

## BIO

Jean C. Keating is a freelance writer, speaker, and author whose hobby is conformation showing of the tiny butterfly dogs called Papillons. She has been writing novels and stories starring companion animals for seven years. In 2004 she was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for *Paw Prints Through The Years*. This third dog-related book by Keating was a 2005 national finalist for Dog Writers' Association of America's coveted Meril Award for best work depicting the human/animal bond.

Keating's second book, *Pawprints On My Heart*, was one of three finalist for Best Dog Fiction of 2001. Her first book, a mystery entitled *Amorous Accident: A Dog's Eye View of Murder* featured a Papillon named Sky and is in its second printing. In 2005, she collaborated with four other published authors to write a how-to book for authors on publishing and marketing entitled *Published! Now \$ell It!*

She bought her first show dog, a Papillon named Maaca, in 1981 and began showing under the Astra prefix. The past and present members of the Astra pack along with numerous rescue dogs and cats provide the material for her articles, short stories, and novels.

Keating holds degrees in Mathematics, Physics and Information Systems. Named Virginia's Outstanding Young Woman of the Year in 1970 for her civic as well as professional efforts as an aerospace engineer with NASA [2 graphics here: Nixon letter and article about OYWofY], she authored more than 50 scientific and educational administrative reports during her years with NASA and subsequent service as head of Research for Virginia's Higher Education Council. [graphic of commendation from VAMAP]

She retired from government service in 1998, began writing fiction, and formed her own publishing company: Astra Publishers. Both the kennel and the publishing house use a logo depicting a star constellation in the shape of a Papillon, a reference to her years as a specialist in navigational astronomy at NASA and her love of the Papillon breed.

Keating's short stories have been published in *Top Notch Toys*, *Pap Pourri*, *The Write Dog*, *Pap Talk*, *RT Booknotes* and four editions of *Critique's Choice*. She is a regular contributor to [Animal Antics](#) for *Chesapeake Style Magazine*. The past president of the Chesapeake Writers Group, Jean lives in Williamsburg, VA with two cats, an ever changing number of show Papillons and rescues, and is busy with her fifth book, the sequel to her mystery entitled *Beguiling Bundle*:

Death Takes Best of Breed.

Astra Publishers 209 Matoaka Court Williamsburg, VA 23185 757 220-3385

Contact: Jean C. Keating or Meredith Taylor [www.Astrapublishers.com](http://www.Astrapublishers.com)