



ruff DRAFTS

Winter 2017

In This Issue

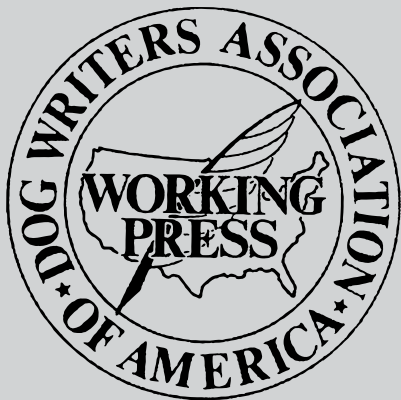
2016 NOMINEES ANNOUNCED | CONSERVATION DOGS | MEET OUR MEMBERS



Back to the Future (with apologies to Marty McFly)

by **Patricia M. Cruz**

Longtime members of the Dog Writers Association of America know its rich history and close ties to the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. But for those newer members who may not be aware, a quick history lesson. The DWAA held its first meeting on February 13, 1935 at the old Madison Square Garden at 8th Avenue and 50th Street in the Westminster Kennel Club meeting room. It was also decided at that first meeting of eight press members that its annual meeting should be held just before the famed dog show. But it appears that their mission was trying to create an industry group to establish “press courtesies” to those writing about dog shows. Decades later those of us who have covered The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show have



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President's

COLUMN

by **Ida Estep**

As this is my last President's Column, I want to make sure and express my gratitude for all the support I have received from the Officers, Board of Governors and membership. I have had the chance to interact with some great people and I really appreciate all the folks who stepped up to keep the DWAA going successfully.

I will remain as the Past President on the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee and will continue my long-term tenure as DWAA Counsel. I will also be supervising the recovery of funds from the embezzlement of funds from a previous treasurer. As of November, 2016, we have recovered \$11,104.96 of the amount originally taken of \$71,430.00.

Among the many experiences I have enjoyed as President is the opportunity to review the winning Writing Competition to select the President's Award. During my tenure, we have been able to add the very successful seminars and editors' appointments to our DWAA Award Luncheon. And we have had the opportunity to continue the Award



Ida Estep, President of the DWAA

event by moving from a dinner to a luncheon. We have started a new Yahoo group and opened a new, updated website. We have had some great editors for ruff DRAFTS.

I hope everybody will extend the same support to our new President **Jen Reeder**, Vice-president **Laura Coffey**, Treasurer **Marsha Pugh**, and Secretary **Lauren Darr**.

Again, thanks to everybody for their kindness and support. 🐾

Treasurer's

REPORT

by **Marsha Pugh**

- The treasurer's report will be presented at the next meeting, as it was not ready at press time.
- Also coming up soon: membership dues are up for renewal by March 1st.

Announcing Nominees for the 2016 Writing Competition

by **Su Ewing**

Congratulations to the following nominees in the 2016 Writing Competition. Regular Category Winners and Special Award Winners will be announced at the DWAA banquet on February 12, 2017. All nominees receive certificates. Winners receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle.

A. Newspaper Articles and Columns

1. ARTICLE – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Joanne Anderson, "Revisiting Lyme Disease"
- Lori Mauger, "A Doggone Happy New Year"
- Jen Reeder, "SNIP/tuck"

2. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Peggy Swager, "Three Dogs and a Baby"

3. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- Joanne Anderson, "Henry: A 3-Legged Hero"
- Pam Gleason, "A Tale of Two Cities: the Different Worlds of North and South"

4. ARTICLE – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Joanne Anderson, "From Rags to Roquefort"
- James Colasanti, Jr., "A Gift from Maggi"
- 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
- The Ridgeback Magazine
- Ridgeback Register

6. ANNUAL, SPECIAL INTEREST, OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT

- West Suburban Dog

C. Magazine Articles

7. ARTICLE– HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Mara Bovsun, "The Oldest Old"
- W. Jean Dodds, DVM & Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Your Mother Was Right"
- Sharon Pflaumer, "Early Spay/Neuter Linked to Health and Behaviour Problems"
- Sharon Pflaumer, "The 14th Anniversary of the Surveillance Study Monitoring the Health Of the 9/11 Search and Rescue Dogs"
- Marnie Polivka, "Hello. My Name is Marnie and My Dog Has Epilepsy"
- CJ Puotinen, "D is for Dogs (Vitamin D)"

8. ARTICLE– BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Mara Bovsun, "Steppin' Out With My Puppy"
- Peri Norman, "The Benefits of Obedience"

9. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- Mara Bovsun, "Second Acts"
- Gail Diedrichsen, "From Riches to Rags—Restoring Dignity to Spanish Galgos Through A Mission of Hope"

See *NOMINEES* pg 4

DWAA Committees

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Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley,
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh

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Ida Estep, Chair
Carmen Battaglia, Patricia Cruz

2016 CONTEST

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Officers and Board

HALL OF FAME

Joel Gavrielle-Gold

LIAISON WITH CAT WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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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.

Nominees

2016 Writing Competition

Continued from pg 4

- Maureen Flietner, "Speak Up!"
- Jen Reeder, "A Nose for Conservation"

10. ARTICLE— BREED

- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "Letting Lyra Go"
- Jen Reeder, "Diary of a Therapy Dog Team"
- Jen Reeder, "Picture Perfect"

11. ARTICLE/COLUMN – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Caroline Coile, "To Orlando With Love"
- Caroline Coile, "Flights of Fancy"
- Liz Donovan, "Bringing Them Home"
- Brian Patrick Duggan, "An Ancient Hound Meets the New World"
- Laura Greaves, "Only the Lonely"
- Barbara Magera, "What I Learned from My First Cavalier"
- Sharon Pflaumer, "Out of This World! Sniffer Dog Finds Space Rocks"

D. Canine or All-Animal Newspapers or Newsletters

12. CANINE OR ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPERS OR NEWSLETTERS

- *The Companion*
- *The Dog and Hound*
- *TTeam Connections*

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

13. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- Michael Thomas Ford, "Thankful"
- Michael Thomas Ford, "Welcome Waggin"
- Lyn Garson, "Service Dogs-Dogs and People Saving One Another"
- Kim Campbell Thornton, "Shelters Move Toward Alternatives"

F. Online

14. BLOGSITE OR WEBSITE

- Denise Fenzi, www.denisefenzi.com
- Sharla Seidel, AKC Canine Health Foundation website, <http://www.akcchf.org>
- Zazie Todd, PhD, Companion animal Psychology, www.companionanimalpsychology.com

15. MAGAZINE OR NEWSLETTER

- *AKC Gazette*
- *AKC Canine Partners News*
- *Keeping in TTouch*
- *Speaking of Dogs*, Lorraine Houston

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"
- Cori Solomon, "4 Things I Learned When My Dog Swallowed a Soft Toy"
- Zazie Todd, PhD, "Why Do People Choose Certain Dogs?"

17. ARTICLE OR BLOG – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Ranny Green, "See the Amazing Place"
- Emma Kesler, "The Release Cue: Hidden Connections in Training"
- Lori Mauger, "The Silent Treatment"
- Kim Campbell Thornton, "Take the Bite Out"

18. ARTICLE OR BLOG – RESCUE

- Kristin Michelle Avery, "A Rescue Dog and His Girl"
- Laura Teresa Coffey, "Pit Bull Rescued from Michael Vick's dog-fighting ring gets best day ever"
- Jody Miller-Young, "Origins in Dogland"

- Zazie Todd, PhD, "Shelter Dogs Live up to Expectations (mostly)"
- Cameron Triebwasser, "How I use an ugly purple chair to save the lives of homeless dogs"
- Dorothy Wills-Raftery, "A Tale of Two Shelter Dogs"

19. ARTICLE OR BLOG – ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Bud Buccone, "How the Briard Won Over Thomas Jefferson"
- Laura Teresa Coffey, "ASPCA 'safety net' keeps pets out of shelters (and hearts from breaking)"
- Kim Kavin, "Hydra: New Jersey's Just Pups and the 'Puppy Mill Monster'"
- Nancy Tanner, "Herding Lightning-Rhumb off Leash"

H. Graphics

20. SINGLE PHOTO

- Emma Kesler, "Tell"
- Kim Campbell Thornton, "Bankhar Dog and Herder"
- Dorothy Wills-Raftery, "A Day for Love: Wolf Smelling Roses"

21. SERIES PHOTOS

- Chet Jezierski, "A Week in the Northwest"
- Nancy Tanner, "Rhumb & Story- Winter time"
- Katharine von der Leyen, "Zita's Transformation with TTouch Awareness"

22. SINGLE ILLUSTRATION OR PAINTING

- Lisa Begin-Kruysman, "Boy, Dog and Sea"
- Emma Kesler, "Friends at Low Tide"
- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "Evelyn"

23. SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS OR PAINTINGS

- Lauren Darr and Maria Charina Gomez, "Pugdala"
- Deborah Stevenson, illustrations by Morgan Spicer, "Soaring Soren: When French Bulldogs Fly"
- David Voisard, artist, "What Happens to Rover When the Marriage is Over?"

24. POSTERS, CALENDARS, BROCHURES OR PAMPHLETS

- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "The Dream of Healthy Cocker Spaniel Eyes"
- Theresa M. Lyons, "365 Day Ridgeback Rescue Calendar"
- Nancy Kinnear, "The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Calendar"

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

25. HUMOR

- Bud Boccone, "You Might be A Dog Show Old Timer If..."
- Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "A Poopy Puppy Problem"
- Marcia Anne Woodard, "If They Don't Bark, How Do You Know Someone's at the Door?"

26. POETRY

- Joanne Anderson, "Westminster Haiku"
- Debra Lampert-Rudman, "I Keep Looking"
- Lee Netzler, "Spring Melt"

27. SHORT FICTION

- Lisa Begin-Kruysman, "Second Chances"
- Mark Edmonds, "Bobby, the Tiny White Poodledog"
- Amy D. Shojai, "Born To Love: Keiki and Lia Thriller"

28. OPINIONS/EDITORIALS

- Joanne Anderson, "The Gift of Time"
- Kate Eldredge, "The Value of Type"
- Jen Reeder, "Lifted by a walk in the fallen snow"

J. Other Media

29. VIDEO, DVD, OR TV BROADCASTS

- Bud Boccone, "My Buddy: The Dogs of WWII"
- Lisa Jo Clark, "Unbreaking the Galgo-Helping the Castoff Dogs of Spain"
- Amy Laura Tokic, "English Bulldog 101: Is a Bulldog Right For You?"

30. RADIO, PODCAST, OR OTHER AUDIO

- Teoti Anderson, "5 Ways to Ruin a Puppy"
- Teoti Anderson, "You're Promoted to Management!"
- Sharla Seidel, "The Itchy Dog"

K. Club Publications (National, Regional or Local)

31. MAGAZINE FORMAT

- *The Alphenhorn*
- *The Harp and Hound*
- *Pointer Points*
- *The Royal Dispatch*

32. NEWSLETTER FORMAT

- *Dog Tales*
- *The Scottie Scuttlebutt*

L. Club Publication Articles

33. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- Carol Bryant, "7 Ways to Prevent Cancer in Dogs"
- Nancy P. Melone, PhD, "X-Ray positioning in OFA Hip Dysplasia Grading: The Devil is in the Details"
- 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*
- Kate J. Kuligowski, *Goodbye Bad Guys*
- Diane Rose-Solomon, *What to Expect When Adopting A Dog*
- Sunny Weber, *Beyond Flight or Fight*

38. TRAINING OR SPORTS

- Teoti Anderson, *The Dog Behavior Problem Solver*
- Pamela Dennison, *You Can Train Your Dog*
- Denise Leigh Fenzi, *Beyond the Back Yard*

39. BEHAVIOR, HEALTH, OR GENERAL CARE

- Eileen Anderson, *Remember Me? Loving and Caring for a Dog with Canine Cognitive Dysfunction*
- Denise Fleck, *The Autumn and Winter of Your Pet*
- Annie Phenix, *The Midnight Dog Walkers*

40. HUMAN ANIMAL BOND

- Mary Jean Alsina, *Dogs are People, Too*
- Douglas Green, *The Teachings of Shirelle: Life Long Lessons from a Divine Knucklehead*
- Patti Lawson, *What Happens to Rover When the Marriage is Over? And Other Legal Dilemmas*
- Arlene Weintraub, *Heal: The Vital Role of Dogs in the Search for Cancer Cures*

41. REFERENCE

- Lauren Darr, *Pet Business Planning Almanack 2016*
- Kim Kavin, *The Dog Merchants*
- Janice Koler-Matznick, *Dawn of the Dog*
- Tracy Libby, *Reporting for Duty*

42. FICTION, YOUNG ADULT OR HUMOR

- Sheila Boneham, *Shepherd's Crook*
- Amy D. Shojai, *Show and Tell*
- Kristin von Kreisler, *Earnest*

43. CHILDREN

- Denise Fleck, *Start Off on the Right Paw*
- Cindy W. Hollingsworth, *Westie Tails—Meet Two Little Westies*
- Tracey C. Jones, *Boxcar Indy Goes To Doggy World*
- James S. Martinez/Timothy Civick, *Cooper the Rescue Dog*
- Lauren Ann Theuerkauf, *Priceless Penny* 🐾

Meet Our

NEW MEMBERS



Kristin Avery

Kristin Avery

Kristin Avery is a writer and photographer with an extensive background in philanthropy and a life-long passion for animal welfare. Her blog, [The Daily Pip](#), is an award-winning, lifestyle pet blog providing resources, support, and humor for rescue families. She was recently honored with two BlogPaws Nose-to-Nose Social Media Awards this year: Best Cause Blog and Best Written Blog Post.

Kristin received her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she studied creative writing as well as installation and visual arts. After graduation, she was a founding member of Red Door Animal Shelter, a no-

kill shelter for cats, dogs, and rabbits in Chicago. She enjoys working with local Chicago shelters and also recently spent several days at Best Friends Animal Society. Through her blog and volunteer work, she encourages and advocates for rescue and adoption, especially for those animals considered less adoptable. She currently shares her home with one dog, one rabbit, two cats, a husband and 10-year-old daughter.

New Members

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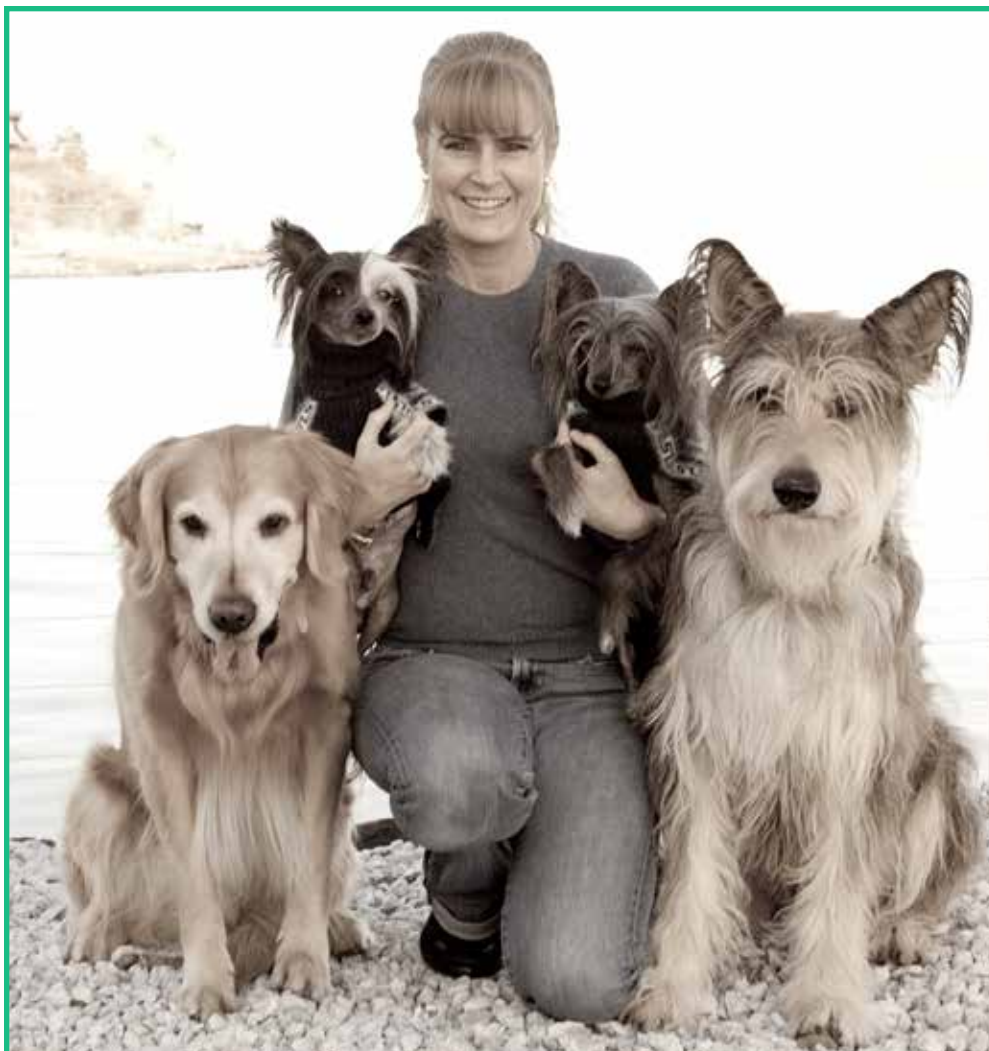
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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



Please pay your dues by March 1st
on the website at www.dogwriters.org



Christina Potter

Christina Potter

Christina Potter's twenty-five years of training dogs have taught her more than her Masters Degree in Canine Psychology ever could. She has trained various breeds such as Golden Retrievers, Chinese Cresteds, Berger Picards, and an Afghan Hound. She has spent thousands of hours working with dogs on print ads, websites, motion capture for video games, commercials, and television shows—both live and pre-recorded. She was the main trainer on such feature films as "Funny Games," "As Good As Dead" and "Our Idiot Brother". She has also trained dogs to compete in Rally, Competitive Obedience, Conformation, and Agility. She is the author

of "Chester Gigolo: Diary of a Dog Star" and "Insider Training: Chester Gigolo's Dog Training Secrets Revealed". She is also a contributing author to "Animal Stars: Behind the Scenes with Your Favorite Animal Actors". Christina, a federally-certified court interpreter who also holds a BS in Business and a Masters in Public Administration, and her husband Taylor, a commercial airline pilot who holds a BS in Aeronautical Engineering, currently live in the New York City area. They share their lives with their four dogs: Morgan, Hudson, Chester, and Pepe.

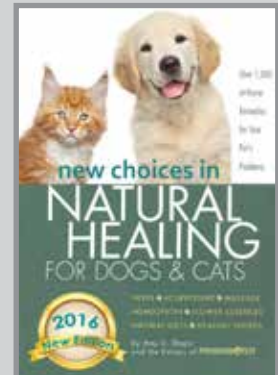
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Facebook: [ChesterGigoloDiaryOfADogStar](https://www.facebook.com/ChesterGigoloDiaryOfADogStar)

Twitter: [@HudsonDogStar](https://twitter.com/HudsonDogStar)

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MEMBER NEWS



From the author who brought you *The First-Aid Companion for Dogs and Cats*, award-winning pet journalist Amy Shojai presents this new large-format edition of her popular alternative and complementary medicine guide for pets, *New Choices in Natural Healing for Dogs & Cats*.

At your fingertips you'll find over 1,000 at-home remedies for your pet's problems – herbs, acupuncture, massage, homeopathy, flower essences, natural diets, healing energy.

This new edition is a vet-approved, authoritative guide to homeopathy, supplements, and hundreds of other new choices for keeping dogs and cats healthy!

Discover for yourself how America's top holistic veterinarians treat their pets without using drugs...and how you can do it, too!

Available in trade paperback, on Kindle and as an audio book. It's available through amazon and other online stores.

Back to the Future

(with apologies to Marty McFly)

continued from cover

vivid memories and tales to tell about those who granted us press courtesies at the iconic dog show.

Before Westminster's Director of Communications Gail Miller Bisher brought the credential issuing process into the 21st Century with this year's online application, there was David Frei from 2004 to 2015, aided by DWAA Hall of Famer Ranny Green, and Thomas H. Bradley 3d from 1996 to 2003 who approved the coveted credentials. Bradley followed the formidable Thelma Boalbey who for years ran the press room with an iron-hand long before I became a member of DWAA back in 1971. Not everyone got a working press pass from this "velvet hammer," but she treated us all equally once she knew that you were serious about the sport and that Westminster was treated with the respect it deserved. No one, and I mean no one, toyed with Thelma, she forgot nothing from one year to the next!

Sounds kinda formal doesn't it? But, today it has to be, what with the many newspapers, and photo services, breed publications, blogs, magazines from all over the world asking to be included. Yet for some of us veterans of WKC – and our numbers are dwindling – it wasn't always that way. The old press room had its characters, famous by-line owners and wannabes.

For the most part, the memories are great and the names, not known by many today who demand their seat at the table, are just that – names. So, let me fill you in on the good old days while I can still recall the fun and the respect we all had for each other back then.

This was before fax machines, email, computers, tablets, smartphones, and, digital cameras that do the work for any kid with a "point and shoot." Yes, good old days.

You came by your seat at the table by having a byline in newspapers, breed publications or magazines, earning a living or small stipend as a result. And, one kept that going by providing the public with news about the sport. Sports pages were the place that the dog-loving reader went for the latest news and that news was usually provided by the likes of Walter R. Fletcher of *The New York Times*; Louise McMahon, John Rendell, Deborah Lawson for the Pennsylvania papers; Herm David for *Dog World*; Lois Meistrell for nearby Long Island; Max Riddle, and Ellsworth Howell, to name just a few.

The Walter R. Fletcher Legacy

Fletcher and Westminster became synonymous with each other. One looked for him at the end of the working press front row at the Garden where he could jump up, run up the stairs to the press room to call in the results of the groups as they finished each night to be in time for the *Times*' morning edition. He typed, one/two-fingered hunt and peck style on his black manual typewriter. And, we all had Max Riddle who was a steady stream of information about every dog in the groups. He would walk up and down in front of the first row, giving the dog's stats, names of owners and handlers, and bits of information that only the insider would know and the public would just eat up.

Max was the 'insider of all insiders'. Everyone wanted Max to know all about their dog and sought him out during the day to make sure he had the animals' show history, nicknames, favorite foods, handler, and what famous judges had given their dog awards.

The sports photographers would sit in front of us – right there on the Garden floor! Jack Balletti and Andy Lopez for United Press International, Larry Morris and Barton Silverman for the *Times*, John Lent for Associated Press and George Kalinsky who was the "official" Garden photographer. *Sports Illustrated*, and the New York dailies - *Post*, *News*, *Mirror*, *Herald Tribune* - were among the many represented. They would banter with us about the breeds they each loved, it was an easy-going time for all. They would have their predictions, some betting on the eventual winner. I was lucky to count several as friends and they wanted to know all the favorites, which ones had the best opportunity for a win – good to know because this was their "money-shot" for their publications.

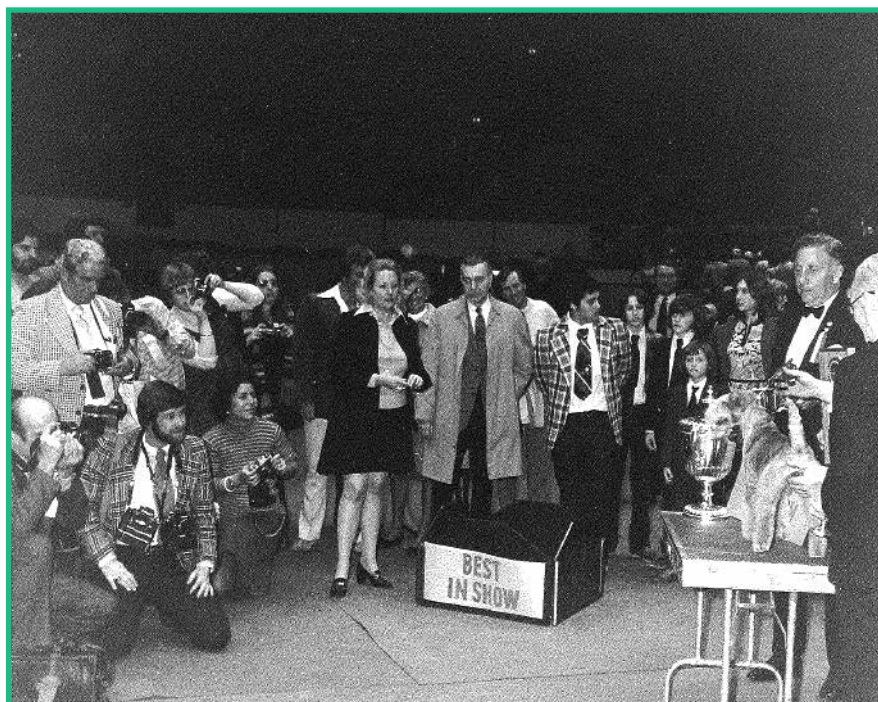
Some of the best times were across the street when Tom and Edie O'Shea of the Gaines Research Center would host their luncheon for all of us. The Southgate, now the Affinia, was the place for good food and libation provided by this "Fido" Award winner and his wife who made all the food brought in from their home in upper New York State. Sometimes it was the only meal for many who commuted and didn't brown-bag their meals. It was also a place to relax, get off your feet before the press room provided some of these niceties. There was also a full bar – Gaines and the O'Sheas

made sure that a tall, cool one helped take the edge off the busy day. And, every once in a while, one of us had to be dispatched to retrieve a very relaxed compatriot.

Groups and Best in Show saw us – photographers and writers with bylines to meet – rush the Garden floor to get a quote from the arbiter who just made the biggest decision of their judging career. Fletcher and the others would try to get what we now call a “sound bite” for the morning paper. Later, we would be back in the press room for more storytelling by the judge for later editions. All this before fax machines, emails, and even the internet. Stories were called into the sports desk to a rewrite editor to take it all in and type, – spelling out each word as we dictated. A slow but deliberate way to get the story in on time and what a relief to get to use the Garden’s fax machine, a one and only back then, when it finally became available. Lugging in portable typewriters was no easy task either, nor were the folding chairs in the press room.

Around the Dog Show Circuit

I was a “stringer” for Fletcher for years before I got my own byline, (the Long Island press when Meistrell retired) – he’d be in one location where handlers and exhibitors would give him a ride to shows for a weekend. I’d be in the other direction, showing dogs and gathering information on wins in that area. Fletcher would have the byline for



both sets of shows for the Sunday and Monday sports pages. Reports were very timely and my calls were often made from telephone booths along the New Jersey Turnpike on my way home to my family.

Walter Fletcher came to *The New York Times* in 1927, after a short stint at *The Post*. It was the same year Charles Lindbergh flew the Spirit of St. Louis, from what is now the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center on Long Island, across the Atlantic to Paris. Fletcher’s first dog show was the Queensboro Kennel Club at the old Aqueduct Race Track in New York. He would get help from George Foley, a dog show superintendent pioneer, who gave him a catalogue and explained the inner workings. From there he was on his own.

With his seat at the end of the first row, on the floor, Fletcher and Westminster became forever linked – *The New York Times* and Madison Square Garden – a dog writer’s dog writer, a dog show’s dog show. And, when he retired after 50 years at the old grey lady, the sport of dogs at the *Times*, on a weekly basis, retired with him.

When Walter Fletcher passed away, he was 93 and left behind two sons and 11 grandchildren. His second wife, his beloved Vera, traveled with him to dog shows in all parts of the world. One of the highlights was meeting Princess Antoinette, Prince Rainier’s sister, in Monaco. She was the first woman to preside over the FCI, and managed to sing Happy Birthday to Walter at the conclusion of the International

Dog Show Week of the Mediterranean where Vera, who spoke French, was called upon to speak for the American delegation at the closing ceremonies. The weekend was capped off by our own Nancy Russell going Best in Show at Monte Carlo, with Malamute Ch. Glacier’s Storm Kloud and having the trophy presented by Prince Rainer, himself.

Fletcher knew the world’s dog elite including meeting, Baroness Thelma vonThaden from Mexico, the second female to lead the FCI, Sir Raymond Oppenheimer, and Dr. Montgomery of Bull Terrier fame. Some names long-forgotten by many today, but whose mention might rekindle some good memories – remember Mrs. Dodge, Mrs. Engelhard, the Marvins, the Felltons, the Starkweathers, the Harleys, the Clarks, the Stevensons, the Thompsons? How about Alva Rosenberg, Percy Roberts, Henry Stoecker, Bob Braithwaite, Howard Tyler, Edith Nash Hellerman, Jim Trullinger, Vince Perry, Billy Kendrick, Louis Murr, Ramona VanCourt Jones, and the first woman veterinarian graduate from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Josephine Deubler, a DWAA Hall of

Fame inductee. Westminster's former show chairman, Chet Collier made history with his Bouviers and the *Times* headlines following impressive wins for this new breed which Walter Fletcher was happy to chronicle. He knew these people, and so many more, on a first-name basis and they provided many quips and stories for the *Times* as part of his on-going coverage of the sport.

Fletcher was often recognized by his peers. In 1977, he made a clean sweep of the DWAA awards (now named the "Maxwell" in honor of Riddle) winning for Best Column, Best News Report, Best Feature Story, and Best Syndicated Column. In 1971, Gaines Dog Research Center presented him with the "FIDO", dogdom's equivalent of the Oscar and the Owner-Handler Association of America presented him with an award then. His journalistic peers recognized his unique

place in our sport when famed sports writer "Red" Smith wrote the foreword to Walter's book "My Times with Dogs" in 1979. A homage that included an insiders peek at press room fun.

Times have changed (no pun intended, here). Every blog, breed column, breed publication, magazine, daily and weekly, all have requests for press seating at Westminster. As a member of DWAA since 1971, I've missed a few Gardens, but not many and none these last 30 years or so. Having written for four New York newspapers and as one of the long-standing members of our great association, I am privileged to be able to do a column for publication every once in a while. I've been a proud member of the DWAA Board of Directors for several years now and have worked with the Hall of Fame Selection Committee until recently. My involvement in the sport

continues as I serve my second term as a member of the AKC's Board of Directors.

I hope to take my seat in the front row once again next month. I am looking forward to sharing my annual Valentine Day candy and catching up with the new writers. Then, I will recall the era of Walter Fletcher and the other long-departed notables that was Westminster back then. But, it's a new day for this Westminster, a sleek, well-orchestrated symphony of a show with the new voice and face of DWAA member Gail Miller Bisher in the broadcast booth. There are now new breeds, Agility and Obedience championships, AKC Meet the Breeds, and enthusiastic spectators at Piers 92/94 and Madison Square Garden. Walter would have loved it! I know I do! 🐾

MEMBER NEWS

Dog 'tails' hit the mark for Aussie author

Flying the flag for DWAA 'Down Under' is author Laura Greaves, who is based in Sydney, Australia.

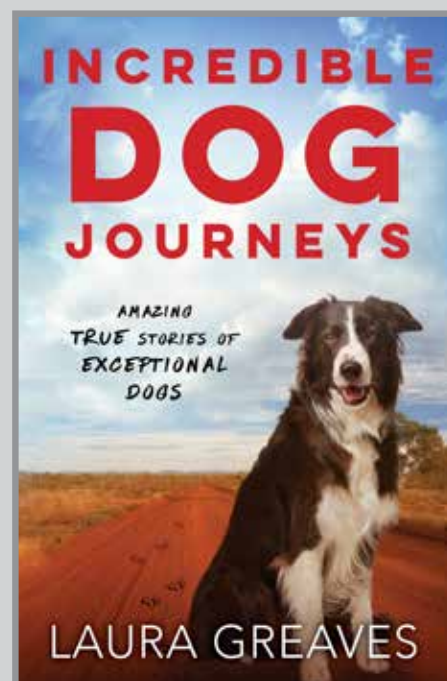
Laura's book, *Incredible Dog Journeys*, was published in paperback by Penguin Random House (PRH) on November 28, selling out its initial print run and going to second printing within the first two weeks.

Incredible Dog Journeys features 18 amazing true stories of exceptional dogs — dogs from around the world who traveled vast distances and overcame enormous odds to find their way home.

These intrepid hounds include

Bonnie, the kelpie-blue heeler cross who led her owner to safety through one of the deadliest bushfires in Australia's history; Penny, a Hungarian vizsla puppy who was dognapped in Washington and found 3800 miles away in Pittsburgh on Christmas Eve; and Ily, the determined cattle dog who survived 69 days injured in the Arizona desert after an horrific car wreck.

While *Incredible Dog Journeys* has not yet been published in the US, it is available to American readers from www.bookdepository.com with free international shipping.



Laura is now writing a collection of working dog stories, *Dogs with Jobs*, which is set to be published by PRH in September 2017.

Conservation Dogs

Find Wildlife Contraband at East African Ports and Airports

By **Sharon Pflaumer**

The Canines for Conservation program operated by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has trained dogs to find wildlife contraband being smuggled out of East Africa through ports and airports in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. By catching illegal traffickers for prosecution, these conservation canines help deter wildlife poaching.

Africa is home to many species facing extinction, including mountain gorillas, Grevy's zebras, rhinoceros and African elephants. The possibility of many species becoming extinct is increased by poaching, which has reached crisis proportions for some. Poachers kill elephants for their ivory for example; then, they sell it to be made into everything from trinkets to jewelry to religious objects. Experts warn elephant populations may not survive another 10 years in the wild at the current rate they're being poached.

Tracking and apprehension dogs

AWF's Canines for Conservation program is training two types of conservation dogs to perform tasks that deter poaching and thereby help prevent extinction and preserve Africa's wildlife. The first kind is being trained to track, take down and restrain those caught in the act of poaching wildlife on preserves or in national parks.

"These dogs can follow poachers' tracks that are up to a week old. Locals can't believe it when they see them do it. They think it's witchcraft," says Will Powell, Director of AWF's Canines for Conservation program.

He brings a wealth of experience to the position. Since 1995, he trained dogs to find landmines and explosives for various East African governments as well as British and American contractors working in the Middle East. He also trained tracking dogs for the Honey Guide Foundation (HGF), which works throughout Tanzania with its own anti-poaching and wildlife conservation initiatives. Powell was asked to head the Canines for Conservation program, which is based in Northern Tanzania just outside of Arusha, after AWF learned of his work for HGF.

Detection dogs

The canines trained to "sniff out" wildlife contraband in baggage and cargo areas at East African ports and airports described at the opening of this article are the second kind of conservation dog being trained by the AWF program. While other dogs, perhaps most famously "The Beagle Brigade," have been trained to detect food or other types of contraband at airports and ports in the United States for many years, training dogs to sniff out items that are the product of wildlife slaugh-

tered by poachers is a relatively new application of detection dogs.

Although the Belgian Malinois is often the breed of choice for canines destined to work in hot, arid climates like that of East Africa because of its ability to tolerate heat, Powell also is training German Shepherd Dogs, German Short-haired Pointers, and some spaniels to perform this task. Having a lot of drive is more important than breed according to Powell, who purchases dogs for the program in Europe most of the time.



A dog and handler team searching baggage for wildlife contraband. © Will Powell



A dog being trained to find wildlife contraband, i.e., the dog “informs” its handler when it finds contraband by staring at the location where the contraband is hidden, i.e., a car trunk in the above example. © Will Powell

“Sometimes we do end up breeding our own puppies, but I prefer to buy dogs when they are at least 18 months old ideally.” He says. “They’re easier to train then because they’ve had a chance to mature mentally. I also look for dogs whose parents were working dogs because that increases the chance they have working ability too.”

Because Powell doesn’t want to invest a lot of time training dogs that will have short working careers due to health problems and because it’s heartbreaking to put one down prematurely due to bad hips or elbows, he x-rays each dog before he buys it.

“My own Labrador Retriever was in so much pain we had to put him down at a young age because he had really bad elbows,” Powell says. “I don’t want to go through that again with another dog.”

Training aids can be risky

Powell uses training aids—small amounts of wildlife contraband—to

train the dogs to find or detect the odors of ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, etc. Due to the risk of possessing some of them in any amount, the training aids he keeps on hand are somewhat limited. For example, having rhino horn around is too risky from a security perspective he says. As a result, he introduces the dogs to some of the odors of wildlife contraband after the dog and handler teams are deployed at the ports and airports where they will work.

“As far as the actual training process goes, we use the same principles used to train any kind of detection dog regardless whether it sniffs out narcotics, explosives or wildlife contraband. The only difference is our dogs are trained to associate finding the odor of ivory, for example, with being given their reward. Because we do reward based training, it’s a big game for the dogs and that makes them easy to train. We encourage them to search for wildlife contraband by saying, “Let’s go to work now.” But they pretty much do it au-

tomatically because they’re so highly driven and want their reward so much.”

The dogs tell their handler when and where they found wildlife contraband by giving a passive response.

“That means they sit and stare at the location from which the odor of the contraband is emanating. That’s when they are rewarded with a Kong® toy and given loads of love. Sometimes you get a dog who stares at the location of the contraband initially; then, it looks back at where the Kong is coming from—namely, its handler’s pocket. That can happen when less experienced handlers reward their dog too soon. Better handlers don’t reward their dog unless it sits and stares unwaveringly at the location where the contraband is hidden.”

Once trained, the dogs and their handlers search luggage carousels and cargo areas at ports and airports. As yet, the teams don’t do “walk throughs” in search of passengers with wildlife contraband hidden on their person.

“We aren’t closing all of the gaps at this point because we’re still operating on a small scale,” Powell says. “We hope to change that by placing additional dog and handler teams after we train them. Despite our limited number of teams however, we’ve had 38 successful finds since last January when they were first deployed. The dogs have found wildlife contraband hidden in everything from coffee cans to condom packages to phone battery packs. Most of what the dogs found was ivory.”

The markets for ivory and rhino horn

China and Hong Kong provide the major markets for ivory, where it’s a big status symbol to have ivory chopsticks or an ivory letter stamp. (Letter stamps have the Chinese characters for a person’s name engraved on them and are

used to stamp the characters on envelopes.)

"Vietnam is the big market for rhino horn," Powell says. "On special occasions, status and wealth are exhibited there by sprinkling a few scrapings of rhino horn on fancy French wine. Ironically, they're sprinkling the equivalent of fingernail clippings because rhino horn is carotene which is the same thing."

A lot of Chinese and Vietnamese don't understand the implications of the above.

"They don't realize that animals are being killed by poachers to provide trinkets or a wine garnish. That's why AWF is making a big educational effort to inform them about just how much animal suffering is caused by poaching," Powell says.

Two kinds of illegal traffickers

The dog and handler teams have found two types of people in possession of wildlife contraband.

"The majority are individuals on holiday or working on contract in Africa. They get hold of this stuff and try to take it home with them. Smugglers account for the rest. They're eager to net a million dollars from the sale of the horn or tusks from a single animal. Recently, the governments of Tanzania and Kenya took action to clamp down on the potential for a Godfather effect on the illegal ivory trade in their countries so it doesn't reach the proportions of organized crime," Powell says.

The wildlife contraband detection dogs trained by him have made an impact as well.

"Just by virtue of the presence of our dog and handler teams at the Nairobi airport for example, the rate of illegal trafficking has dropped dramatically.

When we began our operation there, the dogs literally found wildlife contraband every day. Now, they make finds much less frequently, which proves the dogs are a deterrent. We've also heard the word out on the streets in China is 'Don't travel through Nairobi.'"

Because the efforts of the Canines for Conservation program have proven successful at ports and airports in Nairobi, Tanzania and Uganda, AWF plans

Powell needed to find men who could overcome these cultural and environmental biases and obstacles. He needed to find men who could be taught to love dogs and appreciate them for all they have to offer.

Because Powell considers each one of the dogs he trains to be one of his "babies," he also felt compelled to only place dogs with handlers who could fulfill the dogs' physical and emotion-

"Just by virtue of the presence of our dog and handler teams at the Nairobi airport for example, the rate of illegal trafficking has dropped dramatically."

—Will Powell, Director of AWF's Canines for Conservation program

to expand the training program so dog and handler teams can be placed at ports and airports in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Zambia and Botswana. Powell believes his approach to training handlers, in particular, accounts for much of his dogs' success.

"One of the most important factors is the selection of handlers. That's because much of a detection dog's ability to make successful finds depends upon its relationship with its handler," He says.

The pay off

As a result, Powell had to find the "right" men to train to be handlers. But finding ones, who could form a strong relationship with a dog, proved to be a challenge. While it may seem incomprehensible to dog loving Westerners who often share their bed with one or more pets, many Africans have a much less favorable attitude toward dogs for cultural reasons and because dogs carry and transmit the rabies virus. Likewise, life in Africa is harsh and grueling for many and leaves little time or energy for a pet.

al needs. In order to insure the above criterion was meant, Powell conducted rigorous interviews with numerous volunteers with and without a dog present. His efforts didn't stop there however. As an additional safeguard, he embedded one of his ex-handlers with every team that was deployed to make sure the dogs got the proper care and attention.

"My ex-handlers have worked with me for many years and are like my brothers. They know their jobs and really care about the dogs," He says.

Despite the challenges posed by handler recruitment and training, Powell succeeded. By the time the handlers had completed the 10-week training program, he had managed to "get inside" each one's head and convert him into a true dog lover. That conversion paid off in the field with the dogs' proven success rate at finding wildlife contraband. 🐾

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The Digital Revolution: How to Use Blogs and Social Media to Promote Your Work



Maggie Marton

Co-presenter: Maggie Marton

Maggie Marton is an award-winning writer immersed in the pet industry. She contributes two monthly columns to Pet Age Magazine and writes for numerous pet product manufacturers. Select publications include NationalGeographic.com, Pet Enthusiast Magazine, Bust Magazine, and two eBooks—one about clicker dog training and one about blogging. Maggie has spoken about pets on radio and television, and she and her blog, ohmydogblog.com, have been profiled in print and digital publications.

Co-presenter: Carol Bryant

Carol Bryant is the Marketing and Social Media Manager for BlogPaws. She has traveled with dogs for almost 25 years and is touted as a dog product and travel expert. A seasoned writer and blogger, she has appeared numerous times on television and radio, including Oprah Radio's Gayle King Show. She maintains her own canine-centric blog, Fidose of Reality, and its fundraising arm, Wigglebutt Warriors. Her heart beats dog, so she volunteers with Cocker Spaniel rescue groups, and is often found diversifying her dog's treat and toy collection. Connect with Carol at FidoseofReality.com



Carol Bryant

Presenters

AT THE SEMINAR

Talk Digital to Me: How to Pitch your Ideas to Web Editors and Joining the Online Pet Community

Presenter: Amy Tokic

Amy Tokic is the Editor of PetGuide.com, the flagship site to over 75 different pet communities, which offers pet parents a one-stop-info-shop for all things related to dogs, cats and other pets. Amy's been with PetGuide since the beginning, guided by the wisdom of her Shih Tzu mix and furry roommate, Oscar. Together, this pet power couple has their paw on the pulse of the pet industry, sniffing out trends, advice, news, tasty treat recipes and other tail-wagging stories.

Amy's career has spanned the media spectrum. From an internship at a local Rogers cable station, she's worked at radio stations across Ontario before moving into the print and magazine industry, and finally to the Internet. She has been called upon to offer her pet expertise in numerous interviews for outlets including PopSugar, The Toronto Star, Honest Kitchen, Vegas Rock Dog Radio, the World Pet Association, Consumer Reports, and Redbook. Amy holds a BA in Communications



Amy Tokic

from the University of Windsor and a Diploma in Radio Broadcasting from Fanshawe College. Oscar graduated Magna Sum Laude from his Puppy Kindergarten Class, but fell in with a bad crowd of mutts and was expelled from Obedience Training 101 after humping the teacher's leg.

The Write Angle: creating proposals and queries that will engage agents and editors.

Presenter: Lisa Begin-Kruysman

Lisa Begin-Kruysman is an author of Fiction and Non-Fiction. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, she has studied writing with the Institute of Children's Literature, The Society of Children's Writers and Book Illustrators and the Highlights Foundation. A former Human Resources Associate in the entertainment industry, she

currently resides in Ocean County, New Jersey, with her husband Rich, and foster-to-forever dog Teddy. Through her artwork and writing, she aspires to educate and enlighten the world about the unique bond that exists between humans and their dogs and to ultimately improve the welfare of dogs across the nation. Her book, *Dog's Best Friend: Will Judy*,



Lisa Begin-Kruysman

Founder of National Dog Week and Dog World Magazine was a Maxwell Medallion nominee in 2015. www.lisabegin-kruysmanauthor.com

Editor Appointments

A LIMITED NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ONLY.

Amy Tokic

Amy Tokic is the Editor of PetGuide.com, the flagship site to over 75 different pet communities, which offers pet parents a one-stop-info-shop for all things related to dogs, cats and other pets. Amy's been with PetGuide since the beginning, guided by the wisdom of her Shih Tzu mix and furry roommate, Oscar. Together, this pet power couple has their paw on the pulse of the pet industry, sniffing out trends, advice, news, tasty treat recipes and other tail-wagging stories.



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Larry and Charlene Woodward

Charlene and Larry Woodward are the founders and owners of Dogwise.com and Dogwise Publishing. Founded in 1987, the business focused originally on marketing books at dog shows and through a mail

order catalog. Dogwise Publishing was founded in 2001 and is now the primary focus of the business with an emphasis on books of interest to dog trainers and enthusiasts. Larry is the chief editor and Charlene is the acquisitions manager. They live in Wenatchee, Washington.

Norma Perez-Hernandez

Norma Perez-Hernandez is an acquiring editorial assistant at Kensington Publishing Corp. A New York City native, Norma studied English literature at the Macaulay Honors College at The City College of New York and is a graduate of the Publishing Certificate Program at City College. Norma is currently looking for romance (historical and contemporary), historical fiction, traditional and cozy mysteries, thrillers, select sci-fi and fantasy, and nonfiction (including popular culture, narrative nonfiction about animals and pets, and biography). She is thrilled to build a list with diverse authors and books.

Christopher Reggio

Christopher Reggio, editorial and acquisitions director for Fox Chapel Publishing, is a 40 year veteran of the publishing industry who began his career as a bookstore cashier eventually becoming a book publisher. He has published dog and other pet books for over 15 years

first at Reader's Digest (Associate Publisher, Director of Trade Publishing), TFH (publisher), and General Manager, i-5 Press (Lumina). He is the parent of both pure-bred and rescue dogs, and has earned the AKC Therapy Dog title with his Flat-Coated Retriever Lucy. Chris is always on the lookout for new and interesting book ideas.

Mara Bovsun

Mara Bovsun is an award-winning writer and editor for the American Kennel Club's publications and web sites. She has also served many other functions for the organization, not the least of which is being the AKC Beagle Mascot Bailey at several events. And that is how she earned the distinction of being the only creature on earth

who has taken her own dogs through the Canine Good Citizen test, evaluated other people's dogs for CGC, and actually was the dog taking the CGC. You should see her down-stay! When she's not being the dog, she practices and competes in agility, running, tricks training, and any other activity that strikes her fancy with two Leonbergers, Emily and Cleah.

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Be sure to advise us of any changes in your contact information.



Susan Ewing, Secretary
66 Adams Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

Roxie

By Janice Biniok



Look at it this way... If I didn't get into so much trouble, what would you write about?