



Twenty-fourth Annual
AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, June 9, 2018
Hyatt Regency North Houston, Texas

2018 Cat Writers' Association
Annual Conference

The Cat Writers' Association, Inc.
Twenty-fourth Annual Conference
June 7-9, 2018
Hyatt Regency North Houston Texas
*Held in conjunction with the
2018 CFA Gulf Shore Regional Cat Show*

2018 Officers

President: **Marci Kladnik**

Vice President: **Deborah Barnes**

Treasurer: **Dawn White**

Secretary: **Wendy Christensen**

Immediate Past President: **Dusty Rainbolt, ACCBC**

Past President: **Lorie Huston, DVM** (In memoriam)

Council of Directors

Class of 2017: **Paul Glassner, Susan Willett**

Class of 2018: **Paula Gregg, Julie McAlee**

2017 Contest Committee

Wendy Christensen (chair), Arden Moore

2018 Conference Committee

Rachel Phelps (Chair), Marci Kladnik, Deb
Barnes, Lea-Ann Germinder, Amy Shojai



The **Cat Writers' Association, Inc.** (CWA) is an international association of professional communicators who provide to the general public and to specialized audiences news, information, education and works of literary and graphic art that help describe, dramatize, explain and illuminate the myriad aspects of felines, especially domestic cats, and their place in human life and culture.

CWA members promote the best interests of all cats through a variety of media and formats, including newspapers, magazines, radio, television, web sites, blogs, public relations and publicity, photojournalism, illustration, fine arts, photography, video, podcasts, speech, technical writing and more. Members strive always to observe and promote the highest standard of ethics in the generation and publication of cat information in all genres and media.

www.catwriters.com



FELINE FIX **by FIVE MONTHS.**

it saves lives

*We are looking for talented cat writers
to collaborate with us on stories/articles
for mainstream magazines.*

Contact us for details!

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*Advocating for the age for spaying/neutering cats
to be reduced to five months or earlier,
instead of the commonly accepted six months.*



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THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CWA AWARDS BANQUET

6:00 PM OPENING REMARKS
by CWA President Marci Kładnik

DINNER *followed by*

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented by
Contest Committee member Arden Moore,
CWA Co-founder Amy Shojai and Council
of Directors member Paula Gregg.

2017 SPECIAL AWARDS

Note: All Awards presented this evening cover the
Contest period of Jan.1, 2017—Dec. 31, 2017.

Special Purrrrrrs of Thanks go to all our
extraordinary Special Award judges for their time,
effort, and expertise in judging the Special Awards.
CWA could not hold its contest without you!



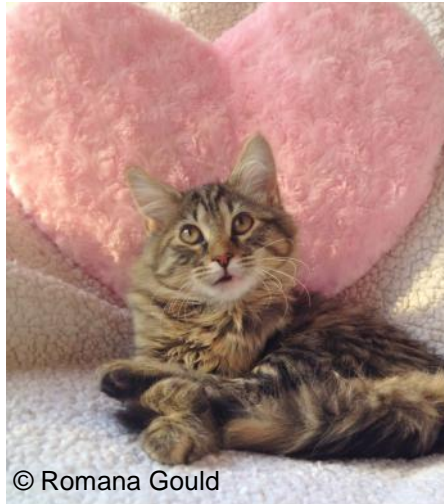
AAFP CAT FRIENDLY AWARD

Sponsored by the **American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)**, this Award is presented for the entry that best educates cat owners about the benefits of going to a Cat Friendly Practice. Appropriate topics include why it is beneficial to the cat and owner to visit a practice that is cat friendly, including, but not limited to, staff understanding of feline friendly handling, decreased stress associated with the visit, increase in the quality of care and medicine provided, and communication to cat owners of the importance of routine veterinary care. Qualifying entries include newspaper or magazine articles or columns, or a series of articles or columns (print or online), and radio or television broadcasts. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative, framed certificate.

JUDGE: Erin Fenstermaker is a business consultant specializing in the pet industry. She has an MBA from Southern Methodist University, and holds a dog training certification from Animal Behavior College. With her direct manner and ability to break complex issues into workable pieces, she loves assisting small business owners reach their personal and professional goals. To learn more about Erin, visit her website at www.erinfenstermaker.com

WINNER: **Susan Willett**, for Almost as Good as a Spa Day: Taking Your Cat to the Vet Doesn't Have to Be Stressful, *published in* Life with Dogs and Cats (blog)





CATALYST COUNCIL CONNECTION AWARD

Sponsored by **CATalyst Council**, this Award celebrates both the writer *and subject* of a true story depicting an experience of a kitten or cat adopted from a shelter which results in a profound connection between the cat and its adoptive pet parent. The relationship described will be equally beneficial to the cat and the person; special consideration will be given to those pieces showing a positive community-wide connection involving both the shelter and a local veterinarian. The story may be written in first purr or first person if appropriate. Entries may include a single book or short story, poem, article (print or online), newsletter, editorial, blog, commercial radio/TV/internet recording or a photograph with corresponding copy. Entries will be judged on the ability of the reader/viewer to reach the conclusion that cats are valuable members of our families, they enrich our lives and they deserve our love and our care. This award consists of \$500 and special gift and/or appropriate acknowledgement of the story subjects.

JUDGE: Rich Anderson is the Executive Director/CEO of the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League in West Palm Beach, FL.

WINNER: **Layla Morgan Wilde**, for Black Cats Tell All: True Tales and Inspiring Images

CWA COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS NEWCOMER BLOGGER'S HOME-ENRICHMENT AWARD

(NEW this year!)

Sponsored by the **CWA's Council of Directors**, this Award is presented to the online blogger (written or visual/video with accompanying text) who inspires cat caretakers to create an enriched and stylish environment for their pets. Qualified entrants must be new members of CWA having joined **between January 1 and December 31** of the current contest year. The winner's blog or site must have a minimum readership of 1000+ subscribers. The winner must publish on a regular basis, and show a consistent pattern of interaction with readers through audience involvement (questions, postings, etc.). The winning entry must demonstrate a written/visual presentation that inspires readers to do more at home to improve their cats' environment and lifestyle, demonstrating good taste and style in terms of branding/blog identity (i.e. stylish and clever). Most importantly, the blogger must educate the audience on how to improve the lifestyles, wellness and happiness of their cats. The award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.



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JUDGE: **Carol Bryant**, Pet Industry Writer/Blogger, Public Relations & Social Media Strategist. By day, Carol is the Marketing and Social Media Manager for BlogPaws. Bryant is also the founder of FidoseofReality.com, a highly trafficked dog blog, and its fundraising arm, Wigglebutt Warriors. Event planning and management are also specialties. Carol received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the American Kennel Club.

WINNER: **Yasaar Nakchbendi**, for Helping Cats Live Enriched Lives with their People, **published in** www.chirpycats.com (blog)

DR. JIM RICHARDS CORNELL FELINE HEALTH CENTER VETERINARY ISSUES AWARD

Sponsored by **Cornell University's 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. Qualifying entries include single newspaper, magazine, or newsletter articles; columns or series of articles (print or online); blogs, a website, single books, or radio/television broadcasts, designed to educate the general cat-owning public about new developments. This award consists of \$500.

JUDGE: Elizabeth J. Colleran DVM, MS, holds a Feline Specialty Practice Diplomate and serves on the Board of Directors for the American Association of Feline Practitioners. She operates the Chico Hospital for Cats, the only feline-exclusive veterinary hospital in Chico CA and a certified Cat Friendly Practice.

WINNER: **Kim Thornton**, for Research looks at Skin Microbiome of Cats *published in* Cat Update





FEAR FREE™ PETS AWARD

Sponsored by **Fear Free, LLC**, this Award honors the article, book, blog, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media format that best educates, promotes, or demonstrates the importance of how a cat's emotional well-being can play a role in all aspects of its life and health, including veterinary care. Topics may include how decreasing fear, anxiety, and stress is beneficial to the patient and owner both during the veterinary visit and at home, a focus on Fear Free applications pre- and post-veterinary visit, or how going to a Fear Free certified professional is beneficial to staff, patients, and clients. This award consists of \$2,000 and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

JUDGE: Beth Adelman, MS, is a Cat Behavior Consultant and a publishing professional in Brooklyn, New York. Beth was a founding member of the Cat Division of the IAABC, and is the former editor in chief of Cats magazine and DogWorld and former cat columnist for the New York Post. She currently is a regular speaker on cat behavior at New York's Meow Parlour.

WINNER: **Ramona Marek**, for *Fraidy Cat? How to Recognize Signs of Fear, Anxiety and Stress*, ***published in*** Fear Free Happy Homes

FEAR FREE™ CAT ENRICHMENT AWARD

Sponsored by Fear Free, LLC, this Award is presented for the article, book, TV segment, radio spot, video, column or other creative media formats that best educates, promotes or demonstrates how enrichment activities (exercise, food puzzles, scent training, etc.) can benefit a pet's emotional and physical well-being and the role that has in their overall health. The award consists of \$2,000 and a one-of-a-kind commemorative award.

JUDGE: Dr. Tony Buffington is an emeritus professor at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and clinical professor (volunteer) at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. He received BS, MS and PhD degrees in nutrition and the DVM degree from UC Davis. His clinical interests include environmental effects on disease, obesity, evidence-based medicine, and effective medical communications. His research has documented the effects of environmental stressors on disease in cats, and the effectiveness of environmental enrichment in mitigating them to promote recovery. Dr. Buffington has published 130 scientific papers, 30 book chapters, and 3 books.

WINNER: Deborah Barnes, for *Is your Cat Feeling Stir Crazy? 10 Tips to Relieve Boredom in an Everyday Environment*, **published in** *Zee & Zoey's Cat Chronicles*





GOODNEWSFORPETS.com HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD

Sponsored by Germinder & Associates, this Award is presented to the entry that best reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond, highlighting the bond between a cat and owner, as well as their relationship with their veterinarian as another direct caregiver. Entries will be judged for exceptional quality and on the ability to convey this concept and connect with the reader. Qualified entries include single articles (print or online), features, columns, short stories, books and poetry. This award consists of \$1,000 and a commemorative certificate.

JUDGE: Dr Lisa Lippman is “New York City’s premiere house call veterinarian.” She loves all areas of veterinary medicine from surgery to politics, her special interests are in dermatology, internal medicine and emergency and critical care.

WINNER: **Deborah Camp**, for *Pets are Part of Our Family -- vets are too*, **published in** *The Best Times*

HARTZ® EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD

Sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, this Award is given to the highest-quality entry on the topic of older cats. Topics can include, but are not limited to adoption, health, innovative care, and senior-for-senior programs. Qualifying entries include a single book, article (print or online), brochure, newsletter, editorial, blog, photograph, or commercial radio/TV tape. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative plaque.

JUDGE:: Mike Arms is the Executive Director of the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

WINNER: **Deb M. Eldredge, DVM**, for Senior Cats Need your Attention, ***published in*** Cornell University CatWatch

HARTZ® GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD

Sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, honoring the best single entry on the topic of feline skin and coat care. Qualifying topics include, but are not limited to, coverage of home and professional grooming, parasite control, nail care, teeth and ear care, and feline skin/coat disorders. Written and pictorial works in all media are acceptable, including articles, books, blogs, websites, online magazine, online newsletters, and videotape broadcasts. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative plaque.

JUDGES: Dana Humphrey is the Lead Publicist & Owner at Whitegate PR, a boutique public relations agency specializing in the pet industry. She's also "The Pet Lady," traveling coast to coast scouting out the best pet products, brands and pet experts. She is also a professor and program facilitator at FIT, the fashion institute of technology and teaches in the pet product marketing and design department. She was recently awarded by Pet Age Magazine 40 under 40 and Women of Influence. She lives in Astoria, Queens with her pet frog Prince Charming.

WINNER: **Deb M. Eldredge, DVM**, for Take Charge of your Cat's Dental Health, ***published in*** Cornell University CatWatch

HARTZ® MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD

Sponsored by Hartz Mountain Corporation, this Award is presented to the best single article (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue), or single radio or television broadcast on the topic of rescuing kittens. Appropriate topics include “how to” articles, stories about feral kitten rescue, early spay and neuter, orphaned kittens, and kitten adoption. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative plaque. \

JUDGE: Paul Bates went from visiting schools in the New York area, where he presented programs promoting the human animal bond, to the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League in South Florida. The league had just opened their new medical clinic and was moving quickly to get their high-volume spay/neuter program up and running. In the 7 years since, they have provided TNVR services to over 32,000 free-roaming cats. Paul spends 100% of his time out in Palm Beach County, promoting TNVR and Community Cat management.

WINNER: **Bernadette Kazmarski**, for *The Kitten Game*, ***published in*** Pet Radio Magazine



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KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD

Sponsored by TICA, this Award is presented to the best single article or column (published in a newspaper, magazine, newsletter, or professional online venue) or single radio or television broadcast on the rescue and rehabilitation of 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. This Commemorative award consists of \$500 and a plaque.

JUDGE: Stacy LeBaron has been involved in animal welfare for 20 years. She currently hosts a weekly podcast called the Community Cats Podcast where she interviews nationally and internationally renowned experts helping with the problem of cat overpopulation and cat welfare. She recently launched the first online cat conference, held January 26-28, 2018. (See www.communitycatspodcast.com).

WINNER: **Cori Solomon**, for *The Gift: The Story of a Cat Rescue*, **published in** *The Written Palette*





The **KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD** is sponsored by CWA, and is presented to the outstanding “image” entry featuring cats – whether photography, illustration, or graphic art. This may be a single piece or series entry, including, but not limited to, photos/artwork published in a magazine, newspaper, newsletter, book, pamphlet, calendar, poster, greeting card, or commercial online publication. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Michael Bagley is a professional photographer based in Norwalk, Connecticut. Though his work includes a variety of subjects, Mike is renowned for his pet photography. He has created tens of thousands of animal images, and he prides himself on his ability to express an animal’s true spirit via a photograph. To see his work visit www.michaelbagleyphoto.com.

WINNER: Karen Nichols, for Cat Scouts Calendar

LORIE HUSTON HEALTH AWARD

Sponsored by PetSafe®, this Award is presented to the outstanding single article, column or blog (print or professionally published online) reporting on feline health and care issues. Entries are judged on excellence of writing and technical accuracy; significance of the topic and public education impact on feline health are also considered. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative award.

JUDGE: Michael LoSasso, DVM graduated from Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine in 1993. He ran a solo general practice for 10 years before moving into emergency medicine. In addition to practicing emergency medicine for the last 15 years, and acting as the Chief of Staff for 3 different ERs (the last of which he owns), he has also published articles in several trade journals, as well as writing content for websites and brochures in the industry.

WINNER: **Lyn T. Garson**, for Technically Speaking: Can Cats with Cerebellar Hypoplasia Live Happy, Healthy Lives?, **published in** Our Companions

SLEEPYPOD® TRAVELER AWARD

Sponsored by Sleepypod, this Award is presented for the best entry on cat safety. This entry should take a positive approach to inform and educate the readership about feline safety issues such as safety in the home, preparedness and training for safety purposes, and especially safe travel with cats. Written and pictorial work in all mediums will be accepted, such as online columns or blogs, newsletter articles, photographs, and radio/TV broadcasts. The winner will receive \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: Joette White is the President/Owner of the multi-award-winning Park Cities Pet Sitter in Dallas TX. Joette has also served on the Board of The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. In addition to “herding” the four Park Cities Pet Sitter office cats (Mindy, Kruzer, Geoff and Henry), Joette also has a sweet rescue dog named Phyllis at home.

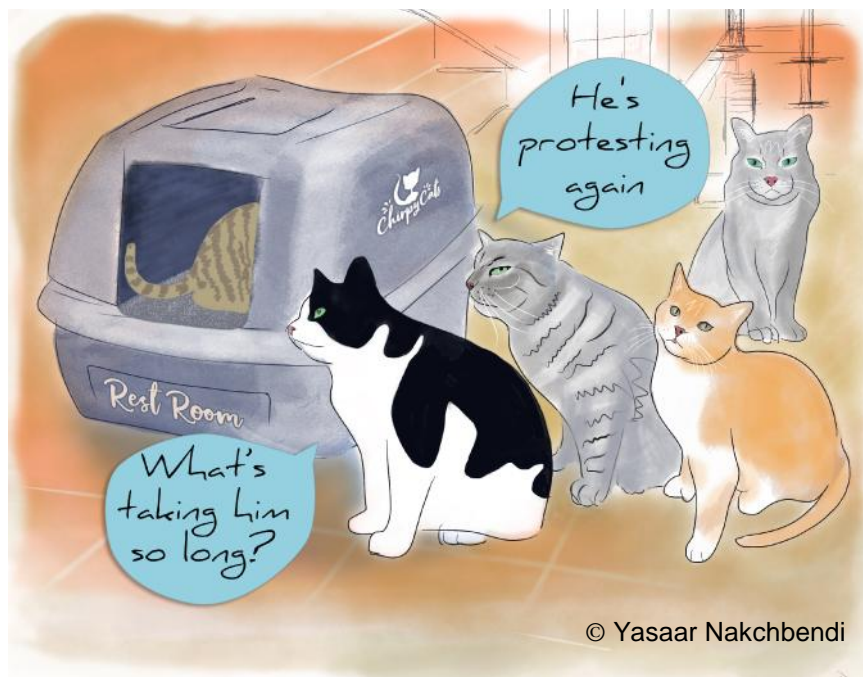
WINNER: **Denise Fleck**, for The Pet Safety Crusader's My Pet & Me Guide to Disaster PAWparedness, **published in** Sunny-dog Ink Publishing, CreateSpace

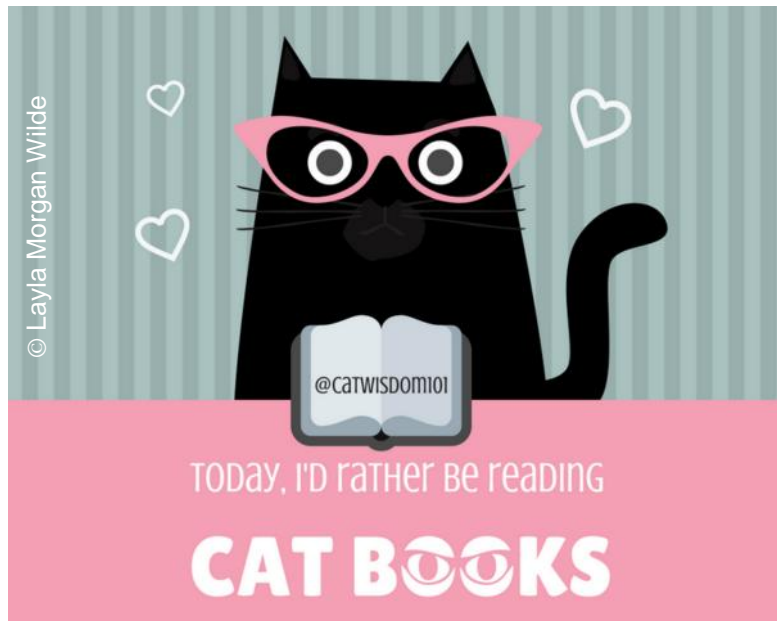
SMARTCAT ALL NATURAL LITTER TRAINING AWARD

Sponsored by Pioneer Pet®, this Award is presented for the best article or tape entry on training techniques. Entries should have a “how-to” focus. Appropriate entries are labeled series or single articles (print or professionally published online), columns, blogs, websites, online newsletters, and television/radio broadcast presentations on topics such as (but not limited to) litter box training, proper scratching behavior, trick training, or training cats to stay off countertops, tables or other forbidden places. This award consists of \$1,000 and a commemorative certificate.

JUDGE: Samantha Martin is an expert animal trainer and Chief Human Officer for the Amazing Acro-Cats that feature the Rock Cats band. She and her troupe of former shelter cats and strays entertain audiences all over the country with this feline show that also helps raise money for non-profit feline groups.

WINNER: **Jacqueline Munera**, for Cat Training: "But it's So Difficult!", *published in* The IAABC Journal





WORLD'S BEST CAT LITTER-ARY AWARD, sponsored by World's Best Cat Litter®, is presented for the outstanding novel, short story, poem, or radio/television dramatic script which portrays cats and cat ownership in a positive way. All fiction genres are eligible. 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. Eligible works may be published in print or electronic media; any scripts or videos must also provide proof of production. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative pewter bowl.

JUDGE: Cindy Rigoni, DVM, opened the fifth cats-only veterinary practice in the U.S. in 1984. She still owns and runs All Cat Veterinary Clinic in Houston. In the late 1970s she began breeding and showing Cornish Rex. She's an avid reader, consuming 1500 words per minute. Dr. Rigoni is also a Cat Fanciers' Association master clerk.

WINNER: **Lisa Annette Powell**, for *Road to Fearless*, **published in** Createspace, self

PRESENTATION OF 2017 MUSE™ MEDALLIONS

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.**

The CWA MUSE™ Medallion



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

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Winners : 2017 Communication Contest

I.1 Monthly Magazine: National

 **Teresa Keiger, Cat Talk magazine**

I.2 Magazine Article: Health & General Care

 **Kim Thornton, New Advice on Sterilizing Kittens: Earlier is Better**


I.2 Magazine Article: Behavior & Training


(No entries)


I.4 Magazine Article: Rescue/Advocacy

 **Candine Lee Jackson, Hawaii's Cat Sanctuary**

I.5 Magazine Article: Any Other Topic

 Lucy Drury, Cat Genetics 101 - Part 1: Feline Genetic Testing

 Lucy Drury, Cat Genetics 101 - Part 2: The Basics

 Candine Lee Jackson, How'd They Do That? The Story Behind the "Cat Herders" Commercial

 Phillip Mlynar, Cat Lady Revolution

 Phillip Mlynar, Steppin' Out with Adventure Cats

 **Jen Reeder, Holy Guacamole**



© Rick Reichenbach

I.6 Magazine Column

 **JaneA Kelley, Life with Cattitude: Keep it Clean**

II.1 Newspaper Article: Health & General Care
(No entries)

II.2 Newspaper Article: Behavior & Training
(No entries)

II.3 Newspaper Article: Rescue/Advocacy

 **Jen Reeder,
Oldies but
Goodies**

II.4 Newspaper
Article: Any
Other Topic
(No entries)

II.5 Newspaper
Column

 **Deborah
Camp,
The Best of
the Pet
World**


III.1 Newsletter:
Breed Specific
(No entries)




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III.2 Newsletter: National Circulation

 **Deb M. Eldredge, DVM, and Cindy Foley,
Cornell University CatWatch**

 Louise Holton, Alley Cat Rescue Spring 2017
Newsletter

 Louise Holton, Alley Cat Rescue Fall 2017
Newsletter

 Louise Holton, Alley Cat Rescue Winter 2017
Annual Report

III.3 Newsletter: Regional or Membership Circulation (No entries)




© Lyn T. Garson





III.4 Newsletter Article: Health & General Care

Deb M. Eldredge, DVM, Take Charge of your Cat's Dental Health


 Deb M. Eldredge, DVM, Halitosis in Cats

 Deb M. Eldredge, DVM, Senior Cats Need your Attention

 Ramona Marek, The Trigger for FISS Remains a Mystery

 Ramona Marek, Caring for the At-Home Cancer Patient

 Kim Thornton, Research looks at Skin Microbiome of Cats

 Kim Thornton, Ticks become a Full-Time Menace

III.5 Newsletter Article: Behavior & Training

 **Kate Eldredge, Teach your Cat to Like her Carrier**

III.6 Newsletter Article: Rescue/Advocacy

 **Matt Carl, ACR Sends Team to Help Pets Affected by Hurricane Harvey**

III.7 Newsletter Article: Any Other Topic

 **Kate Eldredge, Traveling with your Cat**

 **Ramona Marek, Make Sure your Cat's Microchip Works!**






III.8 Newsletter Column

 **Lyn T. Garson, Technically Speaking**









IV.1 Short Story

-  Deborah Barnes, Jazmine's Story... By Mr. Jazz
-  Debbie DeLouise, The Path to Rainbow Bridge
-  Catherine Holm, The Ragdoll's Dance
-  **Mollie Hunt, The Dream Spinner**
-  JaneA Kelley, Belladonna - Sweet Sugar Kitty
-  Melissa Lapierre, My Visit to the Rainbow Bridge: A Short Story
-  Lisa Richman, Allie: My Fair Kitten
-  Susan Willett, Jewish Cat's Purr-spective on Hanukkah and Christmas

IV.2 Poem

-  **Mollie Hunt, Tyler**
-  Susan Willett, Haiku by Cat: Evil
-  Susan Willett, Haiku by Cat: Broccoli
-  Susan Willett, Haiku by Cat: Liquids

IV.3 Humor (No finalists)



IV.4 Brochure, Pamphlet, or Short Publication (No entries)

IV.5 Annual or Long Publication

-  Paula Gregg, 2018 Blogging Cats Weekly Planner
-  **Bernadette Kazmarski, Rescue, Foster, Rehome, Repeat 2018: Pittsburgh C.A.T. Calendar**

IV.6 Opinion Piece, Essay or Editorial (No finalists)

IV.7 PR / Humane Education / Press Kits

-  **Brianna Grant, Alley Cat Rescue calls on Australian municipality to reverse community cat bounty**



V.1 Books: Fiction

- 🐱 Elaine Faber, All Things Cat
- 🐱 Mollie Hunt, Cat Call
- 🐱 Lyn McConchie, Bastet's Daughters
- 🐱 **Shirley Rousseau Murphy, Cat Shining Bright**
- 🐱 Clea Simon, As Dark as My Fur
- 🐱 Sandi Ward, The Astonishing Thing
- 🐱 Eileen Watkins, The Persian Always Meows Twice

V.2 Books: For Children

- 🐱 **Austin Redinger, Caring for your Kitty**

V.3 Books: Health & General Care (No entries)

V.4 Books: Behavior & Training (No entries)

V.5 Books: Gift

 **Layla Morgan Wilde, Black Cats Tell All: True Tales and Inspiring Images**


V.6 Books :Poetry

 **Vicky Pittman, Cat Haiku: Sweet Verses**

V.7 Books: Other

 Denise Fleck, The Pet Safety Crusader's My Pet & Me Guide to Disaster PAWparedness

 Janiss Garza, Rescued Volume 2: The Healing Stories of 12 Cats, Through Their Eyes

 **Sandy Lerner, Caticons: 4000 Years of Art Imitating Cats**

 Jeffyne Telson, Cat Tails: Heartwarming Stories about the Cats and Kittens of ResQCats

VI.1 Video DVD or TV Production

 **Matt Carl, How to Trap, Neuter, Return Feral/Community Cats**

VI.2
Broadcast
Audio –
Any Format
(No entries)












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VII.1 Online Magazine or Newsletter (No entries)

VII.2 Online Article: Health & General Care

-  Sally Bahner, Taming the Longhair's Locks
-  JaneA Kelley, Is Pet Insurance Worth the Cost?
-  Melissa Lapierre, Mudpie's Vaccination Scare...
And what we'll do differently next time
-  Ramona Marek, Proper Feline Diet is Not Vegan
-  **Kim Thornton, Kitten Fix**
-  Kim Thornton, Claw and Order
-  Kim Thornton, Skin Deep
-  Susan Willett, Almost as Good as a Spa Day:
Taking Your Cat to the Vet Doesn't Have to Be Stressful
-  Susan Willett, 8 Ways (And a Whole Bunch of Tips) To Make Your Cat Happy, and Keep Your Cat Healthy

VII.3 Online Article: Behavior & Training

- 🐱 Sally Bahner, Clawful Behavior
- 🐱 Deborah Barnes, Cat that Doesn't Like to be Hugged? He or She Might be More Affectionate than you Think
- 🐱 Deborah Barnes, Is your Cat Feeling Stir Crazy? 10 Tips to Relieve Boredom in an Everyday Environment
- 🐱 Deborah Barnes, With Cats and the Holidays, It's Not About Who's Naughty or Nice, It's About Cat Behavior
- 🐱 Janiss Garza, How to Introduce Yourself to a Cat: 5 Cat-Centric Tips
- 🐱 Janiss Garza, Leash Training for a Happier, More Confident Cat
- 🐱 **Ramona Marek, Fraidy Cat? How to Recognize Signs of Fear, Anxiety and Stress**
- 🐱 Ramona Marek, Get the Scoop on Litter Box Behavior
- 🐱 Jacqueline Munera, Cat Training: "But it's So Difficult!"
- 🐱 Yasaar Nakchbendi, Why Food Puzzles are Vital to Cat Health
- 🐱 Kim Thornton, Kitty Come Home



© Allia Zobel Nolan



VII.4 Online Article: **Rescue/Advocacy**

- 🐱 Janiss Garza, Change a Pet's Life Today: The Art of Fostering Kittens
- 🐱 **Bernadette Kazmarski, The Kitten Game**
- 🐱 Bernadette Kazmarski, TNR With a Side of Adoption and Outreach
- 🐱 Dawn White, A Haven for Cats on Long Island - The Patricia H. Ladew Foundation

VII.5 Online Article: Any Other Topic

- 🐱 Tracy Ahrens, How to Sing to your Cats
- 🐱 Sally Bahner, A Kitty for Christmas? Preparation is Key
- 🐱 Deborah Barnes, 10 Tips to Help Children with the Death of a Pet Cat
- 🐱 Deborah Barnes, How I Overcame my Fear of the Veterinarian for National Take your Cat to the Vet Day
- 🐱 Marjorie Dawson, The Cat DNA Test from Basepaws: A Journey of Discovery for Cat Health
- 🐱 Janiss Garza, Therapy Cat Rules
- 🐱 Janiss Garza, How to Travel with your Cat on an Airplane
- 🐱 Brianna Grant, Anne Arundel County Residents: Ask your Council Members to Support Bill 96-17
- 🐱 Melissa Lapierre, A Decade of Tortitude: The Magic & Mystique of my Heart Cats
- 🐱 Melissa Lapierre, 5 Ways Catio's Make Cats Happy & Healthy
- 🐱 Clea Simon, Musetta in the Bardo
- 🐱 **Beth Stultz, 5 Tips for Purr-fect Cat-Sitting Visits**
- 🐱 Kim Thornton, Purr Therapy
- 🐱 Susan Willett, What Happens to the Cat on Stranger Things? A spoiler for animal lovers



VII.6 Online Column

- 🐱 Melissa Lapierre, The Purrfect 10
- 🐱 **Phillip Mlynar, Monday Miracle**
- 🐱 Phillip Mlynar, Social Cat of the Week

VIII.1 Blog: Health & General Care

- 🐱 **Patricia Fry, Catscapades blog: Keeping your Cat Healthy**

VIII.2 Blog: Behavior & Training

- 🐱 Mollie Hunt, Crazy Cat Lady Mysteries and More blog
- 🐱 **Yasaar Nakchbendi, Chirpy Cats blog: The Pathway to your Cat's Heart is Through His World**






VIII.3 Blog: Rescue/Advocacy


 **Mollie Hunt, Crazy Cat Lady Mysteries and More blog**

VIII.4 Blog: Entertainment

 **Anita Aurit, Feline Opines blog: The World From A Feline Point Of View**

 Yasaar Nakchbendi, Chirpy Cats blog: Scratching Posts Secrets Revealed

VIII.5 Blog: Any Other Topic

 Patricia Fry, Catscapades blog: Series on Travel with Cats

 **JaneA Kelley, Paws and Effect blog**

VIII.6 Website

 **Helen Fitzsimons, Tanya's Comprehensive Guide to Feline Chronic Kidney Disease.com website**

IX.1 Black & White Photography (single)
(No finalists)

IX.2 Black & White Photography (series)
🐱 **MattCarl, Babies Bath Time**

IX.3 Color Photograph (single)

🐱 Matt Carl, Diva Cat

🐱 **Janiss Garza, Summer Fun**

🐱 Janiss Garza, Making Friends

🐱 Lisa Richman, Groundhog 'Job Shadow' Day"

🐱 Susan Willett, Calvin is shocked

🐱 Susan Willett, Elsa Clair rules the stairs

IX.4 Color Photograph (series) (No finalists)

IX.5 Photographic Art

🐱 **Lisa Richman, Maxwell's Musings**



IX.6 Cartoon

🐱 Elisabetta Palmeri and Marc-André Runcie-Unger, Three cartoon posts from Katzenworld blog

🐱 **Stephanie Piro, Align**

🐱 Stephanie Piro, Me-Out

🐱 Stephanie Piro, Attack

IX.7 Illustration (single)

🐱 **Yasaar Nakchbendi, 5 Ways to a Happy, Enriched Cat**

IX.8 Illustration (Series)

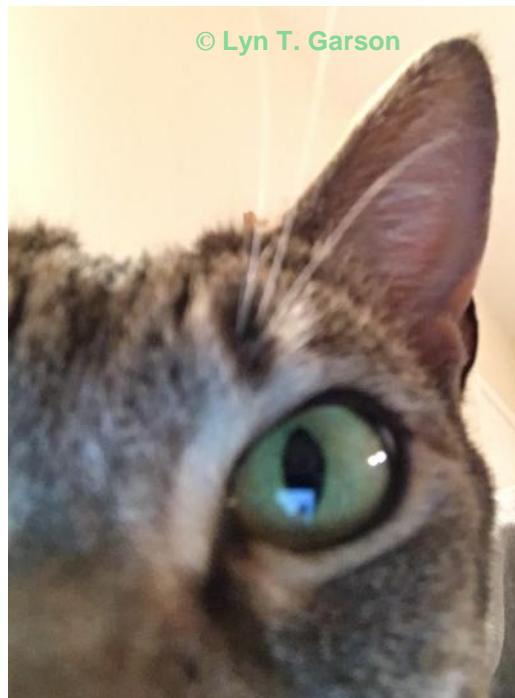
🐱 Widad Franco, Widycat Cat Calendar

🐱 Bernadette Kazmarski, Book cover illustration and design: Klepto Cat Mystery Series

🐱 Yasaar Nakchbendi, Caturday Doodles - Scratching Post Secrets Revealed

🐱 **Karen Nichols, Cat Scouts 2018 Calendar**

🐱 Austin Redinger, Caring for your Kitty



The **SHOJAI MENTOR AWARD**, sponsored by the CWA Council of Directors, 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.

JUDGES: CWA Council of Directors

WINNER: Denise Fleck



The **MICHAEL BRIM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**, sponsored by the 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).

JUDGES: CWA Council of Directors

WINNER: Kate Benjamin



The **CWA PRESIDENT'S AWARD**, sponsored by the Cat Fanciers' Association, is presented to the best entry among all Muse Medallion™ winners in the regular contest categories. This "Best of the Best" requires no additional copies be submitted of entries. Muse Medallion™ winners shall be automatically entered and considered for the honor. This award consists of \$500 and a commemorative item.

JUDGE: CWA President Marci Kladnik

WINNER: Sandy Lerner, for **Caticons: 4000 Years of Art Imitating Cats**

© Tracy

PetSafe®

SCHOLARSHIP:

Sponsored by PetSafe®, this is an award of \$500.00 for the winner to attend next year's CWA Conference. A drawing will be held during the Conference to select the winner.



WINNER: Stephanie Piro

RUNNERS-UP:

Romana Gould, Layla Morgan Wilde, Paula Gregg, Jen Reeder, Susan Willett, Mollie Hunt

2017 SPECIAL AWARDS SPONSORS

American Association of Feline Practitioners:

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CWA Council of Directors:

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Michael Brim Distinguished Service Award:

Newcomer Blogger's Home-Enrichment Award

Shojai Mentor Award

Dr. Jim Richards/Cornell Feline Health

Dr. Jim Richards/Cornell Feline Health Center

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Fear Free, LLC

Fear Free™ Pets Award

Fear Free™ Cat Enrichment Award

Germinder & Associates:

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Sleepypod® Traveler Award

Pioneer Pets®

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THANKS to these talented CWA visual artists whose art appears in this program

Tracy Ahrens of Momenca, Ill. has been a journalist and editor for newspapers, magazines and websites for over 25 years. Her monthly humorous column on raising her pets can be seen through nine websites and print publications. She's also an artist and author of six books. Visit Tracy at <http://www.tracyahrens.weebly.com/>

Carole Stevens Bibisi is an Artist/Author/IllustratorPoet/Musician/Teacher who creates Art and Music in rainbow colors. She was born and raised in New Zealand, and moved to America 15 years ago. Carole's art has appeared on magazine covers, and she's written and illustrated 3 children's books, plus the "Lucky Black Cats Adult Coloring Book." A percentage of sales from all Carole's books supports black cat rescue and helps popularize black cats for adoption. Visit Carole at www.ArtHarmonyCreations.com

Wendy Christensen paints, writes, designs and makes jewelry and battles lily leaf beetles high on the side of Bobcat Mountain in the woods of New Hampshire.

Lyn T. Garson, CVT, CCRP, has been a Certified Veterinary Technician for over 30 years, and is a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner. She's a freelance writer and photographer and serves on the Editorial Board of *Our Companions News*. GarsonLyn@gmail.com

Janiss Garza has been a professional writer and photographer for nearly 30 years. She runs the small publishing company, FitCat Publishing, and volunteers in her spare time with her therapy cat, Summer.

Romana Gould is a teacher, author and photographer. She is the author of *Daily Inspirations...* to help you always land on your feet.

Alana Grelyak is best known in the cat world for her work on the CATastrophes Web Series, followed by her blog *Cat In The Fridge*. Both projects have been dedicated to spreading awareness about adoptable animals using light-hearted humor. She is the writer for both as well as the musical composer and actor for the web series. When not writing about cats, Alana enjoys drawing them (and dogs, too!) and taught herself how to do so using the medium of charcoals and chalks. The image you see here is based on a photograph she took of her two grey cats, Louie and Pinkle, and is done in chalks and white charcoal on black paper.

Marci Kladnik is the retiring CWA President and Muse-winning writer and photographer. She devotes her life to all things cat, with a little dog tossed in to keep things real. She only adopts rescue dogs that like cats. Retired and living with four rescue cats and one dog in a tiny town with no stoplights or mail delivery, Marci writes, TNR's the local ferals, fosters kittens and injured adult cats, and gardens.

Allia Zobel Nolan is an internationally published author of 175+ children's and adult books. Her titles range from the Divine to the feline and include such varied titles as *Cat Confessions: A Kitty-Come-Clean Tell-All Book*, *Women Who Still Love Cats Too Much*; *Angels in the Bible Storybook*; and *The Joy of Being Fifty*, illustrated by New Yorker cartoonist, Roz Chast. Her latest *Laugh Out Loud*, is published in cooperation with the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop. Find Allia at www.AlliaWrites.com.

Yasaar Nakchbendi is an award-winning blogger and artist from Canada. When she is not entertaining her readers about fun ways to cat environment enrichment with her Caturday Doodles and cat cartoon voice overs, she's in her 'she-den' making miniature sculptures of her cats with her homemade cold porcelain. Her blog, Chirpy Cats, won the 2018 BlogPaws Nose-to-Nose Award for Best Cat Blog and was a finalist for Best Branding. Yasaar is passionate about TNR and creates an annual cat calendar with all proceeds giving back to community cats. Visit her blog at www.chirpycats.com"

Stephanie Piro is an award-winning cartoonist, illustrator and designer, one of King Features' "Six Chix" cartoonists. She creates daily published comics as well. In addition to winning numerous CWA awards, she's been nominated for the National Cartoonists' Society's Reuben Award. Visit her Etsy and Cafepress shops (both called "Saturdaychick") and her "Strip T's" site (www.stephaniepiro.com). Stephanie blogs at <http://stephaniepiro.blogspot.com/>. Email her at www.stephaniepiro.com

Rick Reichenbach is a Louisiana-based photographer, concentrating primarily on cityscapes, travel photography and animal portraits. He's the author of "Ugly Betty and Other Stories" and "How to Take Beautiful Pictures of Your Cat" (available on Amazon at: <http://tinyurl.com/BeautifulCatPictures>). Rick shares his home with two beautiful cats, Archie and Lucy.

Cori Solomon is an animal artist and writer who lives in Los Angeles, CA with her husband and four Salukis. Cori strives to capture the spirit and emotions of each animal in her pet portraits and other drawings. She looks into each animal's eyes to find their inner soul. For Cori, the eyes tell all! In her writing, Cori shares her experiences and joy in her topics in a passionate, candid, caring and entertaining way. See more of her art at <http://corispawtraits.com>

Mary Lu Warstler is a retired United Methodist Minister. She is an accomplished author with many awards and writings to her credit. She has been a member of CWA for 6 years. When she is not writing (or editing), she enjoys painting, reading, needlework and music (directing chime choir). She and her husband, Rodney, enjoy living at Copeland Oaks Retirement Community, volunteering, taking trips to see family, and taking care of their two rescued cats, Katy and Charlie. www.maryluwarstler.com

Layla Morgan Wilde is an author, cat expert and founder of Cat Wisdom 101.

THANK MEW! to all 2018
Conference Coordinators and Volunteers

2018 Conference Committee: Rachel Phelps
(Chair), Marci Kladnik, Deb Barnes, Lea-Ann
Germinder, Amy Shojai

2017 Contest Committee: Wendy Christensen
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Author/Editor Liaison: Rachel Phelps

Publicity/PR: Lea-Ann Germinder

Social Media outreach: Amy Shojai, Janiss
Garza, Deb Barnes, Lea-Ann Germinder

Book Signing Coordinator: Rachel Phelps

Certificates of Excellence: Wendy Christensen

Banquet Program: Wendy Christensen

Conference Program: Wendy Christensen

PetSafe® Scholarship coordinator: Wendy
Christensen

Nominating Committee: Janiss Garza (Chair),
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Website guru and tech troubleshooters: Weems
Hutto, Amy Shojai, Janiss Garza

**THANK YOU to all the Professional CWA members
who volunteered their time, effort and expertise to
serve as 2017 Contest judges.
We could not have a Contest without you!**



CONGRATULATIONS! 2017 CWA Award Recipients!



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New Cat Toys



- Some toys include Play While You Are Away feature - creates play time all day
- Automated shut off for added convenience
- Encourages cats to play

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