

**Have you paid your DWAA Dues for 2008?**

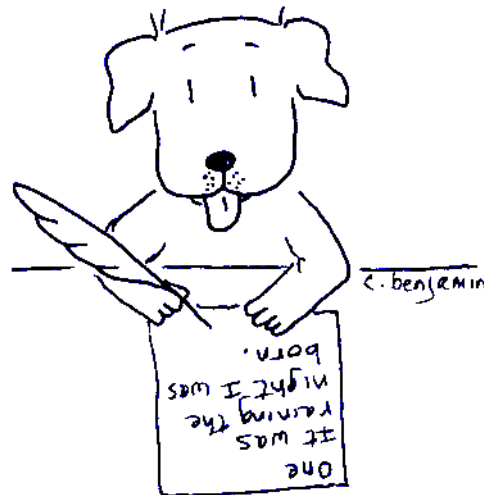
According to DWAA bylaws, dues are due by March 1st of each year. June 1st is your last chance to pay your dues. If not paid by this date, your name will be dropped from the roster, you will receive no further newsletters, you will be dropped from the forum and the chat list, and you will have to reapply for membership to the DWAA. You will find a form in this newsletter to send in with your dues payment. If you have any questions about the status of your membership to DWAA, please contact Pat Santi using the contact information in this newsletter.

**2008 Contest News**

Liz Palika, this year's contest chair, updates us on Contest news. Volunteer judges are needed -- this is your chance to get involved and help out your organization!

**Reminder**

Watch your mail for your 2008 Member Roster -- there will be no Newsletter in June.



# Ruff Drafts: The Voice of DWAA™

**DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
FOUNDED 1935**

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I was hoping to be seated with Cary Grant in the dining car, I know, I know, I've seen *North By Northwest* way too many times, but all I got to do when I took the train to Orlando with my service dog, Flash, was find out that house training on command can be a life saver when the train only stops for 4 minutes and if you're not back on board in time, you get to wave bye bye as it barrels out of the station heading south. ~ Carol Lea Benjamin

**Meanderings**  
**Chris Walkowicz**

*"Never fear the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so."* ~ Belva Davis

Dreams! Who of us didn't grow up dreaming of becoming a published writer? And, voila!, our dream became a reality. Every one of us in this much-respected organization has had the thrill of seeing our name as a byline.

Voila! may make all the effort we put into our dream seem too simplistic, however. First, we hone our skills by writing frequently, in school, for newsletters, at work, for our own enjoyment. Back in the day when we actually wrote real letters, (who last received one of those?), I even enjoyed making personal letters as interesting and entertaining as I could. I continue that practice once a year with the ubiquitous Christmas letter.

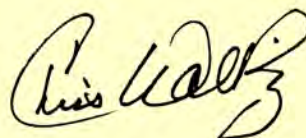
Those of us "in dogs" often become experts in particular areas of the canine world – or have access to such experts. Many of our members are entrenched in the dog fancy; some were writers in other fields and were led into our world by the love of a dog. Some of us concentrate on writing about pets and for pet owners; others write about performance events. Breeders' interests are covered by some. Shows, health, breed profiles, and canine legislation are all areas that draw experts. Some of our members, however, are as diversified as a German Shepherd Dog, covering all of these topics and more.

Whatever the article, website, column or book we're writing, we do research into the subject. And with the world of computers, the web and e-mail, we have the world at our fingertips. How many of us still trek to the library to check out books, possibly making requests for rare or out-of-print editions? Most of the interview requests I receive or that I conduct are done by e-mail rather than by phone. It's not only easier, faster, and less expensive, but we have the words in writing, even better than a tape recorder.

We're so blessed to live in this age. My first book was written on a typewriter; my second on a computer that ate the medical appendix three times the night before I needed to put the manuscript in the mail. When I first co-authored books, we had to send chapters back and forth. Eventually we were able to enter the technological age with a complicated system of dialing each others' number and sending the ms. through the phone wires. This is the way my co-author and I did our 910 page Atlas of Dog Breeds of the World. It was magical, though time consuming, to see the words suddenly appear on a blank document page on our teeny screens. Now we can do it all via the web. Nevertheless, sometimes we need to connect on a personal level and actually talk to someone!

Finally, we need the courage to send out what we produce. It hurts to have our gems ignored, turned down, or even worse, scathingly critiqued. Most of us have files full of rejection slips. Even after building an impressive credit sheet, we occasionally miss a target. But we pick ourselves up and continue down the road toward success. Never bowing our heads, we march on to our dream. When we have a dream, we must pursue it.

*"When we stop dreaming, we stop living."*  
~ Lorrie Morgan



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Class of 2011 - Caroline Coile & Charlotte Reed  
Class of 2010 - David Frei  
Class of 2009 - Patricia Cruz & Dr. Carmen Battaglia

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For roster updates, or if you did not receive your newsletter or roster,  
PLEASE NOTIFY Pat Santi.



# The Economics of a Broken Heart

By Linda Rehkopf



During his lifetime Fred delighted hundreds of children. A volunteer at a children's hospital in Wisconsin, Fred visited kids with cancer and cystic fibrosis, accident victims and transplant patients. The kind of hospital where the really sick kids go to heal, or not. Giggling and whispering in Fred's ear, they divulged secrets, told jokes, or maybe complained about their brothers, sisters, doctors or therapists.

Fred was 15 years old when he died a few weeks ago. He leaves to mourn, or perhaps smile broadly, a generation of laughing children. In honor of his life, Fred's friends and family sent memorial gifts to the Pet Pals program for the Children's Hospital at the School of Veterinary Medicine at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Likewise, another youngster named Oslo dedicated himself to the service of his family. When Oslo fell ill at eight months of age, they undertook radical surgery to prolong his life. His personality could charm birds from the trees, his family said.

At his death earlier this year (Oslo was 14), MedVet in Ohio received memorial contributions for its "Good Sam Fund." It helps pay for catastrophic veterinary bills for owners who can't afford their pets' care.

Fred and Oslo were dogs, special dogs, the kind you hope to own in your lifetime. Fred, a 20-pound Bichon-Westie rescue, would strut through the hospital like Cary Grant. He lay with the dying children, and the recovering. Some of Fred's "kids" return to visit Children's Hospital.

Oslo, a Norwegian Elkhound, loved with his "whole being," said his owner. Born at a puppy mill, Oslo suffered from crippling hip dysplasia. That did not prevent him from keeping vigil over the family one somber Christmas as he lay in the bed of a dying family member.

As he aged, Oslo was treated for a half-dozen illnesses, mostly genetic in origin. His owners gladly spent the thousands of dollars to keep Oslo comfortable.

Petonomics sometimes require us to make hard choices on behalf of our animals.

His owners had given up Fred because they didn't or couldn't afford the surgery to remove the toy ball Fred had swallowed. The veterinarian entrusted with Fred's care refused to euthanize the young dog and instead, treated him

and found him a home. Had Fred's owners lived in the Columbus, Ohio area, perhaps they could have benefited from the MedVet program, which prolonged Oslo's life.

Most of my dogs have been healthy well into canine old age. Gracie, the yellow love of my life, ruptured ligaments in both her knees when she was a puppy. Quality veterinary care and surgery has allowed Gracie to stay active as a therapy dog, an obedience dog, and as our family's resident grief counselor. The pup, Story, suffers only from an addiction to plastic. My wonderful vets be-

lieve in home remedies in cases such as Story's; so far, she's only needed to eat a Vaseline sandwich or two to "move things along." (Story thinks Vaseline is a special treat reserved for the most special dog.)

And Sam, God bless him, Sam stood or sat or lay beside me when I've been broken or crippled. He could break an Alzheimer's patient out of self-imposed silence. The neighborhood kids screamed his name, and he stood patiently while their fat fingers rubbed through his black fur. When Sam's arthritis worsened I retired him from therapy and competition. Though economic times were tough, Sam never lacked for vet care.

My husband noticed it first. Sam's bark had changed, and he began to cough or choke or gag. A specialist diagnosed Sam with laryngeal paralysis, not uncommon in large dogs like Labrador Retrievers. There is no known cause, there is no cure. Sam would become more hoarse, and the paralysis would worsen.

I promised my dog that when he lost his voice, I would speak for him; when the illness got the best of him, I would never allow him to suffer.

The times we've had to say goodbye to a pet have been wrenchingly sad. Our vets have a long-standing practice: when one of their aged patients dies, they make a memorial contribution to the University of Georgia Veterinary School, where many of them trained. The funds help dogs like Fred and Oslo lead full lives.

The economics of my broken heart now benefits the AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant #993-A. Dr. David Holt, BVSc, DACVS, at the University of Pennsylvania is researching the neurological basis of laryngeal paralysis in Labrador Retrievers.

My Sam has a voice again. Godspeed, my love.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE MARCH 1, OF EACH YEAR.**

\$40.00 FOR PROFESSIONAL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS.

We are trying a new way of collecting dues this year by giving everyone until June 1, 2008 to pay. If dues are not paid by that date you will not receive a roster or any more newsletters. Dues are not based on the month a member joins DWAA. We only excuse those members who joined in November and December for applications for the following year. Unless you joined in November or December of 2007, your 2008 dues are due March 1st.

According to the bylaws, dues are due and payable March 1, each year. U.S. Funds Only

Please send the following information with your dues:

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Town\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Fax\_\_\_\_\_

Association or Freelance\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

DWAA  
Pat Santi, Secretary  
173 Union Road  
Coatesville, PA 19320-1326  
610-384-2436  
e-mail: [rhydowen@aol.com](mailto:rhydowen@aol.com)

If you do not wish to remain a member, please advise us.

If your dues are going to be late, please advise the secretary when they will be paid.

### New Members

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North Canton, OH 44720  
330-966-9343  
330-499-0856  
330-499-2883  
[jem@jemarentertainment.com](mailto:jem@jemarentertainment.com)  
Sponsors: Chris Walkowicz/Pat Santi

Daphna Straus - AKC/P  
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New York, NY 10023  
646-872-4265  
212-696-8243  
[dxs@akc.org](mailto:dxs@akc.org)  
Sponsors: Cindy Reed/Deb Eldredge

### Changes

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Heidi Jeter  
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work: 303-790-2345  
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### Roster Update

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Dr. Carmen Battaglia  
Fax: 770-998-1576  
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Pam Dennison  
work: 908-475-5551  
e-mail: [pam@positivedogs.com](mailto:pam@positivedogs.com)

The Friends of Canine Court and Bash Dibra announced that Canine Court, located in Van Cortlandt Park, Riverdale, The Bronx, will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary on April 14, 2008. Since that time, thousands of dogs have been brought by their owners to the 14,000 square foot playground to frolic on the obstacle/agility course with hurdles, hoops, see-saws, slides, tunnels, crawl spaces and self-contained "free-play" area, all within the safe confines of the fenced, secured boundaries of Canine Court.

With creator Bash Dibra at the helm, Canine Court has provided New York City with a "paws-on" fun-filled venue to promote responsible pet-ownership in conjunction with city-wide pet-related is-

### Canine Court Marks 1-Year Anniversary By Bash Dibra



sues, events and charities that enhance the community and educate the importance and value of the human\companion-animal bond.

But success brings popularity and popularity brings wear-and-tear, and even celebrities need makeovers now and then. Friends and clients of Bash---both two-legged and four-legged---rallied for Canine Court's rejuvenation, with one generous supporter providing a single donation of \$10,000 to expand the Playground's perimeters and add new equipment.

Canine Court's renovation was completed in time for the celebration of its anniversary and the beginning of spring. It's a perfect place to spend a nice spring day!

### New "Train the Trainer" School

Pam Dennison has developed a new "train the trainer" school called PMDT Trainer Academy. The acronym PMDT stands for Positive Motivation Dog Training -the name of Pam's company). The first of three levels will be held from September 8 through September 12, 2008 in Belvidere, NJ. For more info, see [www.PMDTAcademy.com](http://www.PMDTAcademy.com)

The official DWAA list is at [http://dwaa.org/mailman/listinfo/dwaa-group\\_dwaa.org](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](mailto: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 username. 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.

As this note is being written, I am going through all the suggestions I received from DWAA members a couple of months ago. I am happy to say that many of these suggestions will be implemented. Unfortunately, some will just not work. But I did take a serious look at all the suggestions and talked with a previous contest chair, Terry Albert, about the suggestions. Terry chaired the contest for two years and so knows intimately what's involved and I wanted her input.

I also did quite a bit of research into how other writing contests are held, looked at their rules and regulations, and how the judging was handled. I took a look at contests for other creative endeavors, too, such as art shows and photography shows. I talked to those contest chairs, judges, and committee members. I showed them our contest rules and asked for input. It has been quite an education. I found that the contest rules and guidelines I established when I was contest chair a few years ago received few critiques, which is nice, but even so there will be some changes implemented. After all, my goal is to make the contest the best it can be.

## The 2008 Writing Contest Will Begin Soon

By 2008 Contest Chair Liz Palika

June newsletter, and will also be posted to the DWAA website. Once they are posted, people can also email me for a copy if they wish.

Meanwhile, I am still looking for more judges. Quite a few people have already volunteered, but many more are needed. I would love to see more DWAA members volunteer, but we also need additional people. I love to include newspaper and magazine editors and publishers, college and high school writing teachers, reporters, television news directors and writers, dog trainers, groomers, veterinarians, and others involved professionally in dogs. With each category requiring three judges, I try to have one writing professional, one dog professional, and one DWAA member per category. I feel this gives the judging a very fair overview. But that means I need many more volunteers. Talk to your friends and professional acquaintances. Have them email me at [lizpalika@cox.net](mailto:lizpalika@cox.net) to volunteer!

More news next month! 2008 – It's an exciting new contest!

## Forum Tips

The month of May celebrates the 1st birthday of our DWAA Forums. We have nearly 150 members to the forums now, and over 3,300 posts! Despite the forums' success, there are still many members that feel intimidated by the format, and we hope to assist those members by offering forum tips in the newsletter from time to time.

**TIP # 1** -- Signing In or Signing Up -- Go to <http://www.dwaa.org/forum/> and either log in at the top right corner, or register for

**Register Here**

**Log in here**

User Name  Password  ☐ Remember Me?

Calendar

Today's Posts

Search

My Blog

Profiles

a Forums.

by clicking the link above. You may have to **register** before you can post: click the register link above to proceed. To it to visit from the selection below.

Last Post

Threads

Posts

for a new account if you are not yet a forum member. When registering for an account, you must wait for the webmaster to validate your membership to DWAA, which normally takes 24 hours.

**Tip # 2 and # 3** -- Navigating the site -- Once you are logged in, return to <http://www.dwaa.org/forum/> and you'll see all of the forums available to DWAA members. Each forum has a brief description to better help you understand its purpose. This is where most people get lost! You've signed up for an account and logged in, **but there's too many links!** It really is much easier than it looks. First, make sure you are logged in - you should see a Welcome [Your Name] in the top right corner of the page. Second, to see everything that has happened since you last visited, click the "New Posts" link. Third, as read all the new posts, if you are ever lost, simply click on the daisies -- it will take you home, where you can see all of our forums again, and click the "New Posts" button to begin reading again.

**Lost? Click the daisy image to return to the main page**

**You're logged in**

**All posts since your last visit**

 Dog Writers Association of America Forums

Welcome, Kim Townsend.  
You last visited: 16 Minutes Ago at 04:45 PM  
Private Messages: Unread 0, Total 40.

User CP

FAQ

Members List

Calendar

New Posts

Search

Quick Links

My Blog

Profiles

Log Out



## HowToDoThings.com Seeks Writers

By Vanessa Raymond

I found your website while searching for sites with articles about dog health care. I am the editor for a website called HowToDoThings.com. HowToDoThings strives to solve people's everyday problems by compiling reliable information from experienced contributors in over 250 categories. Our dog related topics include behavior & training, care & health, choosing a dog, and more.

As a trusted expert in the field, we would like to invite you to become a contributor and write "How To" articles of your own. Publishing articles on HowToDoThings gives you access to a large and growing audience, helping you establish credibility and gain recognition for your expertise. You can include a link to your website or blog in your author signature and profile, and you can even earn some

money! We split the advertising revenue your articles earn with you, 50/50. Find out more at <http://www.howtotothings.com/start?cid=dogs>.

Our site is growing rapidly and is one of the web's most popular destinations for people actively involved in their pet's health care. If you think that your visitors would be interested in some of our articles, please feel free to add a link our site or articles. The link to our "Pets and Animals" section is:

<http://www.howtotothings.com/pets-and-animals>

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## BOOK REVIEWS

By Phyllis DeGioia

**Salty Dogs, by Jean M. Fogle, Wiley, \$14.00, hardback, 112 pages**

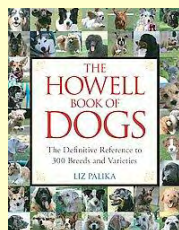
### Salty Dogs



This book of color photographs of dogs taken at the beach by Jean Fogle is absolutely wonderful! Paired with appropriate quotations ranging from "All animals except man know that the ultimate in life is to enjoy it" (Samuel Butler) to "Happiness depends on ourselves" (Aristotle), the book joyfully celebrates the true meaning of a fun day at the beach: sun, sand, water, tide, toys, and sticks floating by. It reminds us all that sometimes, no matter what else is going on, if you live fully in the present sometimes life really is a day at the beach. This book is an excellent gift for any dog and beach lovers.

**The Howell Book of Dogs: The Definitive Reference to 300 Breeds and Varieties, by Liz Palika, Howell, hardback, \$29.99, 403 pages**

Sure to be a useful reference book that stays within easy reach on many DWAA desks, the book with beautiful photography is presented in two parts. The first part is about living with a dog and caring for dogs, essentially a basic primer on the realities of owning a dog, bringing one home, keeping a dog healthy, grooming, training, and so on, the second and longer part contains the breed profiles. Each profile has a beautiful photo, a "Breed in Brief" sidebar. For example, for the Chart Polski, the sidebar lists registries (UKC, CKC); occupation (sighthound); size (27 to 32 in. tall, no weight standard; longevity (12 to 15 years); exercise (daily run); training (moderate); and grooming (easy). Liz has done another spectacular book, and this one represents significant research and effort.



**Designer Dogs: Portraits and Profiles of Popular New Cross-breeds, by Caroline Coile, photos by Anna Kuperberg, Gold Street Press, \$29.99, hardback, 160 pages**



Caroline's book has incredibly high production values and beautiful photographs. The book profiles 36 of the most popular designer dogs, moving past your basic Cockapoo and Labradoodle to Zuchons (Bichon Frise and Shih Tzu) and Cock-alier (King Charles Cavalier Spaniel and Cocker Spaniel). A geneticist with a PhD as well as a breeder of purebred dogs, Caroline is in a unique position to understand the impacts of genetics. Each dog highlighted has a brief sidebar rating basic information about the cross (using a 1 to 5 scale for such factors as activeness, barking, dog friendliness, grooming, people friendliness, shedding, and trainability). Then there is text going into detail about the cross's temperament. Near the end of the book is a directory of crossbreeds, and a section on recommended health tests for the featured crossbreeds. The book is beautifully executed.

**Bow Wow: Curiously Compelling Facts, True Tales, and Trivia Even Your Dog Won't Know, by Gina Spadafori and Marty Becker, DVM, Health Communications, \$14.95, paperback, 173 pages**



Bow Wow, as well as its companion book, Meow Wow, is a short, sweet book full of tips and trivia (the record weigh pull on snow was set in 1974, and white poodles participate in dog show grooming competitions by acting as canine topiary) and useful facts for both dog fanciers and novices. These short books are the perfect kind of thing to read just before you fall asleep, providing well written yet informative bits of information. The illustrations are just darling and I wish there were more of them. This book will make you smile and laugh.



### More Awards Ceremony Photos

DWAA Secretary Pat Santi(left) speaks to the crowd, and Claire Dunovan (right) proudly displays her Maxwell.

Many more banquet photos will be available on our website soon! Watch the Forums and the Chat List for announcements and links. Once again, we thank photographer Mary Bloom for graciously donating her time and professionalism to DWAA and for capturing another year of DWAA history in photos.

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Permit No. 953

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