

**CAT WRITERS' ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS– 2009**

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

“Treating Cancerous Oral Tumors” - Fran Pennock Shaw

“An excellent article summarizing current research on the treatment of oral tumors in felines. The author emphasizes the importance of detecting the tumor early so treatment can commence as soon as possible for best results. The interview with Dr. Barber was exquisite and explains the physical implications of the tumor in a manner the general public can understand. She also explains why treatments may be difficult. A vast majority of the article gives the reader a variety of treatment plans that may be investigated should they find that their cat has such a tumor – something that could possibly set a cat owner’s mind at ease when dealing with this difficult topic in their loved one.”

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

#2 – FANCY FEAST® LOVE STORY AWARD

“Microchipping: A Tale of Hope” - Steve Dale

“This was a difficult set of entries because there were a few that were really top-notch. I was going to ask whether there could be a tie, but finally just chose one. The winning entry is about never giving up on a beloved cat, and it was also very educational. The love between the human and cat, both incredible survivors, is inspirational.”

Judge: Mim Carlson, East Bay Humane Society

#3 - FRISKIES® WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Amy Shojai

“Good balance and variety of topics. These are an interesting, approachable subjects with the information told in a clear, engaging style.”

Judge: Susannah Charleson the autor of *Scent of the Missing: Love and Partnership with a Search-and-Rescue Dog*.

#4 – HARTZ EVERY DAY CHEWABLE VITAMIN AWARD

“Senior Cats for Senior Citizens” - Cimeron Morrissey

“This is an excellent piece, easy to read, succinct, good research and very accurate.”

Judge: Margie Scherk, DVM, founded the Cats Only Veterinary Clinic in Vancouver, BC.

#5 – HARTZ GLAMOUR-PUSS AWARD

“Dude, Tic Tac!” - Dusty Rainbolt

“I selected this entry because it is well written and extremely informative. I found the information contained in the article to be accurate, useful and presented in a humorous, easy-to-read manner. It was a pleasure to read the entries and be given the opportunity to judge them.”

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

“Hope Rises” - Dusty Rainbolt

“This entry is a very well written article with a great, timely message that needs to be heard.”

Judge: Dr. Vicki Thayer, President-Elect of the Winn Feline Foundation.

#7– KARI WINTERS RESCUE AND REHABILITATION AWARD

“Shelter Me: Be Prepared Before Choosing a Kitten” - Janiss Garza

"The comprehensive guidelines and accurate information provided to potential adopters of shelter kittens captured my interest from the start. Of all the fine articles submitted, I felt this article could influence the greatest number of actual adoptions of shelter animals given the excellent information provided. Her advice is spot on regarding what to look for in a shelter and in picking a healthy kitten. Her checklist of "Kitten Necessities" is practical and complete and could easily serve as a "Take Home" handout for shelters. Her article was engaging, easy to read, balanced and fair. It could certainly help an adopter pick the perfect kitten, while at the same time giving tips for getting the relationship off to a good start."

Judge: Peggy Wiegler is the Executive Director of Animal Humane New Mexico

#8 – MERIAL HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AWARD

***Buckley's Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher* - Ingrid King**

“The entry I selected had the award's criteria integrated throughout. There was a heavy emphasis throughout on material that reflects and promotes the strengthening of the human-animal bond as well as highlighting the bond between cat and owner. There was example after example – each touching and each significant to the overall story. Additionally this writer clearly articulated her relationship with the veterinarian throughout the writing. There were continuous examples of the important role of the veterinarian and the impact the veterinarian had on the relationship of the writer and her cat as well as the outcome of care.”

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

“CATegorical Care: An Owner’s Guide to America’s #1 Companion” - Steve Dale

“This is a ‘wow’ piece. Lot’s of great research. It is authoritative, well balanced, and covered all aspects of successful adoptions and cat care. Wonderful, easy to read writing style and just the right amount of information in each section. I’ve already suggested to the City Animal Shelter that this booklet be available for adopters and the public. This is a great effort to elevate the status of the cat and thereby improve the fate of homeless cats. I enjoyed reading every word and felt it totally accurate and informative. Well done! This definitely deserves to be included on Petfinder’s online library.”

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

#10 – PRO PLAN® PEDIGREED CATS AWARD

***The Cat Breeder’s Handbook* - Brigitte McMinn**

“My pick is an outstanding reference book both for breeders and cat owners. There was tons of practical ‘how to’ information and information not found in other books on breeding that I’ve used. Many of the veterinary science articles are referenced. The writing style made it easy to understand. The ‘Tips and Time Savers’ had some great ideas. The illustrations and photos were outstanding. I will recommend the guide to new breeders.”

Judge: Janet Wolf served as Secretary of the Winn Feline Foundation and in 2002 became the foundation’s first executive director.

#11 - PURINA® CAT CHOW® NUTRITION AWARD

“Feeding Time: What’s the Best Way to Ensure That Your Kitten Eats Right?” - Debbie Swanson

“This article flows well, it is organized and engaging with useful information. The panels and section titles were helpful. It also had appealing photographs.”

Judge: Dr. Melissa Kennedy, professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine at the University of Tennessee.

#12 – PURINA ONE® HEALTH AWARD
“Deadly Feline Disease (FIP)” - Fran Pennock Shaw

“This article is clearly the pick of the litter. Her subject, FIP, is complicated and confuses even many veterinarians, yet this author accurately and concisely presented all the important aspects of the disease in a way that was easy to understand and is a pleasure to read. That alone was reason enough for the win, but the article also listed support groups for owners of cats afflicted with this fatal disease, discussed research into desperately needed therapies and diagnostic tests, and let readers know ways they can help researchers battle this devastating disease. Accomplishing all of this in so few words is a truly remarkable feat.

Judge: Christine Bellezza , DVM is the Co-Director of the Cornell Feline Health Center.

#13 - PURINA® KITTEN CHOW® KITTEN AWARD
“A Gentle Approach” - Marilyn Krieger

“I must say picking the top article was somewhat difficult because I felt several stood out. All of the articles, at some level or another, were informative and entertaining. I found the winning article to be informative and it had a nice flow to the text. The pictures served to reinforce key points being made in the text. I wish I would have had this when rearing my first kitten!”

Judge: Thomas Hribernik, DVM, is on the staff of VCA Veterinary Care Animal Hospital and Referral Center in Albuquerque, NM.

#14 – STICKY PAWS® TRAINING AWARD
“Clicking with Shelter Cats” - Karen Pryor

“Excellent narrative that tells a story and educates at the same time. This article has the potential to change the lives of many cats in animal shelters through training. This was my choice for the Sticky Paws award because it is entertaining, educational, clear to understand and of great relevance.”

Judge: Mikel Delgado is a partner in Feline Minds, a cat behavior consulting business.

#15 – TIDY CATS® FELINE BEHAVIOR AWARD
“Cat Talk” - Amy Shojai

“It was a tight finish between some excellent pieces, but ultimately I selected the winner because of it’s depth of subject matter, creative and yet accessible writing style, and technical accuracy. The author did a good job of giving practical tips as well as explaining the why’s of cat communication and mechanism of the senses, which will enhance owner understanding of normal and problem behavior.”

Judge: Dilara Goksel Parry was the Cat Behavior Program Coordinator at the San Francisco SPCA for 12 years. She formed Feline Minds, a cat behavior consulting business.

#16 – WORLD’S BEST LITTER-ARY AWARD

***That Cat Can’t Stay* - Thad Krasnesky**

“This is the perfect blending of text and illustrations which is very important in a picture book. The story, which is about a Dad who really does not like cats, is told with humor, verve and an obvious love of cats on the part of the author. The verse – unintentionally or not – pays homage to Dr. Seuss. The book begs to read aloud and should be enjoyed by children and adults.”

Judge: : Beth Withers was a children's librarian with the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library and served on the 1976 Newbery and Caldecott Committee.

#18 – KUYKENDALL IMAGE AWARD

***Jolicure Cats* - Dwight Kirkland and Lorrie Bell Hawkins**

“Jolicure Cats had all of the winning elements to be my first choice. As a whole it was a very warm and interesting story about one person’s experiences with many different cat personalities. How different yet how similar they were and how much she loved them all even when they were "bad kitties".....or should I say "curious kitties". The illustrations are beautiful and give a real sense of what her cats looked like. I think it is a lovely story with lovely illustrations for both adults and kids alike.”

Judge: Barbara Gottlieb created The Medical File to service the needs of medical and medical-related industries.

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

“CatTales” – Cimeron Morrissey, ed.

“Some presidential duties are harder than others, but choosing the recipient of the President’s Award has got to be the hardest, and, at the same time, the most rewarding. I was privileged to be able to read all the wonderful Muse winners and that truly was a delight. So much talent, and so many wonderful articles, photos, books, blogs, and web sites.

Finally, though, I made my selection. It wasn’t just this newsletter’s fine writing and fabulous photos that did it, though. I have to admit, I was ambushed by the cats, including Stan, Scooter and Jenny Craig.

Judge: Susan Ewing