

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION MUSE MEDALLIONS – 2009

I.1 – Monthly Magazine

Judge's comment: "The consummate cat publication. Great job. Good mix of human interest, behavior and medical information. A pleasure to read every article. Something for everyone from the kiddies to the adult ailurophile. The flipbook issue was a great idea.

**Winner:
Cat Fancy**

I.2 – Magazine – Regional

Judge's comment: "The stories are appealing in content and well written. While targeting a specific community, they definitely have appeal further afield. The layouts are simple but very appealing.

**Winner:
Our Animals**

I.3 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care

Judge's comment: "A lot of good, important topics were submitted in this category and addressed well.

**Winner (Tie):
Fran Pennock Shaw, "Combat Heartworm" Cat Fancy
Kim Thornton, "Kittenproof Your Home" Kittens USA**

I.4 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training

Judge's comment: "This writer has a relaxed style which invites the reader to continue and the article is well researched."

**Winner:
Nancy Peterson, "The Way to Tame a Feral Kitten's Heart" – Animal Sheltering**

I.5 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic

Judge's comment: "This was hard. There weren't enough misses. According to the scoring criteria every one of these could be a winner."

Winner:

Julie Falconer, "Prowling the Divide" Animal Sheltering

I.6 – Magazine – Column

Judge's comment: "Wow! Talented batch of columnists. All with distinctive voices. This columnist possesses a storytelling style and meaty advice. Her message makes a difference in the lives of cats. A heartbreaker."

Winner:

Cimeron Morrissey, "Foster Focus" Cat Fancy

II.1 - Newspaper Article – Health and General Care

Judge's comment: "Most people think of dogs when it comes to heartworm disease, but this article has a strong reference to heartworm and cats. It offered clear and informative inspiration. Nice work."

Winner:

Fran Pennock Shaw, "Heartworm Disease" Lancaster Sunday News

II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior and Training

Winner:

Sally Bahner, "What Worked for Rainy" Pets Press

II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic

Judge's comment: "I enjoyed reading about the father of the cat fancy. Nichols interesting and comprehensive article introduced me to Harrison Weir, an important figure in the world of cats. Well done! I shall name my next cat Harrison."

Winner:

Anthony Nichols, "The Father of the Cat Fancy" Our Cats

II.4 – Newspaper Column

Judge's comment: "What I loved about his writing was his simplicity and sense of space – taking his time to tell a story. He is a tasteful writer. It's so easy to become maudlin and shrill when writing about the loss of a pet. He is personally involved with the story – but not in a sobby way. It makes one want to stay involved with his work. Absolutely a class act!"

Winner:

Gregory M. Simpson, "Sheltering An Animals Perspective" Pets Press

III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific

Judge's comment: "Outstanding newsletter. Beautiful to look at, excellent articles. Wonderful photos. Good mix of sections and articles. Excellent combination of information for the seasoned breeder and novice. A definite winner.

Winner:

Brigitte McMinn, ed., Bengals Illustrated

III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation

Judge's comment: "This newsletter presents cat research and the resultant understanding couldn't be better. Make the Muse already."

Winner:

Arden Moore, ed., Catnip

III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation

Judge's comment: "Great layout. Good information presented in a professional and lively manner. Good use of photos. The message was consistent throughout and the articles were quite interesting.

Winner:

Cimeron Morrissey, Cat Tales

III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care

Judge's comment: "A great presentation addressing the common worry among expectant mothers concerned about toxoplasmosis. Her personal experience, delightful photos, and sidebar provide a thorough look at the topic of safety measures for expectant mothers who own cats. The article is reassuring to those awaiting a baby."

Winner:

Elissa Wolfson, "Cats and Babies" Catnip

III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training

Winner:

Arnold Plotnick, D.V.M., “Do Cats Grieve?” Catnip

III.6 – Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic

Judge’s comment: “Great writing and interesting information. I enjoyed the personalized perspective. A difficult pleasure to choose the best.”

Winner:

Kim Thornton, “The Lion in Your Lap” Catnip

III.7 – Newsletter Column

Judge’s comment: “A distinctive column woven with useful information and cat characters. All the ideas flow. The columns are upbeat and useful. Clever references such as ‘CEO’ for ‘Cat Extra-Ordinaire’ make the pieces more appealing.”

Winner (Tie):

Arden Moore, “Editor’s Note” Catnip

Judge’s comment: “Organization is fabulous. The topics are well-researched with references to top scientists in feline medicine and genetics. Her honesty is a plus. It took courage to disclose FIP in her cattery but, ultimately, the columnist’s honesty and suggestions will protect future generations of all cats.

Winner (Tie):

Nancy Reeves, “UBCF Newsletter Column” UBCF Newsletter

IV.1 – Short Story

Judge’s comment: “This story is imaginative and compelling. The narrator’s voice is distinctive and she’s totally believable.”

Winner:

Clea Simon, “Dumb Beasts” Dead Fall: Crime Stories by New England Writers

IV.2 – Poem

Judge’s comment: “Really touching. An event all cat owners can relate to yet unique and heartfelt in the telling. The ending comes full circle beautifully. The voice is loud and clear, plaintive and sincere. The imagery is vivid and original. The reader can feel the 20 years these two have shared.”

Winner:

Lesléa Newman, “Old Girl” Nobody’s Mother

IV.3 – Humor

No Winner

IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication

Judge's comment: "A delightful plea for advocacy. Innovative and creative. Absolutely great thinking."

Winner:

Nancy Peterson, "I am not a crazy cat lady" The HSUS

IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication

Judge's comment: "Excellent information imparted effortlessly. Incredibly creative idea. Great fun."

Winner:

Su Ewing, Cats! Train Your Owner! Cider Mill Press

IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial

Judge's comment: "Excellent with great information. This piece concisely explains a very real and pressing situation. It candidly shows a personal – and potentially professionally damaging experience – and ends a clear call to others."

Winner:

Nancy Reeves, "The Health of the Breed" UBCF Newsletter

V.1 – Books - Fiction

Judge's comment: "I didn't think it was possible to have such a clean, mistake-free narrative. The author knows how to end each chapter in order to keep the reader going. Even though this is one of a series, it stands on its own quite nicely."

Winner:

Shirley Rousseau Murphy, Cat Playing Cupid, Wm Morrow

V.2 – Books for Children

Judge's comment: "This novel for middle-graders handles several difficult topics with sensibility, insight, depth and gentle humor. This book had heart with well-drawn and consistent characters. It never crosses the line into greeting card sentimentality."

Winner:

Dandi Dailey Mackall, Starlight Animal Rescue Tyndale House Publishers

V.3 – Books – Health and General Care

Judge's comment: "In all my years of CWA judging this is the toughest category I've ever done. What a terrific selection of books. I found this book to be a purrfect book. With the photos, sidebars, illustrations, etc. it was very readable and would be helpful to all ages from middle school to adult."

Winner:

Sheila Webster Boneham, The Multiple Cat Family TFH Publications

V.4 – Books – Training and Behavior

No Entry

V.5 – Gift Book

No Entry

V.6 – Poetry

No Entry

V.7 – Books – Other

Judge's comment: "She had me at her first sentence. A beautiful little jewel of a book: wonderful stories, valuable information about feral cats and just the right touch of humor to spice things up. If this book doesn't prompt you to care for an abandoned cat or kitten, than I fear for your humanity. If I could award more points, I would."

Winner:

Rosie Sorenson, They Had Me at Meow Buster Hollow Productions

VI.1 – Video, DVD, or TV Production

Winner:

Amy Shojai, "Pet Talk: Allergies, Toxoplasmosis, Flea Product Safety" KXII-CBS

VI.2 – Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Mixed Format

No Entry

VI.3 - Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Guest Interview Format

Judge's comment: "She is such a great interviewer. Her shows are consistently interesting and informational. She shows her vast experience with cats and other pets. Her program made me want to run to a shelter and adopt another cat. Her mission to debunk myths shines through all her entries."

Winner:

Amy Shojai, "Pet Peeves: Cat-egorically Wrong!, Cats, Babies, Myth-takes." PetLifeRadio.com

VI.4 - Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Call-In Show Format

No Entry

VI.5 - Radio, Podcast, or Other Audio Presentation – Under 10 Minutes

No entry

VII.1 – Online Magazine, Newsletter, Website

Judge's comment: "Felinexperss.com easily downloaded even for this dial-up user. The design was clean and uncluttered."

Winner:

Mary Anne Miller, www.felinexpress.com

VII.2 – Online Article – Health and General Care

Judge's comment: "This has a good combination of expert advice and narratives. This cat-centered Dr. Phil speaks even more clearly than the TV Dr. Phil."

Winner:

Sandy Robins, "Cats and Toddlers" BringPetsHome.com

VII.3 – Online Article – Behavior and Training

Judge's comment: "Decisively the best choice. It offered inventive and practical solutions, some of which even I as a certified behavior consultant had not considered. Bravo!"

Winner:

Amy Shojai, "Claw Training 101" Shojai.com

VII.4 – Online Article – Any Other Topic

Judge's comment: "This was best from a group of very fine articles."

Winner:

Linda Mohr, "The Cat's Mastery of the Present Moment" Artipot.com

VII.5 – Online Column

Judge's comment: "Her writing skills are superb. She doesn't bog readers down with trivial details. Rather she focuses on the topic and why the reader should care. Truly exceptional writing and interesting topics."

Winner:

Kim Thornton, "Creature Comforts" msnbc.com

VII.6 – Blog: Single Blog

No Winner

VII.7 – Blogs: Regular Blogs

Judge's comment: "This is a well organized and endearing blog. It is something I want to read on a regular basis."

Winner:

Suzanne Stowe, "Crazy for Cats" Catchannel.com

VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single)

Judge's comment: "Photo captures the three cats' fast break to the food bowl in slow motion. Almost a photo finish, but, no, it's the black cat by a nose!"

Winner:

Arden Moore, "Race for the Food Bowl" Catnip

VIII.2 - Black and White Photograph (series)

No Winner

VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single)

Judge's comment: "It told a story. The image stayed with me for days. Adorable! Intriguing lighting. It's so uniquely the essence of kitten."

Winner:

Dr. Monica Shepherd, "Frankie Meets Her Shadow" Our Animals

VIII.4 - Color Photograph (series)

Judge's comment: "Artistry and technical quality support the photo content in creating a story of the cat's temperament and habit. This pretty much stole the show. The lighting in each shot was especially well done. I would score this higher if I could. Absolute perfection. Congratulations!"

Winner:

Janiss Garza, "Sparkle the Designer Cat 2009 Calendar" CafePress

VIII.5 – Cartoon

Judge's comment: "All very original with wide appeal to a cat-loving audience. She definitely captures the fun but chaotic feel of a multi-cat home."

Winner:

Stephanie Piro, "20 Cats" King Features

VIII.6 – Illustration (single)

No Entry

VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)

Judge's comment: "With a single meow or bark, the illustrations help tell the story in this fine feline mystery."

Winner:

Michael Sleep, "Purrlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Treasure" Felinity Press