

**RUFF DRAFTS**

THE VOICE OF THE DWAA



FOUNDED IN 1935

***THE DOG WRITERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.***  
**WWW.DWAA.ORG**

*Westminster Edition*

WINTER 2010

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**Happy Anniversary**

DOG WRITERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

*75 years*



# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By CARMEN BATTAGLIA PhD.

**B**y now most of us have recovered from the busy holiday season and are finalizing or implementing our New Year's resolutions. The problem for some is that the list is so long that the good intentions can not be accomplished. Others with more wisdom will focus on only a few goals and then drill down into them so that they make good on their promises. There is however yet a third group. They do not have goals for the New Year. Sometimes they are talked into a resolution if prompted by a friend or someone at the office.

When I began to think about my 2010 New Years resolutions I became aware of the vast number of opportunities out there. For me, I thought about resolutions for my role as a husband, father, President of DWAA and dog writer. That is a lot to cover especially when I try to think about meaningful resolutions for the next twelve months. The more I consider my options and what is realistic, given my busy schedule, the more I am reminded to stay focused on each of the categories that is important. As a husband I could be more considerate of the little things I need to do around the house which would make life easier for my wife. As a father, I could be more supportive of my children who are now grown but might need fatherly advice about some of the challenges they face. As a board member and president of DWAA, I could invest more of my time on improving the infrastructure and finding ways to improve our organization. As a writer I could choose a few good and timely topics that are aimed at those new to the profession.

At the end of the day, I wanted my resolutions to be positive and when completed, to make a difference. I wondered if I could accomplish what I had listed. If I didn't try, nothing would be accomplished, so I began by putting the list of resolutions on the refrigerator. Each day they would serve as a good reminder of what I had promised to do. I like the idea of keeping my goals in front of me. The refrigerator is where my day starts. I love breakfast, so when I go there for the fruit, juice and milk that make up my morning drink, my list of resolutions stares at me as a reminder of what I have set out to do.

Rather than just posting the list, I developed a "to do" list that I keep in my calendar. I have a to-do list for each resolution for each month. For example, in January and February I have a list of people to contact and specific things to get done. High on the January list is a reminder that I need to say something to DWAA members to encourage them to get their dues in to the treasurer and banquet money in to the banquet chair. Both can now be done online. Another is to send thank you notes to those who shared cards and ideas with us at DWAA. I could go on, but I



*President Carmen Battaglia, PhD.*

will save the rest for another day.

In just the few short months in 2009 that I have been President we have achieved and surpassed the goals I had set. During this short time period, the board focused on our financial health and authorized an outside audit that dates back to 2004. With this information we will be able to take the necessary steps to strengthen and build future plans that included a better writing contest, website and newsletter. For 2010, using our new Budget and Finance committee, we will have a budget plan for the year. We will also work to improve the Forum and strengthen communications with the members. The 2010 Roster will be completed and in the mail by April.

If we are to become a better organization we need members who have time to work on projects. If you have time, and are interested at please contact our secretary, Pat Santi (610) 384-2436. She will pass your information on to various committees.

High on our list of priorities is the goal of increasing membership through our new membership committee. Our newsletter has a new refreshing look and will offer more information and excellent articles but we still need members to contribute their ideas and articles to help with this effort. Our website has undergone many changes and updates with more to come. The website requires about 20 hours per week. If you have the special technical skill and the time required, let me know of your interest by February 15<sup>th</sup> (770 - 998 3679). The Annual Banquet is on schedule to be one our best yet. You can now order your dinner seats online. Our national writing contest continues to be one of our best efforts and is more robust than in past years. Writers can go to our website and find detailed information about what evaluators look for and how to submit your work for the 2010 writing contest.

As you can see, your board has many challenges. I look forward to hearing from those who are willing to work. I hope that your new year's resolutions are challenging and rewarding. See you next month with some updates on how we are doing.

**Carmen I. Battaglia**

PRESIDENT

# I WISH I HAD BEEN THERE

By DAVID FREI



*Westminster 2009: Co-hosts David Frei and Mary Carillo during the broadcast.*  
(PHOTO BY MARTY VAN DUYN FOR PUP PAW RAZZO)

If you're reading this newsletter and this story, I'll bet that you occasionally have the same "I wish I had been there" moment as I do every February. I wish I had been sitting in the bar of the old Westminster Hotel down near Union Square on that day back in the mid-1870s with that infamous group of "sporting gentlemen" who created what immediately became, and is still now, the world's greatest dog show.

They would apparently gather there following a day of bird hunting with their dogs. My imagination makes it a group not unlike those who would gather in my own sports bar in Seattle, golfers rehashing every shot or softball players arguing about who had the best play of the day. Only these guys, 130-some years ago, were "debating" about who had the best bird dog. So my guess is that they decided to stage a dog show to try to settle that debate.

I would love to have their perspective as I do my TV job this year for the 21st straight year. I mean, they not only created this dog show, but they also laid the groundwork for the creation of the governing body of the sport, the American Kennel Club. What would they think about it today? How similar is it to what they envisioned? And how different is it?

My feeling is that, dog-wise, it really isn't that different. We are still judging dogs on our perception of their ability to do the job that they were bred to do. I suppose that one difference is that we are judging 173 different breeds and varieties. But we've got a little more help to do that these days, like a written standard and parent clubs advocating for their breeds.

And light bulbs to enable us to read those standards (Westminster began before the invention of the light bulb).

I think the biggest changes are in our reach and our media – like live TV, the Internet, Web sites, streaming video, Twitter, Facebook, and more. More people see us and hear about us and learn things about the dogs

**I'M THRILLED TO REPRESENT OUR SPORT AND OUR DOGS AND OUR PEOPLE TO "THE OUTSIDE WORLD,"** TO CARRY OUR MESSAGES OF RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE BREEDING, ESPECIALLY GIVEN SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE TODAY.

without having to be at Madison Square Garden in person.

From my own perspective, I owe these "sporting gentlemen" big time. It is because of them that I have what I think is the greatest job in the world for the last 20 years. I'm thrilled to represent our sport and our dogs and our people to "the outside world," carrying our messages of responsible ownership and responsible breeding. This is especially critical given the challenges that we face today from the animal rights fanatics who want to shut down responsible breeders and our sport, and do away with purebred dogs.

But my most important job is to remind people about the wonderful role that our dogs play in our daily lives. Westminster is not only the world's greatest dog show, it is a celebration of our dogs. I look forward to that every single year, and I know that those "sporting gentlemen" would embrace that now as they did then.

Enjoy our show, whether you are here in person, watching on television, or following us on our Web site, Facebook, or Twitter. Westminster is truly the very best that our sport has to offer.

*David Frei is the director of communications for the Westminster Kennel Club and the longtime co-host (since 1990) of the Westminster telecast on USA Network. He is a longtime breeder-owner-handler and judge in the world of purebred dogs.*

# COMMITTEE, OFFICER & OF COUNSEL REPORTS

## ANNUAL BANQUET

This year represents the 75th anniversary of the DWAA. Steve Dale will host our yearly celebration in the Affinia Ballroom, Affinia Hotel, 371 7th Avenue, NYC. As of Wednesday, January 27th, Pat Santi is happy to report that we have 159 reservations for our annual banquet and awards ceremony. If you are still interested in attending the banquet, it is not too late. You can still make a reservation and pay for your meal using Pay Pal at [www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org). If you like to send a check, use the form on page 6. For more information, contact Pat Santi at [rhydown@aol.com](mailto:rhydown@aol.com).

## ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

Special thanks to Terry Albert who chaired the 2009 DWAA Annual Writing Competition. In 2010, Sue Jeffries will return as chairperson to oversee the annual writing contest. More information will be provided in our Spring newsletter. For more information, contact Sue Jeffries at [Jeff095@aol.com](mailto:Jeff095@aol.com).

## MEMBERSHIP

The membership committee consists of Chairperson Marsha Pugh, Bryna Comsky, Su Ewing, Patricia Kelly and Marion Lane. The DWAA committee has been hard at work developing strategies, working on a budget, designing an invitation letter and updating the membership application. The committee has prioritized their objectives; It is beginning to contact AKC newsletter editors, contest entrants and new writers in hopes of introducing them to DWAA and asking them to join our esteemed organization. Moreover, the committee is also reviewing new ways to reach out to new members including mentoring to new applicants. For more information, contact Marsha Pugh at [mmpugh@crosslink.net](mailto:mmpugh@crosslink.net).

## NEWSLETTER

On December 17, 2009, Mordecai Siegal wrote "The newsletter looks splendid. Best ever! In all my years in DWAA I have wanted a professional-looking newsletter, one that bespeaks a professional writers' organization. This has come closest yet." We would like to thank Mordecai for his encouraging comments and ask that DWAA members send their photography, illustrations, articles, cartoons, poems and news about their soon-to-be released books. Lastly, special thanks to Corey Olin, award-winning magazine designer (*The New York* and *The Hollywood Dog* magazines and *FIDO Friendly* magazine) for redesigning the DWAA newsletter. Joanne Anderson and Pat Cruz are members of the newsletter committee. We welcome new members. For more information, contact Charlotte Reed at [char@charlottereed.com](mailto:char@charlottereed.com).

## OF COUNSEL

**Financial Matters** DWAA has executed the scope of work letter agreement with the accountant and deposited a retainer with the firm. We are in the process of completing the mark-up of the bank statements

for the misappropriation issue and gathering all bookkeeping records for the tax issues. Once these are complete, the firm will begin work on these matters.

**Bylaws** The bylaws need to be reviewed to ensure they will be acceptable to the Commonwealth of MA. Also, once the other accounting issues are in hand, we will need to decide whether to apply for 501(c)(3) status, create a related non-profit that would more easily qualify for that status, or maintain our current 501(c)(6) status. We expect to seek the expertise of the accounting firm in making this determination. This decision will have a direct effect on determining the wording of the revised bylaws. The benefit of the (c)(3) status is that donors' contributions are tax deductible and we would qualify for various grants. The Bylaws committee members are Ida Estep, Allan Alford and Caroline Coile.

## SECRETARY

Pat Santi wants to remind the membership that the DWAA Annual Meeting is scheduled on Sunday, February 14, 2010 in the Madison Room, Affinia Manhattan Hotel, 371 7th Avenue. The meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. Moreover for the last few weeks, she has been updating the roster. Ms. Santi is pleased to announce that the organization has 430 DWAA members as of the end of December. She wanted to alert members that they will be able to pay their dues on PayPal too. Additionally, Pat reports with the help of Marion Lane and Amy Shojai, the CWA (Cat Writers Association) has given us permission to use their guidelines for their e-list.\* Lastly, she encourages our members to volunteer to help the organization by serving on a committee or acting as a chairperson for a DWAA committee. For more information, contact Pat Santi at [rhydown@aol.com](mailto:rhydown@aol.com).

## TREASURER

A member since 2004, Marsha Pugh is new treasurer of DWAA. Since coming on board as Treasurer in December 2009, Ms. Pugh reports she is getting up to speed. She wants to assure the membership that the DWAA treasury is receiving deposits and paying invoices in a prudent manner. Moreover, she will adhere to the US GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) which are the accounting rules used to prepare, present and report financial statements. For more information, contact Marsha Pugh at [mmpugh@crosslink.net](mailto:mmpugh@crosslink.net).

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

We now using Constant Contact®  
with sent notices to you by e-mail.

Please update your e-mail address to the  
DWAA Secretary by writing [rhydown@aol.com](mailto:rhydown@aol.com).



# ANNOUNCEMENT



# DWAA AWARDS BANQUET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010 | 6:00 PM

## *AFFINIA MANHATTAN HOTEL*

*371 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001*

### MENU

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE



Apple & Apricot-Stuffed Chicken with Wild Rice & Orzo, Julienne Carrots & Snap Peas



Horseradish Crusted Salmon with Tomato Risotto & Summer Squash



Grilled Vegetable Napoleon, Shaved Asiago, Quinoa Pilaf & White Truffle Oil

*All meals come with warm rolls, creamery butter, salad,  
Affinia Manhattan cheesecake, coffee and assorted teas.*

### RESERVATIONS

\$65 PER GUEST

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide names of all persons attending and their choice of meals from the above menu:

_____	/	_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____	/	_____
_____	/	_____	/	_____

Total amount submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Send me an email confirmation of my reservation to



Please make checks payable to DWAA in US funds and send along with this page to:

*Pat Santi, Banquet Chairperson  
173 Union Road  
Coatesville, PA 19320-1326*

You may telephone, fax, or email your reservation.

TELEPHONE: (610) 384-2436

FAX: (610) 384-2471

EMAIL: [rbydownen@aol.com](mailto:rbydownen@aol.com)

*Reservations are not complete until payment has been received.*

## REPORTING

# WESTMINSTER ON THE CLOCK

By DENISE FLAIM



*Westminster 2009: Joanne Anderson joined other members of the media in the press area on the floor of the Garden.*  
(PHOTO BY MARTY VAN DUYN FOR PUP PAW RAZZO)

When you're a daily newspaper reporter, the "dead" in "deadline" has exquisite meaning: Cross the finish line after your story is due, and the presses run without you. Not only is your story dead, but — do it often enough—your career is, too.

When I was a staff reporter at Newsday, I covered Westminster for that daily Long Island newspaper (and at the time one of the nation's top 10 papers). My first deadline, at 9:30 p.m. for the starter edition, was insurance for the desk editors, for whom partial results were better than that dread alternative: empty white space. My second deadline, for the replate, was 11 p.m. — a badge of honor, as only the most reliable reporters were permitted that close a dance with presstime.

Problem was, the Best in Show judge pointed his or her finger at about 10:55 p.m. How to craft a 500-word story in that five-minute sliver? Read on.

First, it helps to know the dog game. I breed and show Ridgebacks, so many of the basics — whaddaya mean it's not called a Best in Group, since when did "dog" become gender-specific, and what the hell is a Keeshond? — were already covered.

Next, I had good sources. Fellow Long Islander and DWAA member Pat Cruz could always be relied on for her tea leaves; better odds you won't get in Vegas. On the floor of the Garden, I made sure to sandwich myself at the press tables between Deb Woods and Joan Harrigan: Covering the top dogs year-round, they knew stats and call names inside and out.

Before Westminster provided those handy headsets that let you hear David Frei's commentary, a choice worthy of Solomon presented itself: Did I sit on the floor and soak up the atmosphere, but miss Dave's dead-on analysis? Or park myself in the press room, and watch on the tube like everyone at home?

Before the advent of wireless, the decision was made for me: I jogged back to the press room several times during each three-hour show to plug in and file.

Back to the five-minute marathon, the threat of turning into a pumpkin—or at the very least, a managing editor's punching bag—at the stroke of 11:01.

The solution was to start by inverting the inverted pyramid. On Monday night, as each of the first three groups finished, I crafted their individual paragraphs. If I was lucky, I hit on a theme. Maybe there were upsets.

("Convention wisdom got a sharp yank on the lead last night at Madison Square Garden ..."). Maybe the usual suspects won. ("Convention wisdom got a pat on the head last night at Madison Square Garden ...")

But Tuesday night, with the last-minute Best in Show decision, the trend angle wasn't an option. Neither was having a lackluster lede. (Before you send a correction in to the newsletter editor, that's how it's spelled by ink-stained wretches — look it up. We spell "graf" funny, too.)

So, I'd take the three or four contenders with the best angle and odds, and, during the lulls in Group judging, I'd write a winning lede for each of them. For the remaining wild cards, I'd prepare a generic, who-woulda-thunk lede. (See "conventional wisdom," above.)

I had pretty good sources, and pretty good instincts. I saw Uno coming a mile away, and thanked the newspaper gods for Snoopy metaphors. And my stories were usually filed by 11:01 or so. They usually forgave me the minute.

At the end of 2008, with newspapers sinking into the LaBrea tar pits, I left Newsday. Now that I own two dog-show publications (one for Ridgebacks, one for Molossers, both produced with my co-publisher and fellow DWAA member Theresa Lyons), my print deadlines are weeks, even months away.

But once an adrenaline junkie, always an adrenaline junkie. Monday and Tuesday nights at the press tables on the Garden floor are still spent tapping away on my laptop — this time for email blasts that go to thousands of fanciers around the world.

Now, the deadlines are my own. No one says, "Flaim, trim 10 lines out of this thing." No arguments ensue about why Rottweiler needs to be uppercased, AP style book be damned. No bottoms-up editor ever cuts my carefully crafted kicker.

But pushing the button once the judging is over still brings on the butterflies. Oh, my God, did I spell Dalmatian right? Some things never change.

*Denise Flaim is a former staff writer and columnist at the daily Long Island newspaper Newsday, and the author of several books, most recently Rescue Ink (Viking, 2009). A breeder and exhibitor of Rhodesian Ridgebacks, she publishes two dog publications, The Ridgeback Register ([www.ridgebackregister.com](http://www.ridgebackregister.com)) and Modern Molosser ([www.ModernMolosser.com](http://www.ModernMolosser.com)). Denise shares a vintage Victorian home with husband Fred, 6-year-old triplets Krista, Allie and Stephen, and four Ridgebacks.*

## HALL OF FAME

# 2009 DWAA INDUCTEES

By DENISE FLAIM

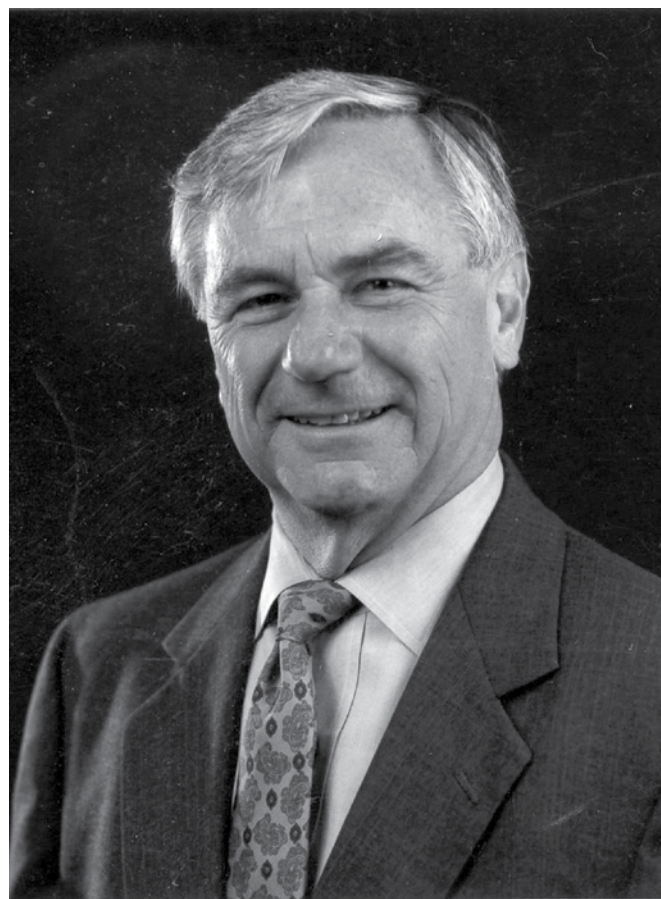
Created by the Dog Writers Association of America, the Dog Writers Hall of Fame honors those who have made distinguished contributions to benefit dogs and those who care for them, as well as the dog sports that have grown up around them. Members are inducted at the DWAA annual banquet and awards ceremony on the eve of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, where the organization was founded 75 years ago.

The 2010 DWAA Hall of Fame inductees are Lorenz "Don" Arner and Robert Self, Sr.



*Past President Ranny Green and 2008  
Hall of Fame Inductee Tom O'Shea.*

(PHOTO BY MARY BLOOM)



**Lorenz "Don" Arner** of Portland, Ore., founded Off-Lead, an award-winning monthly publication about dog training. Co-founder of Adirondack Search and Rescue Association, he was active in the American Rescue Dog Association and the International Federation of Rescue Dog Associations. Mr. Arner was a director of the German Shepherd Dog Club and its Working Dog Association, and a charter member of the American Boarding Kennel Association. A DWAA member since 1974, he developed prototype programs in the use of dogs for detection of pollutants.



**Robert Self, Sr. of Galesburg, Ill.,** founded Front and Finish, the first newspaper devoted solely to companion- and performance-dog sports, in 1971. A longtime AKC Obedience judge, he has served on numerous American Kennel Club Obedience Advisory Committees, and is the author of such books as the "Dogs Self Trained" series and "Puppy Manners." As a seminar instructor, he has inspired widespread devotion for Obedience as a sport.





## 2009 DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA *WRITING COMPETITION* CATEGORY NOMINEES

*Chicagoan Steve Dale will for the third time emcee the DWAA annual banquet. Recently he was presented the President's Service Award by the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association. He is now working on an initiative with Chicago Blackbarok charities to promote pet adoption. Steve just renewed his syndicated column with Tribune Media Services.*

### NEWSPAPERS

#### 1. Newspaper: feature or news story

- ✦ Karen Petit, "Columbia Dog Lovers Get a Bite of the Big Time" (*Columbus Star*, 2/20/09)
- ✦ Fran Pennock Shaw, "Heartworm Disease" (*Sunday News/Lancaster Newspapers*, 5/31/09)
- ✦ Joan Hustace Walker, "A Decade in the Making" (*Daily Press*, 2/15/09)

#### 2. Newspaper: column

- ✦ Maryanne Dell, "Pets" (*Orange County Register*)
- ✦ Sarah A. Ferrell, "Devoted To Dogs" (*The Free Lance-Star*)
- ✦ Sue Owens Wright, "Pets and Their People" (*Inside Publications*)

Deborah Wood, "Pet Talk" (*The Oregonian*)

#### 3. Newspaper: editorial/opinion/essay

- ✦ Joanne Anderson, "Heartworm Pills Save Money & Lives" (*Babylon Beacon*, 5/27/09)
- ✦ Monica Collins, "South Boston Is Going to the Dogs" (*Boston Globe*, 5/14/09)
- ✦ Marty Van Duyn, "My Four-Pawed Angel" (*Stafford County Sun*, 11/21/09)

### MAGAZINES

#### 1. Magazine: all-breed

- ✦ AKC Family Dog
- ✦ AKC Gazette
- ✦ Dog Fancy

#### 2. Magazine: single breed

- ✦ French Bullytin
- ✦ Ridgeback Register
- ✦ Celebrating Greyhounds

#### 3. Magazine: special interest dog or all animal magazine

- ✦ Clean Run
- ✦ DogSport
- ✦ MetroPet
- ✦ Off Lead & Animal Behavior
- ✦ Therapy Dogs, Inc.

#### 4. Magazine: yearbook/annual/special edition

- ✦ Puppies USA 2010 Annual (BowTie)
- ✦ Puppy Care Basics (BowTie)
- ✦ Labrador Retriever Puppies (BowTie)
- ✦ Puppy Training Basics (BowTie)

#### 5. Magazine: feature in all-breed magazine

- ✦ Mara Bovsun, "A Specialist's Touch" (*AKC Gazette*, March 2009)
- ✦ Natalie Ann Comeau, "CAT and Dogs" (*Dogs In Canada*, March 2009)
- ✦ Col. David Hancock, M.B.E., "Perpetuating Type" (*Dogs In Canada*, Oct 2008)
- ✦ Nancy Kay, D.V.M., "The 10 Commandments of Veterinary Office Visits" (*Bark*, Sept/Oct 2008)
- ✦ Susan McCullough, "Picking the Lock" (*AKC Gazette*, Sept 2008)
- ✦ Magda Omansky, "On the Scent of A Killer" (*AKC Gazette*, Dec 2008)
- ✦ Meredith Wargo, "Making Adjustments" (*Dog World*, May 2009)

#### 6. Magazine: feature in single breed magazine

- ✦ Tracie Laliberte-Bailey, "Your CKCS May Be Good Therapy for Others" (*The Royal Dispatch*, Winter 2009)
- ✦ Suzanne McKay, "Health Testing: At What

# ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

2009 DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY NOMINEES

Cost?" (*Our Havanese*, Nov/Dec 2008)

✦ Lisa Ricciotti, "Exposed"  
(*The French Bulldog*, Sept 2008)

### 7. Magazine: feature in special interest magazine

✦ Denise Flaim, "Standard Bearer: Crafting the  
Dogue De Bordeaux Standard"

(*Modern Molosser*, June 2009)  
✦ Denise Flaim, "Window to the Womb"  
(*Modern Molosser*, June 2009)

✦ Julie Hill, "Donna Rock" (*Front & Finish*, May/  
June 2009)

✦ Lisa Marzban, "The Story of Willow, the Last  
Surviving Canine Hero of 9/11"  
(*DogSport*, May/June 2009)

✦ James B. Spencer, "The Ideal Golden  
Retriever" (*Gun Dog*, June/July 2009)

### 8. Magazine: feature in all animal or general interest magazine

✦ Jean M. Fogle, "Gardener's Best Friend"  
(*Hobby Farm and Home*, May/June 2009)

✦ James Hettinger, "The End of the Chain?"  
(*Animal Sheltering*, Jan/Feb 2009)

✦ Debra White, "Vick Dogs—One Year Later"  
(*Pet Planet*, Spring 2009)

### 9. Magazine: feature in yearbook, annual, or special edition

✦ Caroline Coile, "Socializing Sausages"  
(*Popular Dogs: Dachshunds*, BowTie)

✦ Rhonda Hovan, "Understanding Canine  
Cancer" (*CCAH Update*, UC Davis School of  
Veterinary Medicine)

✦ Diana Laverdure, "Hold That Needle"  
(*Natural Dog*, BowTie)

✦ Nikki Moustaki, "Postcards from Paris"  
(*Puppies USA*, BowTie)

### 10. Magazine: article breed profile in any magazine

✦ Susan McCullough, "Peak Performance: ✦  
Pyrenean Shepherd" (*AKC Gazette*, Sept. 2008)

✦ Susan McCullough, "The Dachsie Disposition"  
(*Popular Dogs: Dachshunds*, BowTie)

✦ Susan McCullough, "A Bold and Valiant Figure:  
Giant Schnauzer" (*AKC Gazette*, Nov 2008)

### 11. Magazine: article on training and/or behavior in any magazine

✦ Mara Bovsun, "Canine Cowardly Lions"  
(*AKC Family Dog*, Jan/Feb 2009)

✦ Pia Silvani, "Reinforcing Fear: Why the Debate?"

(*APDT Chronicle of the Dog*, May/June 2009)

✦ Barbara Wicklund, "When A Dog Goes  
Blind" (*AKC Family Dog*, May/June 2009)

✦ Gary Wilkes, "The Rules of the Pack and  
Other Tales" (*Off Lead & Animal Behavior*,  
Winter 2008)

### 12. Magazine: column

✦ Bud Boccone, "The ACE Files" (*AKC Family Dog*)

✦ Caroline Coile, "Nutrition" (*AKC Gazette*)

✦ Lisa Curry, Esq., "Laws & Paws" (*Dogs In Review*)

✦ Deborah Schildkraut, Ph.D., "Casa Canine"  
(*PETroglyphs*)

✦ James B. Spencer, "Retrieve" (*Gun Dog*)

### 13. Magazine: subject related series

✦ Ria Hörter, "Masterminds" (*Dogs In Canada*)

✦ Susan Smith, "A Learning Theory Primer"  
(*APDT Chronicle of the Dog*)

✦ Risè Van Fleet, "Engaging Owners Fully in Dog  
Training" (*APDT Chronicle of the Dog*)

### 14. Magazine: opinion/essay/editorial

✦ Alison Hughes, "Barks: The Brains of the  
Operation" (*Dogs in Canada*, Feb 2009)

✦ Lisa Price, "Throwing the Ball"  
(*Dogs In Canada*, Nov 2008)

✦ Kimberly Sisak, "One Special Girl"  
(*AKC Family Dog*, March/April 2009)

✦ Rebecca Wallwork, "Remembering Trixie"  
(*AKC Gazette*, Sept 2008)

## CANINE OR ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPERS OR NEWSLETTERS

### 1. Canine newspaper or newsletter

✦ *Heartline*, Sacramento SPCA

✦ *Downeast Dog News*, Downeast Dog News, LLC

✦ *Your Dog*, Tufts University

### 2. Canine newspaper or newsletter: feature article on health and/or care

✦ Lisa T. Jung, "Rabies Challenge Fund Fuels  
Studies" (*Downeast Dog News*, June 2009)

✦ Joan Hustace Walker, "No Buddy Left Behind:  
Operation Baghdad Pups" (*DogWatch*, Jan 2009)

### 3. Canine newspaper or newsletter: feature on all other topics

✦ Lisa T. Jung, "Beneficial Bonds"

(*Downeast Dog News*, Nov 2008)

✦ Lisa T. Jung, "Grace & Grit"

(*Downeast Dog News*, March 2009)

✦ Joan Hustace Walker, "Foreclosure: The  
Untold Story" (*DogWatch*, April 2009)

Jacque Lynn Schultz, MA,  
CPDT-KA (2008 winner  
for article on training and/or  
behavior in any magazine) and  
President Carmen Battaglia,  
PhD. (PHOTO BY MARY BLOOM)



## INTERNET/WEBSITES/BLOGS

### 1. Website: entire website

✦ DogNewsIsGoodNews.com, Holly Sherburne,  
editor (*Downeast Dog News*)

✦ PetCareNaturally.com, Shawn Messonnier, editor

✦ DogChannel.com, Susan Chaney, editor  
(Bowtie)

✦ DogsInCanada.com, Kelly Caldwell, editor  
(*Dogs In Canada*)

### 2. Website: feature article

✦ Nini Bloch, "Gone From Competition But Not  
Forgotten: Buddy's Run" ([usdaa.com](http://usdaa.com) 5/05/09)

✦ Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Westminster is For  
Everyone" ([purebreddogwriters.com/feature\\_](http://purebreddogwriters.com/feature_articles)  
[articles](http://purebreddogwriters.com/feature_articles))

✦ Lisa Wade McCormick, "More Pets Turned  
Over to Shelters in Ailing Economy"

([consumeraffairs.com](http://consumeraffairs.com), Oct 2008)  
✦ Sandy Robins, "What Makes an Airline  
'Pet Friendly'?" ([msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com), June 2009)

### 3. Website: regular column

✦ Tracie Laliberte-Bailey, "Dog Pawse"  
([thesunchronicle.com](http://thesunchronicle.com))

✦ Allan Reznik, "Ask the Dog Show Expert"  
([dogchannel.com](http://dogchannel.com))

✦ Kim Thornton, "Creature Comforts" ([msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com))

### 4. Online magazine, newsletter, or publication

✦ Arden Moore Knows Pets ([ardenmoore.com/](http://ardenmoore.com/newsletters/e-newsletters.html)  
[newsletters/e-newsletters.html](http://ardenmoore.com/newsletters/e-newsletters.html))

✦ North Texas Golden  
([goldenretrievers.org/newsletter](http://goldenretrievers.org/newsletter))

✦ The Ridgeback Register ([theridgebackregister.](http://theridgebackregister.com/freenewsletter.html)  
[com/freenewsletter.html](http://theridgebackregister.com/freenewsletter.html))

### 5. Blog: single blog

✦ Suzanne M. Law, "Choose to Heal"  
([sympawtico.blogspot.com](http://sympawtico.blogspot.com), 9/21/08)

✦ Liz Palika, "Old Dogs Are a Treasure"  
([petconnection.com](http://petconnection.com), 5/31/09)

✦ Allan Reznik, "The Best Surprise Is  
No Surprise" ([dogchannel.com](http://dogchannel.com) 1/16/09)

### 6. Blogs: regular blogs

✦ Nancy Kay, D.V.M., "Speaking for Spot"  
([speakingforspot.com/blog](http://speakingforspot.com/blog))

✦ Liz Palika, "The Making of a Therapy Dog"  
([petconnection.com](http://petconnection.com))

✦ Allan Reznik, "The Dog Insider Blog"  
([dogchannel.com](http://dogchannel.com))

# ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

2009 DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY NOMINEES

Arlene Klein and Matthew  
Schenker (2008 winner of  
Morris Animal Foundation  
Advances in Canine  
Veterinary Medicine Award).  
(PHOTO BY MARY BLOOM)



### GRAPHICS

#### 1. Photography: color

- ✦ Mary Fish Arango, Bloodhound Puppies (Puppy Love by Liz Palika, Howell/Wiley)
- ✦ Suzanne Bird, Standard Poodle cover (Dogs In Canada, Feb 2009)
- ✦ Gary Ellis, Saluki cover, (Saluki Sightings, Spring/Summer 2009)
- ✦ Kimberly Kuhlman, English Springer Spaniel (AKC Gazette, Sept 2008)
- ✦ Tracy Libby, Sugar and Cheddar (Dogs & Cats Calendar 2010, Browntrout Publishing)

#### 2. Photography: black and white

- ✦ Karen Martinac, Sassy Summer Lassies (The Corgi Cryer, Summer 2009)
- ✦ Suzanne McKay, Birthday Wish (Hav News and Views, Summer 2009)
- ✦ Claire Podlaseck, English Cocker Spaniel (AKC Gazette, May 2009)

#### 3. Photography: series

- ✦ Frank Bruynbroek, "Beauty in the Abandoned" (Dog Fancy, March 2009)
- ✦ Chet Jezierski, "A Beagle Called Uno" (Dog News, 2/06/09)
- ✦ Chet Jezierski, "Stump Takes Manhattan" (Dog News, 2/27/09)

#### ✦ Dean Palmer, "The Basics"

(Dogs In Canada Annual)

#### 4. Illustration or Painting

- ✦ Rob Carter, "Convenience Euthanasia" (Dogs In Canada, April 2009)
- ✦ Stanislaw Kodman, "Healing Water" (AKC Family Dog, July/Aug 2009)
- ✦ Becca Williams, Diagrams pages 6-7 (French Bulldogs: The Basic Course, French Bulldog Club of America)

#### 5. Illustration: series

- ✦ Bud Boccone, "Dog People" (AKC Gazette)
- ✦ Sylvia Nickerson, "By Our Side" (Dogs In Canada Annual)
- ✦ Wendy Wahman, "Case Study" (AKC Family Dog)

#### 6. Poster, Calendar or Special Publication

- ✦ Judy Leathers, Kathryn George, Kristina T. Marshall, Sincerely Your Friend, Albert Payson Terhune
- ✦ Kent Dannen, Puppies 2010 Weekly Calendar (Browntrout Publishing)

- ✦ Geanine Walker-Keith, A Tribute to Glen Twiford, Collie Club of America
- ✦ Cynthia Moorhead, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America 2009 Calendar
- ✦ Bernd Guenter, Bernese Mountain Dog 2010 Calendar (Petprints, Inc.)

#### 7. Brochure, Pamphlet,

##### Short Special Publication

- ✦ French Bulldogs: The Basic Course (French Bulldog Club of America)
- ✦ Patricia S. Johnson, Prepared Pets In a Disaster (Chatham County Health Department)
- ✦ Denise Flaim, Modern Molosser brochure (Modern Molosser)

### HUMOR/POETRY/FICTION

#### 1. Humorous art

- ✦ Verne K. Foster, Dinghy and Friends (The Courier)
- ✦ James Grebe, French Bulldogs: The Basic Course (booklet cartoons)
- ✦ Thomas Kimball, "The View From Planet Chihuahua" (Chihuahua Puppies, BowTie, Inc.)
- ✦ Thomas Kimball, "Yikes! Yorkies!" (Yorkshire Terriers, BowTie, Inc.)
- ✦ Wes Tyrell, "Dear Santa..." (Dogs In Canada, Dec 2008)

#### 2. Humorous writing

- ✦ Peter Gerstenzang, "Catch That Dog!" (Dog Fancy, Jan 2009)
- ✦ Diane Morgan, "Yikes! Yorkies!" (Yorkshire Terriers, BowTie, Inc.)
- ✦ Diane Morgan, "The View From Planet Chihuahua" (Chihuahua Puppies, BowTie, Inc.)
- ✦ Dianne Tyree, "Never Leave Home Without It" (AKC Gazette, June 2009)

#### 3. Poetry

- ✦ Lesléa Newman, "Mon Ami" (Nobody's Mother, Orchard House Press)
- ✦ Teri Wilson, "Poem For a Lost Dog" (Celebrating Our Relationship with Our Dogs, New World Library)
- ✦ Teri Wilson, "Beach Dog" (The Spaniel Diaries, spanieldiaries.blogspot.com)

#### 4. Fiction: short

- ✦ Kirsten Marek, D.V.M., "Healing Water" (AKC Family Dog, July/Aug 2009)
- ✦ Teri Wilson, "Chihuahuas Are Better Than Facelifts, Part 7: Prada Sees Stars"

(chihuahuaconnection.com, Jan/Feb 2009)

- ✦ Teri Wilson, "Chihuahuas Are Better Than Facelifts, Part 9: Prada Uncaged" (chihuahuaconnection.com, May/June 2009)

### OTHER MEDIA

#### 1. Videotape/CD/DVD

- ✦ Clarissa and George Bergeman, Ready to Rally!
- ✦ Pamela Dennison, Training the Whistle Recall
- ✦ Sue Sternberg, Mexico City Dogs of the Dump

#### 2. Broadcast

- ✦ Monica Collins, "Ask Dog Lady" (WCAP 980 AM)
- ✦ Nancy Kay, D.V.M., "Speaking for Spot" (National Public Radio)
- ✦ Deborah Wolfe, "Dog Talk with Guest Darlene Arden" (Progressive Radio Network)

#### 3. Podcast

- ✦ Arden Moore, "Oh Behave: Baxter" (Pet Life Radio)
- ✦ Arden Moore, "Oh Behave: Interview with Betty White" (Pet Life Radio)
- ✦ Deborah Wolfe, "Animal Party: Brainy Breeds with Dr. Stanley Coren" (Pet Life Radio)

### CLUB PUBLICATIONS NATIONAL

#### 1. Club: magazine format

- Glen Radcliffe, Editor, The Saint Fancier (Saint Bernard Club of America)
- ✦ Terry Cardillino, Editor, The Courier (Portuguese Water Dog Club of America)
- ✦ Sandi Lyon, Editor, Dirty Beards (American Bouvier des Flandres Club)

#### 2. Club: newsletter format

- ✦ Lyn W. Bingham, Editor, Komondor Komments (Komondor Club of America)
- ✦ Mark Wambach, Editor, The Lakelander (United States Lakeland Terrier Club)
- ✦ Carol Rauch, Editor, NAWBA Journal (North American Working Bouvier Association)
- ✦ Sheryl Bartel, Editor, The Newsletter (Greyhound Club of America)

#### 3. Club: feature article

- ✦ Stephen Humphrey, "A Few Thoughts About Dogs and Mortality" (Gordon Setter News, May 2009)
- ✦ Peggy Swager, "Shy or Abused?" (True Grit, Jack Russell Terrier Club of America, Sept/Oct 2008)



# ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

Elaine Gewirtz (winner of  
the 2008 Wiley/Howell Show  
Reporting Award) with award  
check and Tiffany gift.

(PHOTO BY MARY BLOOM)



## 2009 DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

### WRITING COMPETITION CATEGORY NOMINEES

Peggy Swager, "A Matter of Misunderstanding"  
(*True Grit*, Jack Russell Terrier Club of America,  
Vol. 2, 2009)

✦ Scott Thomsen, "Your First Litter" (*The Newsletter*:  
Greyhound Club of America, Spring 2009)

#### 4. Club: editorial/opinion/essay

✦ Frank Cardillino, "Boarding the Boat"  
(*The Courier*, Portuguese Water Dog Club of  
America, Jan/Feb 2009)

✦ Sheila Dolan, "From the Editor"  
(*The Australian Shepherd Journal*, United States  
Australian Shepherd Association, Sept 2008)

✦ Anne Jones, "Training for the Triathlon"  
(*The Ridgeback*, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of  
the United States, Jan 2009)

✦ Mike Teeling, "In Memory of George Sexton"  
(*The Ridgeback*, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of  
the United States, Jan 2009)

#### 5. Club: regular column

✦ Tracey Brant, "Consider It" (*The SENNtinel*,  
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America )

✦ Laurie Coger, D.V.M., "Vet Issues"  
(*The Australian Shepherd Journal*, United States  
Australian Shepherd Association)

✦ Ann Hershey, "Tracking Field Notes" (*Aussie  
Times*, Australian Shepherd Club of America)

✦ Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Just So" (*Aussie Times*,  
Australian Shepherd Club of America)

#### 6. Club: subject related series

✦ Terry Cardillino, "We've Not Only Helped  
Our Own Dogs, We've Helped All Dogs" (*The  
Courier*, Portuguese Water Dog Club of America)

✦ Kate Eldredge, "Rally" (*The Australian Shepherd  
Journal*, United States Australian Shepherd  
Association)

✦ Nancy Kay, D.V.M., "Canine Patient  
Advocacy: Medical Decisions" (*The Alpenhorn*,  
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America)

### CLUB PUBLICATIONS REGIONAL OR LOCAL

1-2. Club: magazine or newsletter  
format (Categories combined due to the  
low entries)

✦ Enid S. Lagree, Editor, *Giant Hotline*  
(South Central Giant Schnauzer Club)

✦ Cindy, Read, Editor, *The Corgi Cryer*  
(Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club)

✦ Carolyn Grande, Editor, *The Scottie Scuttlebutt*

(Rocky Mountain Scottish Terrier Club)

✦ Kitty G. Jones, Editor, *West LA News* (West  
Los Angeles Obedience Training Club)

### CLUB FEATURE ARTICLE

✦ Nancy Boyd, "Handling in the Group Ring"  
(*The Corgi Cryer*, Mayflower Pembroke Welsh  
Corgi Club, Summer 2009)

✦ Judy Braginsky, "Best of Breed"  
(*Tales of Lincolnwood*, Lincolnwood Training Club  
for German Shepherd Dogs, Aug/Sept 2009)

✦ Deborah Harper, "Selecting a Second  
'Cousin'" (*The Corgi Cryer*, Mayflower Pembroke  
Welsh Corgi Club, Spring 2009)

✦ Judith Lewis, "Baby Got Spayed"  
(*West LA News*, West Los Angeles Obedience  
Training Club, May 2009)

#### 4. Club: editorial/opinion/essay

✦ Casey Cantrell, "President's Message"  
(*West LA News*, West Los Angeles Obedience  
Training Club, June 2009)

✦ Nancy Lippman, "Remembering Raven"  
(*West LA News*, West Los Angeles Obedience  
Training Club, Sept 2008)

✦ Jo Unbehaun, "The Positive Approach"  
(*The Dawg Scoop*, Dallas Agility Working Group,  
March 2009)

#### 5. Club: regular column/subject related series (Combined due to limited entries)

✦ Deb M. Eldredge, D.V.M., and Deb DeVona,  
"Herd, Seen, Go Find, Over and Finish" (*The Corgi  
Cryer*, Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club)

✦ Diana Kerew-Shaw, "Obedience News" (*West  
LA News*, West Los Angeles Obedience Training  
Club)

✦ Florence Scarinci, "Doggone Good Books"  
(*The Corgi Cryer*, Mayflower Pembroke Welsh  
Corgi Club)

### BOOKS

#### 1. Book: single breed

✦ Brian Patrick Duggan, *Saluki: The Desert Hound  
and the English Travelers Who Brought It to the  
West* (McFarland & Co.)

✦ Patricia F. Lehman, *The Miniature Pinscher: King  
of Toys* (PFL Publications)

✦ Susan Payne, *The Chihuahua* (BowTie Press)

✦ Joan Hustace Walker, *Barron's Dog Bibles:  
Labrador Retrievers* (Barrons)

#### 2. Book: general interest

✦ Darlene C. Niemeyer, *Doggy Business 101*  
(TFH Publications)

✦ Liz Palika, *Puppy Love* (Howell/Wiley)

✦ Robert Rodi, *Dogged Pursuit*  
(Hudson Street Press)

✦ Jeff Schettler, *Red Dog Rising*  
(Alpine Publications)

#### 3. Book: general reference

No entries

#### 4. Book: care and health

Sasha and Ashley Foster, *The Healthy Way to  
Stretch Your Dog* (Dogwise Publishing)

Nancy Kay, D.V.M., *Speaking for Spot*  
(Trafalgar Square Books)

Suzanne McKay & Noel Hynds, *From Nose to Tail*  
(Art Book Bindery)

#### 5. Book: training and behavior

✦ Gail Fisher, *The Thinking Dog: Crossover to  
Clicker Training* (Dogwise Publishing)

✦ Karen Pryor, *Reaching the Animal Mind*  
(Scribner/Simon & Schuster)

✦ Mary Ray, *Click & Train Your Dog* (TFH  
Publications, Inc.)

✦ Victoria Schade, *Bonding with Your Dog*  
(Wiley/Howell)

#### 6. Book: fiction

✦ Doranna Durgin, *Scent of Danger*  
(Worldwide Mystery/Five Star)

✦ Christy Tillery French, *Chasing Secrets*  
(L & L Dreamspell)

✦ Alison Pace, *City Dog* (Berkley/Penguin)

#### 7. Book: humor

No entries

#### 8. Book: children

✦ Kate Eldredge and Jacque Schultz, CPDT,  
*ASPCA Kids: Amazing Pet Tricks* (Wiley/Howell)

✦ Nancy Furstinger and Dr. Sheryl L. Pipe,  
*ASPCA Kids: Kids Making a Difference For Animals*  
(Wiley/Howell)

✦ Liz Palika, and Dr. Katherine Miller, *ASPCA  
KIDS: Animals At Work* (Wiley/Howell)

#### 9. Book: self published or print on demand

✦ Catherine Conheim, *Dollydog's Kibble for  
Thought—A Feelings Workbook*

✦ Gayle Kaye, *The Collie In America*

✦ Pamela Bauer Mueller, *Aloha Crossing*

✦ Zoistory/Joy E. Windle, *Forever Borzoi:  
More Tales of Adventure*



# ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

2009 DOG WRITERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## WRITING COMPETITION SPECIAL AWARD NOMINEES



*Rise Van Fleet, winner of the 2008  
Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak.  
Act. Canine Service Award.*  
(PHOTO BY MARTY VAN DUYN)

### AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award

- ✦ Patti Lawson, "In Case of Fire, Don't Forget the Dog" (*DogSport*, May/June 2009)
- ✦ Debbie Swanson, "Stolen!" (*Dog World*, Feb 2009)
- ✦ Joan Hustace Walker, "Foreclosure: The Untold Story" (*DogWatch*, April 2009)

### AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

- ✦ Terry Cardillino, "We've Not Only Helped Our Own Dogs, We've Helped All Dogs" (*The Courier*, Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, May/June 2009)
- ✦ Stephen Humphrey, "A Few Thoughts About Dogs and Mortality" (*Gordon Setter News*, Gordon Setter Club of America, May 2009)

### The Bob Cole Award for Educational Writing

- ✦ Chuck Bessant, "Australian Terrier: An Agile Dog in a Sturdy Body" (*Terrier Type*, May/June 2009)
- ✦ Alice Bixler, "The American Pit Bull Terrier" (*Dog World*, Jan 2009)
- ✦ Col. David Hancock, M.B. E., "Perpetuating Type" (*Dogs In Canada*, Oct 2008)

### DWAA Junior Writer Award

- ✦ Annika Dechert, "Ridgebacks" (*The Ridgeback*, June 2009)
- ✦ Evelyn Pang and Hilary Louie, *Good Dog! Kids Teach Kids About Behavior and Training* (Dogwise)

### Eukanuba Canine Health Award

- Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz with Jordan Herod Nuccio, D.V.M., C.V.A., *The Everything Natural Health for Dogs Book* (AdamsMedia)
- ✦ Nancy Kay, D.V.M., *Speaking For Spot* (Trafalgar Square Books)
- ✦ Deva Khalsa, V.M.D., *Natural Dog, A Holistic Guide for Healthier Dogs* (BowTie)

### Merial Human-Animal Bond Award

- ✦ Mary A. Shafer, editor, *Almost Perfect: Disabled Pets and the People Who Love Them* (Word Forge Books)
- ✦ *Therapy Dogs Incorporated* Newsmagazine (Therapy Dogs Inc.)
- ✦ Joan Hustace Walker, "No Buddy Left Behind: Operation Baghdad Pups" (*DogWatch*, Jan 2009)

### Morris Animal Foundation Advances in Canine Veterinary Medicine Award

- ✦ Denise Flaim, "Degenerative Myelopathy" (*Ridgeback Register*, June 2009)
- ✦ Fran Pennock Shaw, "Research Tracks a Deadly Cancer" (*Your Dog*, Tufts University, Jan 2009)
- ✦ Deborah Wood, "Wanted: Spay/Neuter Alternatives for Dogs, Cats" (*The Oregonian*, 9/30/08)

### North Shore Animal League America Award

- ✦ Eve Adamson, "Altered States" (chapter excerpt from *Pets Gone Green*, BowTie)
- ✦ Natalie Ann Comeau, "Northern Exposure" (*Dogs In Canada Annual*, 2009)
- ✦ Deborah Wood, "Wanted: Spay/Neuter Alternatives for Dogs, Cats" (*The Oregonian*, 9/30/08)

### PSI First-Canine Award

- ✦ Peter Gerstenzang, "Catch That Dog!" (*Dog Fancy*, Jan 2009)
- ✦ Elizabeth M. Jarrell, "Mr. Oliver Gets Distracted" (*Off Lead & Animal Behavior*, Summer 2009)
- ✦ Diane Morgan, "Yikes! Yorkies!" (*Yorkshire Terriers*, BowTie)

### Planet Dog Foundation Sit. Speak. Act. Canine Service Award

- ✦ Natalie Ann Comeau, "Canines Helping People COPE" (*Dogs In Canada*, May 2009)
- ✦ Liz Palika & Dr. Katherine Miller, *Animals At Work* (Howell/Wiley)
- ✦ Jeff Shettler, *Red Dog Rising* (Alpine Publications)

### WCFO Excellence in Canine Freestyle Media Award

- ✦ Sandra J. Murphy, "Shall We Dance?" (*Animal Wellness*, July 2009)
- ✦ Christy Powers, "Michele Pouliot and Canine Musical Freestyle, A Perfect Match" (*Dogsport*, May/June 2009)
- ✦ Daphna Straus, "May I Have This Dance?" (*The Corgi Cryer*, Summer 2009)

### Westminster Kennel Club Angel on a Leash Award

- ✦ Lorraine Houston, "Love is Blind" (*Dogs, Dogs, Dogs!* Dec 08/Jan 09)
- ✦ Paul Glassner, "Love to Share" (*Our Animals*, San Francisco ASPCA, Spring 2009)

## BEHIND THE SCENES

# WORKING ON THE *WESTMINSTER* *BROADCAST*

By SHARON SAKSON

**O**n the way in to Madison Square Garden, the Westminster exhibitors pass a number of trailers, the kind of temporary shelter used at construction sites. Those shabby, windowless trailers house the guts of a television control room.

The director is Jeff Simon, a veteran director of NFL, NHL, NBA, MLB, and even more challenging, Olympic games of beach volleyball, freestyle skiing, and snowboarding. The producer, Billy Matthews, does action sports such as snowboarding, skateboarding, Olympic gymnastics, and cross country skiing.

My main job is to collect information about the breed winners for David Frei to use during the broadcast. With any live broadcast, there are always glitches you have to work out quickly. A live broadcast is a living, breathing thing. It rumbles along. You can make wonderful plans and write a wonderful script, but if it wants to lurch off the path, it does. If Bill Cosby is waving to the crowd; if the Shih Tzu is barking at the Yorkie; if a spectator is holding up a sign that says "You Go, Bubby," if anything interesting is happening, the broadcast follows that event. That's the way it goes.

My volunteers and I do our best to track down all the Best of Breed winners. But we can't always find them. We try to get in all the cards by five p.m., then leave a note on the Broadcast Desk saying exhibitors have to bring cards up to the Press Room. The hike to the Press Room takes about two days and weaves a path slightly south of Maine.

On Westminster's second day, I raced up the metal steps and flung open the metal door of the trailer/control room. Inside is a heavily soundproofed technical world. Production assistant Lena Glaser was wired to a computer near the door, busily taking messages and dispatching couriers.

"Where's the chyron operator?" I asked her.

Lena put her hand over her headset microphone and smiled. "Third station in the next room!" She pointed to a lean, worried-looking young guy named Dave Cook.

Television stations live and die on the efficiency of their production assistants. They are young people, often just out of college or film school. In these jobs, they are handed an awesome amount of responsibility, a low salary and impossible demands. They hold these jobs until they are about 27, at which point they are promoted to producer and immediately turn around and torture a new generation of production assistants with impossible demands.

Dave Cook had just learned how to read the dog show catalog, a document almost indecipherable to anyone but nutty dog show people. He was copying out the hometowns of breed winners. This was not going well because I'd hand David notes and he'd say, "This is the Kerry Blue Terrier, Winston, from Alameda, California." At the same time, I'd look at the TV screen and see, "Ch. Kerry Blue Winston, San Francisco, CA."

While Alameda and San Francisco are close, it's confusing for a viewer at home to hear one thing and see something different. So I was trying

to get what was written on the screen to match what David was saying. I had copied out all the hometowns onto a list.

I saw a haze over Dave's eyes as he tried to listen. It was very similar to how my Whippet, Scout, looks when I tell him to strike a show pose and he spots a squirrel instead.

So when I finished explaining, I said, "Dave, listen!"

His eyes whipped up to my face, just the way Scout's do.

In my best dog training voice, I said, "These are the dogs' hometowns."

He nodded, but usually when I am giving directions, I am holding a motivating piece of liver. My fingers twitched. No liver. "I need to explain something to you."

Dave Cook nodded and focused, just like Scout does. I ran through the instructions a second time. A light bulb switched on behind his eyes. Scout does that, too.

Jeff the director was saying, "And then I want a *great big swooping shot* that brings the audience right down to the dogs' level!" He swooped with his arms to demonstrate. A camera operator ran a practice shot several times up and down the Garden floor.

Last year, the co-host was Mary Carillo, a tennis superstar who is one of NBC's aces at color broadcast. She had done her homework and knew a bit about dog shows and breeds. She was not afraid to ask questions. Before the program, she asked me, "What is 'type'?"

"The collection of specific traits that make a breed unique."

She nodded. "That's what I thought. Thank you."

We loved when the Chinese Crested appeared on screen and Mary gasped at his strange appearance. That gave David a chance to explain Chinese Cresteds to viewers at home. Mary's next great line was when the Portuguese Water Dog appeared, groomed in the classic waterdog style with abundant coat over the chest and none over the hips. Mary said, "That dog looks like the groomer went to answer the door and never came back!" We were rolling in the broadcast booth over that one.

Here's one of the best things about working on the broadcast: listening to the millions of relevant facts already stored in David Frei's brain. David is just so great at pointing out to the public what makes the world of purebred dogs so interesting and worthwhile.

When the Sussex Spaniel won Best in Show, David said, "Stump is now America's number one dog and he's *ten years old*. He represents our dogs at their best, a healthy and fit senior citizen." Then he helped arrange for Stump to appear on the cover of AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons. "There's a purebred dog for everybody," David told the reporters in the Press Room. "And now there's one for senior citizens."

On to Westminster 2010.

*Sharon Sakson is a journalist, Whippet breeder, internationally well-known dog show judge, and author of Paws & Effect: The Healing Power of Dogs (Random House, 2009).*



*Pressroom at the  
Madison Square Garden.  
(PHOTO BY MARTY VAN DUYN)*

# PAYMENT OF DUES, \$40

Dues payments should be  
received by March 1st.  
The DWAA yearly calendar runs from  
March 1, 2010–February 28, 2011.

Please fill out the required fields below, cut along the dotted line  
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## WELCOME

# INVITATION TO BECOME A MEMBER

**D**WAA is the oldest writing association devoted to dogs. It was organized in February 1935 by journalists attending the Westminster Kennel Club dog show for the purpose of setting the highest possible standards in pursuing their craft. DWAA's relationship with Westminster has continued over the years, with its annual awards banquet still held on the eve of the Westminster show in New York City every February.

The DWAA mission has expanded over the years to encompass all aspects of the world of dogs—showing, performance, behavior, training, health, and the human animal bond—as well as many kinds of media besides journalism. Artists and photographers have joined our ranks and we include mystery and fiction writers, poets, historians and veterinarians. Some members host national radio shows and others appear on TV programs. Blogging, website production, social networking, and videography are among the professional activities of other members.

As a new member, you will have access to more than 400 active members who, through our newsletter "Ruff Drafts," email list and forums, can offer advice on publishers and self-publishing sites, fees to charge and terms to ask for, share ideas for articles, suggest sources and interview subjects and otherwise support you as you advance your career. News about seminars, book signings, and other events are posted. DWAA's combined membership reaches millions of readers, listeners, and viewers. We offer professional and collegial assistance to newcomers and veterans alike.

There are committees for you to join. All members are welcome to assist in running the association and helping with the tasks that make DWAA the best organization dedicated to the genre of pet writing. Serving on a committee is the single best way to gain maximum benefit from your membership.

DWAA sponsors an annual writing contest for works published or broadcast the previous year. Entries are drawn from all over the globe. Winners of the various categories are announced at the annual banquet in New York City in February, and a number of cash prizes are awarded (see [www.dwaa.org](http://www.dwaa.org) for information about past contests). As a member attending the banquet, you will have access to editors, publishers, and writers for many of the top dog-related magazines and newspapers in the United States, Canada and abroad.

We look forward to receiving your application. Remember to contact any member of the Membership Committee for help completing the application. We are here to welcome you.

Warm Regards,  
Membership Committee

**Marsha Pugh, CHAIR**  
**Bryna Comsky**  
**Sue Ewing**  
**Patricia Kelly**  
**Marion Lane**

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## APPLICATION



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



The Dog Writers Association of America is a professional organization for writers, photographers, illustrators and others involved in creative endeavors that promote the interests of dogs. Members share ideas as well as creative and professional techniques. The organization also sponsors an annual contest. Please complete all 10 steps of the application.

## I. PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Website \_\_\_\_\_  
Personal or Other Website \_\_\_\_\_  
Blog, Podcast, Radio, TV or \_\_\_\_\_ :

## II. ARE YOU A (CHECK WHERE APPROPRIATE):

\_\_\_ Writer \_\_\_ Journalist \_\_\_ Editor \_\_\_ Publisher \_\_\_ Artist  
\_\_\_ Broadcaster \_\_\_ Photographer \_\_\_ Website Designer/manager  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

## III. ARE YOU APPLYING FOR:

\_\_\_ Professional Membership (you are paid for your work)  
\_\_\_ Associate Membership (you are not paid for your work)

## IV. PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- Is your work  
\_\_\_ Primarily about dogs? \_\_\_ Occasionally about dogs? \_\_\_  
Or \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you work on a freelance basis or do you work for a company or organization? If so, what is the name of the company or organization? \_\_\_\_\_
- How often is your work published? \_\_\_\_\_
- How long have you been doing this work? \_\_\_\_\_
- What other work about dogs have you done? (List on the back of this sheet if you need more room.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to any other dog organizations? List on the back of this sheet if you need more room.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## V. FEEL FREE TO ATTACH A RESUME OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THIS FORM.

## VI. SPONSORSHIP

Two DWAA Members must sponsor your membership application. If you have not had any contact with current DWAA members, talk to your editors and publishers; one or more of them might be members. If you need additional help, contact the DWAA secretary for assistance.

One \_\_\_\_\_  
Two \_\_\_\_\_

## VII. SAMPLES

Please attach or include three samples of your published work along with information about where the work was published. For example, for a magazine article, include the table of contents and the cover of the magazine. For internet work, print out the article from the internet as well as the website home page. For a book, just send a copy of the book.

## VIII. LIST THE WORK THAT IS INCLUDED

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## IX. YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

\$75 (Consists of a \$35 application fee and \$40 for your first year of membership.) Make checks or money orders payable to DWAA in US dollars only. If your application is not approved, your check will be returned to you. Fees and dues may change.

## X. SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:

Pat Santi, DWAA Secretary  
173 Union Road  
Coatesville, PA 19320-1326  
Questions? Email rhydownen@aol.com



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## DWAA MEMBERS

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FOUNDED IN 1935  
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