



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

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Oslo is a Norwegian Elkhound who was a puppy mill rescue now registered as Swaggerin' Independence. Lexiann Grant says Oslo, her soul mate, has hip dysplasia and is hypothyroid but doesn't know anything is wrong with him. Lexi says Oslo is just as set on getting his way as she is, so they are emotional Siamese twins. Thankfully he believes as much as she does in order in the pack. "He is one very special dog," says Lexi.

President's Column

If ever a case could be built for establishing the worth of our Yahoo Pro List, it's been Hurricane Katrina. And did it ever prove invaluable. Thanks to our dedicated and creative members who continued to post and research the validity of new Web sites to which donations could be directed, the Pro List was an unsung DWAA hero. It helped keep us all connected and very updated into the needs of organizations heading for the Big Easy and its nearby surroundings.

Thanks to Cheryl Smith, Darlene Arden, Chris Walkowicz and Deb Eldredge – the List Dams – for all of their hard work, continued oversight, maintenance of standards and establishment of new rules when needed.

Your brainchild kept everyone in the loop and as a result undoubtedly encouraged many writers to get involved, get the word out to their readers and consequently be key links in fund-raising by creating a public awareness of where to send funds to deserving organizations.

Several days after Katrina unleashed her powerful forces of devastation on the Gulf Coast, the DWAA board of directors voted to send \$1,000 to the AKC CAR Canine Support & Relief Fund, where 100 percent of the donated dollars goes to the dogs. “No donated funds pay for any administrative costs,” according to the AKC Web site. The Web site reports the permanent charitable fund is designed to provide resources, support, funds and other assistance to:

Search and rescue animals and handlers participating in rescue and recovery efforts in connection with natural or civil disasters.
The veterinary units providing support to the canine rescue teams.
Not-for-profit animal shelters and similar not-for-profit organizations providing care for domestic animals orphaned or displaced as a result of natural or civil disasters.

Oversight Last Month

While detailing the specifics of the DWAA Hall of Fame in this column last month, I failed to credit this as the brainchild of our esteemed president emeritus Mordecai Siegal. My deep apologies, Uncle Morty, for this oversight. I hope you see it here first: I want you to be the presenter of the plaques to William Stifel, and the relatives of Walter Fletcher and Maxwell Riddle, the first three recipients of what hopefully will be recognized as the most prestigious awards in dog writing.

Cocker Spaniel Leader Ceased Publication

The publisher of the monthly breed magazine *Cocker Spaniel Leader*, Shirley Estel, ceased publication with the September issue. It will not be sold, just ended. The mid-August death of Gene Estel, owner and publisher, makes it difficult for his wife, Shirley to continue, she said. And because it was a creative project from both of them, she felt she could not sell it. Godspeed to Gene, and thanks to Shirley for all her work on the publication.

CWA/DWAA Book Signing

The CWA Book Signing/ Autograph Party will be held at the CWA booth at the CFA International Cat Show at the San Mateo Expo Center. The book-selling booth will be open all three days of the CWA Annual Conference, and CWA and DWAA authors can sign any time. As in previous years, we're going to publicize a big author signing party on Saturday afternoon, November 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. It looks like there will be 90-minute shifts to allow everyone elbow room during this signing party, but that does mean we have room for more authors. We will also be publicizing Friday and Sunday signings, and encourage drop bys too.

These signing opportunities are *only* for attending CWA and DWAA-member authors. If you haven't already signed up, please contact Clea Simon, the CWA 2005 Autograph Party Chairperson, to let her know if you have signed up for the conference and would like to sign. She can no longer guarantee that she'll honor people's time requests, but if you want in on the big Saturday afternoon signing, you will be included. Clea is at cleas@earthlink.net and 64 Highland Ave. Apt.#2, Cambridge, MA 02139 (make sure you put "CWA Autograph Party on it).

CWA will also offer conference-registered authors additional hours at the book signing booth at San Mateo Expo Center, any of the three days Friday November 18 through Sunday, November 20. Times must be scheduled in advance, but the booth will be staffed by the book store all three days. E-mail Clea at if you haven't already) about the schedule.

But first: If you are an attending author, make sure your book will be at the booth. E-mail your book titles, your byline, ISBN's and publishers to Clea as soon as possible (see address in above). In early September Clea will be sending a partial list to the bookstore partner, San Mateo's *M is for Mystery* to allow time for the inevitable mishaps. However, Clea can take your information up until Oct. 14, 2005, which should be in plenty of time for our bookstore partner to order titles.

Remember: It is your responsibility as the author to provide ordering information on time. Late requests may not be able to be filled in time, meaning those authors won't have any books for sale. If you have audio and video books, self-published books and remaindered books, these will also be ordered but the details must be worked out in advance. So don't delay -- register today so that your book(s) will be received in time and you get the signing times you prefer.

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