

**CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION  
MUSE MEDALLIONS – 2011**

**I.1 – Monthly Magazine**

Judge's comment: "*Cat Fancy* continues to be the crème de la crème of feline periodicals. Gorgeous photos, up-to-the-minute information and articles that are well-researched and well-written. It is entertaining as well as educational. It is appealing to cat lovers of all ages. The cat's meow!"

**Winner: Cat Fancy**

**I.2 – Magazine Article – Health and General Care**

Judge's comment: "This article was well organized and gave good information. It has a great comparison of dry, canned raw and homemade food. It gives both sides of the raw food question and includes cautions for homemade cat food. This is a very good article with a good summary to wrap it up."

**Winner: Janiss Garza for "Guide to the Well-Fed Kitten" - *Kittens USA*.**

**I.3 – Magazine Article – Behavior and Training**

Judge's comment: "This is an easy read that is chock full of information. It should be a must read for all cat shelter volunteers. It's too bad the value and urgency of the subject can't be scored. This is fresh and new and needed. I'd give it a 100+."

**Winner: Debbie Swanson for "Back to Basics: Shelter Cat Enrichment" - *Animal Sheltering*.**

**I.4 – Magazine Article – Any Other Topic -- TIE**

**Winners: Dusty Rainbolt, “The Best Idea” - *Cat Fancy* and Kim Campbell Thornton, “Saving Africa’s Big Cats” - *Cats USA*.**

**I.5 – Magazine – Column**

Judge’s comment: “This column captured my heart through the warmth of its treatment of the subjects. The writing is excellent and various aspects of the stories are woven together in an appealing way. The columns are memorable and cause me to think more deeply about the fostering ‘situations’ that are presented. This is a winner by a whisker in a category of outstanding entries.”

**Winner:**

**Cimeron Morrissey, “Foster Focus” - *Cat Fancy***

**I.6 – Magazine – Regional**

**NO ENTRIES**

**I.7 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Health and General Care**

**NO WINNER**

**I.8 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Behavior and Training**

**NO ENTRIES**

**I.9 – Magazine – Regional – Article – Any Other Topic**

Judge’s comment: ““This gave useful, but not overwhelming, information presented in a friendly get-off-your-duff-and-help-animals way.”

**Winner: Debbie Waller, “Resolve to Make 2011 a ‘Pawsitive’ New Year” - *City + Country Cats***

**I.10 – Magazine – Regional – Column**

Judge’s comment: “Well-researched answers presented in an entertaining and interesting style. This has overall great humor and voice. It is engaging from the first sentence every time.”

**Winner: Dusty Rainbolt and Debbie Waller, “Dear Hobbes” - *City +Country Pets***

**II.1 - Newspaper Article – Health and General Care**

Judge’s comment: “This is an attention grabbing article with informative sidebars, good pets with people photographs and excellent interviews that support the topic. It also includes content rich online references for the reader to consult.”

**Winner:**

**Fran Pennock Shaw, "Giving Older Souls Respect" - *Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era*.**

## **II.2 – Newspaper Article – Behavior and Training**

Judge's comment: "The article is balanced with great tips for helping your dog or cat stay healthy, fit and happy through play. It's easy to read, easy to implement. A well-written article where I learned a thing or three."

**Winner: Fran Pennock Shaw, "I Wanna Play" - *Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era*.**

## **II.3 – Newspaper Article – Any Other Topic**

Judge's comment: "The story was laid out in a way that not only flowed well but it also made the information more compelling. It had great research as well."

**Winner:**

**B. J. Bangs. "Problems Arising from Cat and Dog Overpopulation" - *The Original Irregular*.**

## **II.4 – Newspaper Column**

Judge's comment: "These columns are interesting and informative, her voice is strong and sure, and her information is reliable (and in one case cutting edge). Where useful advice is given it is truly useful. What an outstanding field of entries this year."

**Winner:**

**Wendy Christensen, "Creature Comforts" - *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*.**

## **III.1 – Newsletter – Breed Specific**

Judge's comment: "This is beautifully photographed, well written and informative with strong appeal for both Bengal owners and cat lovers in general. Great job."

**Winner:**

**Brigitte McMinn, ed., - *Bengals Illustrated***

## **III.2 – Newsletter – National Circulation**

Judge's comment: "The information presented here is truly for 'caring cat owners' and is shared in an educational and informative way that walks a fine line between technical but without sounding like a veterinary journal. A joy to read! This is splendid writing; clearly and concisely presented."

**Winner:**

**Arden Moore, ed., - Catnip**

### **III.3 – Newsletter – Regional or Membership Circulation**

Judge's comment: : "This is a lively and fun newsletter that clearly serves its target audience."

**Winner:**

**Karen Payne, ed., - MEOW**

### **III.4 – Newsletter Article – Health and General Care**

Judge's comment: "This article has a distinctive voice. It is well-written with an even flow. The information is presented very well."

**Winner:**

**Arden Moore, "Toweling Your Cat" - Catnip.**

### **III.5 – Newsletter Article – Behavior and Training**

**Winner:**

**Heidi Jeter, "The Power of a Gentle Touch" - Animal News.**

### **III.6 – Newsletter Article – Any Other Topic**

Judge's comment: "This is an entertaining and informative article that takes the reader on a unique journey into Holland's famous floating cat shelter and examines its veterinary care practices. The writer succinctly narrates a personal account of the ways another culture manages its homeless cat population."

**Winner:**

**Arnold Plotnick, "Cats in Amsterdam" - Catnip.**

### **III.7 – Newsletter Column**

Judge's comment: "I appreciated the risks she took, whether it was admitting to being an 'apprentice' breeder or revealing that some potential buyers didn't like the shape of her cats' noses. I've read a lot about cats in my career, and I am delighted to say I learned many new things from these articles. The tone and content were completely appropriate for her audience, but surprisingly accessible to a non-breeder like me – the mark of a good writer."

**Winner:**

**Nancy Reeves, "UBCF Newsletter Editorials" - UBCF Newsletter.**

## **IV.1 – Short Story**

Judge's comment: "I was hooked from the first page. May all of us have a cat to plead for us at our own crossing. Indeed, no one can say 'No' to a determined cat."

**Winner:**

**Lyn McConchie, "Opener of Doors" - *Hazard Cat*.**

**IV.2 – Poem  
NO WINNER**

**IV.3 - Humor**

Judge's comment: "This is very cute. It's just what you would expect from cats."

**Winner:**

**Ann Dziemianowicz, "Cat Product Testers Review Ipad Painting App" - *Paper Bag & String*.**

**IV.4 – Brochure, Pamphlet, Short Publication - TIE**

1. Judge's comment: "This is an attractive brochure with overall good design."

**Winner:**

**Nancy Peterson for "Can You Help This Cat?"**

2. Judge's comment: "This is a very thorough and informative brochure."

**Winner:**

**Nancy Reeves for "Sock FIP Brochure."**

**IV.5 – Annual or Long Publication**

Judge's comment: "This is clever and humorous. It contains relevant information from the perspective of a rescuer. Well done."

**Winner:**

**Linda Young, "Kitty Corner Mews."**

**IV.6 – Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial**

**Winner:**

**Bernadette Kazmarski, "On Dying and Death, and Remembrance" - *MEOW*.**

#### **IV.7 – PR / Humane Education / Press Kits – TIE NO ENTRIES**

#### **V.1 – Books - Fiction – TIE**

“This may be the toughest category I’ve ever judged. What a terrific collection of books!”

Judge’s comment: “This book is excellent. The author is an expert at keeping the reader’s interest. The end of each chapter is actually a beginning, making it nearly impossible to put down.”

#### **Winner:**

**Shirley Rousseau Murphy, *Cat Coming Home*, HarperCollins, 2011.**

Judge’s comment: “The characters are deep, well-drawn and realistic. Her ‘talking’ cat is the most realistic and least anthropomorphic depiction I’ve seen, finally doing justice to the personality of the cat.”

#### **Winner:**

**Clea Simon, *Dogs Don’t Lie*, Poisoned Pen Press, 2011.**

#### **V.2 – Books for Children**

Judge’s comment: “The winning book has a clear, stellar voice in written word and illustration (beautiful, bright colors) style that perfectly suited felines. Superb! The cat stole my heart, or should I say ‘won’ my heart. This captures the life of an adopted shelter cat perfectly.”

#### **Winner:**

**Lee Wardlaw, *Won Ton: a Cat Tale Told in Haiku*, Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, 2011.**

#### **V.3 – Books – Health and General Care**

Judge’s comment: “The author’s wealth of knowledge, thorough research, and engaging writing style come through on every page. But, even more than that, her love for cats makes this book special. If you’re only going to buy one cat guide, this is the one to get. This book will work for the experienced cat servant as well as the newbie.”

#### **Winner:**

**Darlene Arden, *The Complete Cat’s Meow*, Howell Book House, 2011**

#### **V.4 – Books – Training and Behavior**

**Judge’s comment:** “This is a fantastic and easy guide. I’ve learned a lot from reading this book. I want to try clicker training with my cats. I hope more cat owners will switch to such humane methods of interacting with their cats. I clicker trained four stay kittens using this book

as a guide. I was able to adopt out the kittens to loving homes more quickly based on how they responded to the training.”

**Winner:**

**Marilyn Krieger, *Naughty No More!* Bowtie Press, 2011**

#### **V.5 – Gift Book**

Judge’s comment: “This book is very different. A hilarious book. It does not overdo the ‘test’ for your cat at the expense of choosing a ‘career’. Fun to read all the way through.”

**Winner:**

**Ann Dziemianowicz, *Careers for Your Cat*, Ten Speed Press, 2010.**

#### **V.6 – Poetry**

**NO ENTRIES**

#### **V.7 – E-Book**

**NO ENTRIES**

#### **V.8 – Books – Other**

Judge’s comment: “This is a necessary book on a difficult subject. It’s very well done. The book is enlightening and heartbreaking.”

**Winner:**

**Allie Phillips, *How Shelter Pets Are Brokered for Experimentation*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2010.**

#### **VI.1 – Video, DVD, or TV Production**

Judge’s comment: “This was very well done and contained a lot of information. After nearly a half-century living with cats and 15 years writing about them, any time I learn something new, kudos are in order – and I did pick up a few pointers from this piece.”

**Winner:**

**Jane Brunt and the Catalyst Council, “Cats + Carriers” Friends Not Foes.”**

#### **VI.2 – Broadcast, Audio – Any Format**

Judge’s comment: “This interviewer is a consummate professional interviewer, asking thorough and insightful questions. Her questions are interesting and challenging while she guides the interview.”

**Winner:**

**Amy Shojai, “Pet Peeves: Feral Cats and TNR,” PetLife Radio.com**

### **VII.1 - Online Magazine, Newsletter**

**NO WINNER**

### **VII.2 –Website - TIE**

Judge's comment: "This site is informative and the links are accessible without the site being cluttered. It has good organization and is clear from the start."

**Winner:**

**Dr. Jean Hofve, [www.bigcatlittlecat.com](http://www.bigcatlittlecat.com)**

Judge's comment: "Overall a very nice site that gives the reader plenty to click on but does not overload the reader information. It's there if the reader wants it but it isn't pushed."

**Winner:**

**Mary Anne Miller, [www.felinexpress.com](http://www.felinexpress.com)**

### **VII.3 – Online Article – Health and General Care**

Judge's comment: "There were many excellent articles in this category. With their fluid, easy-to-read style, the winner's entries, in particular, provided enjoyment while dispensing useful and important information."

**Winner:**

**Arnold Plotnick, "Why We Vaccinate (Even Indoor Cats) - Cat Man Do (Arnold Plotnick).**

### **VII.4 – Online Article – Behavior and Training**

Judge's comment: "This article is a definitive short introduction to kinds of cat aggression and remedies. It is perfect! The author accomplishes her purpose so very well by presenting interesting and practical information and holding the reader's attention throughout."

**Winner:**

**Amy Shojai, "8 Kinds of Cat Aggression" – [Cats.About.com](http://Cats.About.com)**

### **VII.5 – Online Article – Any Other Topic**

Judge's comment: "The winning entry was excellent. It gets high marks for individuality."

**Winner:**

**Nancy Peterson, "Lobbying 101 for Feral Cat Advocates" – [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)**

### **VII.6 – Online - Column**

Judge's comment: "This takes a difficult multistep problem and makes it clear to the remedy. The subtitles help break up the complexity."



**Winner:**

**Marilyn Krieger, "Psychology 301, 302 & 303" – [www.Catchannel.com](http://www.Catchannel.com)**

**VII.7 – Blog: Educational**

Judge's comment: "This entry simply is excellent."

**Winner:**

**Kelley Weir, "Morris Animal Foundation Highlights Blog,"**

**[www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/blog](http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/blog)**

**VII.8 – Blog: Entertainment**

Judge's comment: "Overall a very nice blog that highlights the artist's work while adding understanding of the background for the work and importance of cats in her art."

**Winner:**

**Bernadette Kazmarski, "The Creative Cat."**

**VIII.1 – Black and White Photograph (single)**

Judge's comment: "The winner combines effective communication, artistic values and technical execution to the highest level."

**Winner:**

**Stephanie Galindo, "Pootie" – Coalition Humane Newsletter**

**VIII.2 - Black and White Photograph (series)**

**NO WINNER**

**VIII.3 – Color Photograph (single) - TIE**

Judge's comment: "Now that's a picture!"

**Winner:**

**Janiss Garza, "Watching You," Café Press**

Judge's comment: "This picture is technically and artistically appealing and has professional quality."

**Winner:**

**Layla Morgan Wilde, "Every Day Is Earth Day, " The Boomer Muse.**

#### **VIII.4 - Color Photograph (series)**

Judge's comment: "Some truly amazing photos here. This calendar has photos that are works of art – gorgeous."

**Winner:**

**Brigitte McMinn, *Savannahs Illustrated Calendar*, Award Winning Publications.**

#### **VIII.5 – Cartoon**

Judge's comment: "Cat lovers can instantly relate to this cartoon. This is an excellent capture of that always awkward moment and our true reward – love it!"

Winner:

**Stephanie Piro, "Family Is What You Make It," King Features.**

#### **VIII.6 – Illustration (single)**

Judge's comment: "This is a beautiful work of art that reveals the cat's personality."

**Winner:**

**Bernadette Kazmarski, "A Wonderful Gift," – Self-sold as animal sympathy card**

#### **VIII.7 – Illustrations (series)**

Judge's comment: "Wonderful. Each art work tells a story. I can't fault her artistic technique either. A great all-around entry."

**Winner:**

**Bernadette Kazmarski, "16 Portraits of Rescued Felines," *Great Rescues*.**