

# 2020 Writing Competition

## DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

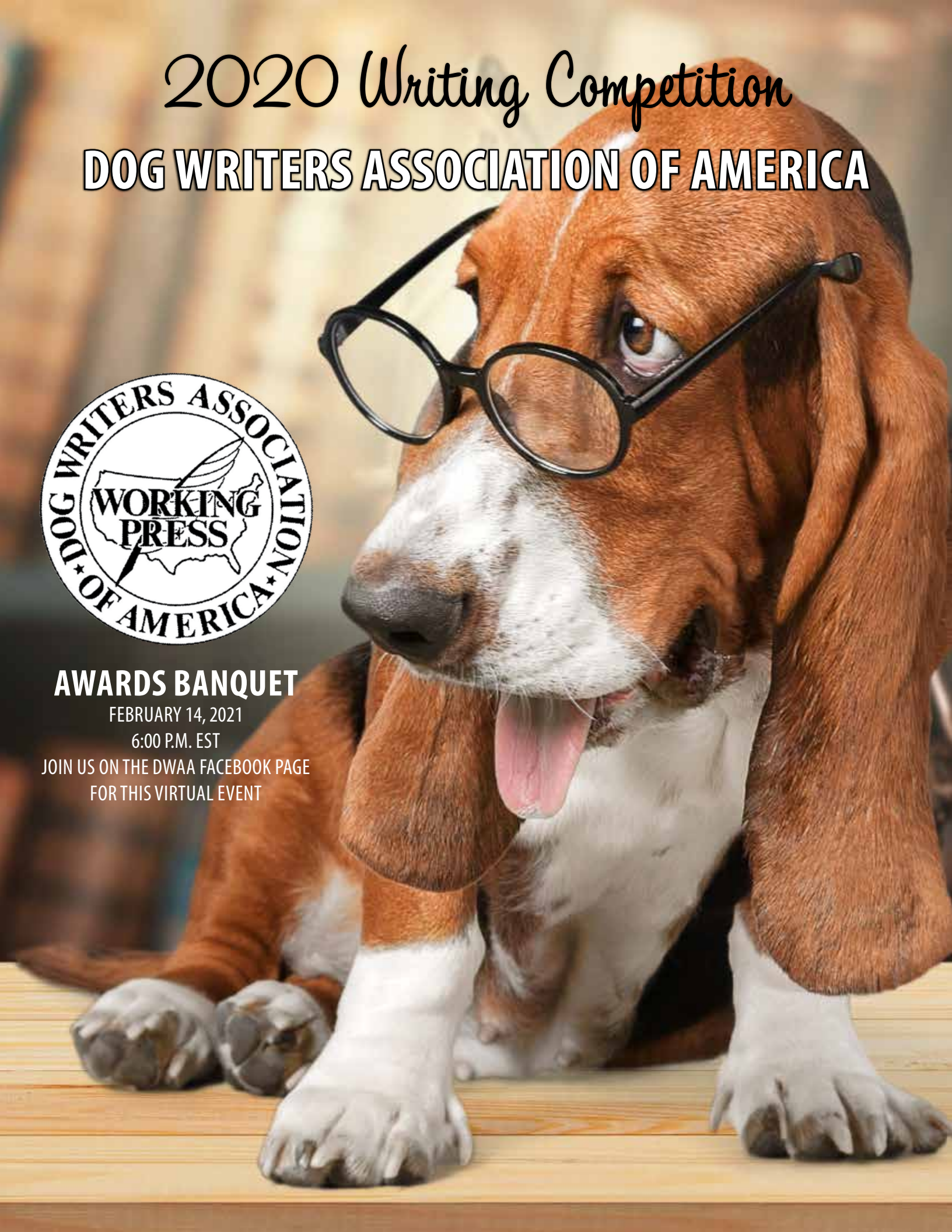


### AWARDS BANQUET

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

6:00 P.M. EST

JOIN US ON THE DWAA FACEBOOK PAGE  
FOR THIS VIRTUAL EVENT





# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®



*The American Kennel Club  
congratulates all  
Dog Writers Association of America members  
on another successful year.*

*We appreciate your contributions  
to the sport of purebred dogs.*



# Agenda

Hello and welcome to the first ever Dog Writers Association of America writing competition virtual awards ceremony. One thing the pandemic cannot stop is the enthusiasm, spirit, and celebration that is the annual writing competition in the name of dog.

The show must go on, and in 2021 we've pivoted to a virtual event. It is essential, now more than ever, to remain steadfast in our traditions in recognizing the achievements of the DWAA family. It is our intent that this year's presentation will be a positive outcome and experience for everyone tuning in from their laptops, mobile devices, and tablets.

In 2020, DWAA's in-person event was sold out, and this year we have even more eyes on the celebration. Online events and social media are needed and implemented now more than ever in this new normal. As a collective whole tuning in for this online broadcast, we are reminded that none of us is ever truly alone. No doubt, many of you are tuning in with a dog or two or three at your feet or by your side on the couch. DWAA has the potential to reach thousands and even millions via this broadcast.

This time around, we received close to 1,000 entries across 49 categories and special awards. Although COVID-19 slowed many things down, it did not dampen the enthusiasm and interest in this time-honored competition. Congratulations to all finalists and award winners. You should be most proud of yourselves, as the judges selected you above all the other entries.

The annual writing competition allows entrants to showcase their talents to the world of dog lovers at large. It develops confidence in both members and non-members and shines the spotlight on a job well done.

Special gratitude is extended to all of our special award sponsors, without whom this competition would not be possible. Please take note of our sponsors, visit them on social media, and take a peek at their websites.

Grab a cup of your favorite beverage, snuggle your dogs nearby, and enjoy tonight's unprecedented event. This is the 2021 DWAA Virtual Writing Competition Ceremony.

Yours truly,

**Darlene Bryant**

DWAA COMPETITION AND EVENT CHAIR

## Join Us!

**VIRTUAL EVENT ON THE DWAA FACEBOOK PAGE**

**February 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. EST**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3086760964715517>

All members are invited to join us on our private Facebook group!

*Paid, current members in good standing only.*

# Welcome

Hello and welcome to the Dog Writers Association 2021 Virtual Awards! Steeped in history, this event is a time-honored tradition that began on February 13, 1935, and continues this evening, albeit in a different format.

We are living through unprecedented times with the donning of masks, social distancing, teleconferencing, and the shift to a very virtual new normal. Through it all, dogs are a staple for serenity, sanity, and balance. How many of you have leaned a bit closer towards your dogs since the pandemic began? I'm raising my cyber hand in union with you.

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.

Despite the epic changes in the world, the annual DWAA Writing Competition showed no signs of slowing down. Our Competition Chair received close to 900 entries, which nearly tied last year's record. Finalists were announced in December, and winners are revealed in tonight's virtual ceremony. Without our treasured sponsors, there would be no competition, so thank you for your continued support of the organization and our entrants. I invite you to follow each sponsor in this program across social media.

Tonight's event 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.

Anyone who has an interest in creative endeavors that promote the interest of dogs is welcomed and encouraged to become a member of DWAA and compete in the annual writing competition. This includes, but is not limited to, writers, authors, journalists, publicists, bloggers, social media influencers, photographers, illustrators, and on-air personalities. Those interested in joining DWAA are encouraged to apply through the website.

Tonight, we award Maxwell medallions in the regular categories in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle, along with almost \$12,000 in special awards thanks to our generous sponsors that are featured in this program. We hear you, we see you, and we award you! It's a wonderful time to be a dog writer. A special note of gratitude to Banquet and Contest Chair, Darlene Bryant, for her dedicated efforts and vision in advancing the mission of DWAA through her dual roles.

We strive to honor the roots of DWAA while propelling the organization into a digital, fast-paced era. Please join me in welcoming the new executive team members: Therese Backowski, President; Susan C. Willett, Vice President; Emelise Baughman, Secretary; and two new board members: Rachel Brix and Jill Schilp.

If you have any suggestions or want to get more involved with DWAA, reach out to executive team members or Board of Governors members. As the now Immediate Past President of DWAA, congratulations to all!

**Carol Bryant**

OUTGOING DWAA PRESIDENT



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# Congratulations to all Dog Writers Association of America Award Recipients

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***"I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me, they are the role model for being alive."***

***- Gilda Radner***



Just as our dog, Rio, inspired us to sponsor The Rio Award in the DWAA Writing Competition, we'd like to thank all the dogs who inspire the members of the Dog Writers Association of America in our work—as well as our daily lives.

Cheers!

Jen Reeder and Bryan Fryklund

# Dog Writers Association of America

OUTGOING PRESIDENT

**Carol Bryant**

OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENT

**Maggie Marton**

OUTGOING SECRETARY

**Kristin Avery**

TREASURER

**Marsha Pugh**

BANQUET AND CONTEST CHAIR

**Darlene Bryant**



OUTGOING IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**Jen Reeder**

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LEGAL COUNSEL

**Ida Estep, Esq.**

## Thank You

### THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS FOR ATTENDING THE DWAA VIRTUAL AWARDS

*We also wish to recognize and extend gratitude to:*

DWAA'S SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

**Shelley Bueche and Lisa Begin-Kruysman**

FACEBOOK

**Dawn Taylor**

TWITTER

**Hannah Zulueta**

INSTAGRAM

**Merrie Meyers**

RUFF DRAFTS EDITOR

**Mara Bovsun**

FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUNG WRITERS ON  
THE WEB

**Maggie Marton, Kristin Avery, Marsha Pugh,  
and Jen Reeder**

FOR BEING AN INTEGRAL AND AMAZING PART OF  
DWAA'S MISSION

**Darlene Bryant**

FOR TAKING ON DUAL ROLES AS BANQUET AND  
COMPETITION CHAIR

**Ida Estep, Esq.**

DWAA'S LEGAL COUNSEL

**Caroline Coile, Ph.D., Patricia Cruz, Karen A.  
Harbert, Gail C. Parker, Laurie C. Williams,  
CPDT-KA, CDTI, Joel Gavriele-Gold, Ph.D.**

DWAA'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS



# *A special note of gratitude from outgoing President, Carol Bryant:*

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 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 for 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.

Jen Reeder, thank you for being a mentor, inspiration, ray of sunshine, and bright light to DWAA and all the lives you touch. I am a better person for your friendship.

To Dexter, thank you for inspiring me, encouraging me, and setting the bar high for future Presidential first dogs.

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 and database

- 200 percent growth in membership
- Social media growth
- Private members-only Facebook group
- Sold-out writing competition gala in a new location
- New competition and event chair
- A new location for the annual event
- Raffles and prizes at the annual event
- Increase in special award writing competition sponsors
- Increase in writing competition entrants
- Regularly posted blog content
- Keynote speakers at annual event: Anne Serling and Larry Woodward
- Timely distribution of competition finalist certificates
- More regular categories in the writing competition
- Increase in writing competition judges
- The organization featured in various media outlets
- Press releases and public relations management
- New board of directors member
- A streamlined system of organizational management

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**

OUTGOING DWAA PRESIDENT

DOG LOVER OF THE HIGHEST ORDER

[FidoseofReality.com](http://FidoseofReality.com)

# CONGRATULATIONS



to all the winners  
of this year's  
**DWAA JUNIOR  
WRITER AWARDS!**

The officers and board extend our deepest  
thanks to the anonymous sponsor who so  
generously made these awards possible.



*Congratulations to this year's winners!*



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# Hall of Fame Inductee



## Marsha M. Pugh



Marsha M. Pugh has shown dogs in competition beginning at age six with her Chihuahuas. In 1992, she purchased her first Italian Greyhound. She is a founding member and officer of the Mid-Atlantic Italian Greyhound Club of Central Maryland, an officer of the Italian Greyhound Club of America and the DWAA.

Marsha wrote a column for the parent club's breed publication, "The Italian Greyhound" for over 15 years and freelanced for local city and county publications. She chairs breed specialties, conducts public education seminars and helps individuals and groups to organize breed or specialty clubs. She works with her parent club's rescue program.

Marsha is an approved 4-H judge and leads 4-H classes throughout several counties. She is a recognized rescue home for horses and provides long term or often permanent foster.

*Presented this 14th day of February, 2021.*

*Carol Bryant*

Carol Bryant  
President



*Kristin Avery*

Kristin Avery  
Secretary

# Hall of Fame Inductee



## *Susan M. Ewing*

Susan M. Ewing has been writing professionally since she was 15 and is a past DWAA secretary, vice-president, and contest chair. Her newspaper column, "The Pet Pen" has run in "The Post-Journal" in Jamestown, NY for 20 years and she is the author of 14 books and many magazine and newspaper articles. Her books, "The American Pit Bull Terrier," and "101 Things to Know Before Getting a Dog" won Maxwell Medallions. She also writes about cats, and was president of the Cat Writers' Association.

Su owned and operated a boarding kennel for several years. Her passion is Pembroke Welsh Corgis and she has competed in both conformation and obedience, as well as earning trick dog titles with her dogs. She enjoys stewarding and was a member of Tri-State Stewarding for many years.

*Presented this 14th day of February, 2021.*

*Carol Bryant*

Carol Bryant  
President



*Kristin Avery*

Kristin Avery  
Secretary

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# Congratulations

## TO THE 2020 DWAA NOMINEES!



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Our mission is to produce high quality books on dogs and bring humane, understandable and scientifically sound information to people who enrich their lives by working with, playing with and loving dogs.

Many Dogwise Publishing books are DWAA winners and several won their highest honor, the Maxwell Award.

Dogwise Publishing is actively seeking new authors and books for our market relating to a wide range of dog training activities, behavior, nutrition, breeding and health care. We are looking for manuscripts that are innovative, unique, and add valuable new information to the existing literature.

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## DWAA Distinguished Service Award

### ☑ *Jen Reeder*

Freelance journalist Jen Reeder is a strong believer in the importance of work that helps and celebrates dogs, which is reflected in her service to DWAA and her writing itself.

In 2017, Jen began serving a 2-year term as DWAA President after learning the organization faced financial issues and waning interest. She spearheaded programs to add value to membership, such as Editor Insights, Successful Queries and Young Writers on the Web, which seeks to nurture the next generation of dog writers.

Jen revived the DWAA blog, scouted locations for the awards banquet – which she organized both years – and attracted new sponsors for special awards, including an increase of \$7,900 in the first year alone. She has continued to serve on the Executive Committee for the past two years as Immediate Past President.

On the writing front, Jen works to educate and inspire dog lovers with service articles as well as profiles of dogs and advocates who make the world a better place. She's been busy covering breaking news about coronavirus and pets for the TODAY show's website and has written over 80 articles about pets – mainly dogs – for national publications since the onset of the pandemic.

Her byline has appeared in AKC Family Dog, BBC News, The Daily Beast, HuffPost, Family Circle, Woman's World, The Christian

Science Monitor, PBS's Next Avenue, Happy Paws Magazine, Fear Free Happy Homes, Best Friends Magazine, Modern Dog, Tufts University's Your Dog, Just Labs Magazine, AAHA's Trends Magazine, Inside Your Dog's Mind and many other publications.

Jen's articles about dogs have garnered writing awards from DWAA as well as the American Society of Journalists and Authors, Society for Features Journalism, American Society of Business Publication Editors and Colorado Authors' League.

Jen writes from her home office in Denver, which she shares with her husband and their beloved dogs, Rio and Peach. Visit her online at: [JenReeder.com](http://JenReeder.com).



*Jen Reeder*

# The Grey Muzzle Organization

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The Grey Muzzle Organization improves the lives of at-risk and homeless senior dogs by providing funding and resources to animal welfare organizations nationwide. Learn more at [greymuzzle.org](http://greymuzzle.org).



## AND NOW FOR THE FINALISTS 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
- ☐ Sassafras Lowrey - Before You Adopt: Planning a Lifelong Commitment to Your Pet's Health

##### 2. ARTICLE – BEHAVIOR OR TRAINING

- ☐ Sassafras 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 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 - Chronicle of the Dog/ Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT)
- ☐ 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 – Fidose 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
- ☐ Lorraine 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
- ☐ 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 Gavriele-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
- ☐ 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 Gavriele-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 Shojai - 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 & Dont's
- ☐ 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)



**All regular category finalists receive a certificate. Winners in the regular categories receive a Maxwell medallion and pin.**



# Special Award Finalists

## 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.



- ☐ 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

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## 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 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 - Advance Trick Dog - Why you should teach your dog tricks!

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## 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.

## Canine Scribbles

- ☐ 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

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## 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.



## AMERICAN LEGION BRICK MEMORIAL POST 348

- ☐ 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

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## 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.



**Dr. Harvey's**

*Fine Health Foods  
for Companion Animals*

- ☐ 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, 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 \$300.00 grant.

- ☐ Debby McMullen - Looks are Deceiving: Why

**LISA & RICHARD KRUYSMAN  
CINDY & JACK BEGIN**

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
- ☐ 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.



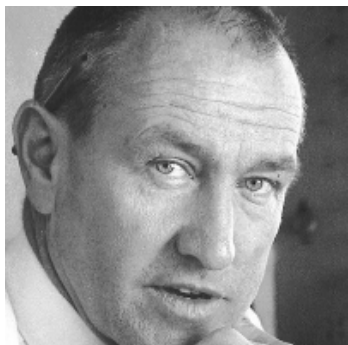
- ☐ Jen Reeder - These Precious Days



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## 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

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## 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.

**JAMES COLASANTI, JR.**

- ☐ Debra Lampert-Rudman - In Our Bed

- ☐ Christy Doherty – Star Dancer
- ☐ Lisa Begin-Kruysman - Home With Human Blues (A Dog's Point of View)

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## 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

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## 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.



**THE WESTMINSTER  
KENNEL CLUB**

- ☐ 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. Do not apply for this award.



# THANK YOU!



Thank you to Dogwise  
for your constant support  
of the DWAA!

[dogwise.com](http://dogwise.com) (800) 776-2665

# Attitude of Gratitude

By **Darlene Bryant**,

DWAA EVENT & COMPETITION CHAIR

Each year, DWAA relies on an independent panel of volunteers to judge the competition entries. Despite the pandemic, we had close to 900 entries, making this year's competition very close to the number received last year.

Thank you to the judges for volunteering your time, support, and talents to make this year's com-

petition a success. We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to volunteer as judges. Without each of you, there would be no writing competition.

This is a great opportunity for writers to showcase their talents and for others to discover what is being created. This develops confidence in both members and non-members to take their journey further while rewarding a job well done.

**Many thanks to the following competition judges for volunteering their time and expertise on behalf of the 2020 entrants:**

Sandy Mesmer  
Duncan MacVean  
Christy Caplan  
Bryn Nowell  
Jen Reeder  
June Greig  
Elizabeth Lopez  
Gail Bisher  
Melissa Kauffman  
Carol Bryant  
Theresa Lyons  
Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell  
Yasmine Ali  
Marsha Pugh  
LuAnn Stuver Rogers  
Tilly Grassa  
Mary Schwager  
Maggie Marton  
Arden Moore  
Peri Norman  
Paula Gregg  
Michael Hoffman  
Kim Thornton

Susan Metzger  
Angela Schneider  
Aimee Gertsch  
Kristin Avery  
Casey Bobek  
Kate Kuligowski  
Melissa McMath Hatfield  
Bobbie Pyron  
Teri Wilson  
Virginia Norman  
William Patterson  
Cori Solomon  
Barbara Magera  
Patricia Stephens  
Mary Burch  
Adria Henderson  
Hilary Lane  
Lisa Bregant  
Debra Lampert-Rudman  
Marcie Davis  
Dawn White  
Fran Pennock Shaw  
Skye Anderson

Joel Gavriale-Gold  
Caroline Coile  
Rachel Brix  
Michele Wojciechowski  
Sarah Montague  
Emma Kesler  
Teoti Anderson  
Susan Willett  
Shelley Bueche  
Cara Achterberg  
Elaine Gewirtz  
Beth Ann Amico  
Fay Pacchioli  
Sandy King  
Sue Bobek  
Lisa Peterson  
Susan Luck  
Cathy Weselby  
Linda Saraco  
Mary Fish Arango  
Deborah Wood  
Rebecca Sanchez  
Denise Fleck

Corally Burmaster  
Emelise Baughman  
Alden Taylor  
Anne Marie Duquette  
Marilyn Singer  
Laurie Williams

Mary Abram  
Amy Tokic  
Kelsie McKenzie  
Kathy Mandell  
Joanne Anderson  
Christy Powers

Karen Harbert  
Merrie Meyers  
Mara Bovsun  
Sharon Fremer  
Kathleen Komlos  
Ranny Green

# 2021 Writing Competition

## 2021 WRITING COMPETITION UPDATES

The 2021 DWAA Writing Competition will accept entries beginning July 5, 2021. All online entries must be submitted on or before Sunday, September 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. EST. Mail-in entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, September 4, 2021, as evidenced by the postmark. In either case, submissions must be accompanied by payment in full.

A panel of three judges scores each entry. Judges consist of DWAA members and non-members who are professional writers and editors. Judges' scores determine the nominees and winners. Judges may enter the competition, but will not judge entries in categories they enter.

Judges' decisions are final. A list of judges will be posted in October, 2021.

Nominees will be announced via DWAA's website and social media properties (i.e. Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook) on Monday, December 6, 2021. Winners will be announced TBD.

Nominees in the regular and special categories receive certificates. Winners of regular categories receive the DWAA Maxwell Medallion, named in honor of the late Maxwell Riddle. Winners of special categories receive awards as listed on the DWAA's website.

## Eligibility

- The competition is open to all writers, editors, publishers, photographers, artists and others whose work falls into the designated competition categories.
- Members and non-members may apply.
- Competition is open to all eligible writers worldwide.
- Discounted member entry fees are available to members in good standing as of May 1, 2021.
- Only original work published between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021 will be accepted.
- Reprints, revisions, updates of previously published work are not eligible.
- An entry may be submitted in only one regular category. Exception: A book containing art may be submitted in a book category and in one or more art categories and requires two or more entry fees.
- Magazines, newsletters and blogs must be published at least quarterly.
- Submissions begin July 5, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. EST. The competition closes for online entries on September 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. EST.
- All mail-in entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, September 4, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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You did it!  
*Congratulations*



*Carol, Darlene,  
& Dexter  
The Bryants*

## **Harrison Stephens**

### **Inspirational Feature Award**



“Steve” was a kind and caring man. He appreciated good writing,  
good grammar, good humor and a good story.

(He was indifferent to the Oxford comma.)

He also would have said, “Well done” to all of the finalists of the DWAA.

## **Congratulations!**

# Report from the Nominating Committee

A nominating committee of Susan Ewing, committee chair, and Amy Shojai and Dusty Hellman has put together a slate of officers, to be voted on at the February annual meeting. If no one else runs, the slate will be approved by the current secretary at the virtual annual meeting.

Remember that any member in good standing may run for office if they submit a petition containing the signatures of ten members, also in good standing, by November first to the secretary.

PRESIDENT: **Therese Backowski**

VICE PRESIDENT: **Susan C. Willett**

SECRETARY: **Emelise Baughman**

TREASURER: **Marsha Pugh**

BOARD MEMBER: **Jill Schilp**

BOARD MEMBER: **Rachel Brix**

Below are short biographies of the nominees.

## President: Therese Backowski

Therese Backowski is a 2015 graduate of The Ohio State University. She majored in English with a minor in Professional Writing.

She is a past editor of *Off Lead Magazine*, and was a frequent freelance contributor to *Clean Run* magazine as well as several other pet industry related publications. Her all-college winning essay, *Designer Dogs, Fabulous Fact or Fiasco*, written while she was a student at North Central State College, is published in the Pearson textbook, *A Ticket to Write*.

The Dog Writers Association of America has awarded her 4 Maxwell medals for her outstanding work with *OffLead*, as well as her informational newsletter, *Groomer to Groomer*.

Ms. Backowski recently finished editing a film



script for a local production, *Chasers*, which will be filmed in Mansfield, Ohio.

Therese teaches dog obedience to private clients, and trains service dogs. In addition, she spends a great deal of time adjusting her halo and angel wings, because they seem to always be askew.

She lives with a neurotic rescued Standard Poodle and a Chihuahua, also rescued, that has a very strange, heart shaped nose.

## Vice-president: Susan C. Willett

Susan C. Willett is an author and blogger, whose award-winning stories, poems, and humor appear in print and online, including her website [Life-WithDogsAndCats.com](http://Life-WithDogsAndCats.com) and on Facebook, Twitter





*Susan C. Willett and Jasper*

(@WithDogsAndCats), and Instagram (@lifewith-dogsandcats), as well as publications such as *Dogster*, *Catster* and *Cat Talk* magazine. Her work is featured in multiple *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, including two published this summer—*The Magic of Cats* and *Listen to Your Dreams*—and several anthologies by Callie Smith Grant: *Second-Chance Dogs*, *Second-Chance Cats* and a Christmas-themed dog book slated for 2021. Susan shares her home with dogs Lilah, Jasper, and Halley, as well as cats Dawn, Athena, Elsa Clair and Calvin T. Katz, The Most Interesting Cat in the World™, whose photo went viral and now has his own social media accounts. Susan served as a council member for the Cat Writers' Association, and is currently a board member of the New Jersey chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. A winner of multiple writing awards, including several from the CWA and the DWAA, Susan finds plenty of inspiration for her work; often it's hiding in a box, splashing through a mud puddle, or taking up an entire couch.

## Secretary: Emelise Baughman

It's hard to write about myself, even harder because the Chesapeake beside me keeps wanting his ears rubbed. Plus, he's shedding, so shouldn't I vacuum first? No? I will introduce myself as a life-long dog fancier, and a writer of many decades. My dog involvement has led to serving several dog clubs over the years, including being a Board member for the American Chesapeake Club and the Columbia (MO) Kennel Club. Most recently, I served as secretary for the Grand Island Nebraska Kennel Club for about ten years. I like my minutes to be accurate, phrased correctly, and informative to the membership. That is what's important here, but personally I have shown Chesapeakes since 1978, I live in rural Nebraska with my husband Pat, and we have two beautiful granddaughters who also love dogs. After many years of DWAA membership and several cherished Maxwell medallions, it's time to give back so I am putting in my application for Secretary.

## Treasurer: Marsha Pugh

Incumbent Marsha Pugh has been a member of DWAA since 2004 and has been treasurer since 2011. She has led an interesting life, including a stay on Alcatraz (her father was a guard) but her



*Emelise Baughman and Hazel*



Marsha Pugh

life has always included dogs, with a childhood filled with many dogs, including Chihuahuas. She is a second-generation dog person and has been showing and breeding dogs since her earliest memories. Besides show dogs, she has taken in many strays, including once an entire litter of puppies. She conducts handling classes and judges 4-H competitions. Until her retirement in March 2010, she was the administrator of a multi-million-dollar pension fund. Now she manages a household of busy Italian Greyhounds.

### Board Member: Jill Schilp

Jill Schilp grew up believing that a girl and her dog could change the world. For the next thirty years, she worked as a psychiatric nurse educator and a certified professional in healthcare quality. In all those years, she discovered something. She was right about dogs changing the world.

When she retired from health care, Jill began her second act as a certified humane educator, a volunteer therapy animal instructor, and dogwriter. She writes at the intersection of dogs and human health. She aims to show readers how dogs make a unique contribution to human health care and to inspire the reader's curiosity about what is possible in human-animal collaboration.

Jill is the author of *Dogs in Health Care: Pioneering Animal-Human Partnerships*, a book in the Dogs in Our World Series published by McFarland Books in 2019. In 2014, Jill's blog, *The Daily Junior* received the Dog Writers Association of America Maxwell Award for Best Blog. Her work has appeared in journal articles, books, magazines, and online, and she has been a contributor to a pet blog for a major daily newspaper. She has co-edited a book on using data for health care performance improvement. Jill is a frequent speaker on humane education and animal-assisted interventions and volunteers in several local and national dog-related organizations. She served as the volunteer coordinator for Golden Retriever Rescue Alliance in Dallas/Fort Worth and volunteers for several nonprofit organizations dedicated to humane education and mental health advocacy.

### Board Member: Rachel Brix

Rachel Brix, BSEd, CPDT-KA has been teaching people and training dogs for a combined 22 years. Her dog, Percy, inspired her to resign after over a



Jill Schilp

decade of teaching high school English to pursue a full-time career with dogs. She has also managed two no-kill shelters, mentored Petco trainers and spearheaded and volunteered on campaigns to enact animal welfare legislation.

Rachel is a regular contributor to *The APDT Chronicle of the Dog* and two of her articles have been nominated for DWAA awards. She has also spoken at Association of Professional Dog Trainers conferences and often gives free seminars on Bite Prevention for both veterinarian offices and her community.

She and her husband own and operate Percy's Playground Canine Enrichment Center in south-west Missouri which offers positive reinforcement dog training and a cutting-edge approach to dog boarding. They share their lives with 6 rescue animals; the most recent being Apache, a dog who spent nearly 3 years in a shelter due to unaddressed behavioral issues.



Rachel Brix

# James Colasanti Jr.

Author  
Dog Writers Association of America

Phone: (336) 908-2068

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Greensboro, NC. 27417  
onegooddog1@yahoo.com

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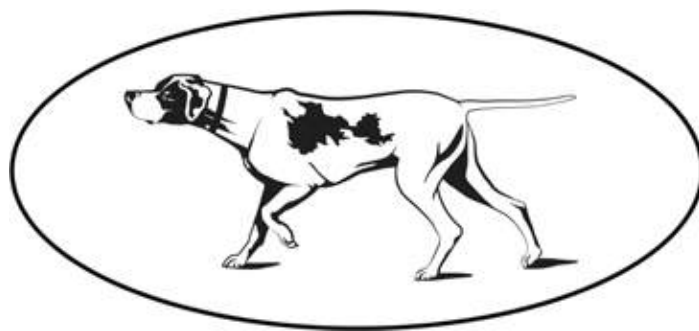
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the Dog Writers Association of America  
have shared many traditions:**

~ Celebrating the Dog Press ~

~ Attending America's Dog Show ~

*But most importantly,*

~ Our Devotion to Dogs ~

**Congratulations to all winners and finalists  
of the 2020 DWAA Writing Competition**

Download the WKC App for the latest information about:

~ Westminster Weekend ~

~ Lyndhurst Estate, Tarrytown, New York ~

~ June 11-13, 2021 ~

## Dog Writers Association Membership Application

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Display Name Publicly As: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

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Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Instagram Profile: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tumblr Profile: \_\_\_\_\_

YouTube Profile: \_\_\_\_\_

Profile Picture: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You are applying for:

Professional Membership (you are paid for your creative dog-related work)

Associate Membership (you are not yet paid for your creative dog-related work)

Profession(s): \_\_\_\_\_

You are a (n) - please select all that apply:

Writer

Author

Journalist

Blogger

Social Media Influencer

Editor

Publicist

Publisher

Broadcaster

Artist/Illustrator

Photographer

Website Designer/Manager

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What organization are you with? \_\_\_\_\_

How often is your work published? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been doing this work? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your work primarily or occasionally about dogs? Please briefly describe it.

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Do you have other work about dogs that you've done that you'd like to share?

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Sponsorship

Name of Member Sponsor #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member Sponsor #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Examples of Your Published Work:

Please provide three writing examples of your work along with information on where the work was published (if it is not a direct link on the internet to the publisher). These can include blog links, online magazine links, and/or links to your book(s), etc. If you are in a creative field promoting the interest of dogs that does not have writing specific samples, please provide link(s) that represent your work. These can include photo or art-centric website(s), social media posts, vlogs, blogs, podcast or other on-air personality/ website links, etc.

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If you would prefer to upload samples of your work and/or a résumé, please attach the file here.



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