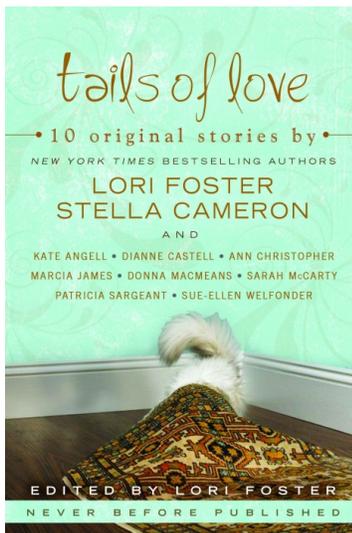


[A visit with Marcia James...](#)

Posted on June 3, 2009 by highlandlove

Hi, Wendy! {{waving from Ohio}} Thank you so much for supporting *Tails of Love*, the Berkley benefit anthology that raises money for Animal Adoption Foundation, a no-kill animal shelter in Hamilton, Ohio.



Tails of Love

I loved writing “Rescue Me”, my comic contemporary story in the anthology. Here’s a blurb:

Ex-quarterback Adam “Nuke” Baumgardner saves a starving stray, and Buddy, the Chinese crested hairless dog, returns the favor by reuniting him with his lost love, veterinarian Claire Mendelsohn. There’s a mini-excerpt from “Rescue Me” on my Web site:

<http://www.marciajames.net/Rescue.html>

Being in an animal-themed anthology that raises money for such a great cause has been a wonderful experience for me. I’ve loved animals since I was a toddler and refused to play with dolls. All I wanted was stuffed animals. When I was given a Barbie and a Ken doll, I dressed them in handmade Tarzan and Jane clothes and stuck them among my stuffed elephants, lions, and monkeys. No Malibu Barbie convertible Corvettes for me. 😊

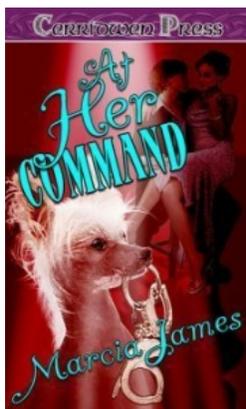
When I was nine, I decided I was going to be a zoologist when I grew up, but not just any old zoologist. I was going to train animals for television and movies. I wanted to work for Ivan Tors, the man behind shows like *Flipper* and *Clarence the Cross-eyed Lion*. (Yes, I'm definitely showing my age here!)



I had several pets growing up, including turtles and a frisky Brittany spaniel. Unfortunately, we discovered that not only did my mother have serious allergies to pet dander, but my sister, brother and myself had inherited the allergies. So today I have a virtual pet, Smokey, my Chinese crested hairless dog logo.



I've written stories and poems almost as long as I've loved animals, so in college I changed my focus from science to creative writing. I worked as a freelance scriptwriter and advertising copy writer for years, before trying my hand at romance writing. Now I can combine penning happy endings (and kissyface scenes!) with the opportunity to write fictional four-legged characters.



My first book, *At Her Command* (<http://www.marciajames.net/books.html>), explores the question: What might happen if the DEA, FBI, and D.C. police unknowingly put operatives undercover at the same sex club? This humorous romantic suspense includes a tiny Chinese crested who works for the DEA as a drug-sniffing dog. I love writing about “cresties” because of the comic contrast between tough, Alpha-male heroes and tiny, frou-frou dogs. Here’s a photo of what author Jennifer Crusie would call the “gold standard” for cresties, who often win the World’s Ugliest Dog contests.



An acquaintance offered her crestie show dog for my PR photo. Here’s the result snapped between sneezes—mine, not the dog’s.



The photo was taken at a dog show, which reminded me of the “mockumentary” movie, *Best in Show*. I’m a sucker for movies with animals in them—e.g., *Marley & Me*, *The Truth About Cats and Dogs*, and *Must Love Dogs*—and TV shows like *Frasier* with its Jack Russell terrier. What’s your favorite movie or TV show featuring animals? I’m giving away a copy of *At Her Command* to a randomly chosen commenter.

Thank you again, Wendy, for supporting *Tails of Love!* – Marcia