



President's

COLUMN

By **Jen Reeder**

This September, my husband and I adopted a senior dog. The 9-pound poodle was rescued as a virtually toothless, matted stray near Denver. A shelter removed a cancerous mass from her chest before we heard her story and felt compelled to bring her home. We named her Peach. She inspires us daily with her resilience, trust and love.

I don't know that we would have adopted a senior dog if we hadn't met **Laura Coffey** at a DWAA banquet several years ago. As you probably know, Laura is the bestselling author of *My Old Dog: Rescued Pets with Remarkable Second Acts*. I've read the book and had the chance to interview Laura for several articles about senior dog adoptions, and she's opened my mind to how deeply rewarding adopting a golden oldie can be. As the saying goes, "Saving one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal."

This is one example of why I'm grateful to be a member of DWAA. You never know how connecting with other members might change your career, or even your life. It's also an example of why our writing matters – because Laura wrote her book, a cancer survivor is getting a second chance at life in a loving home.



Jen Reeder, President of the DWAA

We will celebrate the power of our words and the strength of our dog writing community at our annual awards banquet the evening of Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018 at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan. We're thrilled to be inducting legendary dog show host **David Frei** into DWAA's Hall of Fame, and that he'll be giving an acceptance speech. **Dr. Marty Becker**, a.k.a. "America's Veterinarian," will give the keynote address, and **Laura Coffey** will share practical

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Millennials:

Looking For The Perfect Dog House

Kindness comes in many forms. This example of how we have taken our pets' needs into consideration is reprinted with permission from **Mari Adam, CFP**.

We've all heard how millennials are slow to buy homes, as they're weighed down by student debt and more at ease renting or moving back home with mom and dad.

Well, it looks like things are finally changing.

The reason behind that change is a cold nose and a fluffy tail.

One third of millennials surveyed by SunTrust Mortgage said they bought their first home because they needed space for their dog. In fact, more millennials list dogs than marriage or children as a factor in home-buying decisions.

"Millennials have strong bonds with their dogs, so it makes sense that their furry family members are driving

home-buying decisions," said Dorinda Smith, SunTrust Mortgage CEO.

"For those with dogs, renting can be more expensive and a hassle; home ownership takes some of the stress off by providing a better living situation."

"Millennials are trending toward homeownership," she added. "Demand among millennial-aged, first-time homebuyers is robust, and we expect them to continue adding strength to the housing market." 🐾

Editor's Note: Mari Adam is my financial planner. Her work has appeared in Business Week, The Wall Street Journal, Kiplinger's, Newsweek and Money Magazine, and CBS MarketWatch.

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tips about book promotion. Winners will accept Maxwell Medallions and checks for special awards – an incredible accomplishment considering contest entries increased by 24 percent this year!

Thank you so much to our fearless Contest Chair, **Su Ewing**, as well as our special award sponsors and the nearly 100 members who volunteered to judge this year's contest. Huge thanks also to the members of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors, our newsletter editor **Merrie Meyers**, assistant editor **Morgan Humphries**, webmaster/graphic designer **Angela Capodanno**, **Lea-Ann Germinder** and our PR team at Germinder & Associates, and social media gurus **Dawn Taylor**, **Shelley Bueche** and **Lisa Begin-Kruysman** for all your hard work this year.

Finally, thank you all for being members of DWAA. Here's to success, health and happiness in 2018! 🐾

