



# ruff DRAFTS

Winter 2021

## In This Issue

2020 Writing Competition Nominees & Award Finalists, page 4  
A Voice for the Animals, page 12 • Ricky and Shervin, page 14



## Gentle Giant Dog Helps Children Read

"It's Potamus! Potamus is here," the children yell as Potamus, the Gentle Giant enters their school with Paul Rowland, his pet parent.

A new student's eyes open wide. "Is he a lion?," she asks.

"No, he's a Leonberger, my Reading Dog," Paul says with a smile.

"He can read?," the little girl responds, truly amazed.

This time Paul can't help laughing, "No," he says. "You and the other children will read to him."

And so begins my new children's picture book, **I Just Read to Potamus!**

A long-time animal lover, Paul Rowland, who lives in Hampton, New Jersey, shares his life with three large dogs: Potamus, a Leonberger, weighs 160 pounds and is a Certified Reading and Therapy Dog. The girls, Penny

See *MEMBER NEWS* pg 17



## Officers

**Carol Bryant, President**  
fidoseofreality@gmail.com

**Maggie Marton, Vice President**  
maggie.marton@gmail.com

**Kristin Avery, Secretary**  
kristinavery9@gmail.com

**Marsha M. Pugh, Treasurer**  
marsha\_pugh01@comcast.net

**Jen Reeder, Past President**  
jen@jenreeder.com

**Ida W. Estep, Esq., Legal Counsel**  
iwestep@earthlink.net

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ccoile@windstream.net

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lauriecwilliamsk9@gmail.com

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Joel Gavriale-Gold, Ph.D.  
dr.joelgold@gmail.com

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rebelslair@aol.com

Patricia Cruz

lacruz928@optonline.net

### CLASS OF 2019

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aelwydcwc@aol.com

# President's

# COLUMN

By **Carol Bryant**

DWAA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow DWAA Members,  
Happy 2021! I'm embracing the new year with a fresh mindset and tossing resolutions out the window. Instead, I'm reflecting on the steps that brought me to where I am today and the path of positivity ahead. My wish for each and every one of you is for good health, prosperity, and to join me in hoping for an end to the pandemic sooner than later.

In February, DWAA normally hosts our annual in-person gala event, but 2021 is unlike any year in the organization's history. In February of 2020, we hosted a sell-out event at a new location, which was a smashing success. Although we looked forward to a repeat gala event, plans have been altered to keep everyone safe and socially distanced.

On Sunday, February 14, 2021, the annual DWAA Writing Competition Awards and Gala Event will be hosted online at 6 p.m. Eastern time. The event will be broadcast on DWAA's main Facebook page. Please tune in and celebrate the nominees, find out who is being inducted into the DWAA Hall of Fame, and who won the AKC's Distinguished Service Award. We'll also have some surprises peppered in throughout the online event.

As is tradition, before the annual event, DWAA will hold its annual meeting, which all members are invited to attend. The meeting will take place on Zoom on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at 4 p.m. Eastern time. Our secretary, **Kristin Avery**, will take minutes for publi-



**Carol Bryant, President of the DWAA**

cation in a future issue of ruff DRAFTS. An invitation will be sent to all members in February which will include the Zoom link.

This winter issue of ruff DRAFTS coincides with the conclusion of my two-year term as DWAA's President. I believe in looking back to celebrate accomplishments before passing the torch to the incoming officers who will serve the organization. Along with myself, **Maggie Marton** will step down as Vice President, and **Kristin Avery** will step down as Secretary. **Marsha Pugh** will stay on as Treasurer, and **Darlene Bryant** will continue in the role of Competition Chair.

Louisa May Alcott once wrote, "It takes two flints to make a fire." How lucky am I, then, to have borne witness to an inferno thanks to the executive team who shaped the DWAA of 2021. My deepest

*See PRESIDENT'S COLUMN pg 25*

By **Merrie Meyers**

Dear Readers,

As a college professor who has taught from home for a year, my dog assigned himself to become my shadow. He stays close by while I am lecturing; occasionally dive bombing the class, popping his head up onto the screen or barking to punctuate what he considers too much conversation and not enough playtime.

My dog is not unique. Many of you commented on the canine optimism factor, citing the infectious nature and the emotional buoyance it brings, despite the grave events happening across the globe. Which brings me to the theme of this issue, optimism and success; we asked and you answered. Thanks for sharing a bit of the pup's point of view.

As I complete my fourth year as your editor, I wanted to thank you, our members for making my job so easy. You have responded to our request for content and supported the idea of contributing content that reflects various issue themes. I really enjoy chatting with the members who submit articles and artwork. It's so great to get to know something about each of you and the role dogs play in your world. Despite the fact that this has been the weirdest of years, you have kept a smile on my face, and I suspect others, as well, describing the antics and athletics of our four-legged family members and friends.

And speaking of your work, thanks for your feedback on each issue. We appreciate hearing what you liked and what



**Merrie Meyers, Editor of Ruff Drafts**

we forgot or should include. It helps us figure out how to continue to serve you, our members. I think part of the reason that we are continuing to produce a product that you enjoy is because we have a group of people who are working on your behalf. I wanted to give a shout out to **Maggie Marton** and **Leslie Brown**, awesome members of the editorial team, and **Angela Capodanno**, who is our graphic designer extraordinaire. She literally makes your work look good! I've learned a lot from these women. With their help, I will be able to continue stretching as a writer and an editor.

After a year filled with trials and tribulations, I hope you will join with me as we joyously turn the page to 2021. I end this column with the words of two renowned poets, Charles Dickens and Jerry Garcia.

*See EDITOR'S LETTER pg 29*

## DWAA Committees

### BUDGET AND FINANCE

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Carmen Battaglia, Martin Deeley,  
Susan Ewing, Marsha Pugh

### BYLAWS & LEGAL

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### SOCIAL MEDIA

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

### WEBMASTER

Chris Roy

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## Ruff Drafts

send all material to Merrie Meyers  
RDeditor@dogwriters.org

### ISSUE DEADLINES

Spring, April 2  
Summer, July 3  
Fall, October 2  
Winter, Jan 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 & AWARD FINALISTS

The best-known feature of the DWAA is the annual writing contest, which encourages excellence in writing about dogs in all aspects of communication. The competition is open to all writers, photographers, editors, and publishers — with no distinction between amateurs and professionals.

The annual awards program has traditionally been held the day before the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show to present the awards to the winners of the writing competition. Due to the pandemic, winners of the competition will be announced virtually on the DWAA Facebook page on Sunday, February 14, 2021.

**And now for the finalists and winners in the Regular and Special Categories:**

## Regular Categories

### A. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND COLUMNS

#### 1. ARTICLE – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Joanne Anderson – When to Neuter Bigger Breed Pups?
- Arden Moore – Groomer Finds Niche with Focus on Dogs' Overall Health
- Sassafra Lowrey – Before You Adopt: Planning a Lifelong Commitment to Your Pet's Health

#### 2. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Sassafra Lowrey – What We Can Learn From European Dog Culture
- Joanne Anderson – Buster - From Rescue to Agility Ace
- Kaitlyn Wells – How to Help Your Pet With Post-Quarantine Separation Anxiety

#### 3. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- Rebecca Gail Hennes – Houston-Area Dog Lodge Offers Special Canines Haven't through Their Final Days
- Pam Gleason – Dog Rescue 2020; Hope in Hard Times

#### 4. ARTICLE – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Arden Moore – FAU Wants Robodog to be Ultimate Companion but with Less Cost
- Angela Schneider – Walking with dogs: Remembering faithful hiking buddies on "Rainbow Bridge" day
- Kaitlyn Wells – Want to Gift Someone a Pet? Here's What to Do First
- Kim Kavin – Stay-at-Home Orders Halt Service Dog Training

## B. MAGAZINES

### 5. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

- AJ Arapovic – Showsight Magazine / Joe McGinnis Memorial Issue
- Mara Bovsun – AKC Family Dog Magazine
- Bo Bengtson – Whippet Review Magazine
- Melissa Kauffman and Annie Butler Shirreffs – Dogster Magazine

### 6. ANNUAL, SPECIAL INTEREST, OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT

- Devon Hubbard Sorlie – APDT Chronicle of the Dog/ Association of Professional Dog Trainers
- Georgeann Reeve and Sharon Montville – The Alpenhorn - Special BISS Edition

## C. MAGAZINE ARTICLES

### 7. ARTICLE – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Jeff Grognet – Mark of the Wolf
- Lisa M. Curry – Wills, Trusts and Dog
- Jen Reeder – The Promise of Stem Cell Therapy
- Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz – By the Skin of Our Tilapia

### 8. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Jamie Gregory – After the Quarantine: Dogs May Experience Separation Anxiety Once We Go Back to Work
- Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz – Shutter Dog Support
- Nancy Marie Tanner – Rescue Bloom

### 9. ARTICLE – RESCUE

- Cara Sue Achterberg – The Economics of Animal Rescue
- Jen Reeder – These Precious Days
- Rachel Brix – A Girl and Her Dog

### 10. ARTICLE – BREED

- Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz – The Golden Age of Heroes
- Nancy Melone – Don't Be a Doodle Duncie: 5 Myths about Bernerdoodles and How to Refute Them
- Jen Reeder – Lap Dog

### 11. ARTICLE – ART OR ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Chip Colwell and Jill Neimark – Can Archaeology Dogs Smell Ancient Time?
- Bud Boccone and Kate McCroary – The Canine Muse

## D. 12. CANINE OR ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPERS OR NEWSLETTERS

- Debra M. Eldredge and Cindy Foley – Dog Watch

## E. CANINE, ALL-ANIMAL NEWSPAPER OR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND COLUMNS

### 13. ANY TOPIC

- Kate Basedow – Budget for a Cesarean Section
- Debra Eldredge – Mast Cell Tumors Can be Tricksters
- Penny Leigh – Placing Puppies in the Age of COVID-19: Breeder Safety Tips

## F. ONLINE

### 14. BLOGSITE

- Carol Bryant – Fidos of Reality
- Emma Kesler – Miles and Emma
- Noel Duan – Argos & Artemis
- Cara S. Achterberg – Another Good Dog

### 15. WEBSITE

- Miranda Grace Carey – AKC
- Melissa Kauffman, Annie Shirreffs and Bridget Shirvell – Dogster

### 16. ONLINE MAGAZINE

- Bud Boccone – AKC Gazette

### 17. ONLINE NEWSLETTER

- Penny Leigh and Hilarie Erb – AKC Canine Partners News
- Loraine Helen Houston, Nancy Foran and Cathy Vandergeest – Speaking of Dogs Online Newsletter

## G. ONLINE ARTICLES OR BLOG ENTRIES

### 18. ONLINE ARTICLE OR BLOG ENTRY – HEALTH OR GENERAL CARE

- Kim Campbell Thornton – Working Dog Blues
- Miranda Carney – Blue-Green Algae and Dogs: Symptoms and Prevention
- Kaitlyn Wells – How to Groom Your Dog or Cat at Home
- Amy Shojai – Gulp! Why Some Pets Gobble Their Food
- Yasmine Ali – How to Visit the Vet Safely in the COVID-19 Era
- Jen Reeder – Meet the veterinarian who gives free medical care to pets of the homeless
- Emma Kesler – Dog Lumps and Bumps

### 19. ONLINE ARTICLE OR BLOG ENTRY – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- Dori Saltzman – 9 Mistakes Dog Trainers Say You're Making
- Julie Buzby – Navigating Your Dear Old Dog's Golden Years: Dr. Buzby's Ultimate Guide
- Chris Zink – The Eyes Have It
- Yasmine Ali – How to Socialize Your Puppy During Times of Social Distancing

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- Rebecca Lynch – Just Desserts: Putting an End to Counter Surfing
- Skye Anderson – The Gift of Sam
- William Hank – Duo Dogs Provide Service, Therapy, & Comfort To Those Needing It Most
- Cathy Madson – Socializing Your Puppy While Social Distancing
- Jessica and Mike Ring – Don't Play With Your Dog's Food

## 20. ONLINE ARTICLE OR BLOG ENTRY– RESCUE

- Arden Moore – Shelters Unleash Effective Tactics to Land Loving Homes for Older Pets
- Kaitlyn Arford – Therapy Dog Provides Virtual Comfort to Hospital as “Flat Finn”
- Mary Schwager – Teacher Saves Pup Trapped in Crate from Lake
- Rhona Melsky – Top Puppy Mill Investigator Reveals His Secrets in New “Rescue Dogs” Book
- Sandy Robins – Golden Years: Adopting and Loving A Senior Dog
- Nate Richards and Ryan Lenora Brown – In lockdown, they found someone - with four legs - to love
- Jen Reeder – This dog went from biting - and almost being euthanized - to cuddly and sweet

## 21. ONLINE ARTICLE OR BLOG ENTRY – ANY OTHER TOPIC

- Caroline Coile – Your Puppies Need a Chip on Their Shoulder
- Denise Fleck – Enrichment Creates the Bond of a Lifetime: One Dog's Journey Using His Eyes, Ears, Nose, Paws and Tongue
- Angela Schneider – Service Dogs: A Journey of Love, Independence and “Normal” Living
- Joel Gavriale-Gold – Coping With Dog Loss and Grief in the Midst of the Pandemic
- Lisa Peterson – The Last of the Line
- Kaitlyn Arford – “Booker T. Pug” Inspires Confidence & Reading Comprehension as Therapy Dog
- Rise VanFleet – Do We Sell Them Short? Supporting “Agency” in Animals
- William Hank – 11-Year-Old Cancer Fighter Fulfills Wish of Competing in AKC Agility With Dog Bruiser

## H. GRAPHICS

### 22. SINGLE PHOTO

- Donna Bielewski – Elvis
- Susan Willett – Tucker
- Emelise Baughman – Chesapeake Swimming
- Angela Schneider – The Love of a Dog

### 23. SERIES PHOTOS

- Emma Kesler – A Moment of Bliss
- Angela Schneider – Sled Dogs: He Was Mad He Didn't Get to Run Farther

### 24. SINGLE ILLUSTRATION OR PAINTING

- Sandy Mesmer – Color Me Canine (Herding Group)
- Dawn Secord – Irish Setter Club of America Memo Feb 2020

### 25. SERIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS OR PAINTINGS

- Kate McCroary – AKC Family Dog Infographics
- Laurie Lee Leach – Covid Chronicles
- Jacelyn Botti and Lynn Eberenz – Maximilian Rescues Abaco

### 26. POSTERS, CALENDARS, BROCHURES OR PAMPHLETS

- Jane Harding – Portuguese Water Dog 2021

## I. HUMOR, POETRY, SHORT FICTION, ESSAYS/EDITORIALS

### 27. HUMOR

- Mary Ellen Chaffin – Bob & Bossy's Victory Tour
- Stephanie Gibeault – A Dog's New Year's Resolutions
- Jen Reeder – I Was Right To Feel Insecure About Wearing A Poodle

### 28. POETRY

- Christy Doherty – Star Dancer
- Susan C Willett – Haiku by Dog: Hole - Life with Dogs and Cats
- Michael Alan Hoffman – Shep's Lucky Day

### 29. SHORT FICTION

- Kristine Kibbee – The Three Dogs of Christmas

### 30. ESSAYS/EDITORIALS

- Debra Eldredge – A Difficult Decision
- Susan Willett – Remembering Tucker
- Denise Yates – Bayleigh Welsh Terriers Trip The Light Fantastic Westminster Weekend 2020

## J. OTHER MEDIA

### 31. VIDEO OR TV BROADCASTS

- Sydney Bleicher – Socialization Deconstructed
- Diane Rose-Solomon – Canine Commandos Program
- Joel Gavriale-Gold – AKC TV Ask the Expert - Human Canine Bond, Grief & Relationships

### 32. PODCASTS

- Brian Burton and Sarah Fraser – DogLab: Bringing research and industry experts to dog owners

- Melissa Anne Olund and Bud Boccone – Down and Back: Stories From the American Kennel Club Archives
- Arden Moore – Kristen Levine to the Rescue!

### 33. RADIO OR OTHER AUDIO

- Ann Hohenhaus – Animal Medical Center’s Ask the Vet Radio Program on SiriusXM Channel 109

## K. CLUB PUBLICATIONS (National, Regional or Local)

### 34. MAGAZINE FORMAT

- Kathy Glaes and Leslie Ziesing – Australian Shepherd Journal
- Georgeann Reeve and Sharon Montville – The Alpenhorn Spring 2020 – Training / Puppies / Activities

### 35. NEWSLETTER FORMAT

- Margaret Ruth Wolfe – The Neogram

## L. CLUB PUBLICATION ARTICLES

### 36. ARTICLE – ANY TOPIC

- Colleen Lemasters – Becoming a Therapy Dog Team
- DiAnn Flory – Preserving Purebred Dog Breeds: Our Responsibility as Caretakers of Cairn Terriers
- Debra Eldredge – Corgi Ahoy
- Nancy Melone – COVID & Canines

### 37. REGULAR COLUMN OR SERIES

- June Greig – Donations Pulled From Group Importing Dogs
- Kathryn Braund – Recollections- The Early Years
- Nancy Melone – Protecting North American Dogs from Imported Disease Pathogens: The Cases of Dog Flu and Distemper
- Elizabeth M. Jarrell – The Lake Anna Ladies’ Dog Society Birthday Invitational and BBQ
- Robin Hamme, Deb Jones, Karyn Beyer and Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America – BMDCA Info Series - #24, #25, #26, #27

## M. 38. CLUB SPECIAL PUBLICATION

- Susan Hurrell – 2019 Doberman Pinscher Club of America Year in Review

## N. BOOKS

### 39. SINGLE, RELATED, OR ALL-BREED

- Carol Price – Behaviour Insights, Issues and Solutions (Border Collies: A Breed Apart)

### 40. RESCUE OR ADOPTION

- Kate Kuligowski – Dr. Dusty, The Down and Dirty, Rewarding Reality Of A Rural Rescue
- Meredith Wargo and Diane Trull – DAWGS: A True Story of Lost Animals and the Kids Who Rescued Them
- Cara Achterberg – One Hundred Dogs and Counting: One Woman, Ten Thousand Miles, and a Journey Into the Heart of Shelters and Rescues

### 41. TRAINING OR SPORTS

- Robert Hewings – Scent Training For Every Dog
- Bonny Quick – Agility Bible (A practical guide for handlers)
- Chris Zink and Gayle Watkins – Fit For Life Puppy

### 42. BEHAVIOR, HEALTH, OR GENERAL CARE

- Zazie Todd – Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy
- Julie Buzby – Saying Goodbye to Your Dog

### 43. HUMAN/ANIMAL BOND

- Dale M. Ward – Raising the Worst Dog Ever: A Survival Guide
- Barbara Techel – I’m Fine Just the Way I Am – Healing Emotional Pain through the Wisdom of Animals and Oracles

### 44. REFERENCE

- Amy Shojaei – Dog Life: Celebrating the History, Culture & Love of the Dog
- Carol Bryant and Maggie Marton – Pet Blogging For Love & Money

### 45. FICTION, YOUNG ADULT, OR HUMOR

- Beverly Thompson AKA Cyd Houndstooth Tweed – Dog-Eared For Death
- Paula Munier – Blind Search
- Karen Harbert – Crook’d

### 46. CHILDREN: PICTURE BOOKS (UP TO 3 YEARS OLD)

- Emily Deborah Levine and Sarah Rachel Glazer – Doggy Do’s & Don’ts
- Jacelyn Botti – Maximilian Rescues Abaco

### 47. CHILDREN: EARLY READERS (AGES 4 TO 8)

- Stephanie Itle-Clark and Sandy DeLisle – Out of the Doghouse
- Connie Ruth Warnock – A Christmas Tail
- Linda Netschert – Jade-Lost in Yellowstone

### 48. CHILDREN: YOUNG READERS (AGES 9 TO 12)

- Arden Moore – A Kid’s Guide to Dogs

### 49. CHILDREN: YOUNG ADULT (AGES 12 TO 18)

- Sandy Mesmer – Color Me Canine (Herding Group)

## Special Categories

### AKC Club Publication Excellence Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award is for the best article in a national, regional or local AKC club publication in magazine or newsletter format. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant.

- Debra Eldredge – Corgi Ahoy
- Nancy Melone – COVID & Canines
- Kathryn "Kitty" Braund – Recollections - The Early Years

### AKC Reunite Microchip Awareness Award

Sponsored by AKC Reunite for the best article on how microchips can be used in pet recovery. Articles can include recovery stories of how dogs were identified or returned to owners, permanent identification in cases of theft, uses of microchips to confirm identity of dogs in competition, etc. The award is a \$1,000 cash grant.

- Caroline Coile – Your Puppies Need a Chip on Their Shoulder
- Joanne Anderson – The Mushroom Mystery
- Carol Bryant – Can Microchipping Reunite Lost Dogs: A Dog Parent's Guide

### AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Public Service Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award goes to the writer of a print or online feature article that best educates pet owners about responsible dog ownership. The award consists of a plaque and a \$500 cash grant. To enter, submit one article, which must also be entered in this year's contest in one of the regular categories.

- Julie Buzby – Preparing for Your Dog's Euthanasia: 10 Thoughts for Peace
- Elizabeth Anderson Lopez – Your Spring Cleaning Task List
- Caroline Coile – Your Puppies Need a Chip on Their Shoulder
- Nancy Melone – Protecting North American Dogs from Imported Disease Pathogens: The Cases of Dog Flu and Distemper
- Carol Bryant – The Truth Behind The Merle Cocker Spaniels Controversy

### The AKC Family Dog Award

Sponsored by the American Kennel Club, this award is for the best writing (including books, articles and blog posts) about any or all of the good manners programs under the AKC Family Dog organizational umbrella, including AKC Therapy Dog, AKC Trick Dog, AKC Canine Good Citizen, AKC Community Canine, Urban CGC and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy. While participating in these activities that are fun for both dogs and people, dogs become well-socialized and develop a lifelong bond with their owners. This award consists of a \$500 cash grant.

- Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz – Therapy Dogs Help Calm Capitol Hill Lawmakers Amid Impeachment Hearings
- William Hank – From CGC To MSG: Canine Good Citizen Daniel the Golden Retriever
- Kari Lavalli – Advanced Trick Dog - Why you should teach your dog tricks!

### The Canine Scribbles Award

Sponsored by Canine Scribbles, LLC, this is awarded for the best article that promotes the reasons to own a purebred canine. The fiction or nonfiction article of 1000 to 1500 words must be published in a print or online publication. The focus of the article should exemplify the virtues of owning a specific purebred dog. A high resolution JPEG (at least 300 dpi) should accompany the article that depicts the canine about which the article is written. The article should be clearly and succinctly written, and should outline the advantages of purebred dog ownership, with a unique journalistic voice. \$350 cash grant.

- William Hank – 11-Year-Old Cancer Fighter Fulfills Wish of Competing in AKC Agility With Dog Bruiser
- Ranny Green – How One Relationship Redefined the Word Soulmates

### The Captain William Lewis Judy Award

Sponsored by American Legion Post 348 of Brick Township, New Jersey. For a submission in any form of media that educates the public about the important role our military dogs play in our Armed Forces, including issues affecting their emotional and physical care during their training, active service and retirement. Congratulations to the American Legion as it Celebrates its 100 Years Anniversary. The award consists of a \$350 cash grant.



- Jen Reeder – Marine veteran adopts dog who saved his life in Afghanistan
- Lauren Collier and Jim Ballard – The United States War Dogs Association: Bond of Brothers
- Ranny Green – How One Relationship Redefined the Word Soulmates

## The Dogster Health & Wellness Award

This award recognizes the article/column that did the best to promote home care health awareness — identifying health and wellness best practices that dog owners can carry out at home for the dogs they love. Dogster helps dogs by helping dog owners and wants to recognize an outstanding written piece that does the same. \$500 cash grant.

- Julie Buzby – Navigating Your Dear Old Dog's Golden Years: Dr. Buzby's Ultimate Guide
- Chris Zink – Play Ball! .... Safely
- Debra Eldredge – A Difficult Decision
- Elizabeth Anderson Lopez – The Zen Dog

## The DOGTV Canine Enrichment Award

Sponsored by DOGTV, this award recognizes the best article in print or digital, including blog posts, that discusses canine enrichment and its role to improve a dog's physical and mental health. The award consists of a \$500 cash grant.

- Carol Bryant – 101 Things To Do Indoors With Your Dog
- Bryn Nowell – Exercise Clubs for Dogs
- Arden Moore – A Kid's Guide to Dogs
- CJ Puotinen – Reforming a Reactionary: Resources and training tactics for reforming a reactive dog

## Dr. Harvey's Canine Health Award

Sponsored by Dr. Harvey's Fine Health Foods for Companion Animals, this award is for the best online blog post written by a dog blogger that exemplifies good health and wellness for dogs. The award consists of a \$500 cash grant.

- Julie Buzby – 6 Ways to Be Your Senior Dog's Hero
- Emma Kesler – Dog Lumps and Bumps
- Miranda Grace Carney – Blue-Green Algae and Dogs Symptoms and Prevention
- Amy Shojai – Bravo's Cancer Journey

## The Fidose of Reality Dog Blogger Award

Sponsored by Darlene and Carol Bryant on behalf of [fidoseofreality.com](http://fidoseofreality.com), this award is given to a non-corporate dog blogger. Composing a quality dog product or service review is an art. The winning dog blog post exemplifies the

elements of a solid dog product or service review that goes above and beyond the basics. Entries will be judged on writing style, grammar, punctuation, imagery/video, and the overall way the review is presented. The award consists of a \$300 cash prize and a trophy.

- Jenise Carl – Cornstarch for Matted Dog Hair: A Heck of a Hack!
- Susan Willett – Halley and the cats: A successful adoption made possible through training, positive reinforcement, and patience
- Chris Zink – Play Ball! .... Safely
- Mary Schwager – Teacher Saves Pup Trapped in Crate from Lake
- Irene McHugh – Improve Your Dog's Life with a Complete Enrichment Plan

## The Manette Begin-Loudon Memorial Award

Sponsored by Lisa and Richard Kruysman and Cindy and Jack Begin. Presented to the writer/producer of a work that promotes awareness of the challenges faced by those who advocate for dogs included in the "Bully Breed" category, encompassing, but not limited to, topics centered on Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), Dog Fighting Rings and breed discrimination in general. The award consists of a \$300 grant.

- Debby McMullen – Looks are Deceiving: Why Breed Bias is Wrong
- Mary Schwager – Stray Dog Joins Race And Runs 15 Miles To Find A Family
- Emma Kesler – No Bad Terriers

## Fear Free Dog Enrichment Award

Sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, this is awarded for the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media formats that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates how enrichment activities (exercise, food puzzles, scent training, etc.) can benefit a dog's emotional—not just physical—well-being and the role that has in their overall health. This may also include topics relating to how the resulting benefits of such enrichment to the dog's emotional well-being can help set them up for more successful veterinary visits in the future, thus living a happier, healthier life. This award consists of a \$2,000 cash grant and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

- Zazie Todd – Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy
- Miranda Grace Carney – Born with a Deformity, Jordi the Three-Legged Dog Defies Odds

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- Denise Fleck – Enrichment Creates the Bond of a Lifetime: One Dog's Journey Using His Eyes, Ears, Nose, Paws and Tongue
- Sandy DeLise and Stephanie Itle-Clark – Out of the Doghouse

## The Grey Muzzle Award

Sponsored by The Grey Muzzle Organization, this award goes to the best article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates to the public the plight of at-risk senior dogs. This may include stories about special programs at a rescue or shelter that enable older best friends to retain their homes or find new forever homes, Seniors for Seniors Programs, medical victories, hospice care for homeless dogs or other ways in which communities and/or individuals are helping to make sure no old dog dies alone or afraid. The winner will receive a \$500 cash prize and a commemorative plaque.

- Jen Reeder – These Precious Days

## The Harrison Stephens Inspirational Feature Award

Named in honor of Harrison Stephens, a newspaper editor who wrote thought-provoking features marked by journalistic integrity and humor, until his death just before his 100th birthday. This award is for a feature article that highlights the human-canine bond and leaves the reader with a smile. Potential topics include working dogs (or a lazy dog with a winning personality), or dog-centric nonprofits that promote positive outcomes for pets and people. The award is sponsored by Sally and Tom Reeder and consists of a \$300 grant.

- Rachel Brix – A Girl and Her Dog
- Denise Fleck – Enrichment Creates the Bond of a Lifetime: One Dog's Journey Using His Eyes, Ears, Nose, Paws and Tongue
- Barbara Magera and Ann Eckersley – Healing Paws
- Catherine Warren – A Change of Plans
- Penny Leigh – Because of Barto
- Mary Schwager – Service Dog Helps Save the Sea

## James Colasanti, Jr. Poetry Award

For the poem/poetry which best exemplifies the unconditional love of a dog. Sponsored by James Colasanti Jr. The award is a \$200 cash grant.

- Debra Lampert-Rudman – In Our Bed
- Christy Doherty – Star Dancer
- Lisa Begin-Kruysman – Home With Human Blues (A Dog's Point of View)

## DWAA Junior Writer Award

Sponsored by DWAA for writers under 18 years of age. This award is to recognize and encourage young writers who exhibit talent, resourcefulness, dedication and integrity in their writing about dogs and dog-related topics. Award: \$250.00 cash grant per category, a DWAA Maxwell Medallion, and lapel pin.

### CATEGORY: AGES 10-12

- Mia Lussier – A Peach Among Pups

### CATEGORY: AGES 13-14

- Kathryn Prerost – The Perks of Having a Press Pass

### CATEGORY: AGES 15-17

- Bailey Boswell – Oakley and Her Huge Personality
- Mohit Singh – Puppy in the Rain
- Victoria Corcoran – X Marks the Heart
- Anjuli Turner – My Best Friend, Zeus
- Madison Schlagel – Taking a Bite Out of the Big Apple
- Kate Gallagher – Running with June and Blu

## The Rio Award

Sponsored by Jen Reeder and Bryan Fryklund in honor of their beloved Labrador Retriever mix, Rio, this award is for an article, book or essay that profiles a dog who changed someone's life in a profoundly positive way. The award consists of a \$300 cash prize.

- Elaine Gewirtz – An American English Coonhound's First Find: Tracking a Missing Child
- Barbara Techel – I'm Fine Just the Way I Am – Healing Emotional Pain through the Wisdom of Animals and Oracles

## The Sleepypod Pet Safety Award

Sponsored by Sleepypod, this award is for the best article or book that shares tips for pet safety during travel and/or anecdotes of dogs helped by owners who take safety precautions. The award consists of a \$500 cash grant.

- Elizabeth Anderson Lopez – Don't Sit or Stay - Travel Away
- Caroline Coile – Roving With Rover: Travel Tips

## The Walter R. Fletcher Memorial Award

Sponsored by The Westminster Kennel Club in memory of legendary dog show reporter Walter Fletcher, this annual award goes to the reporter who best exemplifies continued press coverage of dog shows in America. The writer's work must appear in a print or online publication with coverage generated from Westminster Week events. The winner will be honored with a reserved seat in the Walter Fletcher Memorial Chair for both nights of the 2021 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The chair is located at the end of the front row,

in the working press section, on the arena floor of Madison Square Garden. The winner will also receive \$500.

- Bo Bengtson – Show Expenses: What Does It Cost To Put On A Dog Show?
- Lauren Collier and Jim Ballard – Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show 2020

## Dogwise Best Book Award

Sponsored by Dogwise Publishing. \$500 to the author of the best book. The winner will be chosen by the president of DWAA from the winners of all the book categories. The award is a \$500 cash grant.

# A Twisted Dog Tail

By **Toni Eames**

When The Morristown-based Seeing Eye school was founded in 1929, trained dogs partnered with blind people were referred to as guide dogs. Ten years later, when Michigan-based Leader Dogs for the Blind was founded, guide dog was still used as the generic term. When in 1942 Guide Dogs for the Blind was established, Leader and Seeing Eye were concerned the generic term guide dog would be mistakenly associated with this California-based school. Thus, the birth of the use of the twisted

term *dog guide*. In the intervening years, 11 more training programs have been established, with six using the term guide dog in their registered titles. Both major consumer groups, Guide Dog Users Incorporated and the National Association of Guide Dog Users, have opted for the use of guide dog. Even so, the term dog guide persists in some segments of the industry.

In interacting with other disabled people, it stands out like a sore thumb to hear about hearing dogs, service dogs and then dog guides. If we don't put checks on this archaic usage, we could end up with the following:

## A Twisted Tale Dog

Once upon a time, a small dog lap came to live with the family Brown. The Browns could not decide if he should be a dog house or a dog yard. While mom and dad went to their office law and sister and brother were at care child, the puppy entertained himself by chewing on the leg chair and shoes leather. An even greater violation of etiquette dog was his chasing the cat Siamese and getting into the litter kitty.

After many transgressions canine, mom and dad came home one day and threatened to convert their mischievous dog lap from a dog house to a dog yard unless he mended his ways.

One day a neighbor visited the Browns with her Retriever Labrador dog guide. This coach canine became the puppy's mentor. Following the advice of this mannered-well dog guide, the small dog lap lived happily after ever as a dog house. 🐾

# A VOICE FOR THE ANIMALS

...Until COVID

By **Kate J. Kuligowski**

Since I joined DWAA in 2014, my official DWAA Press Pass had been taken lightly, both by me and my husband, Wally. His wry smile was evident each time I removed it, unused, from my billfold to replace it with my up-to-date pass. Because I am not a professional journalist, and all proceeds from my published works are directed to our area animal rescues, I had not met a situation where its presence was necessary until Wally, Gloria, my animal advocate friend, and I attended a January 2020 bench trial of a five-time defendant returnee to our special animal Bernalillo County Metro court.

Our Metro court's history of this Albuquerque businessman-defendant dates back to October 2017 when Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department (AAWD) first cited him for an infraction of our HEART (Humane and Ethical Animal Rules and Treatment) ordinance. He pled, "Not guilty," and disregarded this citation, which forced the serving of a bench warrant for his arrest. His posted bond was converted to pay court costs and fees, followed by a dismissal on January 4, 2018.

His name came before our specialty animal court again seven months later, when he was charged for multiple counts of animal cruelty infractions, to include "dogs left in the bed of his truck when the weather would expose animals to harm," and "no water for dogs." Those records state "pre-adjudication Animal Welfare successful...dismissed with prejudice on 10-18-2018."

During 2019, three different criminal cases involving animal cruelty were filed against the same defendant. Those filed in Bernalillo County occurred in July and October. The third was filed in district court in nearby Valencia County. The July case, 4551, which included several counts of many infractions (including feeding contaminated food to his dogs, not providing necessary medical treatment of his dogs, unsanitary animal premises) was refiled with new charges when the defendant refused to attend animal humane school. Rescheduling, waivers and continuances resulted in his court date January 15, 2020, an experience that would shed a new light on the power of my DWAA Press Pass.

In October 2019, AAW cited him for additional and multiple counts of 11 animal cruelty infractions in case 7447. Rescheduling due to continuances and waivers brought his court date to a later date in January 2020, then a plea hearing in late July.

In the midst of these court happenings, the defendant moved his dogs to three different locations: a city business, another property in Bernalillo County and an uninhabited property in adjoining Valencia County, where he applied for a business license as a dog trainer (request denied). As of December 2019, 33 dogs remained, uncared for on this property with no on-property resident; neighbors complained loudly, and a third 2019 case was filed against the defendant. In this district court filing, the county included a petition to take custody of the defendant's animals,

transferring ownership of animals to the County of Valencia. The filing also included a preliminary and permanent injunction against the defendant who, for confusion, spells his name with a different consonant in each county. The court allowed the defendant three months to relocate most of his dogs to other premises, clean up his property, and met the other health requirements for the dogs. He complied and his case, CV1538 was dismissed in March.

The trial for his first 2019 case (4551) was held on January 15, 2020. Wally and Gloria accompanied me to this trial. We felt this man had eluded the justice system and would continue his abuse with abandonment unless a more serious sentence was handed down by the animal court. As the defendant and his attorney consulted before court was in session, so did the two city assistant district attorneys in a nearby room, provided just for that purpose. I knocked on their door, introduced myself as a city animal activist whose families had been active in protecting the abandoned and abused pets of our state since 1907, before New Mexico statehood in 1912.

"I am interested in what you are recommending for the defendant's blatant and continual animal abuse."

It was obvious by their facial expressions that I was intruding. "We appreciate your concern." Their following questions were to make me aware of my inadequacy to be a part of their deliberations. "Are you an attorney? Are you well versed in our city ordinance?"

I was not to be intimidated. The lives of multiple future animals depended

on their taking a strong stance against animal abuse. "I am sure you are aware of the sordid and repetitive history of animal abuse of this defendant. Did you know he was arrested with similar charges again last November for 22 dogs? That case (7447) will be heard later this month. And have you spoken with the Valencia County Animal Shelter director who recently lodged charges against him involving the criminal abuse of 33 dogs left unattended on his property?"

"Oh, we didn't expect your interest to extend so far, but we are busy, and our time is limited." The male prosecutor's intentions were clear when he walked to the door of the consulting room and held it open.

Instead of exiting, I pulled out my billfold and extricated my unused DWAA Press Pass. I handed it to the female attorney, whose name tag read "Lara."

My presence became more acceptable once I explained.

"I am writing a human interest article on the outcome of this trial of an individual previously charged with over 47 counts of animal abuse in prior metro cases. Its focus will be how Albuquerque's courts look upon animal abusers. Unless I am asked, I do not intend to interject my thoughts. I am here to report yours to your public."

The room was silent for long minutes. Obviously uncomfortable with my presence, the two finally returned to their negotiating table, whispering, discussing, casting uncertain glances my way. "We have decided to ban him from owning any dogs in Albuquerque for two years," the second attorney, Hal, stated with an air of authority and finality.

Did they take me for an uninformed journalist?

"You disappoint me. I know that the City has already done that. AAW issued



that ban last month, December 11. So what is your alternative proposal? A jail sentence? Not likely as he is not violent and not a danger to the humans in our community. What are your other options? An animal care class? Not likely as he previously registered but did not attend. A stiffer fine? A jury trial? How have Bernalillo County jurists ruled in previous animal cruelty cases?"

"Really," a forlorn Lara hesitated, "we have no statistics. I am not sure if we have ever asked for a jury trial for an animal case."

Silence.

Finally, Hal picked up his paperwork, rammed it into his briefcase and spoke in Lara's ear. She nodded.

He turned and once again held open the door for me as he stated, "I am not sure about a jury trial, but we will present your recommendation to the judge."

"Thank you. I feel better putting my trust in the hands of our residents. Surely they cannot accept this continued cruelty."

"We'll see."

Once in the courtroom, the attorneys for both sides exchanged information. Judge Cosgrove-Aguilar announced, "The prosecution asks for a jury trial. My calendar says April 28, 2020."

COVID-19's presence required that jury trials not be held/scheduled until

many months later, causing a tremendous backlog, so heavy that, understandably, the prosecutors and judge agreed to settle on a bench trial for this defendant. The outcome was almost a repeat of those of his previous bench trials: 36 hours of community service and another edict from AAWD forbidding the defendant from owning animals for another 12 months from September 15, 2020. Once these stipulations from the court are met by the defendant, his case will be dismissed.

Although this was not the trial ruling we Albuquerque animal advocates desired, I am still reminded that my DWAA Press Pass might have made that difference that we were all hoping for, one that would advocate respect of life. But the window will soon open again, barring the occurrence of natural disasters and pandemics, for those of us non-professional journalists to follow closely the cases of repeat animal cruelty offenders, attend their court cases and use the power of our DWAA Press Pass to bring forth greater transparency and citizen involvement. Although discouraged, I intend to utilize its influence again, when necessary...after this pandemic, of course.

Do not underestimate its potential power to give the animals a voice. 🐾



# RICKY AND SHERVIN

*Actor and his dog pair up to turn COVID quarantine into an acting tour de force*

By **Barbara Bullington**

Matt Shevin, a film, theatre, television and commercial actor, who starred in the 2020 Lifetime TV movie "[Her Secret Family Killer](#)" and appeared in "The Bold and the Beautiful," has kept busy during the COVID-19 quarantine by co-starring opposite his 8-year-old Blue Nose Pit Bull, Ricky.

So far, Matt has shot 68 videos, recreating iconic movie scenes from films ranging from "The Hunger Games" and "The Hangover" to "The Graduate" and "Psycho."

He calls this endeavor "Inside the Actor's Quarantined Apartment." He gives credit to Ricky for the project's success and says this compilation of videos with a dog and human team who act in so

many different movie scenes is something that hasn't been done before.

## **RICKY AND ME**

So, how did this dog and human team first start acting together?

The human half of the team says he was on the lookout for a new pit bull, due to an affinity for them and having had one in the past. Someone told him a litter had been born and he was drawn to one puppy in particular.

However, Ricky, the puppy, was in pretty bad shape. In addition to being dirty and the victim of a spraying skunk, he also needed to put on weight badly.

Shevin saw to the care, obedience training and feeding of his newly adopted four-legged friend. Now he weighs a very healthy 96 pounds and sports silver

fur so glossy it almost appears polished.

While raising Ricky and working as an actor and writer, Shevin also started a blog, [Inside the Actor's Studio Apartment](#).

When the COVID quarantine hit, Shevin, who lives in Los Angeles, kept busy by making a video. A friend suggested the idea of recreating iconic movie scenes.

The first scene, from the film "Casino," was shot in March.

Once the creative juices started flowing, things moved quickly. On some days he made two or three videos, creating nearly 70 videos in just a few months.

The acting duo also did a tribute to the TV series "The Office," with a dog biscuit substituted for a stapler in the famous Jello scene.

## READY FOR HIS CLOSEUP

Over the years, Shevin took Ricky to puppy kindergarten and follow-up training, which helped him grow into a well-mannered dog. It also seemed to pay some unexpected dividends, as Shevin found his furry co-star could take direction really well.

"He's proof that you can actually teach an old dog new tricks," Shevin says. "I've got him wearing costumes and wigs, and he's reacting on camera in ways that amaze me. I've become a Hollywood dad."

As for some of Ricky's best unexpected reactions on camera, there are many, according to Shevin. One of his favorites is the "Caddyshack" scene in which Ricky slightly cocks his head to the side while listening to the dialog and appearing truly insulted by the comments being made about the hat he is wearing

Ricky nailing Ted Knight's character's reaction from Caddyshack (Orion Pictures, 1980).

Another surprise from Ricky came in a scene from "Unforgiven," when he laid down as if on cue after being "shot" at with a toy gun. Although the hard-working canine actor might have simply been ready for a nap, according to his proud human dad, the timing was perfect.

An overall favorite scene recreation of Shevin's is from "Forrest Gump." In this montage, Ricky plays Forrest listening to an overwhelming array of possible shrimp dishes.

"I feel like sometimes he knows he's on camera," Shevin says, adding that regardless, Ricky (who likes to stand outside their apartment and greet people and even has "regulars" who bring him treats) enjoys the attention.

## PRODUCTION AND PUBLICITY

Because the idea is that the scenes are made at home during quarantine, they are definitely not meant to be technically accurate recreations, but rather, humorous spoofs of classics and blockbusters. Shevin says sometimes the makeshift props that have obviously been found or created at home deliberately add to the "quarantine" motif. Inasmuch as finding the funny beyond the props and his dog's natural reactions, Shevin, who has also appeared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," says he will usually think of a movie and then kind of let it "marinate" for a while until he decides how to approach it.

While comic, the videos have been good practice too, not just for acting,

"but with the technical aspects, including lighting and shooting," notes Shevin.

He adds that another upside is that the project may help create some good publicity for pit bulls.

## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER, AND COMING UP ON "INSIDE THE ACTOR'S QUARANTINED APARTMENT"...

The human/canine acting duo are currently taking a hiatus to enjoy the beach, but Shevin plans to return in front of the camera with Ricky and keeps a list of movies from which he wants to take a crack at recreating scenes.

Some projects that could be in the works for the future? On the list are "127 Hours," "Captain Phillips," "Iron Man," or "Edge of Tomorrow," according to Shevin.

## HOW TO FIND THE VIDEOS

Those interested in watching might want to grab some popcorn and perhaps start with Ricky and Shevin's recreation of a scene from the movie "Big," or by watching as Ricky shows off his drawing talent in a scene from the "Titanic." All of these videos can be viewed by going to <https://vimeo.com/channels/quarantinedactor>. 🐾



# Holidays with Our Cavaliers

SUBMITTED TO RUFF DRAFTS

WINTER EDITION 2020

By **Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM**

It's the holidays and we are busy preparing culinary delights. The Cavaliers are stretching out in our large kitchen. As I prepare blueberry muffins, several berries fall on the floor. They immediately scramble for the small spheres. Blueberries are not only a good source of antioxidants but are one of their favorite foods. We make a game of which Cavalier can catch a blueberry flying in midair. I adjust the arcs of the blueberries to make sure everyone gets their fair share of the tasty treats.

I love making homemade bread and my friends and neighbors appreciate my efforts. Particularly over the holidays, everyone's favorite is a moist buttermilk bread. I have also discovered a delicious pumpernickel bread. During baking, the aromatic flavor of dark molasses fills the kitchen. For the next loaf, I will add dark raisins to the pumpernickel bread for which Buffalo New York bakeries are famous.

The aroma of baking bread immediately grabs the attention of our Cavaliers. They gather around the bread maker and busily sniff the pumpernickel bread. As I take a sip of my cinnamon-orange black tea, I think of what goes through the minds of my canines. The smells and aromas of the holiday season must propel them into sensory overload.

I take a short break from the kitchen and plop into an overstuffed couch. The pack follows me. Each one of them vigorously jump on me for attention. As I scratch behind their ears and comfort each one individually, they attempt to



Manigault wishes you a Merry Christmas

lick my face. I pick up a toy and throw it across the room. Several run after the small toy. After a few scurries, the most athletic of the bunch returns the toy to me for more catch and retrieve fun. No matter how long we play, they never tire of this game.

The canines gravitate back to the kitchen as gingerbread cookies are removed from the oven. My chef-husband loves making old German style cookies for friends and family. The recipe of these ginger cookies is veterinarian-approved for the diets of our Cavaliers. They happily munch on deformed gingerbread men who lost an appendage or head when removed from the cookie sheet. For gifting, we only use the most perfect cookies.

While my husband sorts the gingerbread men, I am whipping up a batch of Spitzbubens. These are European cookies with a jam center and shortbread crust. This recipe is much more forgiving than the gingerbread men and pack

well into various sizes of cookie tins. The Cavaliers are jumping in excitement for a taste of these morsels.

Our house is generally quiet, but for the holidays we are listen to old English and traditional European Christmas carols. The music immediately catches the attention of the Cavaliers. One initially appears bewildered by the strange sounds of a lute. Next is the clapping and heel stomping of Riu Riu Chiu, a 16th century Spanish carol. Its rhythmic three quarter time excites all of them. One Cavalier tries to accompany the choir with coos and soft barks.

I change the musical mood to a more somber artist of Sir John Tavener. One of my favorite Christmas messages is his carol "Little Lamb" set to the poetic lyrics of "The Lamb" by William Blake. Although the piece includes only two stanzas, the soft a cappella voices lull the Cavaliers into calm and eventually sleep. While they are snoring, I tip toe back into the kitchen and peak in the

*See CAVALIERS pg 19*



# MEMBER NEWS

## Gentle Giant

*Continued from cover*

and Shayla, are both Bernese Mountain Dogs. Penny is also a Show Dog and a Therapy Dog.

Several years ago, Paul and Potamus enrolled in a six-week Therapy Dog training class. They passed their test with flying colors. Because Potamus is so calm and gentle with people, he was asked to become a Reading Dog. As such, he will sit or lie down next to a child or small group of children while they read to him.

Because Reading Dogs are non-judgmental, reading to them bolsters children's reading abilities and confidence.

For the last few years, Paul and Potamus have visited a local elementary school twice a month. Potamus is enormously popular with students. So much so that his proud person decided to publish a children's book about him.

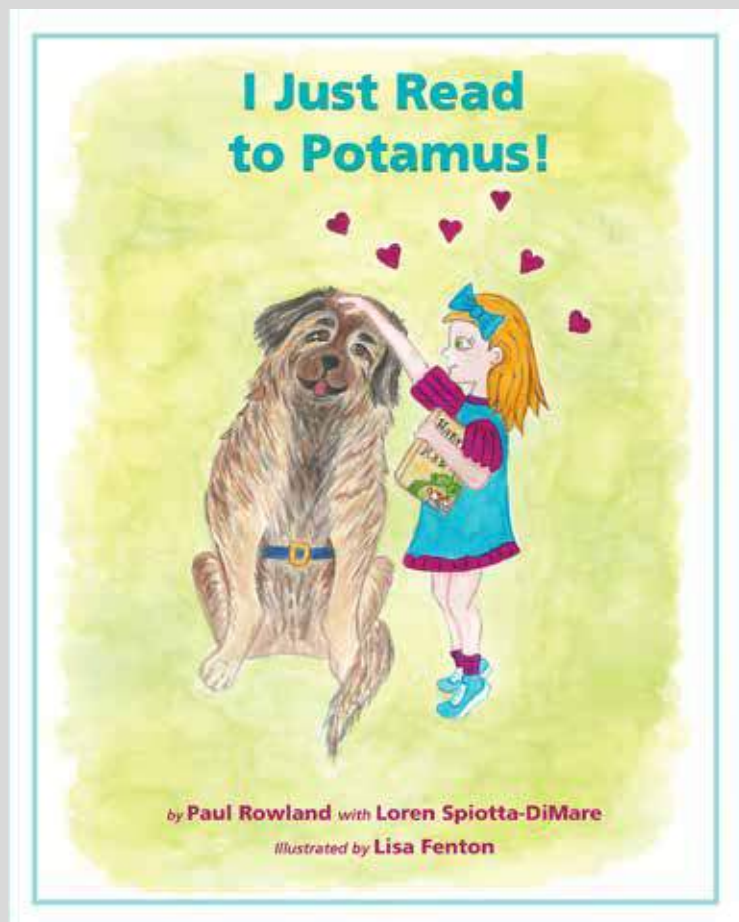
Rowland reached out to long-time animal book author, Loren Spiotta-DiMare in Tewksbury, New Jersey.

"I was delighted to take on the project," Spiotta-DiMare said.

"Potamus is the epitome of a gentle giant. Not only is he a wonderful reading dog, he also visits hospitals and rehabilitation centers to help doctors, nurses and patients lower their stress."

The picture book, **I Just Read to Potamus!** highlights a school visit, where groups of four children read their favorite books to Potamus throughout the day.

One little boy is afraid of Potamus, but soon overcomes his fear. A young girl in a wheelchair is upset that she can't get on the floor to read to Potamus.



mus. But to her delight, Potamus lays his head in her lap.

The book showcases the benefits of Reading Dogs and is a mix of fact and fiction.

Spiotta-DiMare began her writing career as a magazine journalist in the 1970s. She had her first book, *Macaws*, published in 1979.

To date, the author has had 22 books published traditionally and self-published, as well as several new titles in the works.

These days, Spiotta-DiMare also teaches Introduction to Book Publishing classes, works as a publishing consultant and chairs the Just 4 Kids writer's group in Long Valley, New Jersey.

Paul Rowland is an electrical estimator. Growing up by a lake, he developed a love of nature and animals, both wild and domestic, at a very early age. For the last thirty years, through nature conservation organizations, Rowland

has traveled the world, working with many fascinating people and animals.

Once Spiotta-DiMare completed his manuscript, Rowland chose artist Lisa Fenton, also of Tewksbury, to create the colorful and playful illustrations.

A graduate of the Mason Goss School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Fenton has been painting for over 20 years. **I Just Read to Potamus!** is her third picture book. She also owns The Magic Brush, a decorative, hand-painted children's furniture and gift company.

With her creative design skills, graphic artist [Jeanne Balsam of Milford, New Jersey](#) pulled together the book's words and art. At the end of the book are handwritten thank you notes from students, as well as a number of photos of Paul and Potamus.

**A softcover version of the book, *I Just Read to Potamus!* lists for \$9.99, and can be purchased on Amazon. For more information, visit [www.potamusleonberger.com](http://www.potamusleonberger.com)**

# Keep Calm and Dog Week On!

## Lessons from an Intrepid Tripawd

By **Lisa Kuysman**

In January 2020, my husband Rich and I moved from New Jersey to beautiful coastal Georgia, a time of great anticipation *and* stress. On the day we closed on our new home, Rich and I visited a local furniture store. Sitting on a sofa, I commented that it perfectly suited our new living room. We weren't ready to commit, but as we left, we did purchase a large framed print that proclaimed, 'GOOD THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN'. It became the first thing we'd hang on our new walls.

But somewhere between the closing and the arduous physical move, a pandemic reared its ugly head. This was definitely *not* a Good Thing.

I'd been energized by our big move, but by mid-March as the nation began to shut down as a result of the Pandemic, my enthusiasm for a fresh start in my new surroundings was quickly diminished.

Far from family, friends and long-time neighbors, getting acclimated to our new surroundings was challenging. Plus, as I'd find out later, we were smack in the middle of a southern winter and with temps in the "frigid" 50-60s, most people on our block were hunkering down inside.

However, some dog walkers bravely ventured out in the southern winter "chill." When I heard someone cheerfully shout, "Our new neighbor has a dog!" from a few houses away, I knew we were in dog-friendly territory.

Walking our dog Teddy became the way I'd meet our new neighbors from the safe distance of an arm's length and a leash. At first, our walks were long, but as March turned into April, the famous



southern humidity became challenging. We quickly learned that a Georgian April is equivalent to a northern late June.

Our walks became shorter, and as the days grew hotter and Covid prevailed, people once again retreated into their centrally air-cooled dens and

we saw less of them. Teddy was now ten, and although he loved his walks on his new turf, the heat and high humidity began to impact his endurance. I looked forward to a refreshing fall, but as we entered September, I found myself out of creative synch with the lack



appeared to be a fatty tumor common in older dogs, but during a trip to the vet, we learned it was something much more serious. That’s when I became familiar with Mast Cell Tumors, or MCTs, which I’ve come to learn afflict so many of our pets.

Mast Cell Tumors in dogs are tumors that affect “mast cells”, a type of white blood cell the body uses for allergy response. These tumors occur when the mast cells start releasing a high amount of chemicals into the body, like histamine. Mast Cell tumors are the most common skin tumors in dogs, making up approximately 20% of all diagnosed cases.

Teddy’s MCT was diagnosed as Grade 3; the cells were so poorly differentiated there was a high potential for metastasis. Unfortunately, due to its location, our vet didn’t feel she had the right margins to successfully remove Teddy’s MCT and referred us to a specialist. After trips to a surgeon and subsequent oncologist, it was agreed by all medical professionals that Teddy’s hind right leg must be removed to prevent further complications.

*Loss of a limb.* Those words are horrifying to any pet owner. With his little leg wrapped up in a bright green bandage, Teddy remained spry and sure-footed. It was hard to fully grasp that his leg was better off gone, but fearing future problems, we were onboard.

So, with the dawning of the 93rd observance of National Dog Week, Teddy underwent the surgery that would make him a member of the Tripawd Community. Instead of parading in true Dog Week style, Teddy hopped, slipped and slept under the influence of his medications, pain killers and the cone that kept him from licking his stitches.

True to his confident and resilient nature, Teddy made a remarkable recovery. “I didn’t even notice he had only three legs!” most people exclaimed upon meeting him.

With each day after his surgery, Teddy and I took pride in walking just a little farther sheltered by gracious Live Oaks draped with sun drenched Spanish Moss. Mingling with other happy dog walkers, Teddy was greeted with the curious sniffs of his new dog friends who accepted him into their pack, three legs and all. “Steady Teddy,” as I’ve come to call him, and I were ready to continue settling into our new community.

Reflecting on the unique challenges of this year, the theme for National Dog Week 2020 was ‘Keep Calm and Dog Week On’ because despite all that’s happening in the world, and the disruption in our lives and routines, we need to be as resilient as our four-legged companions while acknowledging those well-deserved seven days officially reserved in their honor each September.

After we closed on our new home back in January, we returned to that furniture store to purchase that sofa, which is now located near that hopeful sign that declares, “Good Things are going to Happen”. If we remain grateful for the important things in our lives, they always will. 🐾

of well-defined seasonal changes and normalcy.

In all of the personal, professional and worldly turmoil, I realized that I hadn’t thought much about National Dog Week. I’d been documenting the history of this Awareness Observance for ten years, and had written a book about its founder, Captain Will Judy (co-founder of the DWAA). National Dog Week, held the last full week of September since 1928, had become one of my favorite times of year. Started in the wake of the Great Depression, it had managed to endure despite many ups and downs throughout nine decades, a testament to America’s love affair with its dogs.

It was already difficult to get in the customary celebratory spirit, especially made harder when a lump was detected in Teddy’s hind leg. At first it

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## Cavaliers

*Continued from pg 16*

oven to check on a pecan bundt cake. While this cake is still warm, I pour a butter and bourbon infusion over the cake.

This Christmas-tide is a special reflection of thankfulness. As we snuggle with our Cavalier family, we thank the Almighty for His gift of the Christ Child. A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you and your family! 🐾

**Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM is a Cavalier fancier (Caracaleeb) who lives and practices medicine in Charleston, South Carolina.**

# NATIONAL DOG SHOW

## The Kennel Club of Philadelphia

### Delivered the 2020 Showcase Under Special Circumstances

By **Colleen Joslin**

In March of 2020, the whole world was hit with an unpredictable and scary pandemic that seemed to have no end. Government-ordered lockdowns and public health anxiety ruled the day. Major events in all walks of life were canceled or postponed, hundreds of dog shows among them. As summer moved into fall, with conditions still dire, speculation began about the most prominent dog show in America. The National Dog Show, hosted by The Kennel Club of Philadelphia, an NBC Thanksgiving Day showcase for millions of holiday viewers, was at risk.

Calm amidst the chaos, Wayne Ferguson, president of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, worked with regional officials to organize the event in a way that worked for all parties.

Led by Ferguson, the Kennel Club of Philadelphia met multiple times with Montgomery County Commissions and its department of health to establish the parameters and protocols necessary to conduct the competition in conjunction with health and safety guidelines. The result was a reduction in the number of competitors from the usual 2,000 dogs to about 550. There were no spectators, sponsors, vendors or media. Masks were worn, temperatures were taken, and social distancing was strictly enforced. In a normal year, the National Dog Show usually attracts 15,000 people to The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. This year, only a few hundred were allowed to attend.



Best In Show Karen Wilson with Angela Lloyd (handler), and Best In Show winner, the Scottish Deerhound. Photo credit/National Dog Show Steve Surfman



AKC Reunite/AKC Pet Disaster Relief cutouts at the National Dog Show aired on NBC. Photo credit/National Dog Show Steve Surfman

With all systems go, NBC decided that longtime host John O’Hurley, expert analyst David Frei, and reporter Mary Carillo would handle their duties remotely.

When all was said and done, the precious Scottish Deerhound named Claire won Best in Show. The decorated Hound Group winner captivated judge Karen Wilson of Sperryville, Virginia, who selected her from among seven accomplished finalists out of 538 entries encompassing 173 breeds. A three-year-old, long-legged, classic gray Scottish Deerhound, Claire’s impressive pedigree includes grandmother Hickory, the 2011 Best In Show Champion at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City, and mother Chelsea, the Reserve Best In Show (second place) at the 2015 National Dog Show.

Among the most engaging aspects of the show were the cutouts that provided the backdrop for NBC’s coverage of the competition. They were the result of a charity fundraising initiative similar to those at Major League Baseball games and other sports and entertainment events. The beneficiary was the AKC (American Kennel Club) Pet Disaster Relief, which provides custom-equipped trailers so that regional emergency management teams around the country can deliver animal care services immediately following a disaster. The public was invited to send a picture of their dog along with a donation and the National Dog Show processed the cutouts and placed them around the Expo Center.

The global pandemic certainly sent the National Dog Show in a different direction, 19 years after it was created by NBC executive, Jon Miller. Miller got the inspiration to televise a prominent dog show on network TV Thanksgiving Day from the critically-acclaimed parody movie, *Best In Show*, which has just

celebrated its 20th year anniversary.

Through it, all the 2020 National Dog Show was one for the books. Pre- and post-event coverage included CNN, Bleacher Report, People, Fox News, USA Today, NJ.com, NY Post, CBS News and many more. The members of the Dog Writers Association of America also played a role, supporting the endeavor with articles, mentions, posts and

chatter throughout the fall. When the TV ratings came in, the National Dog Show viewership increased by five percent and was the second most-watched broadcast in the show’s history and the overriding hope is that all returns to normal in 2021. 🐾

**Colleen Joslin is an intern from Temple University working with the Kennel Club of Philadelphia and the National Dog Show.**



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# An Ode to Obedience Trials

By **Ellie Beals**

Like so many of you, I've spent large chunks of my adult life in obedience venues. My perception at the time was that there was pleasure during a few brief moments of any trial day, although you had to plow through a considerable amount of tedium to harvest it. Now, in the absence of trials as we knew them, I realize there was both familiarity and comfort in many details of the competition I hadn't recognized before. Like:

- The constant low-key din of background noise, such as crates opening and closing; dogs whining, snuffing and barking; dozens of

on-going quiet conversations; the calls of both judges and competitors in the ring; the occasional tumult of cheers as a team in the ring successfully completed a long-elusive exercise or title, or when a dog does something unexpected and either heroic (stops before taking the wrong jump and changes direction to take the right one) or funny (detours to take a jump during the drop on recall, but then drops on command despite that); the spectator's gasps or wails of empathetic disappointment, for example when a team that was doing beautifully blows the last exercise. After over 20 years of steady competition,

these sounds were familiar and indeed soothing, as they washed over me in a venue, as the constant background noise of waves and gulls I walk by at the ocean.

- The interplay of anticipation and patience, and the challenges they impose on the handler. This has happened to all of us: you are ready to enter the ring, you've warmed up your dog to the perfect stage of readiness, and then Something Happens. It doesn't matter what caused it or whose fault it was. The challenge for me, and I suspect most of you, is huge: how NOT to experience an onslaught of negative emotions, how to quell at best or at least not display those negative emotions despite your best efforts; how and what to communicate to your dog to maintain the team affect you want as you finally enter the ring.
- The constant "up and down" as you monitor the board to see who is where and what it means in terms of your own timeline. And the dozens of mini-chats that even social sideliners like me have as I wait and monitor.
- The challenge of controlling your dog and yourself as you enter the "maximum focus" zone before competition, as you try (and occasionally fail) to ensure that you remain courteous and aware.
- Those lovely "just-between-us" silent communications you sometimes have with the judge that go well beyond the "I'm so sorry," typical of how a judge kindly conveys that you won't qualify in that class. I'm talking about looking up after you've taken the dumbbell from your dog who is looking up at you, illuminated by



pride, and sees that the judge has a lovely soft look on her face that we've all seen hundreds of times when we meet people who are openly enchanted by your dog. I'm talking about how a judge momentarily slips aside her mask of impersonality to make eye contact with you and laughs when your dog does something undeniably naughty but funny. I'm talking about knowing that none of these valued communications is a promise of a good score, but instead is a demonstration of "us-ness" – the knowledge that she's been there too.

- The awareness that when in the ring, you and your dog are performing. Of course, your primary audience is the judge. But you know that there are people watching. I am very focused in the ring. I never see or hear anyone outside of it. But I know they are there and that at least some of them (not just my own students) are interested in learning. So, as an elder in our discipline, I feel a responsibility to perform in a way that I hope will help and inform them of their efforts. I'm talking about showing how to interact with your dog in a positive fashion, even if/when he makes a mistake; I'm talking about how to interact with stewards and judges in ways that are both thoughtful and time-effective; I'm talking about finding a way to display to newbies or those with acute ring-anxiety that it is possible to have fun while in the ring.
- The input of colleagues. It doesn't happen in every venue or with every club. But in many, congratulations or commiseration after you've left the ring is critical factor in reinforcing the perception that you are not alone, that there are others who understand, watch, and care.

- The joy of victory. Of course, we all like winning. But winning does not include only coming away with a ribbon. Even if you don't qualify or don't place, you can and should be able to take pleasure in your achievements. Any time your dog does well at something you've been working on, it is a victory. So almost every time you compete, regardless of the outcome, there are wins.

As I reread this list I just compiled, I realize that this has turned into an ode to the sport I've loved for so long. Do you remember this line from *Big Yellow Taxi*? *Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone?* Until I sat down to write this piece, I didn't even realize how much I value some of the points on my list, which I had until now perceived as irritating but unavoidable. Absence does indeed make the heart grow fonder. 🐾

## Meet our

# NEW MEMBERS



Lou Anne Roman

### Lou Anne Roman

Lou Anne Roman is an avid dog writer and long-time dog lover. Lou Anne is a writer at All Things Dogs while also partaking in her fair share of ghostwriting. With over two years of dog writing experience, she is looking to further develop

her skill set. She is a graduate of Massey University, New Zealand, where she is working towards her Masters in Animal Science. However, her passion for dog-related media is always kept very close to her heart, and she is the proud owner of two Labrador Retrievers, Mila and Bella.

# The Thorn in the Lion's Paw

By Anne Marie Duquette

COVID-19. It's a word that steals smiles, freedom, and lives. No one deserves to be happy during this crisis, right? Any laughter and "good times" seem so very disrespectful.

Due to San Diego's strict closures, I couldn't even take my dog to our park's pond, where the blasé mallard and teal and widgeon ducks ignore humans, even dappled dachshunds like my twelve-year-old Smokey.

Since everything seemed so dismal, I decided to embrace the dark and undergo a knee replacement surgery I'd postponed for a year. Even using two crutches, a fall at midnight without my trusty cellphone scared me to death. As I lay there, hurting and helpless on the kitchen floor, all I could think of was the commercial where a woman cries, "Help, I've fallen and I can't get up!" Eventually, I staggered back to bed and I made my dreaded surgery appointment.

Before I went into the hospital, I saw that my little dog's rear hock was swollen. Since this had happened before, due to his age and arthritis, I wasn't too worried. The vet gave him anti-inflammatory meds and scheduled an appointment for a recheck in two weeks. We were back in five days, the swelling twice the size. The vet discovered an abscess, cut a hole in the elbow, flushed out the inside with antibiotics, and sent him home with three different bottles of meds.

Four days later, my eleven-pound dog had a ping pong ball-sized knot on his tiny elbow and was crying in pain. I rushed him in for emergency surgery. They found a deeply embedded, broken-off rose thorn and removed it. He needed five medications, daily flush-



ing, and couldn't have a bandage over the stitches so the wound could drain. He also had to wear the hated cone of shame, and worst of all, he whimpered in pain.

My heart was breaking. I was terrified that my senior dog might have complications. He didn't, but this whole medical crisis took five weeks to resolve and his stamina went way down. He wasn't bouncing back, despite my husband's and my care.

Then it was my turn for the scalpel. My sister, mother, and two friends all had knee replacements. All were upbeat about their surgery and the "wonderful" cure; no more falls or wobbly knees. But none of them had complications like I did. My blood pressure after surgery dropped to 80 over 40 and didn't change. That meant oxygen profusion to my brain was dangerously low. It also meant no opioids. Ice and prayers to God got me through day one, without



# President's Column

*Continued from pg 2*

gratitude goes out to **Maggie Marton** and **Kristin Avery** for serving alongside me and staying on board during a pandemic. We've managed to grow, shape, and pivot to help DWAA become the incredible organization it is today. DWAA's roots are steeped in tradition, but together we've managed to honor the past while investing in the future.

**Marsha**, thank you for your tireless efforts to keep the books balanced and the dollars making 'sense' as Treasurer of DWAA. The organization is very fortunate to have you as a dedicated member and officer.

**Darlene**, your vision and handling of the annual writing competition has been nothing short of outstanding. Thank you for your leadership and creating a sell-out event at the 2020 annual in-person gala. "Reach for it, push yourself as far as you can," Christa McAuliffe once said. Thank you for reaching for the stars. It's been a pleasure to watch your vision unfold into reality.

As we prepare to pass the torch to the new leadership team, please join me in thanking the present team for their dedicated work, time, and expertise in accomplishing the following over our two-year term:

- New website and blog
- Streamlined membership database
- 200 percent growth in membership
- Social media growth and social media channel managers: **Shelley Bueche**, **Lisa Begin-Kruysman**, **Dawn Taylor**, and **Hannah Zulueta**
- Private members-only Facebook group
- Sold out writing competition gala in a new location
- New contest and competition chair

*See PRESIDENT'S COLUMN pg 27*

my husband at my side. COVID meant "no visitors."

By day two, I was in agony and asked for a discharge. I wanted to go home with my husband and Smokey. My husband is a retired Navy corpsman (medic) and could monitor my blood pressure until it was safe to take opioids. I sobbed in pain, and during that long night, he stroked my forehead and held my hand. His love got me through to day three, when my blood pressure returned to normal. I could finally take the blessed pain pills and sleep, Smokey at my side.

Hubby now had two senior patients to tend, a dog and a human. Neither of us walked much, save for potty breaks. Smokey and I huddled under the blankets, dreaming of a rainbow-catching spray of water from the huge bronze seahorse fountain in our pond. Instead, we both ate on the couch and watched too much TV.

Then it got worse. My physical therapist started coming to the house, teaching me how to use a walker and exercise. Despite his stitched hock, my hurting, cranky, yet protective little dachshund escaped from my grandson's arms and bit the therapist hard on the thigh. No human skin was broken, but still... Luckily, the therapist owned and loved dogs himself and didn't make a formal complaint, but he never returned. He scheduled out-patient therapy for me instead. When my husband drove me home to Smokey after these sessions, I watched the depressing TV COVID stats from the couch and felt so low.

Then I thought, "Should I really let COVID-19 do this to me? I'm taking care of my dog, but he's miserable. Maybe it's because *I'm* miserable. COVID or no COVID, this ends today!"

First, I ordered Smokey an inflatable neck balloon and exchanged it

for the plastic cone of shame. Since his dachshund legs were so short, the cone edge kept tripping him, which hurt his bad leg. But to my delight, he perked up.

Next, enter the "old lady" scooter. With a dog pawprint mask on my face, and my healing dog in my lap, we went for our first sidewalk ride. Smokey was nervous about the scooter and my knee hurt going over the bumps, but we were free! My husband walked along as a backup during all the days after that.

As his leg healed, Smokey soon walked more and rode less. It took me longer, but by the time the park reopened, Smokey and my husband and I, cane in hand, walked to the duck pond again.

My husband and I became closer. My dog and I became closer. My husband and Smokey became closer, because during my illness he'd taken over my usual role as Smokey's nurse and caretaker. Our happy trio bonded like we never had before! We put aside the traumatic memories of surgery, embraced the California sun, embraced each other, and in doing so, pushed hard against the dark cloud of COVID.

Yes, the virus is terrible. Yes, I pray every night for the afflicted and a cure. But I've kept our precious bubble of hope and happiness intact, even when my brother and my son were both exposed to COVID-positive coworkers.

Their tests were negative, thankfully, but I could never have waited for the results without hysteria before Smokey's and my surgeries.

The sun sets over the Pacific beach here, yet every morning it shines again. In these dark times, I hold tight to the light I found, thanks to a thorny rose...and my Smokey. 🐾

# Rocky's Pandemic Year

By **Mindy Schwartz**

We saw him first in a kennel at the same shelter where we'd adopted our last two dogs. Nicky waited in the car for us to find her a new brother. There were so many cute little puppies that it was hard to decide, until one ran up and untied my husband's shoe. We knew he was the one for us, and Nicky quickly agreed. We bought him a new collar and leash, signed a lot of papers and "Felix" was ours.

The ride home was a disaster. Without going into details, I'll tell you that we had to pull over, throw the brand-new leash and collar into a dumpster and drive the rest of the way home with a stinky puppy in my lap. All was forgiven when Nicky introduced the new puppy to our backyard, and suddenly we remembered that she was only three years old. Her youth was restored by having a little brother who wanted to play with her.

Felix quickly became Rocky, which anyone who's met him will confirm is a much more fitting name. He was a stubborn boy who hated his crate, managed to destroy two down comforters in two days, and was carsick every time he got in the car until he was almost a year old. He was also sweet, loving and cuddly.

As the years have gone by, Rocky has continued to be a loving and mischievous dog. He still doesn't understand why people don't want a 70-pound Ridgeback mix jumping on them, but he's a little slower and easier to avoid now. He was Nicky's best friend for over ten years, and when we decided to raise puppies for a service dog organization, he became a great big brother to Alma and then to Wrangler.



Rocky is now just a few months away from being 14-years-old which is approximately 78 in human years. When he turned 13 this past March, he was having major mobility problems and I was constantly worried about him. It was the start of the coronavirus pandemic in the US. He's been a faithful companion as we stayed at home, only venturing outside to take walks every day. While the pandemic postponed my dream of a career change, it has given me time to focus on Rocky. Old age and four knee surgeries have taken their toll and my old guy can't walk as far as we used to go. He has trouble sitting down and getting up. At his last vet visit the doctor mentioned that a local veterinary hospital now had a rehabilitation department, so I made an appointment to have Rocky evaluated.

The appointment went well and has given us hope. Rocky is now going to rehab twice a week. The first recommendation was for him to walk on the underwater treadmill, but because of

coronavirus precautions I couldn't be with him, and Rocky was frightened by the noise and the water. Instead, he gets laser therapy, therapeutic exercise and massage twice a week, and acupuncture once each week. The rehabilitation therapists kept telling me how much our guy likes acupuncture, but it wasn't until recently that I learned that acupuncture treatments include peanut butter. Our rehab routine also includes a stop for a puppuccino (a small cup of whipped cream) at a drive-thru on the way home.

Even when the pandemic is gone, Rocky's health and quality of life will remain a priority. The rehab appointments will continue even after life returns to normal. He has better balance, a great attitude and lots of energy. While I dreaded his 13th birthday because he seemed to be getting so old, I'm looking forward to celebrating his 14th with the hope that it will be another great year of mobility and action for Rocky. 🐾

# President's Column

Continued from pg 25

- New location for annual event
- Raffles and prizes at annual event
- Increase in special award writing competition sponsors
- Increase in writing competition entrants
- Regularly posted blog content
- Keynote speakers for annual banquet: **Anne Serling** and **Larry Woodward**
- Timely distribution of competition finalist certificates
- More regular categories in annual writing competition
- Increase in writing competition judges
- Organization featured in various media outlets
- Press releases and public relations management
- New board of directors member
- Streamlined system of organizational management via Google Drive

Thanks to all of our members who helped DWAA become the force it is today in 2021. I look forward to watching the organization grow bigger and reach further. I will continue on with a two-year term as Immediate Past President. Please join me in welcoming the new officers, who are recognized in this issue.

All my best, keep writing, and most of all, embrace the spirit of dogs, past and present. They are the purest example of unconditional love that unites us all.

My Heart Beats Dog®,

*Carol Bryant*

DWAA PRESIDENT

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# FROM THE ARCHIVES



Mordecai Siegal

DWAA Hall of Fame winner, David Frei, shares this wonderful photo of the late, great Mordecai Siegal. David says the photo was taken at an Angel On A Leash party several years ago.

Mordecai Siegal, DWAA president from 1994 to 2000 and noted author of 38 pet books, passed away on April 2, 2010. Siegal was the recipient of the

2007 DWAA Hall of Fame Award for his decades of devotion to dog writing and the DWAA. He was named the 1994 and 2000 Distinguished Service Awardee, was the recipient of numerous Maxwell Medallions, and is a Lifetime Honorary Board Member. He joined the organization in 1974. In writing about DWAA, he said:

*“ Most of my colleagues are fellow dog writers who belong to the organization nearest and dearest to my heart, the Dog Writers Association of America. If you have a passion for dogs, write a lot, a little, for the love it, or for the hell of it, I invite you to join us at the DWAA. Sometimes we're good company and sometimes we are irritating beyond belief, but we are always interesting. At DWAA there is friendship to be found, networking to take advantage of, and at important times, a helping hand. ”*

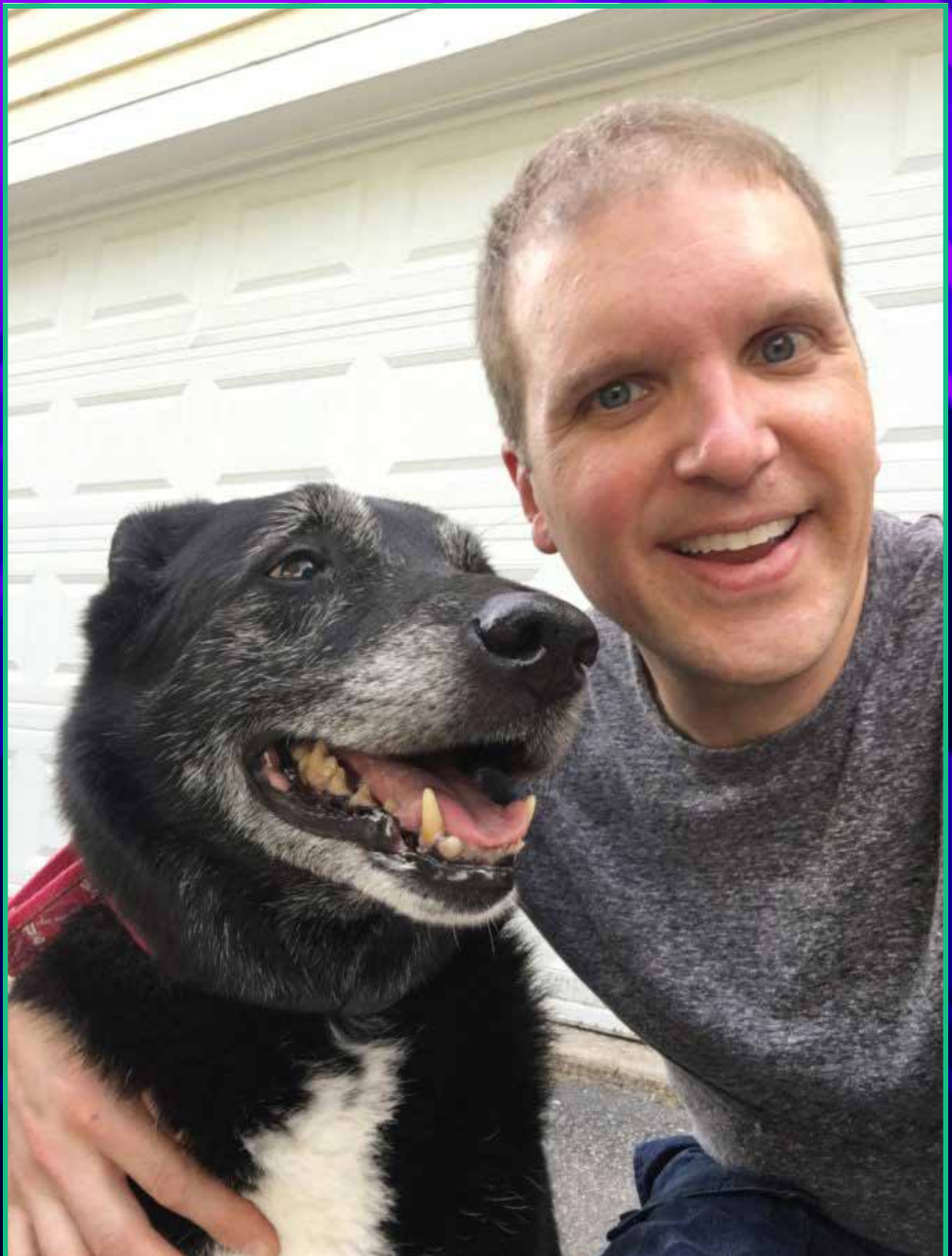
—Mordecai Siegal

# INTRODUCING

## DWAA's New Webmaster

Please join me in welcoming Chris Roy as DWAA's new webmaster. Chris is a new DWAA member and is hitting the ground running.

Chris is an IT Professional in his "day" job and the founder and CEO of Doobert in his nights and weekends. As an avid animal rescuer and commercially licensed pilot, Chris focused on building the only transport software for the animal rescue industry. Doobert works like a volunteer-based Uber and there are 30,000+ volunteers across the country signed up that any rescue or shelter can use. Doobert has evolved over the years and now is the ONLY platform for rescue that supports two-way text messaging and foster management through their Foster-space module. Chris continue to dream up ideas for how technology can help people to help more animals. He lives outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is supported by his amazing wife Daphne and their 1 dog, Maddox and 4 cats, Mina, Gracie, Ash and "Naughty" Ember 🐾



Chris and Bear

For more about Chris, visit [doobert.com](https://doobert.com). Welcome to the pack, Chris!



Kristin Avery, Secretary  
PO Box 7052  
Evanston, IL 60204

## Gotta Luv 'Em

By Janice Biniok



*Don't worry Daisy... Your craving for people food is not an obsessive-compulsive disorder.*

## Editor's Letter

*Continued from pg 3*

In 1859, Dickens published the serialized version of *The Tale of Two Cities* which began, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness."

One hundred and eleven years later, in 1970, Garcia, and his Grateful Dead bandmates published their song "Truckin'" which included this chorus: Sometimes the light's all shinin' on me,

Other times, I can barely see, Lately, it occurs to me,  
What a long, strange trip it's been. 🐾