



*30th Annual*

**Cat Writers' Association  
Communications Contest  
Awards Ceremony**



**OCTOBER 26, 2024  
7:00 PM ET**

# THE CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

## 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### 2023-2024 Officers

President: Lynn Maria Thompson

Vice President: Andrea Dorn

Secretary: Kathy Finley

Treasurer: Katherine Kern

Past President (Acting): Deb Barnes

Co-Founder/Advisor: Amy Shojai, CABC

### Council of Directors

Class of 2023

Ramona Marek, Dusty Rainbolt

Class of 2024

Anita Aurit, Christine Brovelli-O'Brien

### 2024 Conference Committee

Andrea Dorn

Lauren Mieli-Morales

### 2024 Contest Committee

Katherine Kern

Andrea Dorn

Dusty Rainbolt



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...**

**2024 Contest Chair**

**Katherine Kern**



**2024 Special Awards Chair**

**Dusty Rainbolt**



2024  CONTEST SPONSORS



FRAN AND  
RAY SHAW



## CWA MUSE™ MEDALLION

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.

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

## 2024 CWA CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Each entry was independently judged by 3 Professional CWA members. Winning a Certificate of Excellence means that the average of those three judges' scores for the entry is 90 or above and all Certificate of Excellence winning entries are now finalists for the MUSE™ Medallion for their Category.



*2024*

**Cat Writers' Association  
Certificate of Excellence  
Winners**

For the Contest Year:  
01/01/2023 – 12/31/2023

Each year, the Cat Writers' Association selects the best entries and awards them with Certificates of Excellence. The highest-scoring Certificate-winning entry in each category receives a Muse Medallion at our Annual Awards Ceremony.

## A.1 WRITTEN ARTICLE: HEALTH – LONG

**Andrea Dorn – Feline Mast Cell Tumors – What Owners Need to Know**

**Debra Eldredge, DVM – The Dangers of Calicivirus**

**Debra Eldredge, DVM – Respiratory Illness in Cats Can Be Serious**

**Elizabeth Jennings – Feline Lymphoma**

**Nancy Kerr – The Ins and Outs of Digestion**

**Nancy Kerr – Toxoplasmosis in Cats**

**Michelle Pelegrino – Minerva's Story**



## A.1 WRITTEN ARTICLE: HEALTH – SHORT

**Sally E. Bahner** – Urinary Tract Disease and Your Cat

**Kate Basedow** – Yes, Cats Can Eat Carbs

**Debra Eldredge, DVM** – Feline Stomach Cancer

**Debra Eldredge, DVM** – The Availability of Compounded Medications

**Eileen Fatcheric, DVM** – Where Did That Floss Go?

**Eileen Fatcheric, DVM** – Itchy Ears: More Than Mites

**Eileen Fatcheric, DVM** – Cleft Palate in Kittens

**Janiss Garza** – Feline Injection Site Sarcoma – What You Need to Know About This Dreaded and Deadly Cancer

**Janiss Garza** – What's That Freckle In My Cat's Eye? What You Need to Know About Iris Melanosis

**Arden Moore** – Comforting Solutions for Waning Appetites

**Arden Moore** – All About Kitten Nutrition

**Michelle Pelegrino** – Don't Skimp on Senior Lab Tests

**Amy Shojai** – 6 Cat Exercises to Keep Kitty Fit and Strong for Life

**Kim Campbell Thornton** – Feline Diabetes



## **A.2 WRITTEN ARTICLE: GENERAL CARE – LONG**

**Liz Coleman** – Cat Litter Types: What To Know and How To Pick

**Sierra M. Koester** – Ways Cats Can Enjoy the Outdoors Safely

**Maggie Marton** – How to Care for Your Senior Cat

**Iris Zinck** – Groomed to Purr-fection

## **A.2 WRITTEN ARTICLE: GENERAL CARE – SHORT**

**Sally E. Bahner** – Outdoor Safety for Cats

**Kate Benjamin** – Easy-to-Make Litter Mats

**Kate Benjamin** – Create Good Litter-box Habits

**Janet Buickerood Blue** – The Adventures of Periwinkle & Stinky –

Part CLXXXII – National Pet Day

**Janet Buickerood Blue** – The Adventure of Periwinkle & Stinky

Part CLXXXI – National Pet First Aid Awareness Month May 3

2023

**Eileen Fatcheric, DVM** – Fecal Incontinence in Cats

**Bernadette Kazmarski** – Safety With Cats in Art and Craft

**Vanessa Nitsche** – Should I let my cat outside?

**Jen Reeder** – Easy Fixes for Happier Cats

**Jen Reeder** – Do cats enjoy taking walks on leashes? Here's what

you need to know

**Kim Campbell Thornton** – The Scoop on Litter Boxes

**Kim Campbell Thornton** – Feline Physics

**Sandra Toney** – Create a Fear Free Environment by "Catifying"

Your Home

**Sandra Toney** – Help Cats Battle Carsickness

## **A.3 WRITTEN ARTICLE: BEHAVIOR/TRAINING – LONG**

**Laurie Coughlan** – Socializing Kittens

**Lucy Drury** – The Amazing Kit Kat

**Claire Louise Stares** – I tried 'nosework' with my cats and it's transformed our bond

## **A.3 WRITTEN ARTICLE: BEHAVIOR/ TRAINING – SHORT**

**Sally E. Bahner** – Why Cats Need Play

**Sierra M. Koester** – Nine Ways Cats Show Love to Their People

**Jen Reeder** – Help, My Cat Is an Anarchist! What Should I Do?  
Our Pet Columnist Answers

**Jen Reeder** – Help! My Husband Thinks I Love the Cats More Than Him!

**Mary Schwager** – Tame Anxiety

**Amy Shojai** – Top 3 Amazing Things You Need to Know About Cat Behavior

**Amy Shojai** – Cat In Heat Behavior; What to Know About Feline Estrus

**Kim Campbell Thornton** – Modern Meow

**Susan Wyatt** – Why Do Cats Like to Play Under the Door?



## **A.4 WRITTEN ARTICLE: FELINE-HUMAN BOND STORIES – LONG**

**Deborah Camp – Buddy: An Opinionated Cat**

## **A.4 WRITTEN ARTICLE: FELINE-HUMAN BOND STORIES – SHORT**

**Judith Ayn – Two-Cats-To-The-Rescue**

**Katelynd Bab – A Celebration Of Life**

**Jane Ganahl – You know you really love a cat when...**

**Robert J. Smith – Reflections on My Life with Gatsby**



**A.5 WRITTEN ARTICLE:  
VET MEDICINE & RESEARCH – LONG**

**Lucy Drury** – Inherited Feline Blood Clotting Disorders

**Amy Shojai** – FIP Cyprus Outbreak: The Experts Share Insights  
(and) Part 2: Cyprus Cats Update, New FIP Strain Identified

**Iris Zinck & Emilie Woltering** – Why Puff Isn't Pregnant

**A.5 WRITTEN ARTICLE:  
VET MEDICINE & RESEARCH – SHORT**

**Teresa Keiger** – Managing Senior Cats' Pain

**A.6 WRITTEN ARTICLE: ENTERTAINMENT – LONG**

**Karen G. Anderson** – The Long Tale of Mr. Tippy



## **A.6 WRITTEN ARTICLE: ENTERTAINMENT – SHORT**

**Deborah Barnes** – ProCATstinating – Not Getting Things Done and Feline Good About It

**Janet Buickerood Blue** – The Adventures of Periwinkle & Stinky – Part CCX- Date Night

**Janet Buickerood Blue** – The Adventures of Periwinkle & Stinky – Part CLXXVIII – Pi Day

**Deborah Camp** – Cat Scams: Are You a Victim?

**Debbie De Louise** – What My Cats Really Want for Christmas

**Mindy Quigley** – Anaphylaxis is My Middle Name

**Robert J. Smith** – Top Five Christmas Cozy Cat Detectives



## **A.7 WRITTEN ARTICLE: RESCUE & ADVOCACY – LONG**

**Lucy Drury** – How Many Cats Are Too Many?

**Jen Reeder** – Fostering Kittens

## **A.7 WRITTEN ARTICLE: RESCUE & ADVOCACY – SHORT**

**Deborah Barnes** – Differently Abled Kittens Form a Fast Friendship

**Louise Holton** – Finally, Some Good News for Feral Cats in Australia

**Bernadette Kazmarski** – Can Trapping Cats Be Fear Free? Find Out Here

**Arden Moore** – Easy Ways to Save Shelter Cats

**Jen Reeder** – 'Wobbly cat' Elvis is king of fostering kittens at Kentucky shelter

**Jen Reeder** – To Feed, or Not to Feed (Stray Cats)? Our Pet Columnist Answers

**Jen Reeder** – New study offers promising results for both shelter cats and older adults



## **A.8 WRITTEN ARTICLE: PRODUCT REVIEW – LONG**

**Liz Coleman** – The 6 Best Flushable Cat Litters for Easy Waste Disposal

**Amy Shojai** – Karma-Kat & Trinity-Kitten Review the Uahpet Glow Wireless Cat Water Fountain

## **A.8 WRITTEN ARTICLE: PRODUCT REVIEW – SHORT**

**Anita Aurit** – Oliver Has A Spa Day

## **A.9 WRITTEN ARTICLE: GENERAL/OTHER – LONG**

**Deborah Barnes** – Some Facts on Ginger Fur for Ginger Cat Appreciation Day!

**Marjorie Dawson** – Find Your Unique Voice in Cat Photography

**Sierra M. Koester** – National Kitten Day: 13 Facts About Kittens You May Not Know

**Jonathan Losos** – Cats first finagled their way into human hearts and homes thousands of years ago – here's how

**Susan Wyatt** – How Cats Can Help With Depression, Stress, Anxiety and Mental Health

**Iris Zinck** – The Right Way to Say Goodbye

## **A.9 WRITTEN ARTICLE: GENERAL/OTHER – SHORT**

**Deborah Barnes** – Best Buddies for Life

**Heidi M Crabtree** – The Art of the Lounge Cat – An Interview with Shag

**Heidi M Crabtree** – Color the Season Lucky

**Debbie De Louise** – How and Why to Add Cats to Your Fiction Writing

**Janiss Garza** – Six ESSENTIAL CAT-CENTRIC NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR YOU!

**Sierra M. Koester** – Cool Facts About Tuxedo Cats

**Melissa Lapierre** – The Best Cats for Allergy Sufferers

**Arden Moore** – Not All Cats Are Aloof – Some Make Purrfect Therapy Animals

**Mary Schwager** – Your Cat's Hidden History

**Sandra Toney** – Fear Free Feline Photo Shoots

**Lee Wardlaw** – 8 Things I Learned from My Cats about Writing Haiku

## **B. POETRY**

**T. J. Banks** – Emrys

**Katherine Kerestman** – The Dance of Cats

**Amy Losak** – I HAVE A CAT

**Lee Wardlaw** – Morning Yoga

**Lee Wardlaw** – Catku #1 (senryu)

**Lee Wardlaw** – Catku #2 (senryu)

## C.1 SHORT-FORM FICTION

**Linda Kay Hardie** – Grenade Blows Up

**Caryn Larrinaga** – The Candlewick Caper

## C.2 SHORT-FORM NONFICTION

**Anita Aurit** – Miss P. And The Turkey

**T. J. Banks** – The Lavender Cat

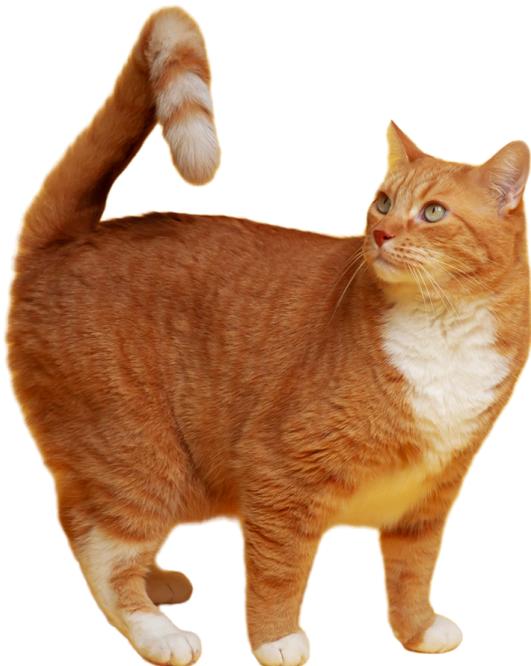
**T. J. Banks** – Recess with Juliet

## D. AUDIO/BROADCAST

**Stacy LeBaron** – Starting at Grassroots and Sharing Our Spay/Neuter Skills with Becky L. Morrow, DVM, MS, CAWA, Assistant Teaching Professor, Penn State University; Adjunct Faculty, UF College of Veterinary Medicine; President and Medical Director, Frankie's Friends Cat Rescue; Medical Director, Vetinari (Molecular Diagnostics)

**Arden Moore** – Hard Hat Cats Of New York City

**Arden Moore** – Power of Cat Play



## **E. PERIODICAL/NATIONAL CIRCULATION PUBLICATION**

**Cynthia Foley & Deb M. Eldredge** – Cornell CatWatch

**Louise Holton** – 2023 Special Report Cats in Crisis

**Louise Holton** – 2023 Winter Newsletter

**Louise Holton** – 2022 Annual Report

**Teresa Keiger** – Cat Talk

## **F.2 BOOK: FICTION – OTHER**

**Stephanie Schorow** – Cat Dreaming: A Story of Friendships and Second Chances



## **F.3 BOOK: NONFICTION- GENERAL CARE**

**Lili Chin** – Kitty Language: An Illustrated Guide to Understanding Your Cat

**Sassafras Lowrey** – Claw This Journal: An Activity Book for Cats and Their Humans

## **F.4 BOOK: NONFICTION – OTHER**

**Jonathan Losos** – The Cat's Meow: How Cats Evolved from the Savanna to Your Sofa

## **F.5 BOOK: FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS – ILLUSTRATION-FOCUSED**

**Ann Katagiri** – Den Chan: The Cat Who Crossed the Ocean

**Nichole Webster** – Fluffy the Hairless Cat and the Toy Trouble

## **F.6 BOOK: FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS – WRITTEN WORD-FOCUSED**

**Angelino Donnachaidh & Fiorella Ikeue** – Tamiu: A Cat's Tale



## **G.1 VIDEO OR TELEVISION PRODUCTION: EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIVE – PRODUCED – LONG**

**Arden Moore** – Cat Decor Tips from Kate Benjamin

**Arden Moore** – Understanding Community Cats with Stacy LeBaron

**Arden Moore** – Learning About Itty-Bitty Kitten Care

## **G.1 VIDEO OR TELEVISION PRODUCTION: EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIVE – PRODUCED – SHORT**

**Emily Hall** – 7 Ways to Prevent Cat Harness Escapes

**Emily Hall** – All About Cat Collars – A Complete Guide

## **G.2 VIDEO OR TELEVISION PRODUCTION: ENTERTAINMENT – PRODUCED – SHORT**

**KJ McGlinn** – Sounds to Calm Your Cat

**KJ McGlinn** – The Amazing Story of the Cats of Malta



## **H.1 BLOG/WEBSITE: EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIVE**

**Marjorie Dawson** – DashKitten.com

**Mewla Young** – MewlaYoung.com website

## **H.2 BLOG/WEBSITE: ENTERTAINMENT**

**Janet Buickerood Blue** – The Cat on My Head Blog

## **I. COLUMN/SERIES**

**Jacqui Bennett** – Life With Patrick

**Candilee Jackson** – What You Don't Know About...

**Phillip Mlynar** – Cat's Entertainment

**Arden Moore** – Chew on This Column

**Eileen O'Finlan** – The Cat's Corner



## **J.1 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT(S): EDUCATIONAL/ INFORMATIVE**

**Stacy LeBaron** – Community Cats Podcast Instagram & Facebook pages

## **J.2 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT(S): ENTERTAINMENT**

**Janiss Garza** – Instagram – @summerstravels

**Louise Holton** – Alley Cat Rescue Facebook Page

## **K.1 PHOTOGRAPHY (SINGLE IMAGE)**

**Katelynd Bab** – A Moment Of Mako

**Marjorie Dawson** – A Senior Cat Reflects

**Lapierre, Melissa** – The Magnificent Miss Mudpie

**Ramona Marek** – A Study of Blue on Blue

**Ramona Marek** – Bebe Home

**Ramona Marek** – Stealthy Tunnel Cat

**Ramona Marek** – What Are You Eating?! I Want Some!

**Sharon Melnyk** – MontyZooma's Hiss

**Vanessa Nitsche** – Garden cat



## **K.2 PHOTOGRAPHY: SERIES**

**Marjorie Dawson – Miranda Victrix – A Survivor's Story**  
**Janiss Garza – Late Afternoon Fall Portraits**

## **K.3 PHOTOGRAPHIC ART**

**Deborah Barnes – A Sliver of Sunshine is a Cat's Happy Slice of Life**

**Teresa Keiger – October Cat Talk Cover**

**Teresa Keiger – December Cat Talk Cover**

**Teresa Keiger – 6'x8' Tabletop Display: Welcome to This CFA Cat Show**

## **K.4 CARTOON**

**Stephanie Piro Nolan – Litterbox**

## **K.5 ILLUSTRATION (SINGLE)**

**Stephanie Piro Nolan – National Cat Day**

**Cassandra Shaw – When Your Cat Daddy is a Starwars Fan**



## **K.6 ILLUSTRATIONS (SERIES)**

**Bernadette Kazmarski – Klepto Cat Covers 62-67**

**Bernadette Kazmarski – Calico Cat Mysteries Covers 12-17**

**Stephanie Piro Nolan – Drawings from Catober 2023**

## **K.7 GRAPHIC DESIGN**

**Allison Hunter-Frederick & Andy Frederick – Litter Box  
Infographic**

**Allison Hunter-Frederick & Andy Frederick – Scratching Post  
Infographic**

**Allison Hunter-Frederick & Andy Frederick – Carrier Training  
Infographic**

**Teresa Keiger – CFA Top 10 Breeds 2022**

## **L. FINE ART AND COMMISSIONED ART**

**Beverly Garland – Chloe – 12" x 16" colored pencil portrait**

**Beverly Garland – Six Cats – 18" x 24" colored pencil portrait**

**Bernadette Kazmarski – Peach Begonias Watercolor**

**Bernadette Kazmarski – Witness Purrtection Program, Pastel**

**Bernadette Kazmarski – Nikka's Jupiter Ball, Pastel**

**Cassandra Shaw – Zeebee in Repose**





*2024*

**Cat Writers' Association  
Special Awards**

For the Contest Year:  
01/01/2023 – 12/31/2023

Each Special Award is judged by a single professional who is not affiliated with either CWA or the award's sponsor.

# CATIT KITTEN CARE AND RESCUE/ADOPTION AWARD

Sponsored by **Catit**, this award is presented for the best entry promoting kitten care, rescue, and adoption. Qualifying entries include, but are not limited to, "how-to's," feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption.

Qualifying entries: Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles (online or print), books, columns, and video broadcasts.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item

Judge: Misha Goodman is the Director of Bernalillo County Animal Care Services in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Having served as president, past-president, and VP of the National Animal Care & Control Association, she trains and certifies animal control officers and others involved in shelter and animal care work. She created the NACA Disaster Database to help provide disaster response services to animals and developed an Animal Handling, Behavior, and Capture Course for emergency responders and volunteers. In 2019, she won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Animal Care & Control Association.



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

Sponsored by **Cornell Feline Health Center**, this award is presented for the highest-quality entry on the topic of technological advances, research, new medical developments, or innovations in feline veterinary medicine designed to educate the general cat-owning public about new developments.

Qualifying entries: Qualifying entries include single newspaper, magazine, or newsletter articles; columns or series of articles (print or online); books; videos; or radio/television broadcasts.

Award: \$500

Judge: Robin Downing, DVM, MS, DAAPM, DACVSMR, CVPP, CCRP is the Hospital Director of the Windsor Veterinary Clinic in Windsor, Colorado and founder and Hospital Director of The Downing Center for Animal Pain Management, LLC. An internationally recognized expert in animal pain management, companion animal palliative and end-of-life care, she is Fear-Free Certified, Cat Friendly, and Human-Animal Bond Certified.



# GOODNEWSFORPETS.COM HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD

Sponsored by **Goodnewsforpets.com**, this award is presented for the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond and highlights the bond between a cat and human. Entries will be judged for exceptional quality and ability to convey this concept and connect with the audience.

**Qualifying entries:** Qualified entries include single articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, books, and poetry.

**Award:** \$500 and a commemorative certificate. The winning entrant will also be featured on Goodnewsforpets.com and social media.

**Judge:** Steven Feldman is the President of the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI). Based in Washington, D.C., he shares his passion for the human-animal bond with policymakers and works directly with them to strengthen the role of pets in society.



# HARTZ KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD

Sponsored by **Hartz**, this award is presented for the outstanding "image" entry featuring cats.

Qualifying entries: Entries may be a single or series of photograph(s), illustration(s), drawing(s), painting(s), or graphic art published in a magazine, newspaper, newsletter, book, pamphlet, calendar, poster, greeting card, or online publication. For Fine Art entries that are not published, such works must have been 1) created and 2) displayed, offered for sale, or sold (including online) during the Contest year.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item

Judge: Edy Chandler has not only worked as both a commercial and fine artist for over 60 years, she's also the office manager for Houston's All Cats Veterinary Clinic for more than a quarter of a century. She has also dabbled in radio, television, stage and film.



# HARTZ NEWCOMER CAT COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

This award is presented to a new CWA member (who joined CWA in 2023) whose submitted piece best inspires, educates, informs, and/or entertains the audience on any range of cat-related topics. Topics include, but are not limited to, the feline-human bond, cat and kitten rescue, cat care and health issues, cat environmental enrichment, cat behavior, cat trends, and more. Cats are defined in an all-inclusive manner – domestic cats, feral cats, stray, outdoor community cats, pedigree/show cats, wild cats – and can be fictional or non-fictional in nature.

**Qualifying entries:** Qualified entrants must be new members of CWA, having joined the organization between January 1 – December 31, 2023. Entries may be any communications medium, such as a single article from a blog, website, magazine, column, newspaper, or newsletter, a book, a photograph (single or series), a video, an illustration, a poem, a graphic design, a drawing or painting, or more. The entry should represent what the new member considers their best cat-related piece published for the current contest period (2023).

**Award:** \$500 and a commemorative item.

**Judge:** Kimberley Kozlowski is an award-winning humor author of the 5-star children's book, *Finding Mya*, featuring Herman @TattleCat, voted one of 36 Top Cats on Twitter, as well as the romantic comedy, *A Mad Fling*, and the dysfunctional family comedy, *Kringle*. She populates her books with quirky characters inspired by those in her family and work. You may have seen her blog serial, *Sherlock Herms Purrnormal Mysteries*, on her *Wonderpurr.com*. She has both coordinated and judged writing contests in the romance genre.



# TICA KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD

This award is presented for the best written work on rescuing and rehabilitating 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.

Qualifying entries: Entries include written work, including articles (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional blog/website online or single radio or television broadcast), books, columns, and videos.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item.

Judge: A lifelong cat advocate, Amy Turner has dedicated herself to rescuing cats since childhood. has been rescuing cats since childhood. While attending college to become an RN, she worked for a rural veterinarian. She and her family got involved with a rescue group in 2010. With her medical experience, Amy serves as the medical volunteer for Rescue-Me.org in Lantana, TX, where she teaches new fosters about caring for rescue kittens and cats.



# LORIE HUSTON HEALTH AWARD

This award, sponsored by Cat Watch/Belvoir Marketing Group, is presented for outstanding reporting on feline healthcare issues. Entries are judged on writing excellence and technical accuracy; the topic's significance and public educational impact on feline health is also considered.

Qualifying entries: Entries may include a single print or online article, column, or book.

Award: \$500

Judge: Karen Miller Becnel, DVM is a veterinarian who has been practicing for 53 years. She is in a feline exclusive practice which she opened in 1990. She is also active in her nonprofit Art for Cats Sake that raises funds for research into feline diseases through the sale of feline themed art and jewelry.



# NANCY MARANO SENIOR CAT WELL-BEING AWARD

Sponsored by Fran Pennock Shaw and Ray Shaw, this award is presented for the highest-quality entry on the topic of older, aging, and senior cats. Topics can include but are not limited to adoption, health, innovative and compassionate care, and senior-for-senior programs. It is named in honor of longtime CWA member Nancy Marano, who served in many leadership roles with CWA during her lifetime.

Qualifying entries: Written and pictorial pieces from all media (print or online) are acceptable, including articles, books, columns, and video broadcasts.

Award: \$1000 and a commemorative item.

Judge: Dr. Jennifer L. Schori is a self-described "total cat person" and the Director of Integrative Content for Brief Media, where she develops continuing education and serves as medical editor of Clinician's Brief and a medical consultant for Veterinary Team Brief and Plumb's Therapeutics Brief. She is also Continuing Education editor of The NAVTA Journal for the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America.



# PIONEER PET BEHAVIORAL TRAINING AWARD

This award is presented for the best entry on training techniques. Entries should have a "how-to" focus on topics such as (but not limited to) litter box training, tips and techniques for teaching cats not to scratch on furniture or other inappropriate places (focusing on providing them with alternative options to scratch), trick training, or training cats to stay off counter-tops, tables, or other forbidden places.

Qualifying entries: Appropriate entries are series or single articles (traditional print or online formats) published from columns, blogs, websites, magazines, or newsletters; books with a singular focus on a particular training topic; or television, radio broadcast, or video presentations.

Award: \$1000, a commemorative certificate, and three 20lb bags of SmartCat All Natural Litter.

Judge: Dawn Wolfe is the owner of Pawsitively Famous Animal Actors, serving as an animal talent agent and wrangler whose passion, dedication, and extensive expertise have earned her the reputation as an industry leader. Her clients have included Animal Planet, Sprout, Birchbox, and Kate Spade, and she has worked on shows that included Cats 101, America's Cutest Pets and Pets 101. She works directly with photographer, production companies, and advertising agencies to place animals in their projects.



# SLEEPYPOD CAT SAFETY AWARD

This award is presented for the best entry on cat safety. The entry should take a positive approach to inform and educate the readership about feline safety issues, including, but not limited to, safety in the home (such as foods and plants poisonous to cats), preparedness and training for natural disasters, moving, safe travel with cats, and general cat safety.

Qualifying entries: Written, audio, and pictorial works in all media, such as from online columns or blogs, newsletter articles, books, photographs, radio/TV broadcasts, and videos, will be accepted.

Award: \$750 and a commemorative item.

Judge: Dr. Jeff Grognet is a veterinarian and an award-winning author. He teaches courses for dog owners from a holistic standpoint, as well as college courses for veterinary assistants. His courses and regular blog are found at [www.newearthvet.com](http://www.newearthvet.com).



# WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER-ARY AWARD

This award is presented for an outstanding work of fiction portraying cats and cat ownership in a positive way. The 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.

Qualifying entries: Eligible books, short stories, poems, or radio/ television dramatic scripts may be published in print or electronic media; any scripts or videos must also provide proof of production. All fiction genres are eligible.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item.

Judge: Dr. Cynthia Rigoni received her DVM from Iowa State University. In 1983, she opened her own exclusively feline practice, All Cats Veterinary Clinic in Houston. She works with the Houston Humane Society where she can be found doing spays and neuters on cats and dogs on Sundays. In her spare time she loves to read, needlepoint or knit. Sadly, I no longer raise Cornish Rex cats as I got into a bad gene pool in 2020 after having this breed since 1976. She lives with a Devon Rex, a domestic beauty, and on the dog-side she has a Bouvier des Flanders, Havanese, and 2 adorable little canine rescues as. Her clinic employs several feline supervisors. She is a certified needlework judge with National Academy of Needle Arts and hopes to soon start on the certification program for American Needlepoint Guild.



# ZYMOX FELINE SKIN AND EAR CARE AWARD

This award honors the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and ear care. Qualifying topics include, but are not limited to, coverage of home and professional grooming, hairballs, parasite control, nail care, bone and joint care, teeth and ear care, promotion of healthy skin, coat, and ears, and feline skin/coat disorders.

Qualifying entries: Written, video, and audio works in all media are acceptable, including articles (online or in print), books, online magazines, online newsletters, and online columns.

Award: \$750 and a commemorative item.

Judge: Priscilla Rodriguez has over 24 years experience grooming cats. She began her career as a dog groomer at Petsmart, where she earned her certification in grooming. Following one year of experience with dogs, she expanded her skills to include grooming cats. She honed her abilities by practicing on her own Himalayans.



# SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD

Sponsored by the CWA, in honor of CWA Co-founder and Past President, Amy Shojai, this Award 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 success. The recipient shall exemplify the highest ideals of the CWA vision, promoting communal support, networking, and mutual respect between colleagues. Nominations may be submitted by any individual (member or



nonmember). The "Submitter" must be the direct beneficiary in the mentor relationship. The "Nominee" contribution must go beyond that individual's required duties as defined by his/her employment — in other words, the mentoring must reach above and beyond the "normal or routine" business relationship one would expect the agent, book doctor, editor, or other professional to extend to any of his/her other clients.

Qualifying nominees: Only CWA members are eligible for the award. You may not nominate yourself.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item.

The CWA Council reviews nominations and selects a recipient.

# MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

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.

The Submitter must explain his or her reasons for nominating the person, i.e., explain how the Nominee has

published and/or performed in some extraordinary fashion to benefit cats and/or cat writers. This should include a detailed description of what the Nominee has done, whether a one-time accomplishment or a listing of publications and activities over time. Referral to specific publications, articles, websites, etc., is not required but can help the judges in making their decision.

Qualifying nominees: CWA members and non-members are eligible for this award. Nominations must be made by a CWA member in good standing. You may not nominate yourself. 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.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item.

The CWA Council reviews nominations and selects a recipient.



# PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Sponsored by CFA, this overall top award is presented to the best entry among all Muse Medallion winners in the regular contest categories. Chosen by the CWA President, it recognizes the "Best of the Best."

Qualifying entries: All Muse Medallion winners are automatically entered and considered for the President's Award. Other than by submitting an entry in a Regular Category, there is no separate entry process for this Award.

Award: \$500 and a commemorative item.

Judge: CWA President





**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OF THE  
WINNERS!**

# ABOUT THE CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

THE CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION IS A GLOBAL CAT-CENTRIC PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN WRITTEN, VISUAL AND AUDIO MEDIA.

## What is the Cat Writers' Association?

We are a worldwide, 250 members plus organization comprised of a wide variety of talent, supporting evolving media and platforms such as Fine Arts, Journalism, Social Media, Graphic



Design, Writing, Radio, Television, Videography, Podcasts, Websites, Blogs, Photography, Illustration, Cartoons, and so much more!

From those that have been in the industry for years, to newly rising stars, to those just getting started, the CWA is an organization that supports existing members and seeks to mentor those new to the profession. Our goal, whether through humorous and lighthearted pieces, to serious, highly technical information remains our goal from 1992 – to improve the quality of cat information for the general public and to inspire, educate, and inform.

**That's who we are, and we welcome you to be a part of us.**

Visit [catwriters.com/join-us/](https://catwriters.com/join-us/) to learn more and join us today!