

**CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS– 2011**

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

“The Pill” – Kim Campbell Thornton

“The author does an excellent job of providing a unique perspective to the pet overpopulation problem, the increased efforts and research to develop an effective one-time contraceptive is a revolutionary approach. I was drawn into the article by the author’s dynamic writing style. She presented recent history and future directions for a development of this concept. BRAVO!

Judge: Heather Roberts, the Dean of Sciences and Math at Sierra College

#2 – FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD

***Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* - Lee Wardlaw**

““This book was my favorite by far. It is very heartwarming, original, imaginative and skillfully written. I love the way the story was told in haiku. I liked the illustrations, too.”

Judge: Judith Van Gieson, author of two award-winning mystery series set in New Mexico

#3 - FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dusty Rainbolt

“I have really enjoyed reading the entries for the Friskies Writer of the Year Award. They were all of a very high quality and represented many different approaches to communicating with the public. For me, choosing a winner was just as difficult as choosing among a great variety of dark chocolates.

Nevertheless, I have chosen the collection submitted by Dusty Rainbolt a.k.a. Hobbes as the winning entries. They represent a range of voices and styles, all of which address the key values of the contest, "to promote the welfare, health and proper care of cats." As Hobbes, she discusses these issues from the cat's perspective in a very expressive voice and vocabulary that pays much attention to the "sensory stimulation" that cats need. We all sense the annoyances that cats face, and these pieces bring them into sharp focus, sensitizing her audience in a clever and entertaining manner. Other entries including evaluations of products designed for cats are particularly useful. In all of her writing she is positive, concise and practical. I was also impressed by the fullness of several of the pieces. Her writing is sustained and thoughtful on a very broad range of topics.”

Judge: Dr. Joan Digby is Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program at the C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University.

#4 – HARTZ EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD

“The Joys of Adopting the Older Cat” – Ingrid King

“This article was a joy to read and was an excellent article with a strong, clear voice. The purpose of the article was clear throughout the piece and was very entertaining while educating people on the advantages of adopting senior pets. This is a well-balanced, educational and entertaining example of great cat writing. The decision was not an easy one, but in the end this article was the most outstanding.”

Judge: Dr. Letrisa Miller, MS, DVM

#5 – HARTZ GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD

“The Truth about Tapeworms” - Dusty Rainbolt

“There were several deserving entries in this year’s Hartz Glamour-Puss Award competition. It was difficult to choose. I selected the winner because I thought it to be the most well-written entry of all that were submitted. The article was concise and not over-written, yet contained pertinent, useful information presented in a way that was easy to understand.”

Judge: Danelle German authored the *Ultimate Cat Groomer Encyclopedia* and is the founder of the National Cat Groomers Institute of America and the world’s first feline-exclusive grooming school

#6 – HARTZ MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD

“Foster Focus.” - Dusty Rainbolt

“It was very difficult picking one article. In the end, I picked the winner because the article is all about common sense and education. We need to use all the resources that we have to make the right choices for the right reasons for the right animals. Not all cats are created to be house pets. However, they have great value if appreciated for what they can provide. If we are willing to meet the basic needs of shelter, food, water and health care, these animals will ‘work’ for us. No training needed. They do what comes naturally and we all benefit: working with nature for nature. Basically a win-win for everyone.”

Judge: Dr. Colleen Murray, Katy Trail Animal Hospital

#7– KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD

“Reducing Stress for Shelter Cats” – Joanne Anderson

“I chose this article for many reasons. To start with, the first line, ‘I am a fan of rotating the stock at an animal shelter to improve a pet’s chances of being noticed and ultimately getting adopted, but this marketing gimmick isn’t as easy as it sounds for cats.’

I liked that you included the necessary steps in stress reduction protocols to improve shelter cats' emotional well-being. These are most helpful.

I was excited by the idea of the Hide, Perch & Go feline furniture. I asked Kennel Kompadres, which raises money for the shelters in Albuquerque, to see about getting these for the Albuquerque shelters.

You offer great ways to improve reducing the stress levels in cats so that they will display correctly, be safe in their environment and ultimately lead to a happier feline ready for its forever home. Your article met the requirements of the award better than any of the others."

Judge: Michelle King, Manager of Lucky Paws, the City of Albuquerque's retail adoption center in a mall setting.

#8 – MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD

"The Strength of the Human-Animal Bond: Going the Distance." – Stacey Ritz

"I actually narrowed the entries down to three that I went back to for several re-reads. Each time I went back to re-read, one entry continued to best meet the criteria. Even though the entry was short, there was an emphasis that reflected and promoted the strengthening of the human-animal bond as well as highlighting the bond between a cat and its humans ---touching and significant to the overall story. The important role of the veterinarian was clearly established, actually life-changing, literally. Had the veterinarian not stepped up, the outcome of this cat's story would have been totally different."

Judge: : Betty Carmack authored *Grieving the Death of a Pet* and has led a long-running Pet Loss Support Group at the San Francisco SPCA.

#9 – PETFINDER.COM ADOPT A HOMELESS CAT AWARD

"Back to Basics: Shelter Cat Enrichment." - Debbie Swanson

"In this informative article, the author dispels the myth that cats are solitary creatures, not needing human interaction to be happy. The author describes the need for social interaction in a shelter environment to make each and every cat more adoptable and their stays shorter. The focus on different methods, customized for each individual kitty purrsonality is right on. I'll be passing along this piece to our local shelter!"

Judge: Vickie Fisher, President of The International Cat Association (TICA).

#10 – PRO PLAN® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD

“How to Choose a Healthy Purebred Cat” – Sharon Eisen

“This author has broad knowledge of health issues to assist a potential owner/breeder/exhibitor with information to investigate.

Judge: Kay DeVilbiss is the former President of The International Cat Association (TICA).

#11 - PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD

“Guide to the Well-Fed Kitten.” – Janiss Garza

“It was very difficult to pick a winner because I thought it was a tie. But I chose this article because it is factual, provides excellent references and gives a very good comparison of diets.”

Judge: Dr. Stephen Hopkins is an Associate Veterinarian at VCA Wyoming Animal Hospital in Albuquerque.

#12 - PURINA ONE® HEALTH AWARD

“Anatomy of the Feline Mouth” – Arnold Plotnick

“The winning article has good information. It is readable, accurate and applicable. This article can help everyone at all levels of ownership and experience understand the importance of oral health in cats.”

Judge: Ellen Price, editor of the *Pet Sitter's WORLD* and as PSI's academic manager.

#13 - PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD

“Hartz Kitten Nursery” - Dusty Rainbolt

“I loved the article about orphan kitten care. This article was not just enjoyable but it was full of good kitten care information. Although it was only an article it contained a books worth of information. This series of "Kitten Care" articles was the most thorough on the topic. It devoted 100% of its' content to the topic. “

Judge: Joan Caron worked 25 years at the Miami Seaquarium as a marine mammal trainer and curator.

#14 – STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD

“Unleash Your Cat’s Potential – Try Clicker Training” – Cheryl Kolus

“This is a simple but beautifully clear and concise article outlining the basics of clicker training. It covers all the essentials and offers suggestions for places owners can go once they have mastered the basic behaviors explained in the article. It encourages full owner and cat participation and will only strengthen the human cat bond. The brevity would make it a nice handout for those working in cat behavior and for breeders, shelters and vets to pass on to new cat owners.”

Judge: Linda Aronson, DV, MA is a veterinarian with a referral behavior practice, PetShrink, in Berlin, MA

#15 – TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD

***Naughty No More!* – Marilyn Krieger**

“This book is very well organized. It is clear and is very inclusive of problems and solutions. It is an easy read with good references. The photos are excellent and appropriate.”

Judge: Mary Lou Anderson has been a Legal Nurse Consultant for the last 13 years. Currently she is an Approved All Breed Judge and the Judging Administrator for TICA.

#16 – WORLD’S BEST LITTER-ARY AWARD

***Cat Coming Home* – Shirley Rousseau Murphy**

“This book meets all the criteria and is a great read.”

Judge: Dr. Cynthia Rigoni is the owner of All Cats Veterinary Clinic in Houston.

#17 - The SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD, sponsored by 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: Deb M. Eldredge DVM

#18 - 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: Amy Shojai

#19 – KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD

“Stormy: Window Light” – Diane M. Smith

“This sterling photo depicts the essence of the royal, regal character of the feline and yet the intimate relationship of the feline and human experience. Here is a synthesis of poise, beauty, and the quintessential muse of the friends we simply, lovingly call “cat.”

Judge: Lori Faye Bock’s images are nationally known and have been used by PetSmart, the ASPCA and the American Humane Association.

#20 – PRESIDENT’S AWARD sponsored by the Cat Fanciers' Association.

“Creature Comforts” – Wendy Christensen

“Newsletters, websites and books, Oh my.

Selecting the winner of the President's Award wasn't any easier this year than last. The Muse winners were all wonderful, with an amazing selection of calendars, blogs, websites, novels, nonfiction books, articles, columns, newsletters, and cartoons. My only guide through this maze of excellence was the dog show model that the animals entered for Best in Show are not judged against each other, but against their breed standard.

As someone who has written books, articles and a weekly column, I know that each presents its own challenges, and I also know just how hard it can be to come up with a new topic week after week, month after month, year after year, and to keep the writing fresh as you try to entertain and educate.

This writer does just that, whether she's talking about dental care, ferals, or how a cat laps water.”

Judge: Susan Ewing