



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

May 2004



It's a litter of three! DWAA extends the warmest of welcomes to Denise Flaim's newest two-legged pups: Alexandra, Stephen, and Krista Eder. It's not often that we can welcome such an adorable litter. The wee ones reside in Sea Cliff, New York, and are definitely best in show. Congratulations to the whole family.

BALLOT ENCLOSED

Meanderings

“If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.” Ralph Waldo Emerson (or writes, adds Chris)

Feeding of your Expertise

All of us have something we specialize in – or, at least, something we have a special interest in. Or maybe we tumble into without realizing. It seems I am known in my community and in the canine world as an expert on rare breeds, dog breeding, geriatrics and on choosing a breed – possibly because I wrote books on those subjects.

Special interests can work the other way around, however. Perhaps we’re curious about something ourselves, research it, and find this would make a terrific subject to write about. Or we could have true experts on a subject such as veterinarians (like Deb Eldredge or Bonnie Wilcox, among others) or techs on health subjects. And Deb is into almost every canine sport there is. Or we could be so good at research that we can sound like we have a great deal of experience in this field.

Among our members, Darlene Arden is known as an expert on small dogs, giving lectures and advice on this subject. Darlene also sometimes is called “Dr. Arden” by those who mistake her veterinary writing for the layperson as her vocation instead of her avocation. Gardening enthusiast, Cheryl Smith, keeps expanding her gardens – hence her unique book. She’s also blooming in animal communication. Our newsletter goddess Phyllis DeGioia, has a background in tech writing, a perfect background for her job as a, well, tech writer on veterinary diseases.

I shudder to think that Susan Conant or Laurie Berenson produce murders in any way except on paper, but they certainly have become experts on the subject. One can only presume these mysterious authors thoroughly research. Deborah Wood, although rarely having shown a dog, knows just the questions to ask to write a stimulating article on shows and judges. Kim Thornton’s time as an editor at *Dog Fancy* made her appreciate the backgrounds and history of the various breeds making her a natural for breed profiles and also on choosing a breed.

I asked on DWAA-PRO what expertise our subscribers have and, WOW, are we diverse!

Astrid Pryor is our resident money expert --- taxes, rescue organizations, estate and financial planning, pets or “other world.” She also hungers for nutrition articles. The lady who has been involved in every facet of the show world, Esme Treen, writes and advises about all things show-wise, including stewarding. She also shares Kim’s and others’ interest in breeds, including rare breeds. Bernese Mountain dogs, expanded to include the other Swiss breeds and photos of these gorgeous dogs, are the passion of Bernd Gunter.

Special concerns regarding giant breeds, particularly Great Danes, are the pursuit of Lyn Richards. Another one with a big heart for big dogs is Dee Dee Andersson, a Mastiff owner, who loves molossers in general. Like myself, she has written on breeding and raising puppies. Cat and dog lover, Amy Shojai, covers care, behavior, training and health, as well as translating veterinese into lay language. Kathy Diamond Davis also specializes in behavior – and she knows first-hand about therapy dogs. She’s transferred her knowledge to a book on the subject.

Another photographer, Jean Fogel, has photos in many of your doggy calendars as well as magazines. She looks for that “AHHHHHH moment.” Caroline Coile is a sighthound person, writing about them and their sports, as well as sensory systems and genetics. (Talk about DEEP!) Rescue and obedience activities are golden subjects to Golden owner, Rue Chagoll. Susan Bulanda has transferred her experience in search and rescue, toxic mold detection and all other scent work to paper. Her other expertise involves dog and cat behavior, rare breeds, theology and helping people select the right dog and breeder – something that also takes a talent to “nose” out the common characteristics of dog and person.

One of those rare people who can write with humor, Alice Bixler, decorates well-researched articles with wit and, occasionally, her photographs. She also enjoys digging into obscure facts and little-known breeds. Marilyn Miller has taken many Lhasa Apsos through obedience, gaining top scores and top titles, enabling her to become an expert on training small dogs.

Lexiann Grant is drawn toward researching new medical developments. She also enjoys sharing the human-canine bond and the responsibility thereof. Denise Flaim, our intrepid member who just produced her own litter of triplets, has a special interest in holistic treatments, raw feeding, Rhodesian Ridgebacks – and “large (human) litters.”

Kim Dearth started at the other end, being a journalist by trade. She knows the value of research, having written many breed profiles and breed-specific books. She admits “On other topics I just research, research, research until I’m a pseudo-expert.” Having seen her work, no one would guess she’s a pseudo anything.

I’ll be collating these experts into a file on the PRO-list, available to subscribers. We also have files on book and article proposals, reprint permission, back issues of *The Write Dog*, agent advice, tax tips, and co-author agreements, as well as archives of past posts. A few of the subscribers have also created their own folders with samples of their writing or photography.

Having viewed far too many political speeches, commercials and debates in this election year, I feel this is timely:

“All my major works have been written in prison . . . I would recommend prison not only to aspiring writers but to aspiring politicians too.” Jawaharlal Nehru

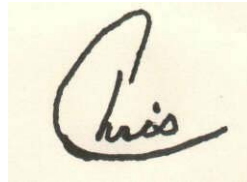
And then there is this:

"It's not the most intellectual job in the world, but I do have to know the letters."

Vanna White



Our new DWAA Historian, Geraldine Hayes, welcomes any artifacts, antiquities, or treasures pertaining to DWAA that may be hiding in someone's attic or closet. She also asks that everyone sign any official DWAA letter they write and TYPE the name on the bottom. Also, she reminds everyone who is producing official documents for DWAA to be sure to date them. I would imagine these omissions occurred in early years as we do sign and date everything presently. That said, it never hurts to remind people!



All members are invited to subscribe to the DWAA-PRO e-list, send a blank e-mail with no subject line and no signature to:

DWAA-Pro-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

We discuss books, articles, anything pertaining to writing, photography or DWAA. Members can create a profile to access files of samples -- book proposal, article query, reprint permission, co-author agreement, agent advice, tax tips and so on. Members can also create their own files w/samples of their writing and photography.

By-laws Changes

In March, the DWAA board voted on another by-laws change, this time about membership. This month it's considered a discussion, and later we'll all vote on it. Not getting an answer from voting members constitutes a yes vote, so don't forget to vote.

1) Second Review

Article 1 Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be limited to those persons to promote the best interest of dogs through news or informational channels and qualifying fields of experience (adopted 1997)

There shall be the following classes of membership

- a.) Professional Membership shall include those persons who are actively engaged, on a regular basis, in writing (or other forms of dissemination of information) about dogs and who are paid for their work. This class of membership shall pay dues, have voting privileges, and be entitled to receive the Association's Press Card.**
- b.) Associate Membership is established to encourage writers who are published but not necessarily paid for their work. May serve as a member of a regular appointed committee. Associate Membership shall pay dues but shall not run for or hold office and shall not have voting privileges nor receive a Press Card. (Membership Card Only). (Adopted 1997)**
- c.) Retired Membership shall include those persons who are no longer actively writing and have reached the age of at least 65 and had at least 15 years continuous membership in the Association. Any member may apply for Retired Membership at any age after 65 when he discontinues writing on an active and regular basis. A member may apply and, when approved by the Board, shall pay one-half the regular dues and retain the same privileges he had as a Professional or Associate Member.**
- d.) Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Board upon any member who is retired and has been a member for at least 20 years. There shall be no annual dues and the member shall retain the same privileges he had as a Professional or Associate Member.**

NEW

e.) Junior Membership for those under 18 years of age who actively engage on a regular basis, in writing and are paid for their work. This class shall pay dues, receive a Press Card, but will not hold office or have voting privileges. (If they are not paid they will receive an Associate Card). They will automatically become Professional Members at the age of 18 if paid and Associate Members if not paid.

From last month:

Constitution Change Voted on by Board and Officers of the DWAA

Second Review.

Next Month We'll for a Vote of the Membership the Following Month.

2) CONSTITUTION SECTION 2 (d)

READS: TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE DOG WRITERS EDUCATIONAL TRUST.

PROPOSED CHANGE: TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT AN ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION.

PLEASE DIRECT YOUR CONCERNS OR COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARY.

Member Profile: Su Ewing

Su Ewing, who lives in Jamestown, NY, had her first official in-print dog piece in September, 1990, in the *AKC Gazette* for the *Point of View* page. It was about Jamestown only allowing three dogs per household. At the time, she and her husband Jim had four Corgis and couldn't buy the house they wanted. Her first paid article, she thinks, was in the *AKC Gazette* in 1992. Currently, she has a weekly pet column in the local paper, so that is where most of her writing is, but she's also written for the *Gazette*, *Dog Fancy*, *Dog World*, *Good Dog*, *ASPCA Animal Watch*, and she's going to have a piece in *Bird Talk* soon. She has written a book for Howell (Wiley) and three for TFH.

In addition to being a DWAA member, Su belongs to CWA. “I was just elected treasurer, which I find humorous, because I've never had a cat. I was told no one cared. They just wanted someone who could add and wouldn't skip the country!”

Right now she and Jim have three Pembroke Welsh Corgis: Griffin, Hayley, and Rhiannon. Su has had Corgis since 1983. Before that they had a mixed breed, a German Shepherd -St. Bernard cross. “I'd have cats, but I'm allergic.” Su shows her dogs in conformation, and has competed a bit in obedience. “Occasionally we do therapy visits. I'd love to get into agility, but so far I've only taken a couple of classes. I also like herding, but there's no place nearby for that, and Jim refuses to get any sheep.” She and Jim have no two-legged kids. “My mother is still alive and lives about three miles from us. She invites us over for dinner frequently and will dog sit now and then so, obviously, we adore her. My brother lives in Memphis, Tennessee and is a violinist.”

Unlike most dog fanciers, Su didn't grow up with a lot of dogs. “We had a Collie when I was about seven, but we were pretty much clueless. She barked a lot and really needed more room to exercise. She was sold to a farmer and we heard that she turned into quite a 'possum killer. Then a Beagle ‘followed me home.’ He bit the paper boy so he went to a friend of my father's who hunted rabbits.” Today she allows her dogs on the furniture. “I didn't always have the attitude that I have now, but my feeling is that I get a lot more love from my dogs than I do from my furniture. I won't miss the couch when it goes.”

She has lived in the same area for most, but not all, of her life. “My family moved here when I was two. When I got married, we lived in the Virgin Islands for a year, then spent about 15 years in Vermont and New Hampshire, then lived near Syracuse, where I had a boarding kennel, then moved back here about 14 years ago.

Her future writing plans are being cast. “I'm toying with a couple of book ideas, but nothing concrete yet. I would LOVE to write a novel. It would be set in Wales in 1132, on the west coast. Just right for a Viking raid. That's about as far as I've gotten, except that there will definitely be a Corgi in the book! Otherwise, I just want to keep writing articles and doing things with my dogs.”

Is she happy with her chosen profession? “Deliriously happy. As with many of the DWAA members, I've been writing since I was very young, and I was a radio copy writer and worked for a couple of papers here and there, but it wasn't until about three years ago that, with the help of a friend, I decided that I WAS a WRITER. Since then, it's become true, with more articles and books, and I just love it. Certainly, I made more money working at a "real job" but I love what I'm doing. And, I love meeting other writers and learning more about both animals and writing. I love it, love it, love it.”

CWA Communications Contest

The CWA Communications Contest is accepting entries for its 11th annual contest for published writers, photographers, and editors in print, online, and broadcast media. This year CWA is offering a record number of corporate-sponsored special awards of \$500 to

\$1,000 each, as well as its own Muse Medallions to winners in approximately 40 writing and graphics categories. Special awards cover topics in feline research, health, behavior, nutrition, seniors, kittens, and responsible ownership, plus awards for fiction and new writers.

CWA's writing competition is open to work published between June 16, 2003 and June 15, 2004. Categories cover feline-oriented articles and columns, short stories, poetry, books, photography, and video/audio tapes, published in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and online. Cats must constitute at least one third of the content. Fees are \$8.50 per entry for CWA members and \$15 per entry for nonmembers. Rules and entry forms are available now from the CWA website (www.catwriters.org) and newsletter, or by sending a self-addressed stamped business size envelope to contest chair Beth Adelman, 69 Poplar St., 2C, Brooklyn, NY, 11201. Deadline is July 1, 2004.

Book Reviews from Your Newsletter Goddess

Purebred Rescue Dog Adoption: Rewards and Realities, Liz Palika, Howell Book House, \$15.99

This short (136 pages) and concise book explains what rescue is, how it works, why it's appropriate if you want a certain kind of dog, and why some rescue organizations turn down applicants. (I wish that last part was a little longer, given the number of complaints that some rescue people are fanatics). I really like it when she emphasizes that you should not allow anyone to guilt you into taking a dog you don't think is right for you just because they're full to the rafters and are desperate to place dogs. She points out that all rescue dogs have some level of baggage, some more than others, and how to work with some of that baggage. Palika also devotes a chapter to what happens when the adoption isn't working out. She provides Internet resources, training tips, discusses how to work through some behavior problems, as well as some basic preparation work to do before you bring the dog home.

The Firefighter's Best Friend, Trevor Orsinger and Drew Orsinger, Lake Claremont Press, \$20 online at www.firehousedogs.com

If you happen to be part of a firefighter's social family – and who isn't part of that extended family after 9/11? – you owe it to yourself to read this fascinating book about fire dogs. A collection of photos and anecdotes about dogs at Chicago fire stations over decades, you'll read about many wonderful dogs. While Dalmatians have historically been fire dogs, you'll also see Saint Bernards, German Shepherds, Rotties, labs, mutts and more. Brothers Trevor and Drew Orsinger write about the firefighters – who pay for the dog's upkeep and veterinary bills out of their own pockets, not anyone's tax money – and why these dogs are so important. Some run into burning buildings and save lives; some ride in the cab; some guard the station while people are gone, or guard the trucks. Some march in parades. Each dog contributes in a unique way. Although the Orsinger brothers are not firefighters, they did incredible research while tracking down each and every Chicago firehouse dog for which there are either written records or tales to tell. Sadly,

most of these dogs do not live out a full life expectancy because of car accidents or troubles in bad neighborhoods.

The Dog, Tom Freeman, Golden Inspirations Publishing, \$15.95 at www.goldeninspirations.com/

This book of poetry about dogs has several sections: Doggie Love Poems; Seasonal Poems; Agility Poems; and Obedience Poems. It uses a lovely blue ink. The illustrations and photos are also in blue. I mean, where else can you find a poem titled “Agility! Agility!” or “Breeder’s Pride”? Freeman, an AKC provisional judge, trains his dog for competitive agility and obedience. Since poetry is a subjective taste, here are two verses from one poem titled “Say, What?” so you can see if this is your style.

There are things you can’t say, running the course in your way,
Things you can’t mumble or shout,
If the judge has good ears, and from your mouth he hears
Unacceptable words, then you’re out!

One common word that is frequently heard,
As your dog misses the opening to the chute,
While on the fly, he rushes right by,
With your voice you can only say “Shoot!”

In Memoriam: Edi Munneke



Jim Munneke notified DWAA that his mother passed away on April 10. Edi was a former Recording Secretary and a dedicated supporter of DWAA. She was 99. Until about 2 months ago, Jim said she still looked forward to going out for lunch (may we all be so lucky). If you’d like to send a card, send it to: Jim Munneke, 155 Miami Lakes Dr., Milford, OH 45150.

Anne Page received a lovely holiday card from Edi this past year, in which Edi said “In my late 90 years, I quit working and just made games and lessons for my great grandchildren. They are now in school and leading the classes. I am very proud of my work....I am very lazy these days and get very little work done.”

Roster Changes

New Members:

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Becker,DVM

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DWAA President to be Televised Judging

Chris Walkowicz can be seen on ESPN judging herding groups for the Detroit Kennel Club. Tentative dates are Saturday, June 5, 8:30-10 p.m. EST, (90 mins.); Thursday, June 10, 9-10 p.m. EST; and Saturday, June 19, 5:30-7 p.m. EST (90 mins.). Check your television guide to be sure.

Dues Notice

\$40 Dues are Now Overdue

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Business _____

Fax _____

e-mail _____

Freelance or _____

Make checks payable to the DWAA and send to:

Pat Santi, Sec.
173 Union Road
Coatesville, PA 19320-1326

Ballot

Please vote on Constitution Change Section 2 (d)

Proposed: **To promote and support an Annual Writing Competition.**

Old: **to promote and support the Dog Writers Educational Trust.**

yes _____ change to proposed

no _____ leave current wording

Please send your ballots to the Secretary by May 20,2004

**Pat Santi
173 Union Road
Coatesville, PA 19320-1326**

No response is counted as a yes.

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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,
PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY for a copy. Pat Santi, contact information above.

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