



THE WRITE DOG

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

Founded 1935

October 2006



Betsy Stowe says their Husky-Shepherd mix Rip was living proof that a dog doesn't have to have a pedigree in order to have nobility.

President's Column

By Ranny Green

It was about this time last year that I fell in love with a middle-aged, small Southern gal named Abbe. She was tan and white and had an upbeat personality despite finding herself in a horrid predicament following Hurricane Katrina.

The 26-pound, 6-year-old sheltie/corgi mix isn't my type of dog — usually. My wife, Mary, and I have owned big ones all our lives — German shepherds, golden retrievers and a greyhound. And when I brought her home from Slidell, La., last September, after two weeks of rescue work with Noah's Wish, neither of us was a big hit.

She was fished out of a couple feet of murky water by Slidell Animal Control officers a couple days after Katrina struck. In fact, the officer with whom I rode daily said, "I remember her case. A guy called in mad as can be, and said, 'There's a dog outside of here swimming around and barking constantly. If you don't get it out here within 30 minutes, I'm gonna shoot it.'"

He apprehended the frantic little waif, brought it to the giant makeshift shelter Noah's Wish and Slidell Animal Control established on high ground and she became one of well over 1,000 inhabitants there.

Abbe was one of about 50 to 60 dogs I walked daily. Despite the noisy, crowded and exceptionally humid environment and being crated 24/7, she remained upbeat and perky and never quit wagging her tail.

Like many of her counterparts, Abbe (a name we gave her) contracted just about everything imaginable down there — from skin-allergy dermatitis to an ear infection and heartworm. The latter cost more than \$800 for veterinary treatment here, but we were reimbursed by Noah's Wish.

And there was the housebreaking issue. None of her history was available. She was found sans collar or any form of identification, hence there was no means of telling if she was a stray or had an owner. At her age, I assumed she was housebroken. WRONG. Let's put it this way: She has had her share of accidents.

And she has quickly become the Rodney Dangerfield of dogs. My adult daughters, Tamara and Stacy, call her "junkyard" and "corndog." The former, because she chews up every loose thing she finds on the floor (baby pacifiers, underwear, towels, children's toys and puzzle pieces). Despite being reprimanded repeatedly, she views anything at that level as her turf and fair game. The boundaries seem to extend outside, too. And, the latter label comes because she resembles a corndog, claim the girls.

Recently, she took her pillaging to an all-time low while I was in Mexico on a dog rescue trip. Before leaving, I had left cash for grocery shopping, eating out or whatever. One

evening Mary chose to take some of the currency out of a dresser drawer, placed it in her bathrobe en route to putting it in another safe spot.

She laid the bathrobe down on a low-lying ottoman and apparently Abbe spotted the paper hanging slightly out of the pocket. That was all she needed. Her next move was to pull all of it out onto the floor and begin chewing. It wasn't long before she chewed up \$300 and left the remains in tatters strewn about the floor of the bedroom.

Fortunately, I wasn't home or I might have exploded. Mary frantically grabbed all the remains off the rug and placed them in a plastic bag. She even recouped more from the dog's excrement outside for several days, cleaning it off, of course. When I returned home I wasn't told about the latest Abbe misadventure for a couple days. What to do? I went online and discovered that if you send mutilated currency to the Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, it will attempt to reassemble the scraps and reimburse you for everything identifiable. We sent every tiny piece – there were dozens – via registered mail along with a humorous letter.

Within several days, we received a receipt and case number. The notice said it would be “some time” until our case would be addressed and rated it as a Grade 2: “Complete, almost complete, or easily identified portions of notes, containing little amounts of foreign matter.” Upon reading “easily identified” I wondered if we were talking about the same currency.

I know Junkyard is truly thankful for being adopted and brought to a more moderate climate. But she must be hoping the government can bail her out of this one. And her owners are, too.

On the plus side of the ledger, Abbe has finally managed to shed the potentially fatal heartworms after a 10-month battle that forced us to try to keep her inactive for two months following two rounds of treatment. More than one person has asked me kiddingly, “Is there such a thing as a Louisiana Lemon Law? Maybe you can exchange her for another model.”

No way. Her kindred spirit is a psychological salve of America's greatest natural disaster that changed my emotional landscape forever.

On September 21 we received a check for \$300 from the Dept. of Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing. My wife was ecstatic and Abbe, well, what can you say, she dodged another bullet.

DWAA-Pro List

Join the DWAA-Pro Internet list! The volume isn't high, the information is applicable and the networking is of great use. To join our e-list for writing questions, advice and conversation, send a blank e-mail to DWAA-Pro-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

PETS Bill Passes Senate and House

In late September, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives unanimously passed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006, known as PETS. The bill now moves to President Bush, who is expected to sign it. Thankfully, the version that was passed was the more strongly worded version authored by the Senate. The one passed by the House was weaker and thus less effective.

A positive outcome of the terrible aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, PETS is a legacy to those animals who died despite being loved and desperately wanted by their owners. Many people were forced by circumstances to leave their beloved pets for their own safety. Pets were not allowed in most shelters.

The PETS bill requires that disaster relief and emergency management agencies include provisions for pets and service animals in disaster relief plans as a condition for federal approval and funding of such plans. It authorizes the federal government to provide federal funding to states and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness purposes, and for procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities to accommodate people with pets and service animals.

Online Chicago Style of Manual Available

For those in the know, those true geeks of the written word (and you know who you are), the final say in language use and style is the *Chicago Manual of Style*. A thick detail-filled tome, the book is intimidating to many people. The good news is that it will now be available online, where the searching is easy and grammar is as sweet as a piece of cake.

The price for the online manual will be \$25 for individuals for the first year, \$30 thereafter, and more for institutions, depending on their size. The list price of the hardcover print version is \$55 (however, it is available for less online from a variety of vendors). Whereas other reference books have been online for a long time, these folks waited until they had the revised 15th edition in their hot little hands, which took several years to develop. They actually care about ease of use and to see what features their readers would like best.

Still, no matter how accessible online information is, some folks will insist on keeping that large hard cover reference book on their desks, gathering dust or not. According to research from publisher University of Chicago Press, 30 to 40 percent of users said they would use both the thick book and the online research and are willing to pay for both.

2007 Sunnybank Calendar Order Form

To order the 2007 Sunnybank Calendar from Marilyn Horowitz, please fill out the information below and send this order form to and make your check out to: Marilyn R. Horowitz , 70-F Charlesbank Way, Waltham, MA 02453-2514. The price is \$20.00 for each calendar, which includes postage. **A portion of the profits from the sale of this calendar will go to aid in the continuing restoration of Sunnybank.** Only 500 calendars were made. To receive your copy, please respond quickly...this calendar is guaranteed to be as popular as the previous calendar and will sell out quickly. Any questions? Contact Marilyn at marilynrh@aol.com.

ORDER INFORMATION (please print neatly) (Source: DWAA newsletter)

Please send me _____ copies of the 2007 Sunnybank Calendar

My check for \$ _____ (\$20.00 x number of calendars ordered) is enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Advertising Opportunities in DWAA Banquet Program

By Terry Albert

This year, for the first time, DWAA will be accepting advertising for the banquet program, which is given out at our DWAA Awards Banquet the night before the Westminster Kennel Club Show in New York City. Over 250 are printed, and guests often keep them as keepsakes of their nomination and trip to NYC.

The funds raised will offset the costs of printing the program. Prices are very inexpensive, starting at \$25.00 for a quarter page.

Please consider purchasing an ad, or passing along this information to a friend or supplier who might be. This is a chance to get their business in front of writers, editors and publishers from all over the United States and Canada.

The ad contract is on the following page, or I can email you a PDF file on request. The reservation and copy deadline is January 1, 2007.

We are currently looking for a volunteer to help contact potential advertisers. Please contact Ranny Green at rannygreen@hotmail.com if you can help with this effort!



DWAA Banquet Program February 11, 2007

Ad Space Reservation & Contract

**Contract and ad must be received no later than
January 1, 2007**

_____ **FULL PAGE \$60.00**
6.5" x 9" (image size, no bleed)
_____ DWAA builds your ad (optional) 25.00

_____ **HALF PAGE \$45.00**
6.5" x 4.25"
_____ DWAA builds your ad (optional) \$15.00

_____ **QUARTER PAGE \$25.00**
3.25" x 4.5"
_____ DWAA builds your ad (optional) \$10.00

_____ **TOTAL**

Ad material submission requirements:

E-mail your ad in **.pdf, .tif, or .jpeg** format to **terryalbert@cox.net**, or mail your ad on a CD in one of these formats. Sorry, no Quark files. I prefer 150 dpi resolution.

We can scan photos or logos and build your ad for you. Please include art, photos and copy with your ad order form. Please note additional charges above.

Questions? Contact Terry at **terryalbert@cox.net** or 858-748-9863, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Pacific time zone).

Your name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Total Enclosed: _____
(Make checks payable to DWAA)

Signature _____

Mail to:

Terry Albert
DWAA Writing Competition Chair
14021 Earie Lane
Poway, CA 92064

Election News (Hear Ye, Hear Ye)

By Pat Santi, Secretary DWAA

According to our Bylaws before August 1, 2006 the board approved the Nominating Committee:

Paul Glassner
Phyllis DeGioia
Pat Santi

The slate that is being presented for the 2007 Election is:

President: Amy Fernandez
Vice President: Chris Walkowicz
Secretary: Pat Santi
Treasurer: Rue Chagoll
President Emeritus: Ranny Green

Board of Governors: Class of 2010
David Frei
Susan Ewing

The rest of the Governors remain the same.

Class of 2009
Liz Palika and Dr. Carmen Battaglia

Class of 2008
Mordecai Siegal and Darlene Arden

According to Article V of our Bylaws:
Section 5 (b)

The report of the Nominating Committee shall be received by the Secretary in time to be published in the October Newsletter.

Section 5 (c)

Any Member in good standing may petition to run for a specific office if he sends to the Secretary, before November 1, a petition signed by ten (10) members in good standing.

Section 5 (d)

On or about December 1, the Secretary will mail a ballot to each member in good standing. If feasible, the Newsletter can be used to contain the ballot.

Section 5 (e)

All ballots received by the Secretary before December 31 will be delivered unopened to the Annual Meeting where (3) three tellers appointed by the President will count them.

Section 5 (f)

Those nominees, receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected.

Section (g)

If the election is uncontested, no ballots need be mailed.

Members in good standing means paid to date dues and must be Professional Membership in order to hold an office and vote.

Applying For Therapy Dog Certification

By Marilyn M. Miller

(Previously published in Winthrop Sun Transcript, DOG GONE IT!, August 18, 2006, reprinted with permission of author)

The beginning of July, I began the process of applying for my Lhasa Apso, Luckee Fella, CD, RN to become a registered Therapy Dog with Therapy Dogs, Incorporated located in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I first heard of this company through a woman in my Rally classes last Spring. Dianne and her Bichon Frise, Buttons do a lot of therapy work as Diane is a family and child therapist and takes Buttons along with her to work.

I began the process by calling this organization and leaving my mailing address, requesting information on how to have Luckee registered. I received a package in the mail a couple of weeks later.

This process was a lot more complex than when I had Jet and Lilly registered with Sally Alexander's "Pets and People" organization several years ago. Sally was on the spot to evaluate how Jet and I worked together in a group situation.

In this case there is no Tester/Evaluator in the State of New Hampshire. In order to become certified there was a lot of paper work for me to complete. First off, I needed a cover letter telling about myself and Luckee and why we would like to become a therapy dog team.

I also needed three letters of reference by people who know Luckee and me and who have observed me handling my dog. This ruled out neighbors and most friends as they have not seen me work with Luckee. My obedience trainer and veterinarian were suggested. I did not ask my vet as we have a fairly new one. I did, however, ask my trainer, Judy Kay, to write me a letter of recommendation as well as two women who have been in my Rally classes for months. Patricia Bartlett (with her Lab Maddie) and Karen Norteman (with her Bearded Collie, Sheamus) and Judy all wrote me lovely letters which I will save forever.

In their letters of recommendation these people had to tell us why they would enjoy a visit from me and my dog if they were confined to a hospital or nursing home. I did not

ask the activities director at the nursing home (Geneva) where Jet and I visit on a bi-monthly basis to write as she had never met Luckee or seen us work as a team.

The Canine Good Citizen title which Luckee earned in 2001 was a plus.

His Companion Dog obedience title was a huge help also as well as his Rally Novice title, however neither titles are required.

There was a Therapy Dogs Incorporated Application for me to fill out. A copy of Luckee's Rabies vaccine was required.

Also a form our vet had to sign saying that Luckee had had his annual physical exam, was up to date on his Rabies shot and is current on required vaccines for our area.

There was a long questionnaire which I had to fill out regarding this organizations' visiting requirements, how to deal with certain types of situations in the facility we are visiting, and what type of items I must have with me at all times when Luckee and I are working as a team.

All of this information had to be typed, including the three letters of reference. Then a check for twenty dollars was included for one handler and one dog. Additional dogs are ten dollars more per dog.

Luckee must visit a facility at least four times a year to keep up his qualification as a Therapy Dog. He is not going to take Jet's place, but I would like to get him used to visiting gradually.

This past Tuesday I took Luckee and all this paperwork over to Geneva, the activities director at Haven Health Care Center where Jet and I visit. I had the certificate from TDInc. to show her as well as my ID card that I must carry with me on all visits and Luckee's red TDInc. tag which goes on his collar.

Luckee was a little nervous in the lobby of the health care center. I think he thought it was an enormous vet's office. We did not do any visiting that day, but I did want Geneva to meet him. I will break him in gradually and visit one or two people the first couple of visits.

Glenn said I had more paperwork to do for this certification than he has ever needed for a gun permit! Karen, who wrote a letter of recommendation said she has applied for jobs with a lot less paperwork.

Luckee and I are an official team now and will begin our visits this fall.

Membership Roster

New Members:

Kim L. Townsend
Freelance/P
22000 State Road J
Newburg, MO 65550
573-762-3563
kimtowsend@hughes.net
Sponsors: Amy Fernandez &
Catherine Fitch

Carol Kaynor
Freelance/ P
1760 Snowhook Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99707-6334
907-455-9663
kaynor@mosqintonet.com
Sponsors: Charlene LaBelle &
Deb Eldredge

Changes:

Lea Ann Germinder
P.O. Box 22529

Kansas City, MO 64113

Trisha Adelena Howell
1724 3rd Street
Marysville, WA 90270-5005

Harold Sundstrom
1 Wadsworth Court
Greer, SC 29651-2109

Betty Liddick
7147 Boca Grove Place #102
Bradenton, FL 34202
e-mail: bliddick76@aol.com

John C. Wright, Ph.D.
1400 Coleman Avenue
Macon, GA 31207

Jo Watkins
PO Box 9416
Truckee, CA 96162

A dog can never really be separated from its forever person. Neither time nor space can ever come between them. So when the dog comes to the end of its earthly life, and must go on ahead without its person behind them, the guardian angel becomes a loving bridge that connects the two friends for as long as the person remains on earth.

- Christine Davis, *For Every Dog an Angel*

Backup Hotel for CWA Conference

By Fran Shaw

The CFA/CWA room block at the conference hotel -- The Crowne Plaza Hotel Mid Peninsula in Foster City -- is currently full. We have arranged for additional rooms at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn for the same \$95 conference rate. At both hotels, the discount rate is available starting Monday Nov. 13 through Sunday night. If you are planning to come to the CWA Conference Nov.17-19, I'd suggest you make your reservation now at the Hilton Garden Inn.

If you have made a reservation at the Crowne Plaza and you are NOT coming to the conference after all, please cancel your reservation as soon as possible, so that you can open up a room for someone else! This is important because the discount rate is good only until Oct.30th, and only as long as there are still rooms available.

Here's where it can get confusing -- if you call the toll-free reservations numbers or the local hotels' phone numbers, you make your own room reservation under the group name "Cat Fanciers/Writers Association" But if you are making your reservation online, you need a 3-letter booking code which is "CFA" for the Hilton Garden Inn now. The online booking code for the Crowne Plaza is "CAT."

Below is the specific Hilton Garden Inn-San Mateo reservations information. (You can also call the main toll-free reservations number for Hilton; likewise for Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza.). Also see below for the information on how to make reservations at Hilton Garden Inn, two blocks from the Crowne Plaza --

How to make reservations: CAT FANCIER ASSN.

Online: Visit www.sanmateo.stayhgi.com Put in the Group code: CFA Your group rate will automatically show up on the website after input.

Phone: call hotel directly at (650) 522-9000 Ask for your group name or use the group code. Or call toll-free (877) STAY HGI.

Oh, "beautiful, beautiful"! If I hear that again,
I think I'll go out of my mind.
Do you have any idea how long it has been
Since anyone sniffed my behind?

- Roy Blount Jr., *If Only You Knew How Much I Smell You: True Portraits of Dogs*

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

DWAA Web Site: www.DWAA.org

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