

**CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION  
SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS – 2012**

**DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY  
ISSUES AWARD**

**“Unlocking the Code” – Rebecca Sweat**

“This article is very well written. It is easy to understand and exciting for the reader. This is a very important topic.”

Judge: Dr. Helen Tuzio, DVM is a senior associate at the Forest Hills Cat Hospital. She is currently president of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) and chairperson of the New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine.

**FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD**

***The Five Lives of Our Cat Zook* – Joanne Rocklin**

“A singing cat, kids, white lies, a villain and several wonderful love stories all in one book! What more could you ask?”

Judge: Vickie Fisher, President of The International Cat Association (TICA).

**FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Dusty Rainbolt**

“My four top entries were all quite good and picking between them was difficult. I ultimately chose Dusty Rainbolt for the combination of extensive and somewhat detailed information for cat lovers, focus on the special awards criteria concepts and overall readability. Accuracy of information was also a strong positive. I appreciated the range of subject matter, not being single subject focused.”

Judge: John (Jack) P. Aldridge, DVM joined the San Francisco SPCA in 1976 where he currently serves as the Director of Veterinary Services.

**HARTZ EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD**

**“Company’s Coming” – Debbie Swanson**

“This was a difficult contest to select a winner. Several entries were very evenly delivered and it came down to standing out just a little bit more in one or two areas of scoring. In the end, I selected “Company’s Coming” by Debbie Swanson. It was informative, covered the article’s topic focus well, good writing voice, and was well organized. The article seemed to be consistently well done in all the scoring categories and that in the end put it over the top as my selection.”

Judge: Vicki L. Thayer, DVM, has been strictly focused on feline-only practice since 1979. 03.

Dr. Thayer was an active board member for 20 years of the American Association of Feline Practitioners. She has been on the board of the Winn Feline Foundation since 2008 and is currently the president of the Foundation.

### **HARTZ GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD**

#### **“Fight the Bite” - Dusty Rainbolt**

“This article gives great information on parasites that affect cats and how. Good education for pet owners as well as some professionals.”

Judge: Christina Pawlosky has been a professional groomer for 30+ years. During that time she has won multiple grooming awards. She is a certified Master Dog Groomer and Certified Master Cat Groomer with the National Dog Groomers Association of America.

### **HARTZ MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD**

#### **“Kitty in Their Hands” - Nancy Peterson**

“My main concern is always educating people and writing with passion to get the information across and I believe this article did both of those things. It was very educational.”

Judge: Michelle King is Manager of Lucky Paws, the City of Albuquerque’s retail adoption center in a mall setting.

### **IN THE SPOTLIGHT AWARD**

#### ***CatTALK* – Mary Kolencik, ed.**

“The winner I chose was, in my opinion, the best fit for the essence of the award. I found the articles were well written and accurate in their content. They held my attention from the time I started each article until I finished. The articles were written to a broad base of readers with many interests. I could not stop reading the magazine until I read all the articles and picked up the next one and started again.”

Judge: Al Walbrun is a long-time all-breed judge for The International Cat Association (TICA).

### **KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD**

#### **“First-Time Fostering” – Cimeron Morrissey**

“It was tough deciding because there were so many wonderful and heartwarming entries, including stories of individuals who made heroic efforts on behalf of cats. I chose this entry for several reasons. First, it shows that all animal lovers can do something to help, rather than expecting a few people to do it all. This mother is teaching her children to do something instead of only talking about helping. Second, she addresses those folks who say they couldn’t foster since they would never be able to give up the kittens. She

explains what her children are learning by fostering and that helping animals may be hard at times but it's the right thing to do."

Judge: Barbara Bruin is the director of the Animal Welfare Department in Albuquerque, NM. She is an attorney who served on the board of directors for Animal Humane |New Mexico.

**CEVA ANIMAL HEALTH HUMAN-ANIMAL AWARD**  
**"Holding onto Hope" – Stacey Ritz**

"Since it wasn't possible to have a tie for this award, I chose the entry that clearly stood out as meeting the award's criteria. Almost every paragraph and sentence in some way addressed one of the criteria. It clearly reflected and promoted the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighted the bond between cat and caregiver, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. And lastly, I judged it for its exceptional quality and ability to convey this concept and connect with the reader.

I feel exceedingly fortunate to be able to read and listen to these entries. Our world is definitely the better for the contributions that these entries have made to our knowledge and experience of our relationships with cats. Congratulations to all of you for the quality of your work."

Judge: Betty Carmack authored *Grieving the Death of a Pet* and has led a long-running Pet Loss Support Group at the San Francisco SPCA.

**PRO PLAN® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD**

***Savannahs Illustrated* – Brigitte McMinn**

"This is a thorough explanation of the breed covering history, care, feeding and how to bring a new breed home. The magazine has an excellent set up and is an artistic treat."

Judge: **Pat Harding** has been a TICA all-breed Judge since 1963. She has owned and shown Abyssinians, Siamese, Oriental and American Shorthair.

**PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD**

**"The Skinny on Diet" – Fran Pennock Shaw**

"This is an excellent piece on feeding cats who are overweight. It addresses types of diets, how to feed and incorporate exercise. It is the perfect length and is written at a level that challenges and engages the reader."

Judge: Mindy Bough is the Senior Director of Client Services for the ASPCA Midwest Office. She is a Certified Veterinary Technician who publishes educational articles for veterinary technicians and the public and speaks regularly at local and national conferences.

## **PURINA ONE® HEALTH AWARD**

### **“Fatima’s Fix” – Dusty Rainbolt**

“As with humans, felines in our country are having devastating illness due to obesity. This article gets to the roots of a health problem and that’s the weight mismanagement. The article does an excellent job of presenting the problem and finding solutions.”

Judge: Heather Roberts currently is the Dean of Sciences and Math at Sierra College in California. She is a TICA all-breed judge and is also a member of the TICA Genetics Committee.

## **PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD**

### **“Safe Haven” – Debbie Swanson**

“This outstanding article is a complete ‘soup-to-nuts’ instructional guide on what caregivers need to provide for any litter of kittens. Often caring for kittens is a first-time endeavor, and for first-timers as well as old hands, this article provides a particularly effective ‘how-to’ guide to providing a safe and enriched living environment for kittens.

The author goes into detail about the kittens’ living space and what should and should not be contained in it, even including a good description of short-term vs. long-term living space. Important information is provided on safety, feeding, integration of kittens with resident cats, and the dos and don’ts of toy safety. This is a very deserving winner among a number of outstanding entries. Congratulations to the author!”

Judge: Joan Caron worked 25 years at the Miami Seaquarium as a marine mammal trainer and curator.

## **STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD**

### **“It Takes Two: Successful Cat and Dog Interactions” – Jacqueline Munera**

“Beautifully written, this article explains problem behaviors with clarity and great insight. She then presents training, management and behavior modification techniques to address the different aspects of the problem.”

Judge: Linda Aronson, DV, MA is a veterinarian with a referral behavior practice, PetShrink, in Berlin, MA

**TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD**  
**“A Behavior Masterpiece” – Dusty Rainbolt**

“There were several articles I found particularly compelling. However, I appreciated the breadth of this article. It provided a starting point for new and seasoned cat owners alike. It mentioned the importance of early socialization, practical how-to’s, and a variety of common behavioral concerns while being well-written, easy to understand and relatively succinct.”

Judge: Elizabeth Georges, DVM, has a strong interest in international veterinary medicine and cross-cultural exchange. She currently works at VCA Wyoming Animal Hospital in Albuquerque, NM as a small animal general practitioner.

**WORLD’S BEST LITTER-ARY AWARD**

***Moo Kitty Finds a Home* – Valerie Veltre**

“When Moo Kitty finally found a home, I cheered. He followed his ‘guardians’ advice to have faith and didn’t despair about the long wait. This is a book that champions the virtues of hope and patience and makes it clear that age shouldn’t be the deciding factor in any animal adoption. The possibilities for discussions with children of all ages are wonderful, and the lessons learned in the reading or listening are ones that can guide us all. Thank you, Ms. Veltre.”

Judge: Susanne DeWitt has a BA in English Literature and an Ed.M. in the History and Philosophy of Education which she used in a successful career in education. She worked for a publishing firm in Albuquerque, NM and become editor of a regional women's magazine.

**The SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**

Winner: **Dusty Rainbolt**

Nominated by: Angie Bailey and Marci Kladnik

Nominators comments:

“I met Dusty at the Blog Paws conference in Washington, DC. We immediately connected. She told me I needed to join CWA and I told her I was already a member, but hadn’t yet become very involved. She looked me in the eyes and said, ‘You simply must attend the conference.’ She told me her first conference was a complete life-changer and she was sure I’d have a similar experience.

An idea for a book was brewing in my brain and I remember she’d told me about the interviews with editors and agents. I decided to attend the conference. I was grateful to be able to contact a seasoned veteran with questions. She always returned my messages with complete answers and inspiring optimism.

As the conference approached, I began to feel increasingly nervous about meeting with agents and editors. I called her hoping for reassurance. Although she was knee-deep in family obligations, she found the time and positive energy to talk to me.

I can't thank Dusty enough for the unsolicited encouragement and willingness to mentor me in the months leading up to the conference. If not for her, I wouldn't have registered for the conference or connected with a literary agent. She was right: my life has changed. Dusty is a mentor and an inspiration."

Angie Bailey

"The fact that she took time to mentor me was amazing, considering the schedule she was on for article deadlines and conference coordination duties. She never even sounded annoyed when I called or emailed with a question, and she always got back to me if I left a message.

Following her advice, I hurriedly wrote my book proposal and emailed it to her with a request that she take a look at it if she had time. Not only did she have time, but she emailed back that it was good. The best mentors point the way, and let the student do the work. She was an awesome teacher, very clear in her instructions and encouragements.

She asked me which editors and agents I had signed up with, and then suggested a change. Had she not done that, I would never have met with Anne Simpkinson of *Guideposts*, and would never have sold my first article.

I hovered around waiting for gaps in the schedules of editors/agents, as Dusty had advised. I was able to garner two extra meetings so I had an opportunity to present five times. The fact that the proposal she had encouraged me to write was accepted by all five was unheard of and huge, I was told later by Amy Shojai herself.

All of this happened in 2010. Dusty continues her mentoring of me without my even approaching her. She continues to inspire me to do my best and then do even better."

Marci Kladnik

Judges: CWA Contest Committee

### The **MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Winner: **Fran Pennock Shaw**

Nominated by: Amy Shojai

Nominator's comments:

"Fran Pennock Shaw is an award-winning cat writer and a founding member of the CWA. She has not only served as a committee member numerous times, Fran has chaired and guided committees vital to the organization's growth, including several rounds as Nomination Chair, and chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee. She also served as the point person inviting editors/agents for several conferences.

Fran has the distinction of having served in two executive officer positions. Fran became the CWA's second elected treasurer and served in that position for seven years until

2002 when she was elected the third president of the organization serving four years until 2006. Since stepping down as president, Fran has continued to make herself available to help and advise incoming presidents and treasurers as needed. When the organization had the need, CWA called Fran and she again served as interim treasurer.

Fran has consistently won awards for her newspaper and magazine cat care and behavior articles, and is the author of the book *Gotta Love Cats!*

Fran's dedication to the CWA has been tireless and selfless. She has offered her advice and expertise not only to officers and council members, but to individual members when requested. I have personally found her input to be incredibly valuable, thoughtful, and even-handed with the organization's well being foremost in her mind. Fran Pennock Shaw's steady dedication and generous volunteerism has improved the CWA, enriched our members and offered a generous paws up to the cats we love."

Amy Shojai

Judges: CWA Council of Directors

**KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD** sponsored by CWA is presented to the outstanding "image" entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration or graphic art.

**"The Twelve Cats of Christmas" – Jane Denny**

"Depicting the twelve days of Christmas with cat characters is a brilliant concept. The clever tongue-in-cheek series could only be conceived by a true cat person! It's presented in a very hip graphic style. (I especially love the French Cats and the Cats-a-Laying.) I had to laugh at the 12 Cats Drumming – again only a cat person could come up with these concepts.

Being a designer/illustrator myself, I absolutely feel the countless hours of brainstorming (including the 3 a.m. eureka) Jane devoted to this project.

Kudos, Jane, on your Twelve Cats of Christmas!"

Judge: Karen Cannon is a commercial artist whose company That's My Cat is based in Fort Collins, CO. She specializes in feline art, small wild cats being a major focus. Her cat art is featured in magazines and sold world-wide.

## **CWA PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

Judge's comments:

"Organizing conference details gets easier the more I do it, but there's one detail that, if anything, gets harder, and that's choosing the recipient of the President's Award. Maybe, if all the contenders were one genre, it would be easier. Instead, I need to consider blogs, broadcasts, pamphlets, newsletters, greeting cards, articles, books and poems.

This year, I succumbed to the charm of a single breed newsletter. This newsletter contains a wide range of excellent, well-written articles on cats and their care, as well as stunningly gorgeous photos. This year's recipient of the CWA President's Award is *Bengals Illustrated*."

***Bengals Illustrated* – Brigitte McMinn**

Judge: Susan Ewing