2026 Cat Writers' Association Annual Conference Events Schedule

Thursday, November 5, 2026

Times (Central Time)	Event
6:30 pm	**Swag Bag Party: CWA Suite**

Friday, November 6, 2026

Times (Central Time)	Event	
8:00 am-8:30 am	**Registration: Centreport Ballroom**	
8:30 am-9:00 am	**Introduction** and Silent Auction Begins: **Centreport Ballroom**	
9:00 am-9:45 am	**Secrets to Successful Feline Fiction Panel** Mollie Hunt (Moderator), Amy Shojai, Robert Smith, Jody Wallace	
10:00 am-10:45 am	**Poetry Party: A Generative Workshop** Mary C. Kane	**Swipe Right on Fluffy: Writing Adoption Profiles & Cage Cards that Get Pets Adopted** Dusty Rainbolt (Moderator), Mel. White, Teresa Patterson, Shado Wiley
11:00 am-11:45 am	**Introduction to Cat First Aid** *Arden Moore & Safety Cat Casey	
12:15 pm-1:00 pm	Lunch (provided) – **Fur Real Advances: The Latest on How EveryCat is Changing Feline Medicine** Steve Dale	
1:00 pm-1:30 pm	**The Steve Dale EveryCat Health Foundation Communications Award Presentation** Steve Dale	
1:45 pm-2:30 pm	**Dare to be Bad: Strategies for Finally Finishing Your Work** Amber Royer (Moderator), Mel. White, Teresa Patterson, Beverly Garland	**Do You Know How to Tell Ferals from Strays?** Hailey Dearman
2:45 pm-3:30 pm	**Working with Agents & Editors** Ruth Thaler-Carter	**The Top Selling Points of Trap-Neuter-Return Programs** Debbie Holzer
3:45 pm-5:00 pm	**What to Look for in a Winning Book Cover/Art Marketing** Cat Conrad, Brad Foster, Teresa Patterson (Moderator)	
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	***Friday Fun Night with CatVideoFest: Centreport Ballroom***	

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Times (Central Time)	Event
8:15 am-8:45 am	**Check-in: Centreport Ballroom**
9:00 am-9:45 am	**Getting Down to Business: The Serious Side of What We Do** Lynn Thompson
10:00 am-10:45 am	**Substack and Beyond: How Writers and Artists Are Cutting Out the Middleman** Dan Koller
11:00 am-11:45 am	**Beyond Superheroes: Graphic Novels for Pet Lovers & Niche Interests** Shado Wiley (Moderator), Laurie Calcaterra, Hector Gonzalez Rodriguez III
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:30 pm	*Bidding Ends for Silent Auction*
1:15 pm-2:00 pm	**Writing Like Cats & Dogs: The Differences Between Cats & Dogs (and How to Include Believable Animal Characters in Fiction)** Amy Shojai
2:15 pm-3:00 pm	**Are You Ready to Self-Publish?** Jake & Amber Royer
3:15 pm-4:00 pm	**Visibility is the New Bestseller List: How Authors Get Seen, Known & Remembered** Jessica Spawn
4:15 pm-5:00 pm	**Every Feline Has a Story: The Art and Science of Seeing, Understanding & Evoking Empathy** Tim Flach & Jonathan Losos
6:00 pm-6:30 pm	***CWA Pre-Banquet Reception with Hosted Bar*: Centreport Ballroom**
6:30 pm-9:30 pm	***CWA Awards Banquet*: Centreport Ballroom** ***Keynote Address:*** *The Art of Reinvention When You Don't Have Nine Lives with* Arden Moore & Safety Cat Casey ***CWA Awards Ceremony***

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Times (Central Time)	Event
9:00 am-11:00 am	**CWA Annual Meeting** (Members Only) in **Executive Boardroom**