



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

January 2004



Twister is a Welsh Corgi born on the last day of April 2002, a day that owner Joan Guertin says was a very stormy day. Thus, Twister became Hi-Desert Perfect Storm. Although Joan had no intention of keeping a male puppy, he had other ideas. He would look at her with an impish grin as if to say “Hey lady, I’m not going anywhere!” By the time he was 10 months old he’d already racked up some impressive wins including a Best in Match win. Joan is very happy that Twister convinced her to keep him!

Award Nominees and Banquet Reservations

Meanderings

“Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it -- but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.” Oliver Wendell Holmes

Going with the Flow

One of the most difficult tasks I ever did in my writing life also became one of my greatest lessons. I was nearly ready to send a completed book manuscript (for The Perfect Match) in to the publisher, when I mentioned the number of pages to the editor. “Oh, my,” she said, “that’s way too long. We can’t have more than ---- pages.” URG. After whining, cajoling and using my best coaxing techniques, I realized she/they were not going to budge. So I gritted my teeth and sat down to “cut my darlings.” Sighhhhhhhhh. Of course, like every writer, I believe every word I write is a gem. Not just a sparkling Cubic Zirconia wannabe, but a 100 percent gen-u-wine diamond.

How on earth could I cut the book by a third -- from 320 pages to 210? Well, first, I’ll admit I cheated a bit. I went through and cut all the white space I possibly could. Instead of putting three lines between subjects, I put two. I decreased the margins to one inch, instead of 1.5 inches. I asked the editor to make the photos of each breed a bit smaller. Then the real work began. I went through and cut every word I could without changing the meaning of sentences. After this, most adjectives and adverbs bit the dust.

I moved several pieces of information to the short breed sketches, which were written in a type of “shorthand” with incomplete sentences. In re-reading all copy, I found things that were witty (I thought so anyway!) but unnecessary to describe the breed. Punchy brevity became my mode and focus. I found all sorts of ways to say the same thing in a shorter manner. It was amazing how quickly the 320 pages became 210. And, when I read the final draft, it was tight and pithy! I liked it. Hmmmmm. Was the editor really onto something?

The Perfect Match was published and sells well yet today, but the humorous thing was that any criticism of the book was directed to the brevity of the answers. Read on.

Playing It Smart

“The greatest discovery of any generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude.” William James

Probably the smartest thing I did when cutting was to create a file called “Darlings.” There I steadfastly placed all my jewels. About a year or two later, I received a call from the same publisher, albeit under another firm name (a totally different subject) asking whether I could expand the book....too funny! This was an easy job. Although I did some additional research and solicited different photos, changed the wording to fit this book’s style (one of the Dummies series), it was a snap to expand it into a 312-page book, entitled Choosing a Dog for Dummies.

So now I had two books on the same subject: choosing a breed. I worried about them in combat for the same audience, but it didn't happen. Some people prefer the light Dummies style and are willing to pay more for longer descriptions; others want the short in-your-face, no-nonsense breed synopses of the other.

During the angst of the cut, I learned two lessons: 1) When it can be said in fewer words, do it. 2) Never cut and destroy your darlings. File them away for another day. Actually three lessons – 3) Sometimes editors are right. (Note to all my editors: just joshing!)

There's Editing, and Then Editing

Thank heavens, this occurred before the final editing! Successive editings are usually required to be turned around quickly and extensive changes are charged to the author. Some companies send the author two drafts for corrections, changes or additions. Often this consists of reading the text for typos or inconsistencies the author, editor and copy editor have missed. Authors may be asked to clarify passages or recheck statistics or facts. These are usually flagged with tiny Post Its®.

Sometimes meaning is questioned (or even changed by the non-doggy copy editor or editor). Thus, text must be read carefully, as though you were reading it for the first time, rather than the tenth. Sometimes the simple elimination of the word “the” can change the meaning of the whole sentence. Or dropping the ‘t from the word can't. Once a sentence of mine was changed that could have endangered the life of a dog. At another time, a change could have altered a dog's appearance so that it could not be shown.

Spreading the Word

We are discussing some new and exciting pluses for DWAA members, and yet another sponsor for a Special Award beginning this year has approached us. *Dogs In Canada* will be running a piece on DWAA in an upcoming issue. Remember to include “Dog Writers Association of America member” in your bio when sending off an article or a book ms. The more we publicize our organization, the more we will attract new members and make it possible to do more **for** our members.

In November, when I asked for volunteers, I received zero replies! Three members are willing to help run our surprise proposal (TBA), but surely there are more people who would like to learn about the workings of this organization and meet new people. I'm happy to announce that the following are retaining their positions for another year:

Contest: Liz Palika; Newsletter Goddess: Phyllis DeGioia; Sponsors Contact: Jan Mahood and Chris Walkowicz; Banquet: Pat Santi; Membership: Pat Santi.

Liz has announced, however, that she will be turning over her crown as Contest Chair following the 2004 contest, so think about it! As an addition to the crown (albeit invisible), there is a visible compensation in the form of a check (er, bribe?) for the chair.

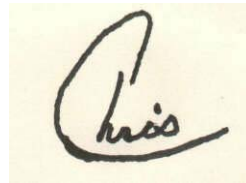
Maggie Bonham has resigned as Website Editor, and we thank her for her most appreciated work for the past year and a half. Kathryn Buetow will be stepping to the fore as the new WE. Her e-addy is katwala@cattledogs.net (guess what breed she has). If you have new books published or suggestions, please contact Kathy.

At the bi-annual brainstorming meeting, Kim Thornton volunteered to take over Susan McCullough's job as Special Awards coordinator. All of us should tell Susan how much we appreciate her assistance in convincing companies and organizations that DWAA members deserve recognition. It was just a few short years ago that NO monetary awards were given to winners.

Please plan to join us at the annual meeting and the awards banquet in New York at the Southgate Hotel. Look for our "Mother Hens," Su Ewing and Jan Gardner!

IMPORTANT STATS!

Board meeting: 11:00 a.m.
Annual members meeting: 1:00 p.m.
AKC Cocktail party for DWAA members and guests: 5:00 p.m.
Awards: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: about 7:30 p.m.



The Westminster Kennel Club and USA Network Luncheon

By Marilyn Miller

I attended the Westminster Club/USA Network luncheon" on Dec. 9th. I met Melanie Coronetz and we went together. We met David Frei, who introduced us to Peter Van Brunt, President of the Westminster Kennel Club, and Thomas H. Bradley, Show Chairman. The special event was the unveiling of a spectacular water color created by the artist Misha Lenn, called "Westminster. There's only One." This painting is of one of the early Westminster shows. It will be reproduced as a special commemorative poster for sale to the public with proceeds donated to NY's Animal Medical Center.

We visited with the three guest stars, all Westminster BIS winners: J.R., Kirby and Mick. J.R. (Ch. Special Times Just Right), Bichon Frise, winner in 2001, Mick (Ch. Torums Scarf Michael), Kerry Blue Terrier, winner in 2003, and Kirby (Ch. Loteki Supernatural Being), Papillon, winner in 1999. The most fun for me was meeting the dogs and their owners, who were more than happy to let us pet the dogs, play with them, and give interviews. They are superstars in the sport of dogs. Kirby the Papillon is the oldest dog to win BIS at Westminster. He was 8 years, now 13. Mick, the Kerry Blue Terrier, is the second dog to win both Westminster and Crufts. The year J.R. won BIS, (2001) he defeated 139,000 dogs. J.R. completed his show career at age 3. He was the only puppy in his litter! He is now 6.

New Members

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DWAA 2003 Writing Contest Regular Categories Nominees

Congratulations to all nominees! Remember that it will take a while for winners to be posted on the DWAA website (www.dwaa.org), so if you wish to know immediately if you've won but you won't be there, ask someone who is going to be there to call or e-mail you after the banquet.

Each entry in each category is scrutinized by three judges. Each judge scores the entries from 100 (perfect) to 0. The three scores are averaged to come up with one score. The highest scoring entries in each category are the nominees and the highest score is the Maxwell Award winner. The number of nominees depends upon the judges' scores. Any entry that has an over all low score will not be nominated. Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.

1. Newspaper: feature or news story
Mary Jasch, "Oh, the Weather Outside's Delightful" *NJ Herald*
Lisa Peterson, "Newtown's Theresa Hundt to Judge" *The Newtown Bee*
Fran Pennock Shaw, "Saying Goodbye" *Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*
Joan Lowell Smith, "The Cost of Care" *The Star Ledger*
2. Newspaper: column
Steve Dale, "My Pet World" *Tribune Media Services*
Sharon Pflaumer, "Pawprint" *The Midweek*
Amy D. Shojai, "P'Etiquette" *Herald Democrat*
3. Newspaper: editorial/essay/opinion
Sherry Carpenter, "Professor Takes Stance" *Sunbury Daily Item*
Sherry Carpenter, "Fitness Programs for Fido" *Sunbury Daily Item*
Sherry Carpenter, "Veterinarians Are Not Pit Bulls" *Sunbury Daily Item*
4. Magazine: all breed

AKC Gazette
Dog Fancy
Dogs in Canada

5. Magazine: single breed
Celebrating Greyhounds
Great Scots

IG Times

6. Magazine: special interest dog or all animal
Dogs Dogs Dogs
Dog Nose News
Just Terriers

7. Magazine: Yearbook /annual/special publication
AKC Gazette "Dogs in Art"
Dogs Annual in Canada
Labrador Retriever Club *2002 Yearbook*

8. Magazine: feature in all breed magazine
Janine Adams, "When Cancer Strikes" *The Bark*
Gina Mireault, "First Ladies" *AKC Gazette*
Deborah Wood, "From Terrified to Terrific" *AKC Gazette*

9. Magazine: feature in a single breed magazine
Eve Adamson, "Form Follows Function" *Border Collies*
Eve Adamson, "Pug Perfection" *Pugs*
Joan B. Guertin, "Preparing Puppies for Their New Homes" *The 2002 Welsh Corgi Annual*
Susan McCullough, "Rescuing Border Collies" *Border Collies*

10. Magazine: feature in a special interest dog magazine
Eve Adamson, "5 Tricks to Wow Your Friends" *Tricks and Games*
Nona Kilgore Bauer, "Finding the Sporting Dog for You" *Sporting Dogs*
Eva M. Bernhard, "Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy" *Retrievers Online*
Sandra Murray, "Home, Toxic Home" *Just Terriers*
Kim Thornton, "The Power of Play" *Tricks and Games*

11. Magazine: feature in all animal magazine
William Childress, "Bonnie's Big Break" *ASPCA Animal Watch*
Karen Commings, "Drawing the Line" *ASPCA Animal Watch*
Kristin Mehus-Roe, "User Friendly Adoptions" *ASPCA Animal Watch*

12. Magazine: feature in general interest magazine
Eve Adamson, "Best in Show" *National Geographic Kids*
Patricia Johnson, "Take a Second Look at the Label" *North Carolina Pesticide Update*
Susan McCullough, "Walk This Way" *Family Circle*
Sue Owens Wright, "Waddling in Dwight" *Mystery Scene Magazine*

13. Magazine: feature in canine newspaper or newsletter
Lorraine Houston, "Barry" *Dogs Dogs Dogs*
Erin Ann Rouse, "Livestock Guarding Dog Program" *Dog Nose News*
Roxanne Willems Snopek, "Raising a Well Mannered Dog" *Dog Watch*

14. Magazine: feature in annual publication or other
Eve Adamson, "16 Weeks to Socialization Success" *DOGS USA*
Arden Moore, "Savvy Tips for Finding a Puppy" *Puppies USA*

- Kim Thornton, "Pound vs. Pedigree" *Puppies USA*
 Kim Thornton, "Advances in Veterinary Medicine" *DOGS USA*
15. Magazine: editorial/opinion/essay
 Wendy Anderson, "A Greyt Experience" *Dog Fancy*
 Cynthia Branigan, "Dog Tired" *Celebrating Greyhounds*
 Betsy Stowe, "Dog Days" *Meow*
16. Magazine: regular column
 Doug Cass, "Keeping it Together: *The French Bullytin*"
 Jean Donaldson, "Behavior" *Dogs in Canada*
 Debra Eldredge, DVM, "Health Matters" *Dogs in Review*
 Michael Rosser, "The Dog in Art" *The French Bullytin*
17. Magazine: subject related series
 Donna Lehmann, "Dangerous Dogs" *Dog Nose News*
 Nikki Moustaki, "Pawsitive Placement" *Dog Fancy*
 Robbie Pattison, "Conformation 101" *Dogs in Canada*
 C. A. Sharp, "When Worlds Collide" *Double Helix Network News*
18. Internet: feature
 Carol D. Hawke, "Leaving the Stone Age Behind" *Canine Chronicle*
 Laurie Leach, "The Truth About Dog Breeds: The Standard Poodle" *laughingdogpress.com*
 Mordecai Siegal, "Dogs, Divas and Delights" *goodnewsforpets.com*
19. Internet: regular column
 Mordecai Seigal, "The View from Mordecai Seigal" *goodnewsforpets.com*
20. Short Fiction
 Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Things to Do With Your Dogs" *Front & Finish*
 Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Angel Eyes" *Front & Finish*
 Gina Mireault, "Illusions" *AKC Gazette*
21. Poetry
 Ned Bratspis, "Color Golden" *Golden Tales*
 Joseph Harvill, "Morning Prayers" *Great Scots*
 Lee Netzler, "A Villanelle for Rusty" *The Bagpiper*
22. National Club: magazine format
The Australian Shepherd Journal United States Australian Shepherd Association
The Courier Portuguese Water Dog Club of America
German Shepherd Dog Review German Shepherd Dog Club of America
23. National Club: newsletter format
Focus Irish Wolfhound Foundation
Komondor Komments Komondor Club of America
Safehands International Association of Canine Professionals
24. National Club: magazine: feature
 Diane Castle, DVM, "Living With Degenerative Myelopathy" *German Shepherd Dog Review*
 Rue Chagoll, "Daddy's Really Not Coming Home Anymore?" *Golden Retriever News*
 Paula Muehlbauer, "The White Paper" *German Shepherd Dog Review*
25. National Club: newsletter: feature
 Jean Donaldson, "Assessment and Treatment of Resource Guarding" *APDT Newsletter*
 Beverly Hebert, "The Ubiquitous Labrador Retriever" *APDT Newsletter*

- Dr. David Methews, "The Return" *The Fan Hitch*
26. National Club: magazine or newsletter: regular column
Anne Hershey, "Tracking Field Notes" *The Aussie Times*
Terry Long, "On Behavior" *APDT Newsletter*
C. A. Sharp, "Genetics" *The Australian Shepherd Journal*
 27. National Club: magazine or newsletter: subject related series
Joan B. Guertin, "Lend Me Your Ears" *Pembroke Welsh Corgi Newsletter*
Sue Sternberg, "Gimme Shelter" *APDT Newsletter*
Carroll H. Weiss, "About Dick Mason" *The Spotter*
 28. Regional/Local Club: magazine or newsletter
Dalliances Mid-Florida Dalmatian Club
Golden Tales Rescue A Golden of Arizona
Pyr Tales Dallas-Ft Worth Great Pyrenees Club
 29. Regional/Local Club: feature
Gail Chadwick, "Shelterwalking" *Golden Tales*
Debra Eldredge, DVM, "Corgis do Calculus" *The Corgi Cryer*
Jude Fulghum and Deb Orwig, "The Reward of Old Gold" *Golden Tales*
 30. Regional/Local Club: regular column
Dan Bultman, "The Great Golden Gallery" *Golden Tales (AZ)*
Rue Chagoll, "Sit! Stay! Listen!" *Golden Tales (NY)*
Joyce Hubler, "Reflections" *Rescue A Golden (AZ)*
 31. Regional/Local Club: subject related series
No nominees
 32. Photography: color
Harry Giglio, "Weimaraner" *AKC Gazette*
Diane Lewis, "Afghan Hound" *AKC Gazette*
Karen and Ian Stewart, "Jumping" *AKC Gazette*
 33. Photography: black and white
Samarra Khaja, cover photo, *ASPCA Animal Watch*
Ed Presnall, "The First VST Dachshund" *The Dachshund Club of America*
 34. Photography: series
Lisa Croft-Elliott, "Garden Spotlight" *Canine Chronicle*
Trina Koster, "Building the Bond" *Dogs in Canada Annual*
Anne Williams, "Camp Winnaribbon" *The Sacramento Bee*
 35. Illustration/Painting
Heather Horton, "A Lick and a Problem" *Dogs in Canada*
Chet Jezierski, "The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever" *AKC Gazette*
Max Licht, "Priming Your Dog's Immune System" *Dogs in Canada*
 36. Illustration: series
Lisa Bilinski, "Conformation 101" *Dogs in Canada*
 37. Poster or Special Publication
American Kennel Club, *2002 Annual Report*
Pam Tanzey, "AKC Judges Institute – Toy Breeds" AKC
Pam Tanzey, "Award Certificate" Greater San Diego Basset Hound Club

38. Calendar
 - Kent and Donna Dannen, "Golden Retrievers" (Browntrout Publishers)
 - Kent and Donna Dannen, "Rottweillers" (Browntrout Publishers)
 - Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club, Inc. "2003 Calendar"
39. Videotape
 - American Kennel Club, "Your New Dog and You" (AKC)
 - Darlene Arden, "Creatively Speaking: The Coppingers" (Comcast)
 - Corally Burmaster, "Puppy Kindergarten"
40. CD/DVD
 - Lydia Kelley, "Teamwork" (Top Dog Productions)
41. Broadcast Journalism
 - Steve Dale, "Show #84" Animal Planet Radio
 - Steve Dale, "Show #74" Animal Planet Radio
 - Steve Dale, "Show #64" Animal Planet Radio
42. Book: single breed
 - Sheila Webster Boneham, PhD "The Simple Guide to Labrador Retrievers" (TFH, 2003)
 - Sharon Giese Damkaer, "Albert Staehle and Cover Boy Butch" (Polly Cocker Press, 2003)
 - Muriel P. Lee, "The Official Book of the Sealyham Terrier" (Beaver's Pond Press, 2003)
43. Book: single breed pet guide
 - Margaret Bonham, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Labrador Retrievers" (Alpha, 2003)
 - Bardi McLennan, "Irish Terrier" (Kennel Club Books, 2003)
 - Kim Thornton, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beagles" (Alpha, 2002)
44. Book: general interest
 - American Kennel Club, "DOGNY: America's Tribute to Search and Rescue Dogs" (TFH, 2002)
 - Mary R. Burch, PhD, "Wanted: Animal Volunteers" (Howell, 2003)
 - Mike Lingenfelter and David Frei, "The Angel by My Side" (Hay House, 2002)
45. Book: general reference
 - Amy Fernandez, "Breeding as a Fine Art" (Ltd Editions Media, 2002)
 - Susan McCullough, "Your New Dog" (Capital Books, 2003)
 - Diane Morgan, "The Simple Guide to Choosing a Dog" (TFH, 2003)
46. Books: care and health
 - Debra Eldredge, DVM, "Pills for Pets" (Citadel, 2003)
 - Jackie Isabell, "Genetics: An Introduction for Dog Breeders" (Alpine, 2003)
 - Amy D. Shojai, "Complete Care for Your Aging Dog" (New American Library, 2003)
47. Book: training and behavior
 - Melissa Alexander, "Click for Joy" (Sunshine Books, 2003)
 - Jacqueline Parkin, "Click! You're on Canine Camera" (Alpine, 2003)
 - Ed Presnall, "Mastering Variable Surface Tracking" (Dogwise, 2003)
48. Book: fiction
 - Susan Conant, "The Dogfather" (Berkley Prime Crime, 2003)
 - Jere Hoar, "The Hit" (Context Books, 2003)
 - Annie Smith, "Home Again" (Zebra Kensington, 2002)
49. Book: children's
 - D. Caroline Coile, PhD., "How Smart is Your Dog?" (Sterling, 2003)

Marty Crisp, "Everything Dog" (Northword Books for Young Readers, 2003)
Deborah Turner and Diana Mohler, "How Willy Got his Wings" (Doral, 2003)

50. Book: under 100 pages
Margaret Bonham, "Recreational Activities with Dogs" (Thompson Educational Direct, 2002)
Carina Beth MacDonald, "Raw Dog Food" (Dogwise, 2003)

Feb 1 is Cutoff for Westminster Banquet Reservations

AKC will sponsor the cocktail hour from 5 to 6, award ceremony is at 6, and dinner is at 8. AKC will kindly provide hot and cold snacks and an open bar! (woofs of approval and thanks go to AKC for this) Dinner is an Italian buffet.

Reservation Form for the DWAA Banquet February 8, 2004
SouthGate Hotel, New York, NY

Please reserve _____ buffets

For: _____

Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ + _____

Phone Number _____

cost per Buffet is \$60.00

Please complete this form and mail with check or money order made out to: DWAA (US funds only)

Mail to: Pat Santi, DWAA Secretary, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320-1326

Phone: 610-384-2436 Fax: 610-384-2471

Cut off date is February 1, 2004

NO TICKETS ARE SOLD AT THE DOOR

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ buffets

Signed _____ date _____

(this page intentionally left blank so the banquet reservation form can be mailed in)

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(Please send all material for the newsletter to the Newsletter Editor)

DWAA Web Site: www.DWAA.org

When your address changes, or if you did not receive your newsletter or roster,
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