



Kim Thornton (left) and Nikki Moustaki proudly show off their Maxwells!

March 2008



Ruff Drafts: The Voice of DWAA™

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.
FOUNDED 1935



The banquet was clearly a ton of fun for some folks: (front row, L to R) Caroline Coile (left, sitting), Dominique DeVito (sitting, who brought the hats and party poppers), Eve Adamson, and Ben Minkler. Standing row (L to R) Stacy Kennedy of Wiley, standing), Stacy's daughter Katie Kennedy, and three folks we couldn't identify. Folks, please identify yourself for the next issue!

SPRING

SPRING

BEGINS MARCH 20TH



THINK GREEN * THINK

President Amy Fernandez called meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

Roll call: 20 Members Present with one guest. Eve Adamson, Caroline Coile, Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing, Cindy Read, Pat Steer, Linda Rehkopf, Deb Eldredge, DVM, Nancy Boyd, Pat Santi, Joanne Anderson, Barbara Garrett Wilson, Roy Wilson, Sue Jeffries, Mordecai Siegal, Ranny Green, Rue Chagoll, Charlotte Reed Amy Fernandez, Kim Campbell Thornton and guest John Kleppner.

The Secretary was asked to cast one vote for the two new Board Members, Caroline Coile and Charlotte Reed.

The President asked for a moment of silence for departed member Jacky Hungerland. The President thanked Mordecai Siegal and Darlene Arden for their services as outgoing Board Members.

Minutes of the last meeting were distributed to all present. These minutes had been published in the March Issue of the newsletter in 2007. Mordecai moved and Rue Second that the minutes be approved as published and written. M/S/P

Treasurer Report January 2007 - December 2007

Income		Expense	
Dues	\$11,660.00	Newsletter/Directory	\$21,598.00
Contest Entry fees	\$11,813.00	Banquet	\$27,371.00
Contest Donations	\$12,100.00	Special Awards	\$1,190.00
Banquet Sponsors	\$27,000.00	Contest	\$5234.00
Banquet ads	\$1,420.00	Secretary	\$2,076.00
Bank interest	\$438.00	Web site	\$1,780.00
Banquet fees	\$3,565.00	Scholarship	\$3,000.00
		Insurance	\$523.00
		CWA Seminar	\$1,000.00
Total income	\$67,996.00	Total Expenses	\$63,772.00

Net Gain \$4,224.00

Rue explained that some of the figures are not fixed for this year, as some things are still outstanding in the income column. This year the Special Awards Sponsors gave us the checks and we are writing our checks for the awards. New software for the newsletter has reduced our postage for the newsletter. Please notice we have interest off our money this year. Rue Chagoll. Full report available if requested

Secretary Report

The secretary thanked the membership for allowing her to serve you. We have 563 members and processed 30 applications last year. We had two members who reinstated and lost approx 20 for non-payment of dues. We have about 20 per year who join after the contest and then drop out of the organization.

Our Incorporation has been filed by Ida Estep in the State of Massachusetts and I have signed our Annual report for them. Ida continues as our Legal Advisor. Our Board Liability Insurance bill arrived and was sent to Rue who has paid the bill for the year of 2008.

Somehow your secretary became involved with the contest this year. Sending out over 55 letters for ads for the program for the banquet. I enjoyed working with Kim Townsend on the program and we are still talking. I was also able to help Sue Jeffries with her letters to judges and be a sounding board for her. I enjoyed working with Sue and wish her the best. Sue did a great job with the contest.

The Board voted to drop the HSUS Award from the contest due to its strong animal rights orientation. I was able to send them a letter that did not reflect any negative comments.

I was able to help the Hall of Fame Committee find people to receive the HOF plaques for the two dear members not able to be here in person.

It is often hard to find people to receive plaques for people who have died years ago.

I have answered many e-mails and telephone calls about the DWAA and try to encourage those who write about dogs to join. We have a great many people asking who we are and what we do. I thank the Membership for allowing me to serve you. Pat Santi, Secretary

Banquet Report

This year we have sold out 250 seats two weeks ago and have 13 people waiting for tickets. Working on the banquet is a year round job getting sponsors. This year I was able to secure \$25,000.00 in sponsorships. We had Schering-Plough, Purina, TFH, Central Life Sciences and Sergeant's.

We have beautiful big tote bags from BowTie and many, many goodies from various companies that should make these bags a real treat. I thank all those who helped stuff the goodie bags. It is a big job with so much stuff. We do not put them at the chairs any longer, as they seem to disappear. We now hand them out as you walk into the ballroom. We pay two men a small stipend to carry the bags to the entrance of the ballroom in the afternoon. We have many nominees coming this year and we should give Sue a round of applause for this and it was done. Sue then stated that no one really knows how hard the secretary works and asked for a round of applause for her. The Secretary thanked everyone.

Followed by discussions on how to get more help with the goodie bags.

We had many volunteer but they never show up. It was suggested we have a pizza party or something like that. We are very lucky to have the use of the Madison Room for 3 days without cost to the DWAA. We also do not have to pay a Ballroom fee for the Banquet. Every Monday after the banquet I sign a new contract for the following year before someone else grabs the room. Many hotels in NYC charge a per day fee for storage we do not pay that here at the Affinia. We are very lucky to get the things we do for free here. We do share any and all tickets to plays with the staff and any left over toys and goodies from our bag stuffing party. We just could use more help with the stuffing of the bags! Pat Santi Banquet Chair

Newsletter Report

Our Newsletter Goddess, Phyllis DeGioia, reports that the newsletter has been renamed. We held a contest for members to submit their ideas and we voted for the top ten names. Only 9 names received enough votes to be considered. Ruff Drafts was suggested by Dr. Arnold Levine, who won a free years membership. Instead of claiming his free membership he chose to ask that we send the \$40.00 to Take the Lead. Since the name Ruff Drafts is copyrighted for a song we have added an extension to it and it is now called "Ruff Drafts: The Voice of DWAA." Our lawyer, Ida Estep, said that we did not need to copyright it but trademark it and in her opinion it was unnecessary to pay for the trademark but to use the trademark symbol. We have followed her advice.

Rather than struggling along with Word we have purchased Quark and now have Kim Townsend, a graphic designer, lay out the newsletter for a professional look we did not have previously. Kim is paid a small stipend for this effort, and she has done a "fabulous" job in the opinion of your Newsletter Goddess. We have more photos, legibility has increased drastically, and overall it now looks like a professional publication. Carol Lea Benjamin kindly drew a wonderful new logo for the new name.

For Westminster, we went with four- color on one of the two pages and printed double the normal amount. Members received an insert regarding membership dues and notice of the Annual Meeting, and the ones bound for Westminster had a membership application insert. These are to be passed out in the pressroom. We also differentiated ourselves from PAWS by mentioning that members write about every single aspect of dogs, not just purebreds and show dogs.

Contest Report

We had 798 regular entries in 42 categories and 382 entries in the special categories. Entry fees for members were \$10 in regular categories and \$15 for non-members. Special Awards were raised this year to \$7 from \$20; Office & Postage- \$200; Postage to send entries to judges_ \$989.91; Medallions for 100- \$971; Engraving medallions \$295.10; Certificates- \$340.55; Sales Tax on medallions \$96.40; Jr. Writer Award \$250

We made some changes in Special Awards and the 21 awards total \$14,050 this year. I asked for money up front so that we would know that each award would have a check and Rue has written our checks for the awards. Sue has sent the Board a full report of her changes and that she will be setting up the nominated material in the banquet hall for all to see this year. Sue let us know where entries were lacking and how to handle some of the new areas to be covered.

This year's contest covered 13 months, from 9/1/06 through 9/30/07, with a postmark deadline of 10/02/07. I got into trouble contacting judges (thanks Pat for bailing me out) and cataloging all the entries. Instead of material going out to the judges by Oct. 31st, I didn't get it all cataloged until Nov. 18th. It went out during Thanksgiving Week, giving the judges only a couple of weeks to look over material and give me their scores. I asked for scores back by Dec. 10th, and most of the judges were able to handle the crunched schedule and heavy loads. I worked feverishly to e-mail over 130 congratulatory letters to the nominees and get the entire list to the newsletter and web editor, as well as several officers, on Dec 18th to go back on schedule. That left the special Award entries, which we also expedited among five judges to select winners for the monetary awards.

The next year's schedule should be set up by the board, with a slight change. Entries close 9/1/08 for material published between 10/1/07 and 8/31/08 (11 months) Postmark deadline should be 9/2/08

Discussion followed about awards and how \$500 should be set as the minimum for awards. Travel is so expensive and the \$250 and \$150 Awards do not cover any travel or lodging. We are lucky to have so many awards with travel stipends. This is something that the new Contest Chair should be looking into so that the awards are worthwhile. This year no plaques were requested and a travel stipend has been added to some awards. Material out to judges 10/15/08, scores back from judges 11/15/08 and nominees posted by 12/15/08.

There were many negative reports from members about the contest and the Secretary said she would not bring them up at this time due to the fact that Sue has resigned to the Board of governors as Contest Chair.

Thank you Sue Jeffries for all the work you did for us.

Web Site Report

The data has been submitted to the professional chat list installation... should be done this week. In May 2007 the first full month after moving to the new server we averaged around 4000 per day to the site. By September we were averaging about 7000 per day. In January 2008 we averaged about 14,000 hits per day. Our visitors each day are declining and we need to work on promoting the site more. We have a summary by each month submitted to the Board. We have found a person; Stephanie Smith, to run our chat list and this will begin very soon. Discussion followed about using our DWAA list for our business and not the private owned list. We will have to promote our list more with members and try and get them to use the chat list if they like that idea better than the forum.

Thank you Kim Townsend for all the work you do for the DWAA.

Public Relations Report

Charlotte Reed distributed this report to the Board of Governors:

1. Twice a year distribute press releases announcing Members' Books. March: Spring and summer; Fall: Fall and Holiday. Profnet distribution. Cost about \$300.
2. Press Release announcing winners of cash prizes. Profnet distribution cost about \$300.
3. Media alerts: Announcing contest to mainstream magazines and publishers.
4. Banquet: Inviting a table of journalists and agents and publishers.
5. Spruce up the website.
6. Ask Members to write about the DWAA
7. Plan DWAA writing conference.

Junior Scholarship

Lea-Ann Germinder turned in her report and the winner of our Scholarship of \$3,000.00 was again Lindsay Hocker of Milan, IL. Lindsay on vacations interns at a local newspaper and finds time to help organize a fundraiser for two local animal shelters. She sent a lovely note thanking the DWAA for making her school year easier.

Book signing at the Affinia: We had five or six sign up and three showed up. We are fortunate to have the space here at the Affinia at no cost. We are allowed to set up tables and have our books on display in the area by the elevator.

Pat secures the space for us with her contract and Amy signs people on for the space. We have always hoped to have a signing at one of the local bookstores but that has not happened as of this time. We have had people working on this project so far it has not been finished or a space has not been found.

President Amy Fernandez appointed the following people for the coming year:

Contest Chair: Liz Palika

Hall of Fame Committee: Pat Cruz, Ida Estep and Bardi McLennan

Newsletter: Phyllis DeGioia

Banquet: Pat Santi

Junior Scholarship: Lea-Ann Germinder

Web Site: Kim Townsend

Chat List: Stephanie Smith

Public Relations: Charlotte Reed

CWA/DWAA Writing Seminar

The Board of Governors with a vote of 5 to 2 voted to not support the CWA Seminar this year. Major discussions followed. Deb Eldredge was personally disappointed about not supporting and about the speaker being cancelled last year after so many being upset. She discussed how she and Kate always find work there. Deb stated she lives in the State of NY and it is easy for her to get here but not for everyone who lives in other parts of the country. Amy stated that because publishers are in NYC it is easy for us to have a conference here for dog writers. Deb thought publishers would go wherever and more discussion ensued. A show of hand was requested for all who attend the CWA seminar and out of 20 only 3 raised their hand.

Amy discussed how Charlotte Reed as our new PR Person was looking into having a Dog Writers Seminar here in NYC before the Garden. Eve Adamson also spoke about having a Dog Writers seminar here.

Linda Rehkopf stated about being in NYC because she can be here but many cannot afford to travel to NYC. She spoke of writing about performance events more than conformation and how a show like Westminster is not for performance. She thought we should have a conference with some performance event. More discussion continued.

Some suggested we go to Long Beach for this seminar or conference and Amy reminded us that only two people showed up for the free room and snacks we had in Long Beach. At this point about 6 people were talking and the microphone was jamming. The secretary turned off the microphone and let the voice activated recorded pick up the voices. Pat Steer spoke, Deb Eldredge, Mordecai, Eve Adamson, Linda Rehkopf, Pat Santi and two or three others that could not be understood. It was many pros and cons for having a dog writer's seminar. The group really did not feel we should hold it in NYC and not at Westminster time. The other side thought that since publishers are here in NYC it would be the better place and that Westminster brings people to NYC.

More discussion followed. Rue moved to end the meeting at 1:14PM, Second by Mordecai. M/S/P

Respectfully submitted, Pat Santi, Secretary

BOARD CHANGES

It is my duty by the bylaws to announce the following:

Amy Fernandez has resigned effective immediately from the position of president of the DWAA. We thank her for all her work and efforts on behalf of the organization.

As per the bylaws, Chris Walkowicz, vice president, will become president for the remainder of Amy's term. Again as per the bylaws and by majority vote of the Board of Governors, Su Ewing will serve as vice president for the remainder of Chris' term. We had three names submitted.

As per the bylaws, Chris Walkowicz, President, has asked Liz Palika to chair the contest for 2008 and she accepted.

We are sure the membership will work with these new officers to help the DWAA continue to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Pat Santi, Secretary, DWAA



Charlene Woodward of Dogwise gave the Dogwise Best Book Award to Jane Mahlow for Hiss, Whine, and Start Over.



Lisa Peterson of AKC gave Caroline Coile, PhD, the coveted AKC Canine Health Foundation Research Communication Award.

2008 OFFICERS

President – Chris Walkowicz, 1396 265th St, Sherrard, IL 61281 – 309.754.8723 – walkoway.dogbooks@mchsi.com

Vice President: Sue Ewing, 66 Adams St., Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-484-6155 dogwriter@windstream.net

Secretary – Pat Santi, 173 Union Road, Coatesville, PA 19320 – 610.384.2436 – rhydownen@aol.com

Treasurer – Rue Chagoll, P.O. Box 157, Lansing, NY, 14882, 607-351-5638 - rchagoll@capital.net

President Emeritus—Ranny Green, 4820 Tok A Lou Ave N.E., Tacoma, WA 98422, rannygreen@hotmail.com

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mordecai Siegal - Honorary Board Member
Class of 2011 - Caroline Coile & Charlotte Reed
Class of 2010 - David Frei
Class of 2009 - Patricia Cruz & Dr. Carmen Battaglia

Contest Chair

Liz Palika - 250 Flame Tree Place, Ocean-side, CA, 92057, 760-630-3828, Lizpalika@cox.net

Newsletter Editor/Goddess

Phyllis DeGioia, 4226 Beverly Road, Madison, WI 53711, 608.271.1763, woofingdog@tds.net. Please send all material for the newsletter to Phyllis.

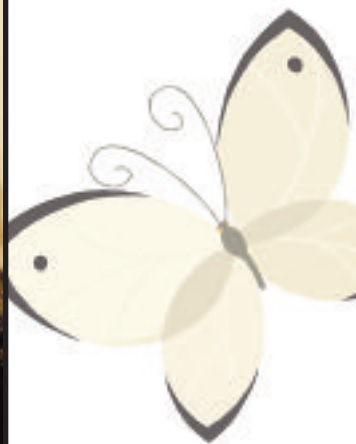
Web Site: <http://www.DWAA.org>

Web Editor: Kim Townsend

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Copies of the minutes from the Board Meeting are available upon request. In addition, any roster updates, or if you did not receive your newsletter or roster, PLEASE NOTIFY the DWAA Secretary.

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Roster Update

New Members (Sponsors Appear in Bold)

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The official DWAA list is at <http://dwaa.org/mailman/listinfo/dwaa-group> dwaa.org. It's simple to sign up and join our conversations! To post a message to all the list members, all you do is send email to dwaa-group@dwaa.org. This list is a fast way to network with your DWAA colleagues, ask questions about writing or dogs, and learn as well as share tips that make a dog writer's life easier and more profitable.

When signing up for our Forums at <http://www.dwaa.org/forum> be sure to use your real name as your user-name. Characters and spaces are permitted -- *Dr. Jane Doe* is acceptable, but *Dr_Jane-Doe* is not acceptable. The idea is to present your name to the search engines in a format most often used by Internet users.

WINTER

NO MATTER HOW LONG THE  SPRING IS SURE TO FOLLOW

Contest Winners!

We're pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 writing competition. Once again, congratulations to all of the nominees – it is such an honor to be nominated. Winners are always exceedingly happy because this contest is such an important one. For a list of nominated finalists and more details about the Special Awards, please see www.dwa.org.

Also, a note of thanks from 2007 Contest Chair Sue Jeffries.

A big thank you to Joanne Anderson and Terry Cardillino for putting together the nominated material for our awards banquet! It was the first time we displayed nominated pieces from the contest, and everybody seemed to enjoy it. Without these two industrious (and limber) ladies, the boards with various newspaper articles, magazine pieces, club pubs, artwork, photos, and books wouldn't have come together. They worked all Sunday afternoon on the displays, and we should all be grateful!

NEWSPAPERS

1. Feature or News Story (37 entries)
Deborah Wood, "With Surgical Precision" (The Oregonian, Feb. 20, 2007)
2. Column (21 entries)
Joan Lowell Smith, "Concerning Animals" (The Star-Ledger)

MAGAZINES & NEWSLETTERS (other than club pubs.):

3. All-Breed Magazines (6 entries)
AKC Family Dog
4. Single-Breed Magazines (incl. multi-related breeds) (10 entries)
Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine
5. Special-Interest Magazines (incl. show, performance, welfare or all-animals) (10 entries)
Dogs for Kids
6. Yearbook, Annual or Special Publication (11 entries)
Dogs USA 2007 Annual
7. Feature in All-Breed Magazine (65 entries)
Matthew Schenker, "Brain Storms: Anatomy of a Seizure" (AKC Gazette, April & May 2007)

8. Feature in Single-Breed Magazine (41 entries)

Laurie Haight Keenan, "Honoring Scottie Lives" (Great Scots Mag., Nov.-Dec., 2006)

9. Feature in Special-Interest Magazine (48 entries)

Bo Bengtson, "China 2007 -- The Giant Awakens" (Dogs in Review, July 2007)

10. Feature in Mainstream General-Interest Magazine (10 entries)

Diane Brady and Chris Palmeri, "The Pet Economy" (BusinessWeek, Aug. 6, 2007)

11. Feature in Yearbook, Annual or Special Publication (42 entries)

Eve Adamson, "Ooh La-La" (Popular Dogs Series: French Bulldogs, March 2007)

12. Column or Subj.-Related Series in Any Magazine (43 entries)

Bud Boccone, "ACE Files" (AKC Family Dog)

13. Canine Newspaper or Newsletter (6 entries)

Your Dog (Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine @ Tufts)

14. Feature or Column in Canine Newspaper or Newsletter (35 entries)

Amy D. Shojai, "When Dogs Battle for Status at Home" (Your Dog, Sept. 2007)

GRAPHICS AND OTHER GENRE:

15. Photography: Color (52 entries)
Marty van Duyne, "Matt Hoioos and Calder" (Stafford Co. VA Sun, April 2007)

16. Photography: Black and White (8 entries)
Diane Lewis, "Domino" (AKC Gazette, May 2007)

17. Illustration or Painting (22 entries)
Jess Golden, "Love Story: Can a Dog Really Love?" (Modern Dog, March 2007)

18. Series: Photography, Illustrations, or Paintings (21 entries)
Chet Jezierski, "The Illustrated Bouvier" (American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Sept. 2006)

19. Editorial, Opinion, or Essay in Any Written Medium (30 entries)

Claire Panosian Dunavan, MD, "Best Friends Forever" (The Baltimore Sun, Nov. 16, 2006)

20. Short Fiction in Any Written Medium (9 entries)

Gina Mireault, "Divine Intervention" (AKC Gazette, June 2007)

21. Poetry in Any Written Medium (9 entries)

Nikki Moustaki, "Ode to My Pomeranian" (Popular Dogs Series: Pomeranians, Aug. 2007)

22. Humor: Writing, Art (32 entries)

Eve Adamson and Thomas Kimball, "Tales of the Absurd" (Popular Dogs Series: House-training, Jan. 2007)

23. Posters, Calendars, Pamphlets (22 entries)

Connie McCabe, "Hearts of Gold 2008 Calendar" (Rescue a Golden of Arizona, Aug. 2007)

24. Broadcast Journalism (12 entries)

Steve Dale, "Pet Central: Humane Issues" (WGN Radio, Sept. 9, 2007)

25. Internet: Feature Article (25 entries)

Steve Dale, "Thank You Note to Michael Vick" (SteveDalePetWorld.com, Aug. 27, 2007)

26. Internet: Regular Column (7 entries)

Peter Gerstenzang, "Robo Dog/Future Breeds/Fetch" (Dog Fancy on-line)

CLUB PUBLICATIONS (National, Regional or Local)

27. Club, Magazine Format (10 entries)
The Courier (Portuguese Water Dog Club of America)

28. Club, Newsletter Format (6 entries)
Golden Tales (Rescue a Golden of Arizona)

29. Club, Feature in Magazine or Newsletter (38 entries)

Kim Thornton, "A Dog Like Darcy" (The Royal Dispatch, Fall 2006)

30. Club, Regular Column or Series (14 entries)

Nancy Boyd, "Kissing Cousins: Pems in Other Lands" (The Corgi Cryer)

31. Club, Yearbook, Annual or Special Publication (2 entries)

Scottish Terrier Club of America 2002-2006 (Scottish Terr. Club of Am.)

BOOKS

32. Single Breed (incl. multi-related breeds) (3 entries)

Barbara Garnett-Wilson, "The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, In Fact & Fancy" (Cascade)

33. General Interest or Reference (13 entries)

Liz Palika, "The Howell Book of Dogs" (Howell/Wiley)

34. Care and Health (7 entries)

Diane Morgan, "The Living Well Guide for Senior Dogs" (TFH)

35. Training and Behavior (17 entries)

Arden Moore, "The Dog Behavior Answer Book" (Storey)

36. Fiction (5 entries)

J. F. Englert, "A Dog About Town" (Dell/Random House)

37. Children's (7 entries)

Kristin Mehus-Roe, "Dogs for Kids!" (BowTie)

38. Soft-cover Guides (5 entries)

Bardi McLennan, "Rescue Me!" (BowTie/Kennel Club Books)

39. Non-Fiction (3 entries)

Gail MacMillan, "Ceilidh's Quest" (Doubledge)

40. Single & Mixed Breed Pet Guides (24 entries)

Tracy Libby, "The Australian Shepherd" (TFH)

41. Anthologies (5 entries)

Mordecai Siegal, "Dog Spelled Backwards" (St. Martin's Press)

42. Dog Wisdom (5 entries)

Jane Mahlow, "Hiss, Whine & Start Over" (Cuppa Press)

Special Award Winners

Through the generosity of corporate sponsors, DWAA is proud to announce the 2007 Writing Competition Special Awards Winners.

AKC - Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award, \$1,000.00

Winner: Sarah Ferrell

AKC - Canine Health Foundation Research Communication Award; \$1,000.00

Winner: Dr. Caroline Coile for Breeders' Notebook, her monthly column in Dog World.

Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award; \$1,000.00

Winner: Mathew Schenker for his 2-part article, Brain Storms: Anatomy of a Seizure, in AKC Gazette

Eukanuba Canine Health Award

Winner: Dr. Karen Halligen for her book, Doc Halligan's What Every Pet Owner Should Know.

Westminster Kennel Club Angel on a Leash Award; \$500.00 + \$350.00 travel stipend.

Winner: Rebecca Wallick for her article, Comfort in the Court, in Bark Magazine

ASPCA Humane Issues Award; \$500.00 + up to \$350.00 travel stipend.

Winner: Bardi McLennan for her book, Rescue Me!

Hartz Mountain Health Care "Doggie Glamour" Award

Winner: Elaine Gewirtz for her article, Good Grooming Lessons, in Popular Dogs Series: Training Secrets for Toy Dogs.

Hartz Mountain "Joint Maintenance" Senior Dog Award; \$500.00 + \$350.00 travel stipend

Winner: Diane Morgan for her book, The Living Well Guide for Senior Dogs

Hartz Mountain "Milk Replacement" Puppy Award; \$500.00 + \$350.00 travel stipend

Winner: Dr. Chris Zink for her article, Dog Meets World, in Dog World

Merial Human-Animal Bond Award

Award: \$500.00 + \$250.00 travel stipend
Winner: Jane Killian for her book, When Pigs Fly!

Wiley/Ellsworth S. Howell Award; \$500.00

Winner: Nikki Riggsbie for her article, Breed Priorities, in Dogs in Review

North Shore Animal League America Award; \$500.00

Winner: Deborah Wood for her article, The Vet Will See You Now, in The Oregonian

AKC Club Publication Excellence Award; \$500.00

Winner: Sheila Dolan, editor, U.S. Australian Shepherd Association

Petaholica.com/Dogfessions.com Personal Dog Memoir Award; \$500.00

Winner: Kim Thornton for her article, A Dog Like Darcy, in The Royal Dispatch

Ottawa Kennel Club/Bob Cole Award for Educational Writing; \$350.00

Winner: E.M. & Patricia Gilbert for their article, K9 Structure and Movement, in Canine Review

DWAA Junior Writer Award; \$250.00

Winner: Jocelyn Brody for her writing, Future Fancy, in the AKC Gazette

Pet Sitters International First-Canine Award; \$250.00

Winner: Gina Mirealt for her fiction article, Divine Intervention, in the AKC Gazette

WCFO Excellence in Canine Freestyle Media Award; \$150.00

Winner: Lisa Jung for her article, Bow Wow Boogie, in Downeast Dog News (Rockland, Maine)

AKC Distinguished Service Award

Award: \$1,000.00

Winner: Kim Townsend

Pro Plan President's Award; \$750.00

Winner: Mordecai Siegal for his book, Dog Spelled Backwards

Dogwise Best Book Award; \$350.00

Winner: Jane Mahlow for Hiss, Whine and Start Over



Lee-Ann Germinder of Germinder and Associates listens to a dinner companion.

I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons.

QUOTE
~Will Rogers





BOOK REVIEWS



Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook, Fourth edition (2007); and **Cat Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook**, Third Edition (2008) By Debra M. Eldredge, DVM, Liisa D. Carlson, DVM, et al, Howell Book House \$34.99 each, hardback, approx 620 pages each

Both of these books are excellent resources. The Dog Owners book has new sections on diseases and aging, genetics, behavioral findings, cancer treatments, and natural and preventive treatments. The Cat Owners book is approximately 80% revised so most of the information is new. The index lists conditions under both the common term and formal name, i.e., so both dry eye and keratoconjunctivitis sicca are found and there's no searching around when you can't remember a formal name. Speaking as someone who writes about canine health, I think the information in both books is easy to understand and makes complicated issues understandable. I strongly recommend that owners have these books on hand.

Understanding Your Dog for Dummies, by Stanley Coren, PhD and Sarah Hodgson, For Dummies by Wiley, \$16.99, paperback, 272 pages

Dummies books always outline a lot of information clearly in easy-to-grasp bits, and that's why people like them. This one provides the usual format with a lot of good, sensible information about what motivates our dogs' behavior. The book includes useful exercises, questionnaires, charts, and charts, not to mention some hilarious cartoon reprints. This is and isn't about training; it's mostly about understanding why your dog does what he does and how to work with that to improve your relationship and ability to train. The chapter on aggression makes good sense on a complex subject; I also particularly liked the chapter on seeing life from your dog's perspective. This is a couple of steps above a first-time owner's guide, and would be an excellent idea for someone who is interested in learning more about dog behavior.

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