

CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS– 2009

#1 – AKC COMPANION ANIMAL RECOVERY AWARD

“Let’s See Some ID” – Dusty Rainbolt

“I liked the writing style. The flow and organization of the piece was excellent. It was filled with good information and research.”

Judge: Vickie Fisher, TICA President

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

“Good Medicine for Saving Lives” – Christine Rosenblat & Paul Glassner

“All the submissions covered important health topics and were well written or spoken. However, the criteria of new, innovative, medical or technological advances caused only a few entries to rise to the top. The winner not only met the criteria, it was exceptionally well-written and thoroughly researched.

One might ask, ‘What does shelter housing have to do with innovation in medicine?’ The fact that this is a new thought is precisely why it is innovative. Shelter medicine is a growing field, and the well-being of cats is the focus of much new dialogue and research in veterinary medicine. Veterinary schools have only recently begun to teach shelter medicine as a topic in its own right and many schools do not yet have a shelter medicine track to offer their students. This article highlights one of the most innovative groups in the shelter medicine field, giving specific examples of new ideas and approaches in feline care.”

Judge: Carin A. Smith, DVM, Smith Veterinary Consulting

#3 – FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD

“First-Time Fosterer” – Paul Glassner

“My reasons for choosing this article are because:

- It truly is a love story of a foster parent and the kittens he ultimately adopts after the guilt of handing them back to the shelter for surgery and adoption.
- It is very educational regarding the trials and tribulations of being a foster parent and caring for sick, young kittens. Technically it is quite accurate.
- It is very, (very) well-written and entertaining. The article flows well and moves the reader through it easily.”

Judge: Mim Carlson, East Bay Humane Society

#4 – FORT DODGE / HEALTHY CATS FOR LIFE TURNING POINT AWARD

UBCF Newsletter, Nancy Reeves, ed.

“My first choice and winner is the UBCF Newsletter. I judged the newsletter as a whole and focused on the editor’s picks and work. I found this newsletter to be extremely informative, educational, entertaining and very thorough. Each volume contained a different topic and the amount of information offered in each issue was outstanding. This newsletter is useful not only to Burmese breed fanciers but shelter workers, pet owners and rescue groups. I also enjoyed the

fact that the editor chose to add articles on behavior and health outside of the breed. The layout is beautifully done, very professional and the newsletter has a nice balance of writing, photos, charts, graphics and advertisements.”

Judge: Pia Silvani, Director of Training and Behavior. St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.

#5 - FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Cimeron Morrissey

“Excellent information on supporting feral cats in every way so many become adoptable. She encourages volunteers to help so feral cats are more socialized and trained. She also addresses the economic concerns of keeping cats.”

Judge: Ilona Rodan, DVM, ABVP, Cat Care Clinic

#6 – HARTZ EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD

“Tiny Beads Create a Big Revolution in Cancer Treatment.” - Dr. Phil Zeltzman

“This piece was easy to read, interesting and educational. I thought the writing style had an easy flow and the tone was encouraging even when addressing the sensitive subject of cancer in elderly pets.”

Judge: Sally Perea, DVM, MS, DACVN

#7 – HARTZ GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD

Fabulous Felines: Health and Beauty Secrets for the Purrfect Cat –
Sandy Robins

Judge: Joan Caron, Past Curator Miami Seaquarium, Software-Mass, Inc.

#8 – HARTZ MILK REPLACEMENT FOR KITTENS AWARD

“First-Time Fosterer” – Paul Glassner

“I chose this as the winner because it was so engagingly written while being informative which I thought was very important in a magazine article. It is a very good resource for potential kitten fosterers.”

Judge: Katherine Miller, Assistant Science Advisor and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, ASPCA

#9 – KATHRYN HOPPER “FRITZ THE BRAVE” AWARD

“Sammy the Survivor” – Elissa Wolfson

“This piece is a clear winner in all categories. A wonderful article. Excellent in every way.”

Judge: Dr. Phil Padrid, Southwest Medical Director Veterinary Centers of America

#10 – KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD

“First-Time Fosterer” – Paul Glassner

“First-Time Fosterer is my choice as the winner. It was easy and fun to read, very informative and educational. And it made me smile while reading it!”

Judge: Jeanine Patterson, Director, Albuquerque Animal Services

#11 – MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD
“Deciphering Cat Chat” – Fran Pennock Shaw

Judge: Melissa Bain, DVM, MS, DACVB,

#12 – PURINA ONE® HEALTH AWARD
UBCF Newsletter, Nancy Reeves, ed.

“Every issue was consistently outstanding. Each issue presented the information clearly and accurately without becoming overly technical.”

Judge: Alyce Wolford, DVM, Animal Hospital at Midvalley

#13 - PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD
“Nutrition for a Happy Healthy Cat” – Kim Thornton

“This article is interesting, well-written and uses very good sources. I appreciated the use of additional Internet sites for more information. Good job.”

Judge: Kathy Hamman, Creative Services, Inc., Plateau Books

#14 – PURINA ONE® HEALTH AWARD
“Sammy the Survivor” – Elissa Wolfson

“I chose this for several reasons. The author’s voice is appealing, logical, engaging and never forced. The story defining the medical condition in question is presented in a well-organized fashion and draws in the curious, just as do our challenging clinical cases.

The language and degree of scientific information is appropriate for a wide range of readers, from casual cat lovers to veterinary medical professionals. And, finally, it highlighted sophisticated yet practical modern veterinary diagnostics and therapy in an approachable way.”

Judge: Dr. Jack Aldridge, Director of Veterinary Services, SF/SPCA

#15 - PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® AWARD
“First-Time Fosterer” – Paul Glassner

“I used the same approach that I use judging a cat show. Applying the Standard of Perfection given me. I start out with a blank canvas and, in the end, a beautiful picture materializes.

When I got to the last article, ZOWIE! Right off, the beginning of the piece hooked me. Then the middle was both educational and entertaining. In the end I was reminded of that rare thing that happens to me sometimes while judging cat shows. As I’m judging, I wince at the thought of how close the cats are quality-wise, and what difficult decisions I’ll have to make. All of a sudden I take out a cat that is so extraordinary I get chills and feel my eyes mist up. At this point the rest of the entries just fade away.

When I got to the end of this piece, I had crocodile tears running down my face and I wanted to stand up and shout, ‘Sign me up!’

Since editing is what I do nowadays, there were several things about this piece that make it the best. First, it flows. It reads easily and the prose has an almost poetry-like quality. Second, it is not redundant. Once, well-said, and that's that. Third, the writer has done the research and has the expertise to write intelligently about the subject. He gives the reader a huge bonus with a well-thought-out ending that sums up the entire reason for the story. A random act of kindness paid forward gives even greater reward.

This is an exceptional story. I can't wait for the movie!"

Judge: Kitty Angell, Writer/editor

#16 – STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD

“Kitten Behavior 101” - Helen Jablonski

“Kitten Behavior 101 by Helen Jablonski provides a great training overview for new kitten parents. This educational piece provides practical step-by-step advice on relevant topics such as litterbox use, playtime, scratching and coming when called. This article provides the reader with interesting information that helps the reader know what to expect from kittens. When pet parents know what to expect and how to train early on in the relationship with their new pet, the bond is enhanced often leading to better interactions throughout the pet's life. Kudos to Ms. Jablonski for her efforts in educating cat parents.

Judge: Mindy Bough, Senior Director of Client Services Midwest Office, ASPCA

#17 – TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD

“The Lowdown on Litterbox Issues, Part 1 & 2” – Arden Moore

“Every year, the bar is raised higher and higher. Most entries were excellent, but this one is the best of the best. This particular subject has been covered many times, but the author displays her knowledge and experience in a concise and highly effective format, allowing readers to quickly ‘zero in’ on the information they need. Demonstrating both compassion and humor when appropriate, the author combines wit and skill with an engaging style.

I wish I could write like that.”

Judge: Drew Weigner, D.V.M., ABVP, The Cat Doctor

#18 – WORLD'S BEST LITTER-ARY AWARD

A Cat's Eye View of Life and Love by Sterling – Marta Felber

“My reason for choosing this over the other very qualified pieces of literature is the way the author used the unique relationship between a cat and the caregiver as the main thread through the book. Everyone who has had the opportunity to share their life with a special cat, know the uniqueness of this bond, and the ways in which cats and their people communicate and interact as a result of this relationship. I believe this author did a fantastic job of not only capturing in writing the essence of this relationship but communicating it to others in a way that allowed them to feel the special nature of the relationship, as well.”

Judge: Roberta Lillich, DVM, AAFP President 2009

#20 – KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD

Bengals Illustrated – Brigitte McMinn, ed.

“I felt that Bengals Illustrated had the best illustrations, photos and writing of all the entries submitted and I chose this entry as an image award winner.”

Judge: Karen “Doc” Halligan

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

Su Ewing for Cats! Train Your Owners! (Cider Mill Press).

“In an outstanding field of contenders, this entry not only offered a fresh format that made me smile, the content is spot-on accurate and turns learning about cats into a fun game. I was surprised, and delighted by this innovative entry.”

Judge: Amy Shojai, President of CWA.