

## 2015 CWA COMMUNICATION CONTEST SPECIAL AWARDS WINNERS

**AWARD #1: The AAFP CAT FRIENDLY AWARD**, sponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), is 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.

Winner: Nancy Peterson for *One More Reason to Book Your Cat's Next Vet Checkup Today*

**AWARD #2: The AdoptAShelter.com ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT AWARD**, sponsored by AdoptAShelter.com, is presented to the entry that best describes the plight of homeless or feral cats and/or the joy of cat adoption and/or improving the quality of life of cats in a shelter environment. Entries will be judged for quality as well as the ability to persuade the reader. Qualified online only entries include single articles, features, columns, series of articles, short stories, websites, blogs, videos photos, or any other accepted online venue. The award consists of a \$500 AdoptAShelter.com Gift Card and inclusion in the AdoptAShelter.com online library.

Winner: Deborah Barnes for Oct. 16 - *National Feral Cat Day: Any Cat Can Be A Feral Cat...Even Yours*

**AWARD #3: The DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD**, sponsored by Cornell University's Feline Health Center, is 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.

Winner: Amy Shojai for *Cat Facts: The Pet Parent's A-to-Z Home Care Encyclopedia*

**AWARD #4 (NEW!): The 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 award and commemorative certificate.

Winner: Ramona Marek for *The Strength of the Human-Animal Bond*

**AWARD #5: The HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is 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.

Winner: Deborah Camp for *Cats Are Subject to Mental Changes*

**AWARD #6: The HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honors 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.

Winner: Debbie DeLouise for *Brush Your Cat for Bonding, Beauty and Better Health*

**AWARD #7: The HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD**, sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, is 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.

Winner: Valerie Sicignano for *The Cats On My Block*

**AWARD #8: The 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 a \$500 and a plaque.

Winner: Marci Kladnik for *A Blind Kitten Finds a Friend and Eventually a Home*

**AWARD #9: The LITTER-LIFTER® LITTER BOX AWARENESS AWARD**, sponsored by Preferred Merchandizing, is given to the entry showing the importance of litter box awareness in regards to a cat's physical and emotional health. Eligible entries include eligible blogs, online and print columns and articles, and books. Special consideration will be given to articles aiding cat owners in maintaining their cat's litter box, portraying litter box maintenance in a positive light and articles that have the potential to save cats' lives. Greatest consideration goes to articles published in non-pet venues and reflecting Litter-Lifter's mission. The award is \$750 and a commemorative item.

Winner: Phillip Mlynar for *Why Do Cats Act Weird When It Comes to Their Litter Boxes?*

**AWARD #10 (NEW!): The LITTER-LIFTER® NEWCOMER RESPONSIBILITY AWARD**, sponsored by Preferred Merchandizing, is for the best published work by a cat communicator on the topic of owner responsibility. This is important not only for the cat and the owner, but also encourages new writers to focus on responsibility issues. The writer must have not yet had his/her work honored with a CWA Special Award. The purpose of this "turning point" award is to encourage unrecognized writers and photographers to strive for the highest professional level of excellence and to provide a significant change in the recipient's cat-writing career, while at the same time encouraging owner responsibility. Qualifying work includes articles, qualified blogs, columns, photos, or illustrations published in any medium, including print and electronic. This award consists of \$600 and a commemorative item.

Winner: Leslie Goodwin for *Cat Skills: Loving Care for Cats*

**AWARD #11 (NEW!): THE 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.

Winner: Andrea Dorn for *Don't Let Plants Be Pet Killers*

**AWARD #12 (NEW!): The SLEEPYPOD® TRAVELER AWARD**, sponsored by Sleepypod, is awarded for the best entry on cat safety. The 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 works in all mediums will be accepted, such as on-line columns or blogs, newsletter articles, photographs, and radio/TV broadcasts. The winner will receive \$500 and a commemorative item.

Winner: Nancy Peterson for *8 Tips to Make Sure Your Cat Is Prepared for a House Fire*

**AWARD #13 (NEW!): The SmartCat ALL NATURAL LITTER TRAINING AWARD**, sponsored by Pioneer Pets®, 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 counter-tops, tables, or other forbidden places. This award consists of \$1000 and a commemorative certificate.

Winner: Janiss Garza for *5 Myths About Cat Walking*

**AWARD #14: The 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.

Winner: Leslea Newman for *Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed*

**AWARD #15: 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.

Winner: Carole Nelson Douglas

**AWARD #16: The MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, sponsored by 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).

Winner: Kim Campbell Thornton

**AWARD #17: 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.

Winner: Amy June Bates for *Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed*

**AWARD #18: THE PETSAFE® SCHOLARSHIP** is a \$500 stipend sponsored by PetSafe®, provided to defray the expenses for a CWA member to attend the next CWA Awards Banquet/Conference event. You do not need to be present to win, but you must be a CWA member to apply for and win the stipend, and the winner must attend the next CWA Event in order to receive the check. If for any reason the winner cannot attend, a runner-up able to attend will receive the funding. The drawing for the winner and runners-up will take place at the next CWA Awards Banquet.

Winner: Mollie Hunt

- 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up: Adam Jablonski
- 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up: Rick Reichenbach
- 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up: Clea Simon
- 4<sup>th</sup> runner-up: Christine Booras
- 5<sup>th</sup> runner-up: Caren Gittleman
- 6<sup>th</sup> runner-up: Kezia Willingham
- 7<sup>th</sup> runner-up: Lauren Darr

**AWARD #19: 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.

Winner: Catherine Holm for *Sideways*