



Twenty-third Annual  
**AWARDS BANQUET**

Friday, May 19, 2017  
Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention  
Center Hotel Myrtle Beach SC

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In conjunction with the 2017  
BlogPaws Conference





Your Pet, Our Passion.®

*THANK YOU* to  
Nestlé-Purina Petcare  
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2017 CWA Emerald Sponsor

The Cat Writers' Association, Inc. is honored to be sharing events again this year with **BlogPaws**. We appreciate the opportunity to work together toward our mutual goal of benefitting all pets and the people who love them,



THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL  
CWA AWARDS BANQUET

**5:30-6:30 PM:** “Happy Meowr” and  
Networking in Exhibit Hall

**6:30 PM:** OPENING REMARKS  
by CWA President Marci Kładnik

**7:00-8:30 PM:** DINNER *followed by*

**AWARDS PRESENTATION**



Congratulations  
2016 CWA Award Recipients



@goodnewsforpets

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# cats rule<sup>®</sup>

congratulates the



and all award winners!

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- Encourages cats to play

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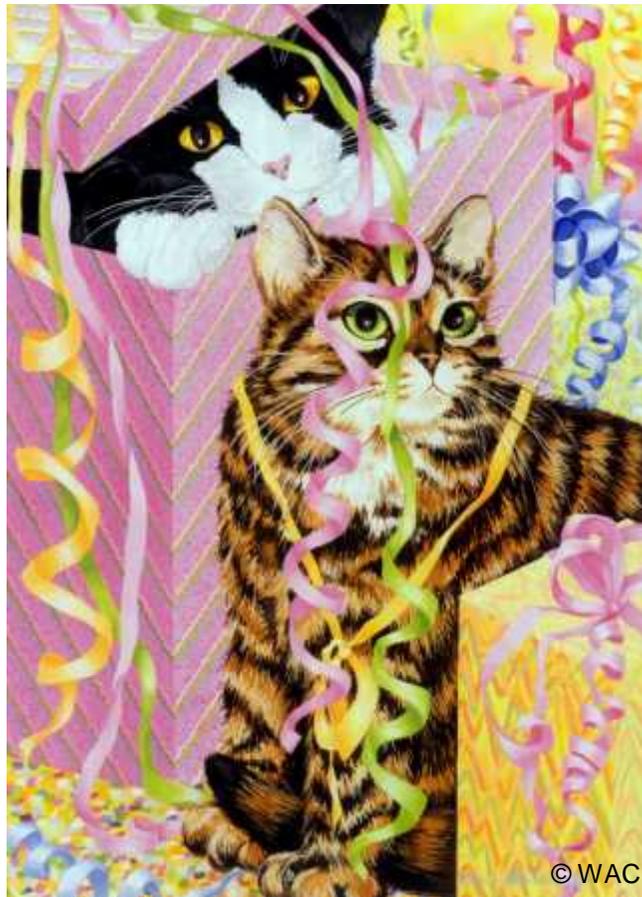
# AWARDS

## INTRODUCTION

**Marci Kladnik, CWA President**

Awards will be presented by  
Arden Moore, 2016 Contest Chair

## 2016 SPECIAL AWARDS



**AAFP CAT FRIENDLY AWARD**, sponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), presented to the entry that best educates cat owners about the benefits of going to a Cat Friendly Practice. Appropriate topics include why it is beneficial to the cat and owner to visit a practice that is cat friendly, including, but not limited to, staff understanding of feline friendly handling, decreased stress associated with the visit, increase in the quality of care and medicine provided, and communication to cat owners of the

importance of routine veterinary care. Qualifying entries include newspaper or magazine articles or columns, or a series of articles or columns (print or online), and radio or television broadcasts. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative framed certificate



**JUDGE:** Karen Becnel, DVM, All Cats Mobile Clinic in New Orleans; has served 45 years as a veterinarian with the last 17 years devoted exclusively to feline medicine.

**WINNER:** Amy Shojai, *My Cat Hates My Vet!*  
Furry Muse, Publisher

**BARN CATS, INC. SAVE-A-FERAL-CAT AWARD** (*NEW this year!*), sponsored by Barn Cats, Inc., is presented to the informative entry that best describes the plight of feral cats, or educates on the topics of TNR, feral cat relocation, humans and nonlethal colony management options. Entries will be judged for quality as well as the ability to persuade the reader. Qualified online or print entries include articles, blogs, features, columns, series of articles, web sites, videos. The award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

**JUDGE:** Weems Hutto, award-winning photographer and long-time feral cat and foster cat advocate.

**WINNER:** [Stacey Ritz, How to Help Feral Cats and Why You Should, \*Advocates 4 Animals\*](#)



© Christine Church

## **CATALYST COUNCIL CONNECTION AWARD**

**(NEW this year!)**, sponsored by The CATalyst Council, celebrates both the writer *and subject* of a true story depicting an experience of a kitten or cat adopted from a shelter which results in a profound connection between the cat and its adoptive pet parent. The relationship described will be equally beneficial to the cat and the person; special consideration will be given to those pieces showing a positive community-wide connection involving both the shelter and a local veterinarian. The story may be written in first purr or first person if appropriate. Entries may include a single book or short story, poem, article (print or online), newsletter, editorial, blog, commercial radio/TV/ internet recording or a photograph with corresponding copy. Entries will be judged on the ability of the reader/viewer to reach the conclusion that cats are valuable members of our families., they enrich our lives and they deserve our love and care. This award consists of \$500 and special gift and/or appropriate acknowledgement of the story subjects.



© Tracy Ahrens

**JUDGE:** Dana Humphrey, lead publicist and owner of Whitegate PR, an agency specializing in the pet industry. She is also known as “The Pet Lady” and scouts out the best pet products, brands and pet experts.

**WINNER:** Susan Willett, *A #ClearTheShelters Cat Adoption Story, Life With Dogs and Cats*



© Lauran Darr

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

sponsored by Cornell University's Feline Health Center, presented to the highest-quality entry on the topic of technological advances, research, new medical developments, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine. Qualifying entries include single newspaper, magazine, or newsletter articles; columns or series of articles (print or online); blogs, a website, single books, or radio/television broadcasts, designed to educate the general cat-owning public about new developments. This award consists of \$500.

**JUDGE:** Arnold Plotnick, DVM, veterinarian and founder of Manhattan Cat Specialists, a feline-exclusive veterinary hospital on the upper west side of Manhattan. He is an author and columnist for *Catster* Magazine.

**WINNER:** Dusty Rainbolt, *Cat Scene* Investigator, Stupid Gravity Press

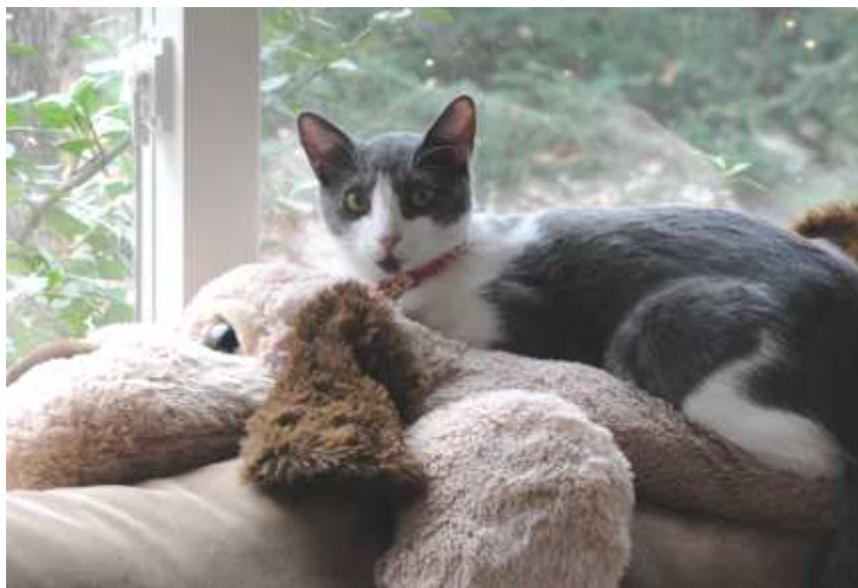
**FEAR FREE™ PETS AWARD (NEW this year!),** sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, is awarded for the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates the importance of how a cat's emotional well-being can play a role in all aspects of its life and health, including veterinary care. Topics may include how decreasing fear, anxiety and stress is beneficial to the patient and owner both during the veterinary visit and at home, a focus on Fear Free applications pre- and post-veterinary visit, or how going to a Fear Free certified professional is beneficial to staff, patients and clients. The award consists of \$2,000 and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

**JUDGE:** Beth Adelman, cat behavior consultant, member of the Cat Committee of the Pet Professional Guild and former editor of *Cats* magazine. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and three fearless cats.

**WINNER:** Amy Shojai, *My Cat Hates My Vet!*  
Furry Muse, Publisher



© Rick Reichenbach



© Allia Zobel Nolan

**FEAR FREE™ CAT ENRICHMENT AWARD** (*NEW this year!*), sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, is awarded for the article, book, 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 pet's emotional and physical well-being and the role that has in their overall health. The award consists of \$2,000 and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

**JUDGE:** Elizabeth Bales, VMD, veterinarian, inventor of the NoBowlCat Feeding System and author of **The** Catvocate blog. She is a veterinarian at the Red Lion Veterinary Hospital in New Castle, Delaware.

**WINNER:** Dusty Rainbolt, Cat Scene Investigator, Stupid Gravity Press

**GOODNEWSFORPETS.com HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD**, sponsored by Germinder & Associates, is presented to the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. Entries will be judged for exceptional quality and on the ability to convey this concept and connect with the reader. Qualified entries include single articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, books and poetry. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative certificate.

**JUDGE:** Lisa Lippman, DVM, is a house call veterinarian in New York City and co-host of the podcast called Pets And Punchlines with comedian Richie Redding.

**WINNER:** Deborah Barnes, Makin' Biscuits, ZYP Publishing



© Stephanie Piro

**HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, given to the highest-quality entry on the topic of older cats. Topics can include, but are not limited to adoption, health, innovative care, and senior-for-senior programs. Qualifying entries include a single book, article (print or online), brochure, newsletter, editorial, blog, photograph, or commercial radio/TV tape. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative plaque.

**JUDGE:** Erin Fenstermaker is president of EF Consulting who serves as a pet industry business consultant and professional speaker based in Dallas. She is a certified dog trainer and works with pet-based business owners all over the country.

**WINNER:** Amy Shojai, *Eight Common Aging Cat Conditions and What To Do*, *Herald-Democrat*





**HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honoring the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. Qualifying topics include, but are not limited to, coverage of home and professional grooming, parasite control, nail care, teeth and ear care, and feline skin/coat disorders. Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazine, online newsletters, and videotape broadcasts. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative plaque.

**JUDGES:** The Staff of the Cat Connection, Dallas TX.

**WINNER:** Dusty Rainbolt, Cat Scene Investigator, Stupid Gravity Press

© Christine Church



**HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, awarded to the best single article (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue), or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens. Appropriate topics include “how to” articles, stories about feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative plaque.

**JUDGE:** Kim Innes is the cat coordinator and member of the board of directors for the Animal Allies of Texas. She has specialized in rescuing feral cats for four decades.

**WINNER:** **Deborah Camp, It Happened at Big Lots, *Best Times***

**KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD**, sponsored by TICA, is awarded to the best single article or column (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue) or single radio or television broadcast on the rescue and rehabilitation of cats or kittens from shelters or rescue groups for the purpose of adoption to forever homes. Entries are judged on compelling personal accounts and the education of readers on the need for rescue. This Commemorative award consists of \$500 and a plaque.

**JUDGE:** Gary Weitzman, DVM, veterinarian, author and president of the San Diego Humane Society.

**WINNER:** **Susan Willett, A #ClearTheShelters Cat Adoption Story, *Life With Dogs and Cats***



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**LORIE HUSTON HEALTH AWARD**, sponsored by PetSafe®, is presented to the outstanding single article, column or blog (print or professionally published online) reporting on feline health and care issues. Entries are judged on excellence of writing and technical accuracy; significance of the topic and public education impact on feline health are also considered. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative award.

**JUDGE:** Susan Logan-McCracken, author and former editor of *Cat Fancy Magazine*.

**WINNER:** Lisa Richman, *Is Fish in Cat Food Bad for Cats?* *Catster*

**SLEEPYPOD® TRAVELER AWARD**, sponsored by Sleepypod, is awarded for the best entry on cat safety. This entry should take a positive approach to inform and educate the readership about feline safety issues such as safety in the home, preparedness and training for safety purposes, and especially safe travel with cats. Written and pictorial work in all mediums will be accepted, such as online columns or blogs, newsletter articles, photographs, and radio/TV broadcasts. The winner will receive \$500 and a commemorative item.

**JUDGE:** Joette White is the president of Park Cities Pet Sitter, Inc., voted as the 2016 Business of the Year by the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. Her Dallas-based company's office proudly features four office cats, Mindy, Kruzer, Geoff and Henry.

**WINNER:** Kim Thornton, [Survival Guide to Traveling Cross-Country with Cats](#), [VetStreet.com](#)



© Diane Smith

**SMARTCAT ALL NATURAL LITTER TRAINING AWARD.** sponsored by Pioneer Pet®, is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. Entries should have a “how-to” focus. Appropriate entries are labeled series or single articles (print or professionally published online), columns, blogs, websites, online newsletters, and television/radio broadcast presentations on topics such as (but not limited to) litter box training, proper scratching behavior, trick training, or training cats to stay off countertops, tables or other forbidden places. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative certificate.

**JUDGE:** Samantha Martin, professional animal trainer and founder of The Amazing Acro-cats. She and her troupe of former shelter cats and strays entertain audiences all over the country with this feline show that also helps raise money for non-profit feline groups.

**WINNER:** Dusty Rainbolt, *The Healthy Cat 2017 Calendar*



**WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER-ARY AWARD,**

sponsored by World's Best Cat Litter®, is presented for the outstanding novel, short story, poem, or radio/television dramatic script which portrays cats and cat ownership in a positive way. All fiction genres are eligible. Highest consideration

goes to those entries that include cats as an intrinsic part of the plot. Works will be judged for the exceptional, individual quality (“voice” or



“vision”) of the writer/creator. Eligible works may be published in print or electronic media; any scripts or videos must also provide proof of production. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

**JUDGE:** Cindy Rigoni, DVM, opened the fifth cats-only veterinary practice in the U.S. in 1984. She still owns and runs All Cat Veterinary Clinic in Houston. In the late 1970s she began breeding and showing Cornish Rex. She’s an avid reader, consuming 1500 words per minute. Dr. Rigoni is also a Cat Fanciers’ Association master clerk.

**WINNER:** Carole Nelson Douglas, *Cat in An Alphabet Endgame*

**Nearly 75% of people either “do not know,” or think that 6 months or later is when a cat should be spay/neutered.**

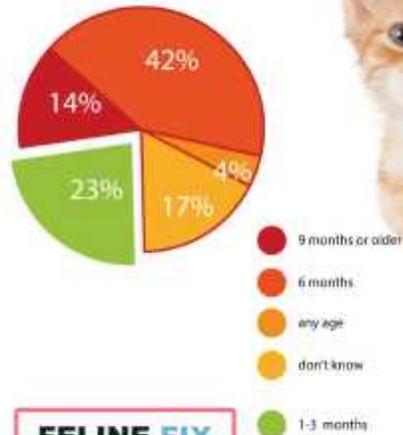
## Please help us educate them about these proven benefits:

**MEDICAL** Kittens spayed before the first heat have a 91% lower risk of developing mammary cancer which takes the lives of an estimated 75,000 cats every year. Spaying also eliminates the risk of pyometria.

**BEHAVIORAL** The hormones that develop if cats are left unaltered lead to nightly territorial fights, cat mating rituals and roaming. These unwanted behaviors often lead to relinquishment to shelters. Over 80% of cats relinquished to shelters or abandoned are unspayed/unneutered.

**COMMUNITY** Well over half the litters are “oops” litters - that end up in shelters or on the streets. Shelters are inundated with kittens, and older cats who may have found homes are often passed over. Cat complaint calls are at or near the top of the list in public health and animal control departments.

### THE IPSOS STUDY RESULTS:



Fixing cats by five months of age saves lives.

FELINE FIX by FIVE MONTHS is a program sponsored by MARIAN'S DREAM  
learn more: [felinefixbyfive.org](http://felinefixbyfive.org)

## PRESENTATION OF 2016 MUSE™ MEDALLIONS

**The MUSE™** Medallion is awarded to the entry in each category receiving the highest average score from three independent judges.

All judges are volunteers and are Professional CWA members.

To become eligible for a MUSE™ Medallion, each entry listed here has received an average score of at least 90, and has been awarded a **Certificate of Excellence**.

### The CWA MUSE™ Medallion



*CWA's MUSE™ Medallion was designed by extraordinary cat artist and founding CWA member Karen Kuykendall.*

# CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

## Winners : 2016 Communication Contest

### **I.1 Magazine – National Circulation**

 **Cat Talk, editor Teresa Keiger**

### **I.2 Magazine Article – Health and General Care**

 Dusty Rainbolt, Litter Box Basics

 Denise Fleck, Torn Nails, Limping and High-Rise Syndrome

 **Denise Fleck, Water: A Cat's Best Friend**

### **I.3 Magazine Article –Behavior and Training**

 Sally Mullen, Training An Aggressive Kitten

 Phillip Mlynar, Ooh, It's a Box!

 **Susan Logan-McCracken, Kitty Quirks**



#### **I.4 Magazine Article – Rescue/Advocacy**

 **Phillip Mlynar,  
Adventures in  
Giving Back**

#### **I.5 Magazine Article – Any Other Topic**

 **Deborah Barnes,  
Kitten Introduction**

 Ramona Marek, One  
Health and The  
Human-Animal Bond

 Ramona Marek, The  
Human-Animal Bond:  
A Biological  
Imperative

 Shery Clark, Holidays  
and Heartbreak

#### **I.6 Magazine Column**

 Mollie Shutt,  
Su-PURR-Stitions

 Anthony Nichols, Showtime

 **JaneA Kelley, Keep It Clean**

#### **II. 1 Newspaper Article – Health and General Care**

#### **II.2 Newspaper Article – Behavior and Training**

#### **II.3 Newspaper Article – Rescue/Advocacy**

*(No entries)*

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## II.4 Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic

 Jen Reeder, Back in Black

## II.5 Newspaper Column

 Deborah Camp, The Best of the Pet World

 Amy Shojai, PETiQuette

## III.1 Newsletter – Breed Specific

*(No entries)*

## III.2 Newsletter – National Circulation

 Alley Cat Mews, editor Louise Holton

## III.3 Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation

*(No entries)*





© Carole

### **III. 4 Newsletter Article – Health and General Care**

-  Ramona Marek, Cancer Treatments for Cats
-  Ramona Marek, Hospice Care for Our Pets
-  Kim Thornton, When Compounding IS Right for Your Cat
-  **Kim Thornton, Fewer Heartworm Cases, More Severe Signs**

### **III.5 Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training**

-  **Kim Thornton, They Climb Curtains, Scratch the Sofa**

### **III.6 Newsletter Article – Rescue/Advocacy**

### **III.7 Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic**

*(No entries)*

### **III.8 Newsletter Column**

-  **Lyn T. Garson, Technically Speaking**

## IV.1 Short Story

*(No Certificate finalists)*

## IV.2 Poem



**Susan Willett, Haiku by Cat: Attraction**



Susan Willett, Haiku by Cat: Yoga

## IV.3 Humor



Heather Marcoux, 5 Father's Day Gifts from My Unemployed, Moneyless Cats



**Jeremy Greenberg, Sorry I Slept on Your Face**

## IV.4 Brochure, Pamphlet or Short Publication



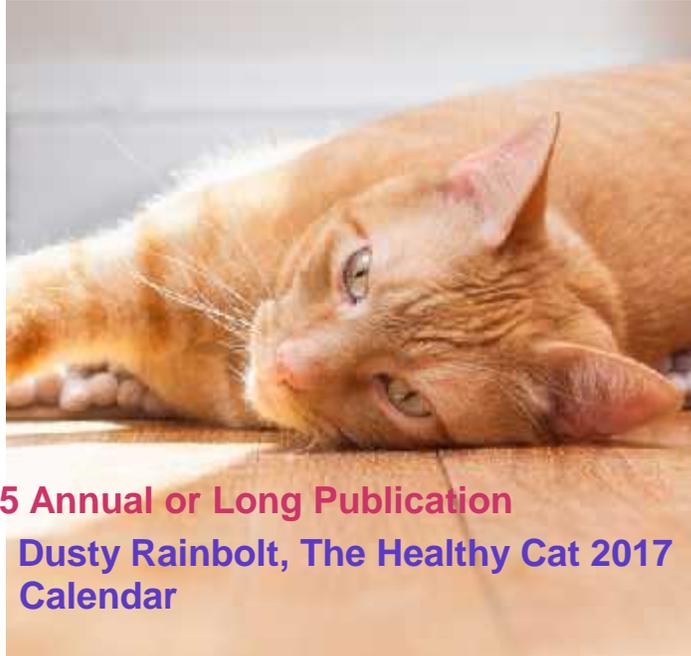
Amy Shojai, My Cat Hates My Vet!



**Matt Carl of Alley Cat Mews, Saving Cats' Lives Through Trap-Neuter-Return**

© Diane Smith





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#### **IV.5 Annual or Long Publication**



**Dusty Rainbolt, The Healthy Cat 2017 Calendar**

#### **IV.6 Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial**



**Amy Shojai, Eight Common Aging Cat Conditions and What to Do**



**Deborah Barnes, Break Out of Your Blogging Niche to Make Strides in Cat Welfare**

#### **IV.7 PR/Humane Education/Press Kits**



**Bernadette Kazmarski, Making Life Better For Every Day of the Year**

#### **V.1 Books – Fiction**



**Clea Simon, The Ninth Life**



**Shirley Rousseau Murphy, Cat Shout for Joy**



**Stephen Chensue, The Nine Lives of Ichiban**



**Carole Nelson Douglas, Cat In An Alphabet Endgame**

**V.2 Books – For Children** *(No entries)*

**V.3 Books – Health and General Care**

 **Ramona Marek, Cats for the Genius**



**V.4 Books – Behavior and Training**

 **Dusty Rainbolt, Cat Scene Investigator**

**V.5 Books – Gift**

 **Tamar Arslanian, Shop Cats of New York**

**V.6 Books – Poetry** *(No entries)*

**V.7 Books – Other**

 **Lonnie Hull DuPont, Kit Kat & Lucy**

 **Deborah Barnes, Makin' Biscuits**

 **Lauren Darr, CatDala Coloring Book**

## VI.1 Video, CD, DVD or Television Production



Matt Carl, TNR Video



**Susan Willett, Elsa Clair's Gold-Medal Purr-formance**

## VI.2 Broadcast – Audio



**Denise Fleck, Pet Safety Crusader Radio**

## VII.1 Online Magazine or Newsletter *(No entries)*



## VII.2 Online Article – Health and General Care



JaneA Kelley, When a Horse is Really a Zebra



Kim Thornton, Lethal Lillies



**Kim Thornton, Survival Guide to Traveling Cross-Country with Cats**



Kim Thornton, Travels with Felix **\*\*TIE!**



Kim Thornton, Fat Cats



Kim Thornton, Feline Mammary Cancer



Jen Reeder, Kidney Transplants for Cats



Lisa Richman, Kidney Transplants for Cats? Yes!



Dawn White, Stressed by the Vet?



Julie McAlee, Anal Glands and Happy Cats



**Jacqueline Munera, Behavior Consulting and Declawed Cats**



Susan Willett, My Cat Suddenly Started Drooling

Wow your READERS  
Right from your phone!



© Stephanie Piro

### **VII.3 Online Article – Behavior and Training**



Janiss Garza, Cat Tricks



**Janiss Garza, A Step-by-Step Guide for  
Harness and Leash Training for Your Cat**



Janiss Garza, 10 Tips to Trounce Kitty  
Troublemaking

### **VII.4 Online Article – Rescue/Advocacy**



Jen Reeder, Oskar the Blind Cat Rallies for  
Special-Needs Pets



Dawn White: Tabby's Place



Jonathon Scott Payne, To Sterling with Love



**Susan Willett, A #ClearTheShelters Cat  
Adoption Story**

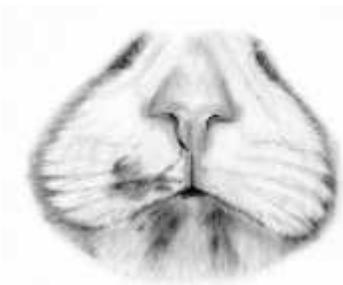
## VII.5 Online Article – Any Other Topic

-  Deborah Barnes, Living in Comfort with Cats
-  Janiss Garza, Driving Miss Kitty
-  Janiss Garza, Five of the Biggest Cat Show Misconceptions
-  Heather Marcoux, Senior Rescued Cat Saved Her Diabetic Human
-  **JaneA Kelley, Give Me the Old, Creaky Cats**
-  Tracy Ahrens, Whiskers Stir Up Senses, Luck and Memories
-  Bernadette Kazmarski, Buddy Gets A Miracle

## VII.6 Online Column

**\*\*TIE!**

-  Phillip Mlynar, Monday Miracles
-  **Phillip Mlynar, Social Cat of the Week**
-  **Kim Thornton,  
Dr, Marty  
Becker and  
Mikkel Becker,  
Pet Connections**



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### VIII.1 Blog – Health and General Care

 **Mollie Hunt, Life Stages**

 Marc-Andre Runcie-Unger, Katzenworld Blog

 BJ Bangs, Paws for Reflection

### VIII.2 Blog – Behavior and Training

 **Amy Shojai, The Paw Print Blog**

 Amy Shojai, Amy Shojai's Bling, Bitches and Blood Blog

### VIII.3 Blog - Rescue/Advocacy *(No entries)*



**VIII.4 Blog – Entertainment**      **\*\*TIE!**

 **Lisa Richman, A Tonk's Tail**

 **Bernadette Kazmarski, The Creative Cat**

**VIII.5 Blog—Any Other Topic**

 **JaneA Kelley, Paws and Effect**

**VIII.6 Website**    *(No entries)*

**IX.1 Black and White Photograph - Single**

**IX.2 Black and White Photography Series**

*(No entries)*

**IX.3 Color Photograph – Single**

 **Andrew Marttila, Catster Cover Photo**

 **Susan Willett, Double Trouble: Cat Reflection**

 **Janiss Garza, Vancouver Portrait**

 **Weems Hutto, Cat Scene Investigator**

**IX.4 Color Photography Series**    *(No entries)*

**IX.5 Photographic Art**

 **Teresa Keiger, Cat Talk October Cover**

**IX.6 Cartoon**

 **Stephanie Piro, Cat Woman**

 **Stephanie Piro, Great Outdoors**



**IX.7 Illustration – Single**

 **Stephanie Piro, Makin' Biscuits Cover**

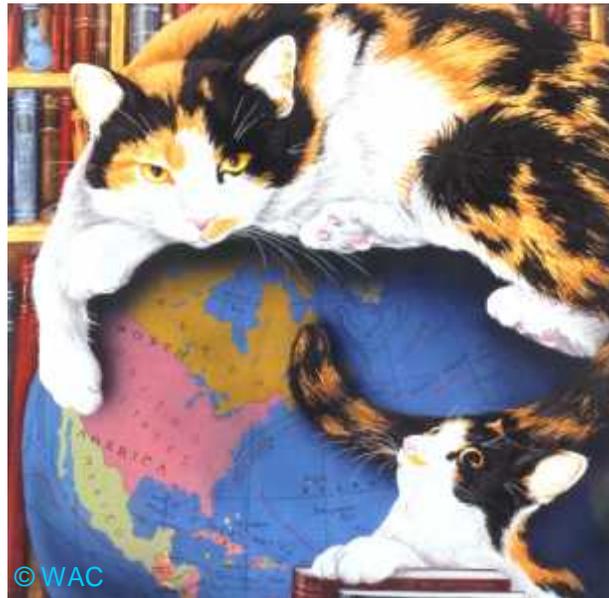
**IX.8 Illustrations – Series**

 **Stephanie Piro, Cat Scene Investigator**

 **Bernadette Kazmarski, Klepto Cat Mysteries**



The **SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**, sponsored by CWA Founder and Past President Amy D. Shojai, recognizes the CWA member who has offered guidance, encouraging counsel, support, or other help that has had a direct and positive influence on another's writing/publishing success. Qualifying mentor experiences are limited to those occurring within the past three contest periods (approximately the last three years). The recipient shall exemplify the highest ideals of the CWA vision, that is, to promote communal support, networking, and mutual respect between colleagues. Only CWA members are eligible for this award. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.



**NOMINATOR:** Marci Kladnik, CWA President

**WINNER:** Paul Glassner



© Diane Smith

The **MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, sponsored by the CWA, honors extraordinary achievement and communications excellence. It recognizes the person who, by word, deed, public communication, and professional excellence, best promotes the ideals, mission, and best interest of the Cat Writers' Association. Nominees can include, but are not limited to, writers, editors, or publicists whose published work or actions have had a significant impact on improving the quality of life of cats, educating the public, promoting responsible cat breeding and ownership, and/or facilitating the professional growth of cat writers. The honoree shall receive \$500 and his or her name engraved on a permanent commemorative plaque (at the offices of the Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation).

**JUDGES:** Marci Kladnik, CWA President, and the CWA Council of Directors

**WINNER:** Arden Moore

The **KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD** is sponsored by CWA, and is presented to the outstanding “image” entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. This may be a single piece or series entry, including, but not limited to, photos/artwork published in a magazine, newspaper, newsletter, book, pamphlet, calendar, poster, greeting card, or commercial online publication. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

**JUDGE:** Buck Jones has been a successful humorous illustrator and member of the National Cartoonists Society for more than 30 years. His works appear in national publications and books. He also creates personalized illustrations for pet lovers through his website called [Petcartoongifts.com](http://Petcartoongifts.com)

**WINNER:**  
**Stephanie Piro,**  
**illustrator for**  
**Cat Scene**  
**Investigator**

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The **CWA PRESIDENT'S AWARD**, sponsored by the Cat Fanciers' Association, is presented to the best entry among all Muse Medallion™ winners in the regular contest categories. This "Best of the Best" requires no additional copies be submitted of entries. Muse Medallion™ winners shall be automatically entered and considered for the honor. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

**JUDGE:** CWA President Marci Kladnik



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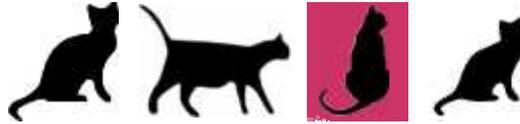
**WINNER:** Deborah Barnes for Makin' Biscuits

**PETSAFE SCHOLARSHIP:** Sponsored by Petsafe®, this is an award of \$500.00 for the winner to attend next year's CWA Conference. A drawing will be held during the Conference to select the winner.

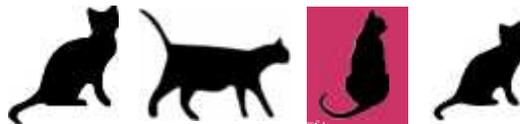
**WINNERS, in order:** 1. Rick Reichenbach, 2. Dusty Rainbolt, 3. Kathleen Mueller, 4. Helen Fitzsimons, 5. Susan Willett

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*THANKS to these talented CWA visual artists whose art appears in this program*

**Tracy Ahrens** of Mومence, Ill. has been a journalist and editor for newspapers, magazines and websites for over 25 years. Her monthly humorous column on raising her pets can be seen through nine websites and print publications. She's also an artist and author of six books. Visit Tracy at <http://www.tracyahrens.weebly.com/>

**Carole Stevens Bibisi** is an Artist/Author/Illustrator/Poet/Musician/Singer/Teacher who creates Art and Music in rainbow colors. Born and raised in New Zealand, her Art College studies focused on Illustration, lettering and design. Since moving to America 14 years ago, Carole's art has appeared on magazine covers and she's had five Art Gallery Exhibitions. Carole has written and illustrated 3 children's books, plus the *Lucky Black Cats Adult Coloring Book*. A percentage of sales from all Carole's books supports black cat rescue and helps popularize black cats for adoption. Visit Carole at [www.ArtHarmonyCreations.com](http://www.ArtHarmonyCreations.com)

**Wendy Christensen** paints, writes and builds things on Bobcat Mountain in southern New Hampshire. Her family of cats are her constant companions, best friends and daily inspiration.

**Christine Church** is an award-winning author of several books on the care and behavior of indoor cats, including *House Cat*, as well as two best-selling, award-winning paranormal fantasy romance series; *Fate of the True Vampires*, and the *Anachronistic Dimensions Trilogy*. She is also the owner and photographer of KJ Photography CT, specializing in artistic animal photography. She shares her Connecticut home with a mishmash of rescued cats and her elderly mother. Her best friend and soulmate is her gray and white American Paint horse, Kobbajo. You can find information on her books, photographs and more at [www.christinechurch.net](http://www.christinechurch.net).

**Lauren Darr** has been a plumb-pug-crazy pet fashionologist since childhood. She immerses herself in creating through writing and art. In 2013, she launched the International Association of Pet Fashion Professionals to combine her marketing experience and love of pet fashion and to catapult the success of talented designers, enhancing the human-animal bond through pet fashion. See more of her art at <http://LeftPawPress.com>

**Allia Zobel Nolan** is an internationally-published, award-winning author of over 175 children's and adult trade titles with over two million books in print. Her work reflects her two main passions, God and cats, and include *Whatever is Lovely: A Devotional and Journal*; *The Worrywart's Prayer Book*; *Purr More, Hiss Less*; *Angels in the Bible Storybook*;



© Diane Smith

*Women who Still Love Cats Too Much; 101 Reasons Why a Cat is Better than a Man; and Cat Confessions: A Kitty Come Clean Tell-All Book.* which recently broke the 101,000-copies-sold mark.

**Stephanie Piro** is an award-winning cartoonist, illustrator and designer, one of King Features' "Six Chix" cartoonists. She creates daily published comics as well. In addition to winning numerous CWA awards, she's been nominated for the National Cartoonists' Society's Reuben Award. Visit her Etsy and Cafepress shops (both called "Saturdaychick") and her "Strip T's" site ([www.stephaniepiro.com](http://www.stephaniepiro.com)). Stephanie blogs at <http://stephanie-piro.blogspot.com/>. Email her at [www.stephaniepiro.com](http://www.stephaniepiro.com)

**Rick Reichenbach** is a Louisiana-based photographer, concentrating primarily on cityscapes, travel photography and animal portraits. He's the author of "Ugly Betty and Other Stories" and "How to Take Beautiful Pictures of Your Cat" (available on Amazon at: <http://tinyurl.com/BeautifulCatPictures>). Rick shares his home with two beautiful cats, Archie and Lucy.

**Diane Smith** is a certified veterinary technician, and a member of CWA since 1993. She has to her credit many published articles, especially in the areas of feline health and nutrition. She is also an artist who has been painting since the age of twelve. In recent years, the greater number of her works have been studies of animals, particularly cats. In addition to her commissioned and freelance originals, Diane offers for sale prints and notecards.

**Cori Solomon** is an animal artist and writer who lives in Los Angeles, CA with her husband and four Salukis. Cori strives to capture the spirit and emotions of each animal in her pet portraits and other drawings. She looks into each animal's eyes to find their inner soul. For Cori, the eyes tell all! In her writing, Cori shares her experiences and joy in her topics in a passionate, candid, caring and entertaining way. See more of her art at <http://corispawtraits.com>



**2016 Contest Committee:** Arden Moore (Chair),  
JaneA Kelley, Dusty Rainbolt, Denise Fleck,  
Kim Thornton, Marci Kladnik

**2017 Conference/Events Chair:** Marci Kladnik and  
Sharon Melnyk, co-chairs

**Swag Bag Coordinator:** Susan Willett, Ramona Marek

**Author/Editor Liaison:** Paul Glassner

**Publicity/PR:** Lea-Ann Germinder

**Social Media outreach:** Janiss Garza

**Book Signing Coordinator:** Sharon Melnyk

**Certificates of Excellence:** Wendy Christensen

**Banquet Program:** Wendy Christensen

**Website guru and troubleshooter:** Weems Hutto

**THANK YOU to all  
the Professional  
CWA members  
who volunteered  
to serve as 2016  
Contest judges.**



© Christine Church

# The Cat Writers' Association, Inc.

[www.catwriters.com](http://www.catwriters.com)

The **Cat Writers' Association, Inc.** (CWA) is an international association of professional communicators who provide to the general public and to specialized audiences news, information, education and works of literary and graphic art that describe, dramatize, explain and illuminate the myriad aspects of felines, especially domestic cats, and their place in human life and culture.

CWA members promote the best interests of *all* cats through a variety of media and formats, including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, websites, blogs, social media, public relations and publicity, photojournalism, illustration, fine arts, photography, speech, technical writing and more. Members strive always to observe and promote the highest standard of ethics in the generation and publication of cat information in all genres and all media.

## **2017 Officers**

Marci Kladnik, President  
Deb Barnes, Vice President  
Lynn Miller, Treasurer  
Wendy Christensen, Secretary

## **Council of Directors**

**Co-Founder/Lifetime Director:** Amy D. Shojai, CABC

**Class of 2016:** JaneA Kelley, Layla Morgan Wilde

**Class of 2017:** Paul Glassner, Susan Willett

**Immediate Past President:** Dusty Rainbolt, ACCBC

**Past President:** Lorie Huston, DVM

**CWA Blog Editor:** Janiss Garza

# *In Memoriam...*



In 2016, we said a fond farewell to our long-time CWA friend and colleague **Darlene Arden**. After successful careers in performing arts and journalism, Darlene devoted her considerable talents to her life's true passion: animals, especially cats and her beloved small dogs. Author of hundreds of articles and columns, as well as several books, Darlene was an inspiration and mentor to many, generously sharing her time, talents, insights and wisdom with all.



## WHAT IS FEAR FREE?

In the life of a pet, there are few things more stressful than a visit to the veterinarian. Pets are greeted with a hospital full of cold exam tables, the lingering scent of fearful animals, and long shiny needles. Fear leads to trauma, and as a result, pet owners visit their veterinarian less often or not at all. But there's another way: Fear Free<sup>SM</sup> veterinary visits. Fear Free was created to get pets back to the vet so they can get the care they need and deserve. Reducing fear, anxiety, and stress results in a better experience for all involved - the veterinary health care teams, owners, and most importantly, the pet.

Fear Free teaches veterinary professionals stress-free handling techniques, body language, client-communication, and more to help create an environment for pets to flourish. 2017 will mark the launch of Fear Free's consumer outreach, where in addition to making the vet a less stressful place for pets, Fear Free will push to make every pet's home a Fear Free Happy Home. We will also be pushing pet owners to seek out Fear Free Certified Professionals for their pet's care and encourage their own veterinarians and their teams to become certified.

**Our mission is to prevent and alleviate fear, anxiety, and stress in pets by inspiring and educating the people who care for them and we are excited to work with the Cat Writers' Association to accomplish that.**