type of dog – friendly, but not so aggressively affectionate that kids afraid of dogs panic, and confident enough to face an onslaught of elementary age children without needing to be dominant. The dog also has to be medium sized to hold her own with a mob of energetic children and tolerant enough to endure some ear pulling. Dealing with a group of little boys can be a special challenge for both the dog and me. I have rescued and live with some great dogs but none of them met the requirements.

I mentioned my needs to some of my rescue friends and along came Sadie Mae, a red tick from Paw Paw, West Virginia. She was noticed at a shelter adoption event in a large pet supply store in Virginia. Sadie did great with the kids in the store but, alas, was not adopted. A lot of folks pass coonhounds

President's column

by Ida Estep

The Saga of Sadie Mae



by, feeling that if they are not hunters, coonhounds are not for them.

When my friend asked about her, it seems she was out of time at the county shelter and would be put down. She contacted me right away and rescued Sadie. We all met at the Virginia-North Carolina county line and Sadie and I became family.

Rescues often start out very shy but Sadie seemed pretty confident. At our first vet visit, Sadie walked over to the vet, put her paws gently on the doctor's shoulders, gave her a lick, and walked over to the window and lay down. Now coonhounds don't just lie down; they kind of become boneless and slide to the floor. The vet turned to me and said, "I think this is the one."

At that first appointment, Sadie also proved herself a real communicator. After a few minutes, I guess she felt the vet and I had talked enough, she raised her head from the floor, gave us each a look of sheer boredom, and gave a doggy rendition of "yada, yada, yada." I have the feeling she may do as much talking at school events as I do.

After the usual vet workups and the spay operation, Sadie and I have started training



towards her CGC. Given the awful weather, three classes have already been rescheduled but we are moving along. She is good with sit and down and really excellent at recall but stay and walking on a loose lead are proving a bit of a challenge.

Coonhounds can easily lose focus if anything resembling a "varmint" passes within their view, but make up for it with a very affectionate nature and a great desire to please. They also can get their feelings hurt easily and can even be a bit stubborn. This makes them both easy and hard to train.

All in all, though, I have great hopes for Sadie Mae and her career in the school system.

Treasurer's report

by Marsha Pugh

January 1 – December 31, 2014

Opening balance \$29,652.18

Income

Applications \$825.00
Awards Banquet \$6,395.20
Awards Banquet Sponsors \$3,500.00
Contest Entry Fees \$7,251.71
Cash from savings to checking \$5,000.00
Dues \$10,423.70
Program Advertising \$40.00
Repayment \$190.48
Special Award Sponsors \$5,050.00
Total income \$38,676.09

Expenses

Accounting \$1,490.00
Archive Storage \$300.00
Bank Charge \$81.85
Banquet Expenses \$11,919.08
Computer Services \$2,198.00
Contest Chair Stipend \$2,500.00
Contest Expenses \$1,759.69
Contest Supplies \$3,882.88
Donation to Catwriters Assn. \$500.00
Graphic Design \$3,350.00
Insurance \$1,212.00
Postage \$89.96
Printing \$3,040.01
Special Award Winners \$9,450.00
Total expenses \$41,773.47

Ending balance \$26,554.80
Savings \$1,101.23
Total \$27,656.03

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Ida Estep, Chair
Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh

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Ida Estep, Chair
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Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing

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Caroline Coile, Martin Deeley, Marsha Pugh

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www.dwaa.org

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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.

Secretary's page

by Susan Ewing

DUES are DUE!!!

If you haven't already renewed your DWAA membership, now's the time!

You can either fill out the form and mail it, along with your check, made out to DWAA, to Marsha Pugh, Treasurer, P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637

Or, go to DWAA.org, fill out the on-line form, and pay using PayPal.

Membership roster changes

Boneham, PhD, Sheila, last name misspelled

Pflaumer, Sharon, street address: 1623 Margaret Lane, Dekalb, IL 60115

Rogak, Lisa, first name/address/remove phone #s: 3 Allen St, Lebanon, NH 03766

Stockwell, Kelly, first name, address: 1630 Shadow Lane, Sparks, NV 89434-1771

Welcome new members

Amy Tokic
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sponsored by Carol Bryant and Marsha Pugh

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the DWAA was held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, NY Sunday, February 15, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m.

Present: Ida Estep, President; Susan Ewing, Vice-President; Marsha Pugh, Secretary-Treasurer; Elaine Gewirtz, Contest Chair; Carmen Battaglia, Past President; Joel Gavriele-Gold, Board Member; Bryna Comsky, Board Member; Ranny Green.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Secretary's report: We have seven new members. Total membership is about 550. We are receiving some general mail on our website and have 653 "likes" on our Facebook page, which is maintained by Shelly Bueche.

Treasurer's report: As of December 31, 2014, we have \$27,656.03.

This year, we had 110 reservations for the banquet. Last year, it was 130.

This month, we need to sign a contract with the hotel for next year's dinner, which requires a 150-meal minimum guarantee. The idea of a mini-conference was discussed. Joel made a motion to explore the possibilities of such a conference. Bryna seconded this. Passed.

Election slate was presented and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot.

President: Ida Estep

Vice President: Elaine Gewirtz

Treasurer: Marsha Pugh

Secretary: Susan Ewing

Board: Caroline Coile, Bob McKowen

Membership cards and whether or not they were needed was discussed.

Marsha made a motion that she send out e-cards and then they could be printed, or not, as the member desired. Bryna seconded. Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

VOLUNTEER FOR DWAA

Want to help DWAA in your spare time?

Who am I kidding? No one who writes about dogs has any spare time.

But if you do have a few hours a year to devote to our organization, we're looking for a few good volunteers to serve on these committees:

Membership

Banquet: reservations, decorations, table favors

Sponsors

Conference

Publicity

For further information or to volunteer, contact Elaine Gewirtz, egewirtz@west.net.

meet our New Members

Kristina N. Lotz

I have owned and worked with dogs all my life. For my 12th birthday, I received my first dog that was all mine. I trained him by himself without a trainer (didn't know they existed). After graduating college, I knew I wanted to do something with animals but didn't know what, since my degree was in English. I went to a PR firm and met some pet industry editors at events and I started to write. Over the years, I have written for a wide variety of online and print – everyone from FIDO Friendly to DogChannel.com. I am now an editor for the IHeartDogs.com and work full time for them. I am also a Certified Dog Trainer and enjoy working my own dogs. Last summer, I created A Fairytale House, the future home to a rescue facility for dogs. In my spare time, I compete in a variety of performance events with my Shetland Sheepdogs and cater to two rescue kitties. I smartly married a Veterinary Technician, who helps keep the fur kids happy and healthy, and provides a quick resource for articles.



Peri Norman

In 1970, I showed our family mixed breed at a 4-H fair. That marked the official beginning of my love of all things dog. I acquired my first show dog in 1971 and actively owned and trained Gordon Setters throughout my early years in dogs.

In 1985, I acquired my first Belgians and began herding in 1986. I have worked on herding trials, hunting tests, obedience and rally trials, agility trials, tracking tests, all-breed shows, specialty shows, conferences and seminars. I've even worked at the sled dog races! I began judging in 1999.



I studied journalism in high school and college and have written about dogs for as long as I can remember. I worked in health care until about a year ago when I began writing professionally. I love it! My special interests include children and dogs, and supporting and educating the dedicated hobby breeder. I am so excited to be a member of DWAA and look forward to progressing on my wonderful journey as a dog writer. Many thanks to Elaine Gewirtz and Deb Eldredge for sponsoring and encouraging me!

Amy Tokic

Amy is the Editor of Petguide.com, the flagship site to over 70 different pet communities, which offers pet parents a one-stop-info-shop for all things dog and cat related. Amy's been with PetGuide.com since the beginning, guided by the wisdom of her Shih Tzu mix and furry roommate, Oscar. Together, this pet power couple has their paw on the pulse of the pet industry, sniffing out trends, advice, news, tasty treat recipes and other tail-wagging stories. She



writes about her adventures in pet ownership and tirelessly researches products, news and health-related issues she can share with other animal enthusiasts. In her free time, Amy loves perusing used book and record stores, obsessing over Etsy and Pinterest finds, and chasing squirrels with wild abandon (a habit attributed to spending too much time with Oscar).



DWAA secretary Pat Santi passed away on January 17, 2015

She was a member of The Dog Writers Association of America since 1989 and the organization's secretary for more than 24 years.

Pat was a long-time member of both Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh Corgi clubs and was breeding and showing her well-known Rhydowen Corgis for more than 50 years.

She was a registered nurse by profession, but dogs were an essential part of Pat's life since childhood. She supported AKC Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog International, and had her own therapy dogs.

She was dedicated to the DWAA and to insuring it continued to be the most respected professional writing organization devoted to dogs. She was the banquet chairperson and we will miss seeing her at the banquet check in.

New DWAA Banquet Special Award in Pat's honor

As some of you know from the Banquet, we would like to create a DWAA special award in honor of our late secretary, Pat Santi. To forward this, we are hoping that folks will donate any amount with which they feel comfortable towards a Pat Santi Memorial Award for Rescue themed articles. Please consider donating.

Any donation should be sent to Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer, P.O. Box 787, Hughesville, MD 20637, marsha_pugh01@comcast.net.

2014 Writing Contest Awards Banquet

Writing Competition News

by Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz,
Contest Chair

Congratulations to all nominees. We received hundreds of entries from dedicated dog writers throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Through 48 categories of fiction and nonfiction, poetry and photographs, and online and print, our writers told the stories about the dogs that change our lives.

More than just a classroom exercise, our unique writing contest pays homage to our canine communicators and represents the tales that truly tug at our hearts.

This year the competition proved especially stiff and so many submissions deserved top scores and our prized Maxwell medallion. Unfortunately, we can only choose one winner in each category.

Special thanks to our professional panel of 53 judges. Three judges assigned a numerical score to each entry.

If you'd like to help judge our next contest, please don't hesitate to contact me.

To get a jump on our next contest, start setting aside clips of your work and make a note to check the DWAA website for the announcement of new rules and categories.

Congrats to this year's winners!

DWAA Hall of Fame inductees

For lifetime achievement and celebrated accomplishments as a journalist, author, breeder of purebred dogs, the Dog Writers Association of America proudly inducts into its Hall of Fame

Caroline Coile, Ph.D.



Caroline Coile, Ph.D. has written 33 books and hundreds of magazine and scientific articles about dogs. She has won the DWAA Maxwell Award nine times, the AKC Canine Health Foundation Award twice, the Eukanuba Canine Health Award twice, the Morris Animal Foundation Award and the DWAA Denlinger Award. Her best-known book is Barron's Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds. Caroline has written about dogs for newspapers, websites, television, and even an app. She's been quoted in Newsweek and USA Today and interviewed on national television and radio.

Caroline holds a Ph.D. from Florida State University, with special interests in canine sensory systems and genetics. She specializes in questioning canine dogma and making canine science accessible to readers.

Caroline has lived with dogs all her life, competing in dog events since 1975. Her Salukis have won Best in Show, National Specialty Best of Breed, Best in Field, High in Trial in obedience and agility and High in Triathlon awards - and conspire daily to show her she still has a lot to learn.

For lifetime achievement and celebrated accomplishments as a journalist, author, columnist, and breeder of purebred dogs, the Dog Writers Association of America proudly inducts into its Hall of Fame

Connie Vanacore



Connie Vanacore's life with dogs began at age five with a Maltese named Piccolo. She was introduced to dog shows when she and Piccolo entered and won their first ribbon at a pet show held at Bloomingdales.

The arrival of the first Irish Setter after her marriage led to a long association with the red dogs, including the gift of a Russian-bred Irish Setter from the Soviet Union, a diplomatic coup resulting in a New York Times article.

Connie's literary career began at a New Jersey newspaper writing about dogs which led to

a position of Features Editor for the AKC Gazette. Currently she is a columnist for Dog News Magazine. She is the author of seven books including The Official Book of the Irish Setter, The Complete English Cocker Spaniel, and books on showing dogs and junior handling. She is the recipient of multiple awards from the DWAA.



photos by Mary Bloom



Regular category winners~

A. Newspaper Articles and Columns

1. Article/Column – Health and General Care

Tom Sandford, "Canines Conquering Adversity"
(Dogs, Dogs, Dogs)

2. Article/Column – Behavior and Training

Joanne Anderson, "Cancer Detecting Dogs" (Amityville Record)

3. Article/Column – Rescue

Tom Sandford, "What Became of the Rescued Dogs
from Mile 26?" (Dogs, Dogs, Dogs)

4. Article/Column – Any Other Topic

Susan Ewing, "The Bloodhound Gang" (The Post-Journal)

B. Magazines

5. All Breed

Dog Fancy Magazine

6. Single/Related Breeds

Sighthound Review (Bo Bengtson)

7. Special Interest or Annual

The APDT Chronicle of the Dog
(The Association of Professional Dog Trainers)

C. Magazine Articles and Columns

8. Article/Column – Health and General Care

Mary Helen Berg, "5 Common Eye Diseases" (Just Labs)

9. Article/Column – Behavior and Training

Anna O'Brien, D.V.M., "5 Subtle Signs of Stress" (Dog Fancy)

10. Article/Column – Rescue

Diana Laverdure, "The Legacy of Lucas" (Rescue Me)

11. Article/Column – Breed

Denise Flaim, "Gypsy Queen" (Sighthound Review)

12. Article/Column – Any Other Topic

James Colasanti, Jr., "Butchy" (O'Henry Magazine)

D. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

13. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

AMAL Tales (Alaskan Malamute)

E. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newspaper Articles

14. Article – Health or Care

Fran Pennock Shaw, "Pursuing a Cure for Breast Cancer"
(Dogwatch)

15. Article – Any Other Topic

Deborah Wood & Jennifer Keene, "Is That Dog Going to Bite?"
(Animal Tales)

F. Online

16. Website

WOOFipedia (www.WOOFipedia.com)
powered by the American Kennel Club)

16a. Blog

The Daily Junior Dog Blog
(<http://thedailyjuniorblog.wordpress.com>) Jill Schilp

17. Online Magazine or Newsletter

AKC Gazette

G. Online Articles

18. Article – Health and General Care

Ranny Green, "In Jackson's Case" (www.seattlekennelclub.org)

19. Article – Behavior and Training

Dusty Rainbolt, "When is it Time to Say Goodbye to Your Dog?"
(Dogster.com)

20. Article – Rescue

Dusty Rainbolt, "10 Reasons to Foster a Shelter Dog"
(Dogster.com)

21. Article – Any Other Topic

Cori Solomon, "Toby: A Blind Dog's Journey" (Examiner.com)

22. Blog – Any Topic

Emma Kesler, "Sitting Still in Exciting Environments: A Simple &
Positive Exercise for High-Drive Dogs" (www.milesandemma.com)

H. Graphics

23. Single Photo

"Felton" AKC Canine Health Foundation

24. Series Photos

Chet Jezierski, "Masterpiece" (Dog News)

25. Single Illustration or Painting

Dawn Secord, "Cover Illustration"
(Show Dogs Escape to the Seashore)

26. Series of Illustrations or Paintings

Diane Wynen (The Havanese: Illustrated Study Guide)

27. Posters, Calendars

The Healthy Dog Calendar (Caroline Coile & Jamie Pflughoeft)

28. Brochures and Pamphlets

Pet Lovers Handbook, San Diego Edition (Judy Macomber)

I. Humor, Poetry, Short Fiction, Opinions/Editorials

29. Humor

Jen Reeder, "I've Become a Crazy Dog Lady,
But I'm Okay With It" (The Huffington Post)

30. Poetry

Lee Netzler, "Fire Hydrant" (Bagpiper, Scottish Terrier Club of America)

31. Short Fiction

Helen Duberstein, "Eleanor" ([AKC Family Dog](#))

32. Opinions/Editorials

Lori Mauger, "Celebrity Dog Trainer's Valuable Message is Muddled by the Grandeur" ([www.lorimauger.com](#))

J. Other Media

33. Video, DVD, or TV Broadcasts

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue (Audrey Farrington), "Jayden Wants a Home"

34. Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio

AKC Canine Health Foundation, "Noise Phobia in Dogs"

K. Club Publications (National, Regional, or Local)

35. Magazine format

LuAnn Stuver Rogers, Editor [The Royal Dispatch](#)
(American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.)

36. Newsletter format

Susan Marsicano, Editor, [The Rip Van Wrinkler](#)
(Rip Van Wrinkle Basenji Club)

L. Club Publication Articles

37. Article – Any Topic

Tracie Laliberte, "How My Cavalier Went Viral" ([The Royal Spaniel](#))

38. Regular Column or Series

Liz Palika, "Behavior Conundrums"
([The Australian Shepherd Journal](#))

M. Club Special Publications

39. Club Special Publications

Suzanne McKay, Claire Paulson, Lauren Goebel, Paula Martel, and Cindy MacLean, "The Havanese: Illustrated Study Guide"
(Havanese Fanciers of Canada, Inc.)

N. Books

40. Single Breed

Patricia F. Lehman, [Boston Terrier](#) ([Animal Planet Dogs 101](#))
(TFH Publications, Inc.)

41. Related Breeds or All Breeds

[no entries]

42. Health and General Care

Linda Case, [Dog Food Logic](#) (Dogwise Publishing)

43. Training and Behavior

Denise Fenzi & Deborah Jones, Ph.D. [Dog Sports Skills, Book 2 Motivation](#) (Fenzi Dog Sports Academy Publishing)

44. Reference

Cat Warren, [What the Dog Knows: the Science and Wonder of Working Dogs](#) (Touchstone, Simon & Schuster)

45. Fiction

Tracey Weber, [Murder Strikes a Pose](#) (Llewellyn/Midnight Ink)

46. Children's

Betsey Anderson, [Maggie Goes to Maine](#)
(Maine Authors Publishing)

47. Human Animal Bond

Valerie Silver, [Rescue Me: Tales of Rescuing the Dogs Who Became Our Teachers, Healers, and Always Faithful Friends](#)

48. Any Other Topic

Kate J. Kuligowski, [Our Most Treasured Tails, Sixty Years of Rescue](#)
(Our Guys Publishing Company)

Special category winners~

Sponsors of Special Awards are not involved in the judging.

The Adoptashelter.com Adopt a Homeless Dog Award.
Bernadette E. Kazmarski, "Devoted to the End: Frankencat and Old Grand Dad" ([The Creative Cat](#))

AKC Club Publication Excellence Award. Nancy P. Melone, Ph.D., "Brucellosis, Parts 1 and 2" ([The Alpenhorn](#), The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America)

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award.
Mary Helen Berg, "5 Common Eye Diseases" ([Just Labs](#))

AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen Award.
Amy Shojai, "AKC Canine Good Citizenship Programs" ([puppies.About.com](#))

AKC Microchipping Awareness Award sponsored by The AKC Reunite Program. Sharon Pflaumer, "The Microchip" ([Dog News](#))

Angel on a Leash Award. Monique S. Balas, "Therapy Dogs Offer Furry Healing Only a Four-Legged Friend Can Provide" ([The Oregonian](#))

The Designated Dog Award. Sharon Pflaumer, "Freedom Dogs: Heroes for Heroes" ([Dog News](#))

DWAA Distinguished Service Award. Vicky Clarke

DWAA Friends of Rescue Award. Nancy Gallimore Werhane, "Saving Nadia" ([Tulsa Pets Magazine](#))

DWAA Junior Writer Award. Alexandra Bernstein, "All About Corgies" ([The Corgi Cryer](#))

Dogwise Best Book Award. Cat Warren, [What the Dog Knows: The Science and Wonder of Working Dogs](#)

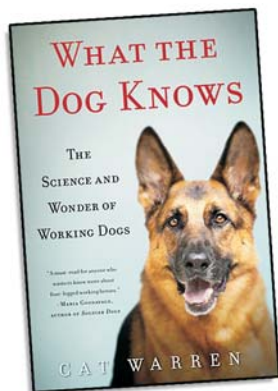
Merial Human-Animal Bond Award. Cat Warren, [What the Dog Knows: The Science and Wonder of Working Dogs](#)

Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak. Act. Canine Service Award.
Sheri S. Levy, [Seven Days to Goodbye](#) (Barking Rain Press)

Pro Plan President's Award. Valerie Silver, [Rescue Me: Tales of Rescuing the Dogs Who Became Our Teachers, Healers, and Always Faithful Friends](#)

The DWAA Officers and Board of Governors want to congratulate all the Writing Contest winners. We had a lot of great entries for this year and are sure that next year will bring even more excellent submissions.

member News!



What the Dog Knows

by Cat Warren

This year's Writing Competition Maxwell winner for Best Reference Book, the Dogwise Best Book Award, and the Merial Human-Animal Bond Award

[This review, by Ranny Green, originally appeared in www.Seattledogshow.org for the Seattle Kennel Club.]

What the Dog Knows: The Science and Wonder of Working Dogs by Cat Warren. Touchstone Books. \$26.99

Don't let the title fool you here. This riveting read, while it focuses largely on the author's German shepherd Solo (came from a litter of one), is all about people, too - many of them and from all parameters of the working-dog world - trainers, breeders, handlers, law enforcement, historians, veterinarians and a wide array of scientists.

Warren, a university professor and former journalist, takes the reader through the emotional selection process of a puppy . . . twice . . . bookending this emotional course of action and then through the intense training regimen for cadaver-dog work.

She segues into that arena while trying to harness the "wild dog" Solo's behavior and utilize his olfactory skills. As the reader accompanies the pair into the deep swamps, lakes and rivers, Civil War sites with unmarked graves and police training sites in the Southeast, you are also introduced into the fascinating world of working dogs with U.S. military forces in the Middle East and widespread science laboratories.

Warren wastes no time getting one's attention. In her Introduction, she writes: "I've grown more comfortable working with the dead. With parts of them, really."

Seemingly, you are left to wonder how Warren's two worlds - university journalism professor by week and cadaver-dog handler by weekend - are compatible. But she weaves the two together with colorfully descriptive in-the-field storytelling to historical anecdotes tied to the working dog.

Warren's honesty and candor are key here, too, since she admits

Thank you, sponsors!

Banquet sponsors

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Designated Dog
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to numerous beginner handler miscues and thanks her instructors' patience and encouragement for pushing her forward.

One of the most compelling chapters deals with water scent skills and how dogs in boats reflect a marked difference when signaling a corpse find several feet to a couple hundred feet beneath the surface.

"Cadaver dogs' ability to find human remains," she writes, "may be analogous to humans' ability to recognize faces."

Working-dog history, Warren notes, extends back only to the 1960s. Good ones, she adds, have to "move swiftly, hear acutely, smell well and communicate clearly with their handlers - even bite on occasion."

She adds, "Though we've been using working dogs for tens of thousands of years, academic researchers are just starting to catch up with what these dogs do and how. . . . If working dogs are overrated in the popular imagination, they have been most underrated in science, although that is rapidly changing."

When detailing the partnership with Solo on searches, she emphasizes: "Sure, I trust the dog; I also like to verify. I don't always trust me. Or the terrain. Or the search conditions, which are never as easy as the most difficult training you can set up."

It's critical, she writes, that the handler set up the dog for success. "Trusting your dog and letting him do his work doesn't mean being an unthinking chump. You have to keep your eyes and mind open."

Through her travels with Solo, Warren switches from a personal and engaged mode to cold facts like a reasoned, unbiased observer, which probably can be attributed to her journalistic background.

That refreshing bluntness and candor enhances her vibrant storytelling and keeps the reader on a short leash throughout.



A Tribute to Will Judy: The Man Who Brought America to the Dogs

I came to the world of dog writing less than five years ago, brought to it under the happiest of circumstances. Longing to find something meaningful to write, I found myself on a website dedicated to an observance called National Dog Week. Upon further investigation I came to learn that NDW was established in 1928 by a man named Captain William Lewis Judy, more commonly known as Will Judy.

It turns out this website was launched by none other than the late Captain Arthur J. Haggerty, often referred to as the “Grandfather of American Dog Obedience,” a man who was recently named by Dog Fancy Magazine as one of the “45 People to Change the Dog World.”

In 2003, Haggerty, feeling the need to recognize Will Judy, launched his website to extol the contributions that he believed Judy made to Dogdom, calling Judy a true inspiration. Haggerty would argue that Judy was one of the most influential people to shape the way the nation regarded its dogs. Born in 1891 in the rural town of Garrett, Pennsylvania, Judy showed great promise at an early age. He was groomed to be a teacher and the town’s minister, but his restless intelligence found him making other plans much to the disappointment of the local community. Judy left his hometown to study law, then served in WWI returning home a decorated veteran, settling in Chicago where he purchased a little-known magazine called Dog World for just a little over \$1,000.00! He would serve as its publisher for four decades.

Judy used his magazine to reach an ever-growing population of American dog enthusiasts and dog owners. From those in the elite dog show circle to the young suburban family that needed help making a good home for Fido, Judy had words of wisdom and a wealth of knowledge he generously shared with them all. With its witty and insightful commentary, Dog World Magazine was dog-central for a nation falling in love with man’s best friend.

Long before it was fashionable, Judy wrote extensively about the value of dogs of war and those in police work as well as those dogs that helped to soothe the nerves of war-weary veterans. He warned of the dangers of “Puppy Factories” (mills) and wrote that dogs should not be sold like items on a grocery shelf, chastised “men” who promoted dog-fighting, chided irresponsible dog breeders and had sympathy for what he called “strays” - those dogs set free on the fields and streets of America only to be herded unceremoniously into shelters by the dreaded dog catcher.

Judy’s law degree inspired him to write about the inequities in matters of “dog law” across the nation and called for reform as early

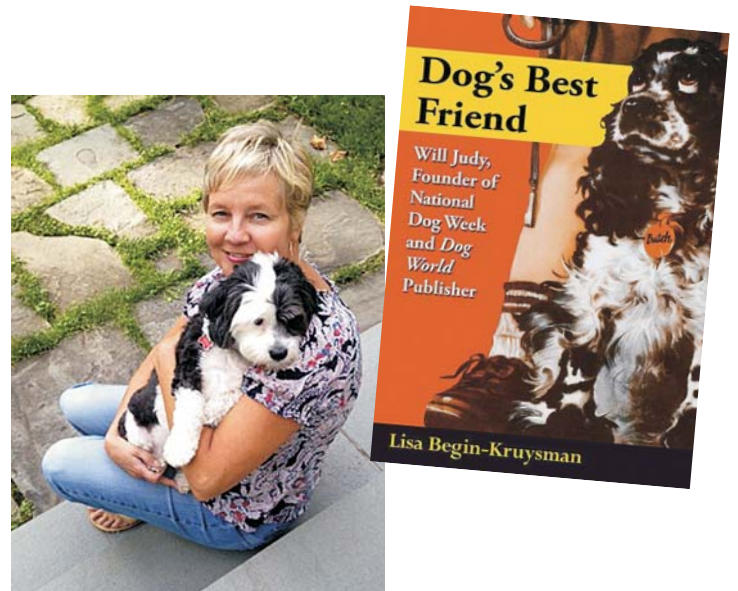
as the 1930s. His series “Handy Dog Booklets” included this information as well as tips on breeding, feeding, training and housing dogs, as well as providing proper care for puppies to ensure their physical and emotional health.

For me, what really stands out about Judy was the way he urged his readers to embrace the spirituality of dogs, and in that regard his training for the ministry never left him. For Judy, the only difference between a dog and a human was that the former lacked thumbs and an “alfabet.” For the record, Judy would have exhausted spell-check functions with his whimsical writing style with “typos” such as filosofy, ruff, naybor, etc. As serious as he was about dogs and writing, his humor and light touch were always evident.

In his tribute to Judy, Arthur Haggerty credited him as the man who founded the DWAA, explaining that Judy wanted to be more connected to the hub of the dog-showing world in New York City and wanted dog writers to have their day. With the establishment of the DWAA, those who wrote about the business of dogs achieved the professional status they deserved.

It was this author’s humble honor to write the first book to chronicle the legacy of this incredible man whose accomplishments made the world a better place for the entities on both ends of the leash.

[editor’s note: For those who may have a difference of opinion, Capt. Haggerty is quoted in the above paragraph stating Judy as founder. Judy may have been part of the founding group of DWAA, not a sole founder.]



Lisa Begin-Kruysman is the author of Dog’s Best Friend: Will Judy, Founder of National Dog Week and Publisher of Dog World Magazine (McFarland & Co., 2014). She is the National Dog Week Blogger and lives in New Jersey with her husband Rich and foster-to-furever dog, Teddy. To learn more about her work please visit www.lisabegin-kruysmanauthor.com.

For Every Dog a Blog: How to Start a Successful Pet Blog



by Carol Bryant

My heart beats dog™ and writing. I've always loved (and needed) those two in my life as much as, well, oxygen. As a long-time dog lover, advocate and self-admitted magazine junkie, I approached a fledgling dog magazine years ago with their need for a blog and social media presence. The blog began,



therefore, as my own love affair for dogs, dog travel, and a need to fulfill this niche market's place in the social media-verse.

I am often asked in my discussions with fellow canine-centric friends if blogs are a temporary fad or a trend marking their territory in an ever-changing Internet landscape. Blogs have not only claimed their spot but serve as a forum for citizen journalists (good and bad), a means to disseminate real-time and near-instant information, and an e-presence to communicate with masses in a way never before seen.

In its most rudimentary definition, a blog is a type of website with information updated regularly: perhaps several times a day or maybe once a week. People start blogs for a variety of reasons, including giving their dog(s) a voice, reporting on animal welfare issues and even helping establish a rescue or dog-themed fundraising effort.

Similar to the DWAA annual writing competition, a pet blogging competition also takes place every year. The BlogPaws Nose-to-Nose Pet Blogging and Social Media awards are the only pet industry awards on which pet bloggers and micro-bloggers are judged on the expertise, performance, and creativity of the entry. Each category is judged by a distinguished panel of professionals, and not by popular vote.

"This is one of the highest honors in the pet social media world, awarded across twelve categories to some of the most talented pet writers and bloggers on the planet," BlogPaws' co-founder, Yvonne DiVita said. "With over 1,000 entries received this year, winners will be revealed in an exclusive red-carpet ceremony at the seventh pet-friendly BlogPaws Annual Conference (<http://www.blogpaws.com/>), taking place May 28 through May 30th in Nashville, Tennessee at the Sheraton Nashville Music City. The three-day extravaganza culminates with this posh ceremony. All winners receive a trophy, recognition by peers, interviews with media, and a prize package.

To Blog or Not to Blog: That is the Question

So how did this all get started for me personally beyond an idea and a passion? It began with research of a platform. A platform in blogging terms is where a website is hosted. Three of the most

common platforms are Wordpress, Blogger, or TypePad. There are pros and cons to each, and a basic primer can be found with a Google search.

Determine layout, look, and how often the blog will be updated. Research similar blogs, take an online course, or even better, attend a pet bloggers conference like BlogPaws. Yes, that last part is correct: There are pet blogger conferences that serve to educate, inform, and allow for networking. Imagine the faces of those on Facebook, Twitter, and in different pet forums and blogging converging to one location for several days all in the name of pet blogging and social networking. BlogPaws, in theory, never sleeps. One can log on to their various social media forums and connect 24/7.

As the founders describe it, "BlogPaws is an online community site for pet bloggers, pet enthusiasts, pet people on Twitter and Facebook and brands eager to tap into a growing, vibrant, vocal community of serious writers, bloggers, and tweeters." It is also an in-person networking event I personally thank for so many personal and professional relationships, that a tweet or LIKE alone could not deliver. As someone who works from home, my mantra has always been "remember to leave the house from time to time."

Back Story

The first BlogPaws event was held in April of 2010 at the Westin Columbus in Ohio where over 230 bloggers, writers and companies passionate about pets came together in the name of animals for this inaugural and unique conference. So successful was the event that they did it again in September of the same year in Denver, Colorado, where yours truly drove cross country, Cocker Spaniel in tow, to attend the two-day event with 260 attendees. Third in the series boasted a crowd of Hurricane Irene warriors at the Sheraton Premiere in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Other locations have included Salt Lake City and Lake Las Vegas. All conferences are pet-welcoming and are capped at around 500 attendees, so the atmosphere is never overwhelming.

With each conference, the offerings grow, the attendees increase, and I have first-hand (and paw) knowledge that the relationships foster and continue to flourish. Educational sessions and seminars include topics like SEO optimization, branding your blog, getting published, and how to monetize a blog. Because each BlogPaws conference is targeted for both newcomers and veterans, they stand on their own and feel like a unique experience every time. In fact, I've been a guest speaker at several of the conferences on the topic of "How a Blogger Can Get Coverage in Traditional Media." Time and again, I've advised people to get up from the computer screen and meet peers, and paws, in person.

Founded in 2009 by three dedicated pet lovers and bloggers, BlogPaws helps pet bloggers and pet enthusiasts connect digitally, build their online presence, enhance their social networks, and support animals and shelters/rescues across the world. BlogPaws works year-round to connect bloggers and micro-bloggers to the brands they buy every day. The BlogPaws community site welcomes

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

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(Please use your current e-mail address. It is used for all DWAA online services.)

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Choose one:

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To insure complete information, are you:

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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 2015 DWAA membership roster



Susan Ewing, Secretary
66 Adams Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

Roxie

by Janice Biniok



So that's what "deadline overload" looks like . . .