



ruff DRAFTS

Spring 2017

In This Issue

WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS | MEMBER NEWS | FEATURE STORY FROM KATE KULIGOWSKI

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2016 Writing Competition



by **Su Ewing**

Wow! Another contest year is over, with 418 entries in 43 categories, and 114 entries for special awards. HUGE thanks to all the judges who volunteered. There'd be no contest without them. They're listed below, and if you know them, give them a big "thank you."

I did receive several thank you notes from winners, so judges, know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

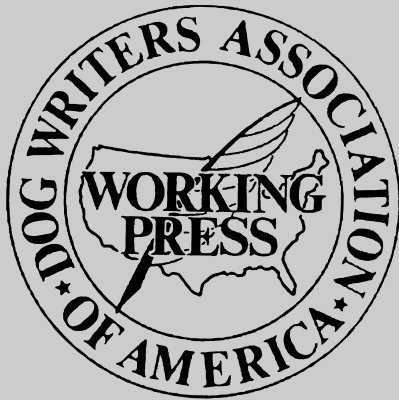
Our living and dining rooms had stacks of books and papers on every available surface, as well as the floor, and I'm now on very friendly terms with our local post office employees.

The awards banquet was rather sparsely attended, but everyone who was there had a great time and the

See **WINNERS** pg 7

"Pugdala"

A winning illustration from
Lauren Darr & Maria Charina Gomez



Officers

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Board of Governors

CLASS OF 2017

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dr.joelgold@gmail.com

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Patricia Cruz
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Gail C. Parker
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President's

COLUMN

by **Jen Reeder**

I am so honored to be the new president of the Dog Writers Association of America. Our organization has a proud history dating back to 1935, and I'm humbled to be offered the chance to honor that legacy by helping keep us at the forefront of dog writing.

This is such a fantastic time to be a dog writer. Ask any veterinarian, and they'll tell you how much the human-animal bond has changed in the last few decades – more and more people love their dogs like family members. We take them on vacations, buy them special treats and beds (even though they often sleep in our own), and share cute photos on social media with the pride of a parent.

Editors and publishers are quite aware of this trend, which is increasing opportunities for authors and journalists alike. "Pets" sections are opening up in major general interest publications, and niche websites continue to crop up. We want to help our members harness these opportunities and bolster your careers.

Our board is brainstorming ways to do just that. We're working with our web designer, **Angela Capodanno** of Visual Spring, to expand the content in the "Members Only" section of our website. We'll share examples of successful query letters and "editor insights" into ways to successfully pitch their publications. We want to enable our journalists to connect with our authors when they need an expert for a story. At time of writing, we're conducting a member survey to hear your feedback on how to provide



Jen Reeder, President of the DWAA

more benefit to members at our annual conference and awards banquet. Thank you to everyone who has already responded!

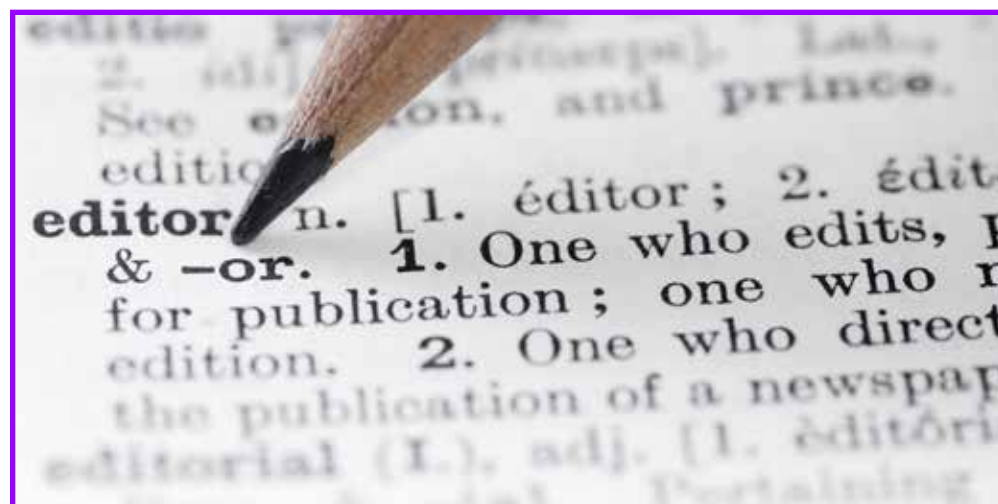
Speaking of thanks, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the DWAA leadership team for being unbelievably supportive when I had to miss the 2017 banquet at the last minute when my mom had a health emergency (She lived! Hooray!). Big thanks to **Su Ewing** and **Marsha Pugh** for running the event and contest, and new board members **Laura Coffey** and **Lauren Darr** for helping them out when I couldn't be there. I hear **Carol Bryant** did a phenomenal job as M.C. (how I wish I'd seen her "fangirl" moment when she realized **David Frei** was in the audience!), and that our speakers and editors deserve kudos for being so generous with their time and insights. **Mike McGuire** took terrific photos that captured the fun of the day. Thanks too

to Past President **Ida Estep** for offering kind guidance during the transition.

I look forward to working with our current volunteers, like our social media gurus **Dawn Taylor, Shelley Bueche** and **Lisa Begin-Kruysman** – not to mention the Board of Governors! In fact, we'd love to get as many people involved in DWAA as possible. "Many hands make light work," right? We're all volunteers doing our best, and would love any help or ideas you can offer. We'd love to hear from members who could volunteer to host a webinar (or head a webinar team), share a query letter that worked, or join an upcoming sponsorship or conference committee. Have an

initiative you'd like to spearhead? Want to write a ruff DRAFTS article or a guest blog post for the DWAA website? Please be in touch! Feel free to email me directly at jen@jenreeder.com.

There are also quick ways to support the DWAA and our members. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Buy a book written by a member, and then tweet about it with hashtags like #DogBooks or #amreading to spread the love on social media. Click on a journalist's article and leave a favorable comment, or share it on your Facebook page. The more we support one another, the better it is for our community as a whole – and the dogs we love! 🐾



Do you know AP style?
Do you love working with fellow pet writers?

If so, we think you could be our next ruff DRAFTS Editor! We're hoping to find that special someone to volunteer to coordinate assignments, proofread copy and work with our layout designer. It would be great experience for your resume ... and would be a fantastic way to support DWAA! If you're interested, please send a message detailing your experience to Jen Reeder by emailing jen@jenreeder.com.

DWAA Committees

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Ida Estep, Chair
Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley,
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh

BYLAWS

Ida Estep, Chair
Carmen Battaglia, Patricia Cruz

2017 CONTEST

Su Ewing, Chair
Officers and Board

HALL OF FAME

Joel Gavriale-Gold
Bryna Comsky

LIAISON WITH CAT WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Susan Ewing

MEMBERSHIP

Marsha Pugh, Chair
Bryna Comsky, Susan Ewing

ruff DRAFTS

Angela Capodanno, Designer

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Shelley Bueche, Lisa Begin-Kruysman
Twitter: Dawn Taylor

WEBMASTER

Angela Capodanno

ruff DRAFTS

send all material to Angela Capodanno
angela@visualspring.net

ISSUE DEADLINES

Spring, March 1
Summer, June 1
Fall, September 1
Winter, December 1

The editor reserves the right to refuse and/or edit material, and is not responsible for errors in difficult to read copy. Every attempt will be made to publish information accurately. Submission implies right to publish all or in part. Unsigned or misleading material is not accepted. Material published is the opinion of the author and does not imply endorsement by the editor or DWAA. Neither editor nor DWAA assumes liability for information contained herein or typographical errors. Reproduction of photos and editorial is forbidden without permission.

by Marsha Pugh

BALANCE AS OF 01/01/2016				\$24,284.98
INCOME				\$37,507.52
Membership Applications			\$1,332.41	
Contest Entry Fees			\$8,532.33	
donation	Robert McKowen memorial	Special Award sponsor	\$575.00	
dues			\$8,640.82	
Program Advertising			\$95.00	
Restitution			\$2,285.75	
Seminar tickets			\$11,761.21	
Special Award Sponsor			\$4,285.00	
EXPENSES				\$(30,084.27)
Accounting			\$(1,000.00)	
Bank Charge			\$10.00	
Seminar/Banquet Expenses	Hotel Pennsylvania		\$(8,424.36)	
Computer Services	Visual Spring		\$(5,972.46)	
Contest Chair Stipend			\$(2,500.00)	
Contest Expenses				
1/15/2016	postage		\$(874.52)	
2/4/2016	Electronic Awards		\$(95.00)	
2/27/2016	postage		\$(154.89)	
3/2/2016	postage		\$(154.90)	
6/19/2016	postage		\$(57.65)	
11/3/2016	postage		\$(510.33)	
11/23/2016	postage		\$(13.45)	
12/3/2016	postage		\$(537.50)	
Contest Supplies				
2/28/2016	Awards Plaques, Trophies, Etc	engraving	\$(204.95)	
5/25/2016	Awards Plaques, Trophies, Etc	engraving special	\$(11.87)	
7/6/2016	Deposit	engraving special	\$20.00	
Design				
2/1/2016	Vicky Clarke	newsletter	\$(700.00)	
2/22/2016	Vicky Clarke	banquet program	\$(300.00)	
Insurance				
4/4/2016	Moerer-Foster	Insurance	\$(743.00)	
Postage				
1/12/2016	Connie Brittain	Postage	\$(9.00)	

Printing				
4/3/2016	Race Printing And Package Co	Printing	\$(292.08)	
7/28/2016	Race Printing And Package Co	Printing	\$(53.60)	
11/28/2016	Race Printing And Package Co	Printing	\$(54.71)	
Special Award Winner				
2/14/2016	Peri Norman		\$(500.00)	
2/14/2016	Jen Reeder		\$(1,500.00)	
2/14/2016	Monique Balas		\$(500.00)	
2/14/2016	Ranny Green		\$(500.00)	
2/14/2016	Sharon Pfaumer		\$(350.00)	
2/14/2016	Martina Greer		\$(500.00)	
2/14/2016	Ida Estep		\$(1,000.00)	
2/14/2016	Theresa Rhine		\$(300.00)	
2/14/2016	Morgan Eve Humphries		\$(400.00)	
2/14/2016	Jim Lee		\$(200.00)	
2/14/2016	Dawn Antioch-Mitchell		\$(200.00)	
2/14/2016	Monique Balas		\$(500.00)	
2/14/2016	Canine Companions For Independence		\$(500.00)	
2/14/2016	Rachel Phelps		\$(500.00)	
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE				\$31,708.23
SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE				\$101.00

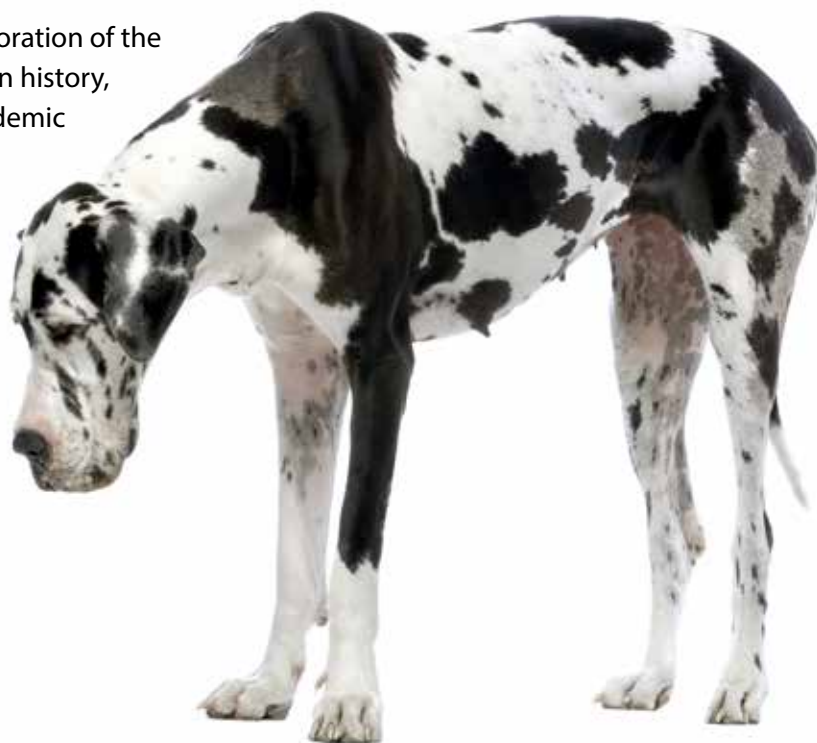
Have a Book Project in Mind?

Dogs in Our World is a series devoted to the exploration of the unique relationship between dogs and humankind in history, society, and culture published by McFarland, an academic and scholarly press.

Proposals are invited for historical breed profiles, biographies of prominent dog people, studies on contemporary issues (such as dogs in the military), the use of dogs in therapeutic capacities, and the roles of dogs in everyday life. Further information is included on McFarland's web site:

<http://www.mcfarlandbooks.com/book-categories/dogs-in-our-world/> or you can contact:

Brian Duggan
Dogs in Our World, Series Editor
McFarland Publishers, Inc.
(209) 403-7584 mobile
bpduggan@mac.com



Annual Meeting Minutes

by **Lauren Darr**

The annual meeting of the Dog Writers Association of America was held at the Hotel Pennsylvania on Sunday, February 12, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

PRESENT:

Marsha Pugh, treasurer; Susan Ewing, secretary and contest chair; Laura Coffey; Lauren Darr; Joel Gavriele-Gold; Lisa Begin-Kruysman.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A letter of gratitude from Ida Estep was read by Susan Ewing.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of December 31, 2016, we have \$31,708.23 in the checking account. There was an increase in income from contest entry fees with the raising of the entry fee. There was also an increase in expenses for postage for the contest.

CONTEST CHAIR REPORT:

We may have a person that is willing to sell advertising for the seminar/awards program. There were over 400 entries this year. The entries were done online. There are suggested updates to the backend system for the entries that would make it easier to manage the process.

BANQUET COMMITTEE REPORT:

There were 62 individuals signed up for this year's seminar and awards

banquet. A special thank you to our speakers, editors and to our emcee, Carol Bryant.

We must decide by March 1, 2017 if DWAA will return to Hotel Pennsylvania. Due to declining banquet attendance over the past several years, the cost of the event has become an issue. It may be necessary to consider other conference venues or possibly a local restaurant that offers a banquet room.

HALL OF FAME REPORT:

Pat Cruz is this year's honoree.

CAT WRITERS ASSOCIATION REPORT:

The board should look at how the CWA has partnered with BlogPaws on their banquet and awards and consider doing something similar or the same.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Ongoing upkeep with Twitter, Facebook, and website

RUFF DRAFTS:

Need an editor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Make membership criteria clear – MUST write about dogs.

Election slate was presented and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot.

- President: Jen Reeder
- Vice-president: Laura Coffey
- Secretary: Lauren Darr
- Treasurer: Marsha Pugh
- Board: Pat Cruz, Gail Parker

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m. 🐾

New Members

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Emma Kesler

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Wendy Van de Poll

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Estelle Weber

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estellevonweber@gmail.com

Member Changes

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See MEMBER CHANGES pg 9

Winners of the 2016 Contest

Continued from COVER

editors reported that they received several promising pitches.

Thanks so much to our speakers, Lisa Begin-Kruysman, Amy Tokic, Carol Bryant, and Maggie Marton, and thanks to Carol Bryant for moderating the seminars.

Thanks to board members Carmen Battaglia, Joel Gold, Bryna Comsky, Laura Coffey, and especially Marsha Pugh for helping with the banquet and seminars.

Thanks also to Lauren Darr, Shelley Bueche, Dawn Taylor, and everyone who helped post winners on Facebook and Twitter.

Regular Categories

A. Newspaper Articles and Columns

1. ARTICLE – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Jen Reeder, "SNIP/tuck"

2. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Peggy Swager, "Three Dogs and a Baby"

3. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- Pam Gleason, "A Tale of Two Cities: the Different Worlds of North and South"

4. ARTICLE – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Andrew Woodall Kragie, "Firefighters Bid Farewell to Last Known 9/11 Search Dog"

B. Magazines

5. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

- AKC's *Family Dog*

6. ANNUAL, SPECIAL INTEREST, OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT

- *West Suburban Dog*

C. Magazine Articles

7. ARTICLE– HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- CJ Puotinen, "D is for Dogs (Vitamin D)"

8. ARTICLE– BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Mara Bovsun, "Steppin' Out With My Puppy"

9. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- Maureen Flietner, "Speak Up!"

10. ARTICLE– BREED

- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "Letting Lyra Go"

11. ARTICLE/COLUMN – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Brian Patrick Duggan, "An Ancient Hound Meets the New World"

D. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

12. CANINE OR ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPERS OR NEWSLETTERS

- *The Dog and Hound*

E. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters Articles and Columns

13. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- Lyn Garson, "Service Dogs-Dogs and People Saving One Another"

F. Online

14. BLOGSITE OR WEBSITE

- Denise Fenzi, www.denisefenzi.com

15. MAGAZINE OR NEWSLETTER

- *AKC Gazette*

G. Online Articles or Blog Entries

16. ARTICLE OR BLOG – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Deb M. Eldredge, DVM, "Physical Changes to Expect in Older Dogs"

17. ARTICLE OR BLOG – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Ranny Green, "See the Amazing Place"

18. ARTICLE OR BLOG – RESCUE

- Dorothy Wills-Rafer, "A Tale of Two Shelter Dogs"

19. ARTICLE OR BLOG – ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Laura Teresa Coffey, "ASPCA 'safety net' keeps pets out of shelters (and hearts from breaking)"

H. Graphics

20. SINGLE PHOTO

- Kim Campbell Thornton, "Bankhar Dog and Herder"

21. SERIES PHOTOS

- Nancy Tanner, "Rhumb & Story- Winter time"

22. SINGLE ILLUSTRATION OR PAINTING

- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "Evelyn"

23. SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS OR PAINTINGS

- Lauren Darr and Maria Charina Gomez, "Pugdala"

24. POSTERS, CALENDARS, BROCHURES OR PAMPHLETS

- Theresa M. Lyons, "365 Day Ridgeback Rescue Calendar"

I. Humor, Poetry, Short Fiction, Opinions/Editorials

25. HUMOR

- Marcia Anne Woodard, "If They Don't Bark, How Do You Know Someone's at the Door?"

26. POETRY

- Joanne Anderson, "Westminster Haiku"

27. SHORT FICTION

- Lisa Begin-Kruysman, "Second Chances"

28. OPINIONS/EDITORIALS

- Kate Eldredge, "The Value of Type"



Organizing the 2016 entries. Thank you to Contest Chair, Su Ewing!

J. Other Media

29. VIDEO, DVD, OR TV BROADCASTS

- Bud Boccone, "My Buddy: The Dogs of WWII"

30. RADIO, PODCAST, OR OTHER AUDIO

- Teoti Anderson, "5 Ways to Ruin a Puppy"

K. Club Publications (National, Regional or Local)

31. MAGAZINE FORMAT

- *The Harp and Hound*

32. NEWSLETTER FORMAT

- *The Scottie Scuttlebutt*

L. Club Publication Articles

33. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- Bruce Toenjes, "Living with an Affected Dog"

34. REGULAR COLUMN OR SERIES

- Kathryn Monroe, "Highlights Column Feeding the Immune System"

M. Club Special Publication

35. CLUB SPECIAL PUBLICATION

- AKC, "Meet the Breeds"

N. Books

36. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

- Linda J. Shaw, *The Illustrated Standard for the German Shepherd Dog*

37. RESCUE OR ADOPTION

- Laura Teresa Coffey, *My Old Dog*

38. TRAINING OR SPORTS

- Pamela Dennison, *You Can Train Your Dog*

39. BEHAVIOR, HEALTH, OR GENERAL CARE

- Eileen Anderson, *Remember Me? Loving and Caring for a Dog with Canine Cognitive Dysfunction*

40. HUMAN ANIMAL BOND

- Patti Lawson, *What Happens to Rover When the Marriage is Over? And Other Legal Dilemmas*

41. REFERENCE

- Kim Kavin, *The Dog Merchants*
- Tracy Libby, *Reporting for Duty*

42. FICTION, YOUNG ADULT OR HUMOR

- Kristin von Kreisler, *Earnest*

43. CHILDREN

- Cindy W. Hollingsworth, *Westie Tails—Meet Two Little Westies*

Special Awards

AKC CLUB PUBLICATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Jen Reeder for "Canine College"

AKC MICROCHIPPING AWARENESS AWARD

- Ardenis Perez, "Should You Microchip Your Pet?"

AKC RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

- Kate Eldredge, "All About Dog Crate Training"

AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY AND CANINE GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

- Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Conquering the S.T.A.R.S."

DOGWISE BEST BOOK AWARD

- Laura Teresa Coffey for "My Old Dog"

DWAA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- Marsha Pugh

DWAA JUNIOR WRITER AWARD

- Kayleigh Knight for "Winning"

DWAA ROBERT H. MCKOWEN MEMORIAL FRIENDS OF RESCUE AWARD

- Christy Caballero, "Core Paws Overlooked-Not anymore"

JAMES COLASANTI, JR. POETRY AWARD

- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "I Keep Looking"

NORTH SHORE ANIMAL LEAGUE AMERICA AWARD

- Lisa Begin-Kruysman, "Desert Paws"

PLANET DOG FOUNDATION SIT. SPEAK. ACT. CANINE SERVICE AWARD

- Tracy Libby, "Reporting for Duty"

THE CAPTAIN WILLIAM LEWIS JUDY AWARD

- Bud Boccone, "My Buddy: The Dogs of WWII"

THE CAPTAIN HAGGETY AWARD FOR BEST TRAINING BOOK OR ARTICLE

- Christina Potter, "Insider Training" 🐾

Thank you to the judges!

Terry Albert
Mary Abram
Skye Anderson
Joanne Anderson
Dee Andersson
Mary Fish Arango
Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell, Esq.
Emelise Baughman
Lisa Begin-Kruysman
Sue Bobek
Casey Bobek
Sheila Boneham
Mara B. Bovsun
Shelley Bueche
Corally Burmaster
Laura Coffey
Caroline Coile
Laurren Darr
James Ewing
Denise Fleck
Leila Grandemange
Tilly Grassa
Ranny Green
Linda Kay Hardie
Dusty Hellmann
Lee Wardlaw Jaffurs
Elizabeth M. Jarrell
Bernadette Kazmarski
Kelly Ladourceur
Debra Lampert-Rudman
Barbara Magera
Sandy Mesmer
Marilyn Miller
Eve Adamson Minkler
Greg Morris
Peri Norman Nishikawa
Audrey Pavia
Jenny Pavlovic
Marsha Pugh
Dusty Rainbolt
Jen Reeder

Florence Scarinci
Fran Pennock Shaw
Linda Shaw
Deb Stevenson
Kim Campbell Thornto
Jerry Thornton
Arlene Weintraub
Michele Wojciechowski
Deborah Wood
Ted Wood

Member Changes

Continued from pg 6

Laurren Darr

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Sandy Mesmer

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Tina Novak

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Thank you



to the judges and everyone whose dogged efforts made
the wonderful 2016 DWAA competition possible!

I am so grateful for the Maxwell Medallion
in the Rescue category. ~Maureen Blaney Flietner

MEMBER NEWS

Spaniel Stars in New Pet Therapy Book for Children

From **Loren Spiotta-DiMare**

Bred for centuries to be lap dogs, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels like nothing better than to snuggle and cuddle. Because of their endearing personalities, soulful expressions, silky coats and diminutive size, many Cavaliers excel as Therapy Dogs. And so it was with Bentley, the star of the new children's picture book, *Because of Bentley*.

"I've always admired the breed," says

When the project came to a close, author and breeder decided they'd like to collaborate on another project and chose to create a children's book based on Zdrodowski's first Cavalier. "From the day, Bentley came into her life, Diane new he would be special, Spiotta-DiMare says. "Together they took the dog world by storm competing in numerous dog sports. But the Blenheim (chestnut red and white) Cavalier truly found his calling as a Therapy Dog."

"I was so proud of Bentley," Zdrodowski says. "He loved everyone – adults, children, other dogs. And though breeding champions and winning titles is very enjoyable there is nothing as rewarding as visiting a nursing home patient or sick child and brightening their lives with the presence of your dog."

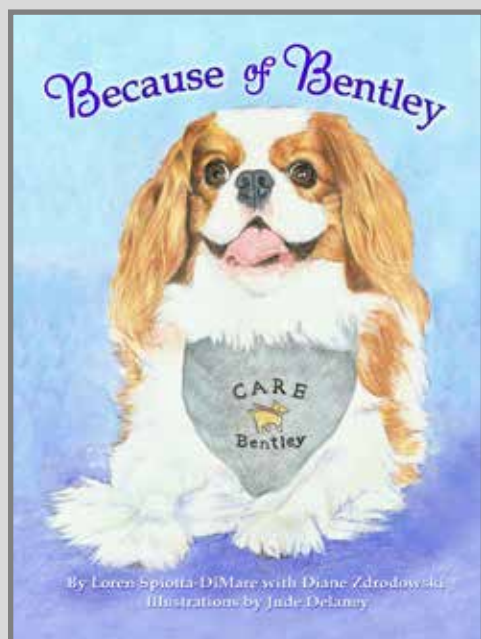
Bentley won numerous awards over the course of his life, including the first ever Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club USA, Inc. – Cavalier Therapy Companion Award and the New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association – Therapy Dog of the Year Award.

Zdrodowski and Bentley had so many wonderful experiences on their therapy visits because of Bentley that the title for the book easily popped into the author's mind. In one scene, a very sick child begins to paint again because of Bentley. In another, a lonely little boy starts to make friends. In yet another, a young boy speaks for the first time in months. All because of Bentley. So taken with Bentley, Zdrodowski eventually became a Cavalier breeder. To learn about all her wonderful dogs visit www.evanlakecavaliers.com.

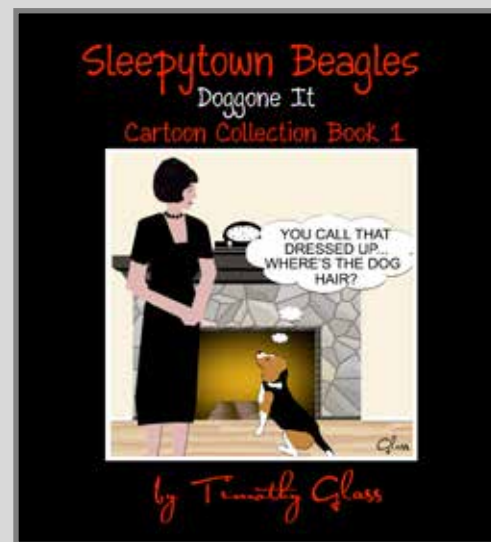
The scenes in *Because of Bentley* come to life with beautiful color pencil and water color paintings created by Jude Delaney of Choctaw, Oklahoma. Del-

aney specializes in animal portraiture. Through the years, she has portrayed many different breeds, both show dogs and those special companions she calls Champions of the Heart, those who win our love, but never see the inside of a ring.

Recognized by the Dog Writers Association of America, Humane Society of the United States, the Doris Animal Foundation, and New Jersey Press Women, Spiotta-DiMare has been writing about animals for forty years. Because of Bentley is her 18th book. The softcover lists for \$12.00 and is available on www.amazon.com. Both hard (\$18.00) and softcover autographed copies are available by contacting Spiotta-DiMare at author@LorensReadingRoom.com.



long-time DWAA member Loren Spiotta-DiMare of Tewksbury, NJ and the author of *Bentley*. "Several years ago, I had the opportunity to write a reference book about Cavaliers. I interviewed numerous breeders and really clicked with Diane Zdrodowski of Evanlake Cavaliers in Blairstown. For months, we were in daily email communication. I often joked I was becoming her new best friend."



Beagle Cartoon Collection

From **Tim Glass**

"As the editor for six years of *Beagle Welfare's* in *Full Cry* magazine, I am probably better placed than anyone to know what it is that our beagle-mad readers enjoy. And one thing I know for certain

is that Tim Glass's Sleepytown Beagles cartoons are right up there as the must-turn-to-first feature for the vast majority of them. Tim's beautifully drawn and impeccably observed pictorial commentary on the mindset of the beagle is second to none. Of course you don't have to be a beagle owner to 'get' the joke . . . but it certainly helps! Every situation so accurately depicted in Tim's cartoons is immediately recognised as a fact of daily life by anyone who knows anything about what it's like to live with these delightful, challenging and adorable little hounds. Beagle Welfare is grateful to Tim Glass for his regular donation of cartoons to In Full Cry. Success with this new collection will be richly deserved."

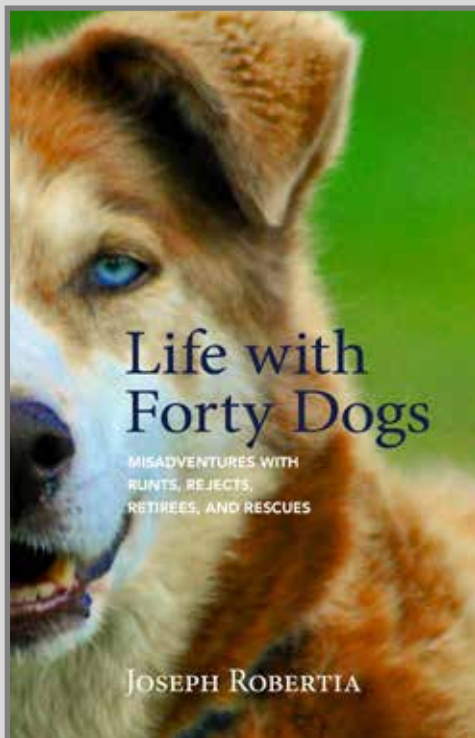
—Jackie Williamson

Trustee: The Beagle Welfare Scheme,
UK, December 2016

The beagles are not spoiled; they just have their owners, Tim and Cathy, well trained. Sleepytown Beagles, Doggone It is a collection of the first 100 cartoons by cartoonist Timothy Glass. Anyone who has ever been owned by a dog will be hooked by these cartoons in which witty canines with attitude show what life and humans look like through beagle eyes. With brilliant insight into their mischievous minds and impeccable understanding of their playful ways, Sleepytown Beagles, Doggone It guarantees a smilepacked journey. So come on in, wipe your paws, sit and stay for a hearty dose of loving hound humor.

Timothy Glass has been owned by beagles from the time he was a young pup. The fact is that is enough time in dog years that he should be dead! He has been well trained by his beagles but many times gets in the doghouse with them. The Sleepytown Beagles cartoons are a favorite the world over. They are a regular feature in a periodical in the UK. Timothy Glass was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in Central New Mexico. Tim graduated from the University of New Mexico.

Life with Forty Dogs



From **Jospeh Robertia**

Life with Forty Dogs is a collection of canine-related conundrums that a couple faces as a result of opening their lives, hearts, and home to 40 dogs. This book will give readers a peek at the endless adventures and misadventures that come from living with and caring for rescued dogs.

Joseph Robertia is a new member of the DWAA. He is an award-winning writer and photographer. He currently writes for the Sports & Outdoors section of the Alaska Dispatch News. Along with his wife, he has mushed dogs with his kennel fielding teams in the 1,000-mile Iditarod, Yukon Quest, and more than thirty other races. He lives in Alaska.



Joseph Robertia, new DWAA member and author of *Life with Forty Dogs*

I Am. We Are.

By **Kate J. Kuligowski**

Cole Bodelson's Sunday afternoon just could not get any better. Off-roading on Santa Fe's La Tierra picturesque, winding, rocky trails, he and his 4 high school pals joked, bonded and pretty basically palled-around. Surrounding them and definitely adding to their fantastic February afternoon were clear, but crisp, bright blue skies, not a whisper of wind, and overwhelming vistas that would knock your socks off.

As Cole recounted, "We were having a blast when I noticed, off to the left, an object that did not belong to this environment: a medium sized black lump. My friends seemed to see it at the same time, and although no one spoke, we communicated by our gestures that we should cautiously drive the truck forward until its features were more recognizable. Yes, it looked to be a blackish dog, head and body curled tightly, burrowed into the hard red soil. I shut off

the ignition, and we slowly and quietly approached, aware that if the animal was alive and injured, more than likely it was aggressive. But our courage kicked in; there still was a chance that we could help.

"Still no sound, no movement from this dog, but as we moved closer, we could see that her right front paw was bleeding, nearly severed from her leg. We waited. The small black dog did not acknowledge our presence or look our way.

"From the grimaces of sheer horror of my friends, I knew they could not handle the strong, foul and nauseating odor of rotting flesh from her leg. So, while my nerve held, I reached down and cautiously picked her up (still no movement) then carefully placed her badly injured body on the bed of our truck, where I rode next to her.

"Very close to where Lily had lain dying, we all noticed a very strange and

ominous pile of assorted rocks, which appeared to be covered in blood. Was this Lily's blood? Someone had obviously stacked the rocks into this unrecognizable, eerie pattern. The bloodied rocks definitely freaked all of us out at the time. We didn't know what to think of it, but guessed it to a superstitious practice still prevalent in New Mexico, possibly an occult offering or a cairn. However, when we returned with the Santa Fe County Sheriff's animal control officer to show him where we had found Lily, this edifice was no longer there.

"We hoped she had enough life left in her for our trip to the veterinarian at Santa Fe Animal Shelter (SFAS). We wanted to find help for her, not leave her here to die, out here on this dusty trail, abandoned, alone."

But by the time Cole and his concerned and caring friends, Avery Diercks, Ryan Lee, Tristan Gress and Will Gibbs arrived at the shelter with their severely-injured rescue, it was closing, and because this was Sunday, no veterinarian was on duty.

Cole acknowledged. "This was an intense moment. Our emotions were raw. We were frantic with worry about this helpless and badly injured dog."

Recognizing this and the urgency of Lily's situation, the SFAS staff immediately delivered her to the Santa Fe Animal Emergency Clinic, who, through their Good Samaritan Program, stabilized her overnight. They informed the 5 exhausted teens that they were unsure as to whether she could survive the night, but promised to call Cole in the morning with an update.

The following morning Dr. Jennifer Steketee, medical director of SFHS, and staff examined this sedated Labrador



I am a happy and healthy dog, because the compassion of those dedicated individuals who helped me in spite of my lack of hearing, sight and front limb.

Photo by Steve Brugge



Lily's prognosis is explained by Dr. Steketee to her remarkable team of rescuers: Ryan Lee, Will Gibbs, Tristan Gress and Cole Bodelson.

Photo by Ben Swan, SFAS

cross. There was no sugar-coating their prognosis. It was no surprise that this dog had no tags, license or microchip. Her fur was not sleek and black but filthy, infested with parasites and riddled with scars and scabs. Emaciated, dehydrated, partially blind and deaf were the words they used to ease into the gravity of her situation.

Dr. Steketee's report explained further. "The shrunken right eye, its white-ish appearance termed iris bombe, is due to secondary trauma. The left eye appears ulcerated. The right front paw has a debilitating, deep, encircling lesion (possible strangulation) below carpal joint. Bone is visible. Entire leg is necrotic and should be amputated. The bullet partially exposed in her neck and the one behind her right ear must be removed surgically. X-rays also reveal multiple bullet fragments near the top of the head, neck and face. A bullet resembling a pellet is located mid-back, left of spine."

Ben Swan, a veteran public information director with SFAS, and Dr. Steketee

believed they saw, in this damaged dog they named Lily, the special fight and courage to live. Because of that, the necessary surgeries were performed 2 days later, February 26, and the long healing and rehabilitation processes began for both Lily and the dedicated staff of SFAS. Among her frequent visitors was Shelly Gibbs, an animal communicator whose expertise in craniosacral therapy.

As time passed, it was obvious Lily was adjusting well to 3 legs, but she was not adjusting well to being confined to a kennel. Her strong desire for independence was respected by the experienced staff of SFAS; thus she was allowed to wander throughout most of the clinic as her behavior was trustworthy and non-aggressive. Still not enough. Lily took her demands a step further until she was allowed, via a doggie door, on the outside enclosed patio, where, regardless of the weather, she seemed most comfortable.

Two months later the staff concurred that a resilient Lily was ready for a spe-

cial adoptive family. Having entered her photo and a brief bio on the shelter's website, Ben knew her wait for a new home would not be short. Lily's situation dictated the patience of an extraordinary family. As my friend, Angela Stell of NMDOG, best states the situation, "Rescue is not about finding a dog a home; rescue is about finding a dog the perfect home."

Sixty miles away, to the south, that very extraordinary family was searching that specific website, SFAS, for a pet...a guinea pig. Already a lively Black Labrador, Lucy, played in their Albuquerque grassed yard and slept in their beds. When adopted 3 years previously from the local shelter, Lucky Paws, Lucy's background info cautioned "aggressive tendencies," "special needs," "not to be adopted into a family with other dogs." However, mellow, affectionate and friendly were the only traits the Moedl family ever observed in this dog. Possibly it was the dog's reaction to the kindness, respect and love that emanate from this family.

Their search for a guinea pig took the mom, Denise Moedl to only 2 area shelter websites. As she browsed SFAS photos of their owner-surrendered guinea pigs, she saw Lily's touching story. Denise was haunted by the picture and story of Lily, and mentioned it often during the following weeks to her husband, Bobby, and her 2 sons, Ryan and Evan. It continued to occupy her thoughts until she surrendered, finally phoning the shelter (twice) in April and making a serious inquiries about Lily.

Although Ben Swan had answered many phone inquiries about Lily (a news worthy dog in the Santa Fe area), he was firm in his expectations. "It would be a very special, giving and patient family that would be approved to be Lily's forever home."

But once Ben learned that Denise, as an occupational therapist, was both knowledgeable and understanding of those afflicted with physical and mental disabilities, their conversation became more serious.

The 'Lily discussions' with the boys were ongoing. Although they understood the commitment that Lily's injuries would require from her new patient and loving family, it took a while longer for her to lessen the resistance and resolve any doubts of husband Bobby. He gave the green light April 30th...if Lucy approved.

The following day, May 1, marked Denise's second session with Ben, an extemporaneous one. "I just put Lucy in the car, snatched Evan from his elementary class and we headed for Santa Fe. Lily's special needs were a constant in my thoughts. I needed Evan's help to introduce the two dogs." His teacher, Jalynn Clayton, an animal lover herself, was understanding and would later play a large part in Lily's mobility.

Upon meeting at SFAS, Lily accepted rather than welcomed the presence of Lucy, whose friendliness was ignored. Denise breathed a sigh of relief. Any worries of aggressive behavior were lifted.

Four weeks later, the adoption process was completed, the send-off from the clinic was tearful, happy and hopeful. Instructions written in her release cautioned her new family to manage her environment with as little change as possible. Her well-wishers also included



Lily, Lucy and Denise enjoy neighborhood jaunts at all hours of the day.

Photo by Steve Brugge

Cole, whose heart was still with Lily and who had also given serious thought to adopting Lily.

Heart on his sleeve, Cole confessed. "I really did want to adopt Lily. But I am forever grateful that she found a family that loved her before they had even met her. I knew that after all that she had been through, Lily deserved the absolute best, and within seconds of meeting this wonderful family, I became apparent that they were meant for each other."

Denise related the homeward trip. "Lily was now a bonafide member of the Moedl family. Her car ride home was

not uneventful. Not accustomed to riding in an automobile, she jumped from the back seat into the front until the boys could hold, hug and calm her. This would be the first of many "first times" for Lily.

"While Bobby drove, I was alerted to an onslaught of messages on Facebook, all solicitous of Lily's health and supportive of our adoption of this special needs animal.

"The traffic on I25 was light, and in no time, Bobby pulled the SUV into our driveway. Anxious to see her reaction, we welcomed a now somewhat reticent, quiet and subdued doggie into her new home and yard. Our home was of no interest to her as she quickly found her way to the glass doors leading to her new playground. With Lucy at her heels, this blind and deaf dog, tail held high, carefully investigating her new yard,

instinctively following the heat of the sun, pausing by the fountain, to seemingly enjoy the sound of its running water. (Yet she was diagnosed as "deaf.") Slowly turning towards us, she smiled. Yes, we all saw the smile, choked up and could not hide the tears...nor our smile.

"And with her smile, a sweet, upbeat song, which we would dub, "Lily's song," came to mind: The Best Day of My Life, a 2006 release by American Authors rock band. It is to that music that my friends, family and I have compiled Lily's life photos onto a DVD: a special tribute to an exceptionally brave dog."

Evan considers Lily to represent the canine version of a Navy Seal: a being possessing a fervent desire under unsurmountable odds to win back her life, to overcome. But Evan was quick to recognize the many heroes in her life: Cole, Avery, Will, Ryan, Tristan, Dr. Steketee, Ben Swan and staffs, and, of course, his own family. How coincidental it was that this interview was conducted with this remarkable family on Martin Luther King Day, a day commemorating his inspiration and mission: to overcome.

Although Denise wanted to incorporate Lily into the family's daily routine, Lily needed her own personal space and was unwilling to spend much time inside the home. Denise considers Lily's quirk to remain outside on their covered patio most of the days to be a streak of independence. Evan labels it, "stubbornness." Regardless, she spends most of days, laying, relaxed and safe (finally). Soaking up the rays from New Mexico's sun and absorbs the warmth emanating from the glass doors behind her, this once neglected, abused and abandoned dog is now visible to family members at all times. "We can't help it. We still are fiercely protective," Bobby assured me.

Ryan finds it "absolutely remarkable that Lily shows no distrust of humans, has no aggressive tendencies and is best buds with Lucy. Often seeking our attention, pets and hugs, she playfully nudges our elbow. Humans could learn so much from her behavior, such as her ability to forgive and to love unconditionally. But I hope, for her safety, she never forgets her abuser."

The entire family mentioned that her Achilles heel, her only uncontrollable fear, seems to be any loud popping sound (similar to gunfire) coming from fireworks, the television or a backfiring vehicle. Immediately Lily's calm demeanor changes as she frantically cir-

"...absolutely remarkable that Lily shows no distrust of humans, has no aggressive tendencies and is best buds with Lucy. Often seeking our attention, pets and hugs, she playfully nudges our elbow. Humans could learn so much from her behavior, such as her ability to forgive and to love unconditionally. But I hope, for her safety, she never forgets her abuser."

—Ryan Lee

cles the yard, pathetically hopping at a marathon pace, whining, until her body will no longer tolerate this sudden attempt to escape this perceived danger.

"Trying to calm and console her, we wrap our arms around her, speaking softly. We carry her inside, keep her wrapped tightly, and wait for her traumatic reactions to subside. Although we have tried a multitude of suggestions, we have not yet discovered a way to soothe Lily's fear.

Remaining true to their commitment to exercise and socialize both dogs, the entire family, in shifts, take Lucy and Lily for daily neighborhood walks, Lucy leashed and Lily resting inside the perfect-sized jogging stroller for dogs gifted by Evan's former teacher, Miss Clayton. If schedules do not allow their participation, Denise, requiring one hand for the carriage and the other for Lucy's leash, wears a headlamp on her forehead to safely guide her canine crew on evening jaunts. Many neighbors look forward to seeing this phenomenal site and enjoy "loving on" both dogs. Some wait with treats, others with good wishes and smiles for this remark-

able team. And Lily's many friends from her previous worrisome months of surgery and medical care remain solicitous about her new life.

Ben occasionally texts inquiries about our Lily. We assure him that we are watching her weight so that her uneven walk does not become more labored; we Email him photos of her adjusting to her new life, free from stress or abuse.

Cole, who shared a very special bond with this amazing animal he saved, shared his thoughts. "We found Lily for some reason. Her bravery inspired me to follow my dreams and do what I love: work with animals to strengthen the ancient symbiotic bond between humans and dogs. That is why I have enrolled this summer in the Tom Rose Dog Training School, a world renowned institution in Missouri."

If Lily could speak, she would be a woman of few words, but those words would be poignant, powerful. I can hear her explaining this story. "Because of these heroic and humane efforts, I am. And, because of the Moelds' respect for life, we are." 🐾



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Roxie

By Janice Biniok



Of all her books, this one is my favorite... She dedicated it to me.