

# Gritney VFD boot drive totals \$1,000 for tornado victims

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**GRITNEY** — Gritney Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary, with the assistance of a few of the volunteer firefighters, held a boot drive on June 1 to raise money to donate to the American Red Cross for the Oklahoma tornado victims.

The women's auxiliary was able to raise \$500 and the Gritney Volunteer Fire Department matched it equally for a total of \$1,000.

"We'd like to thank the community for their generous donations and contributions," said Fire Chief Stephen Jones. "Without them



PHOTO BY CECILIA SPEARS

Gritney Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary with the assistance of a few of the volunteer firefighters held a boot drive on June 1 to raise money to donate to the American Red Cross for the Oklahoma tornado victims and raised \$500, which was matched equally by the Gritney Volunteer Fire Department.

this wouldn't have been possible."

Secretary of the Gritney Volunteer Fire Department

Jessica Seale said that she was surprised at the amount they were able to raise.

"I'm surprised and so

very proud of the support that has been given to this department," said Seale. "We were expecting around \$200 max and when we made it to \$500 it was amazing. The community has been a blessing and we hope to build more and more of a relationship with them."

Some extended efforts being made by the department to strengthen community bonds, explained Seale, are to hold an event for the community at least once a month.

"On July 11, 12 and 13 we'll be holding a summer day camp for the children," she said. "We'll have Smokey the Bear come out on Thursday, West Florida Electric come out on Friday

and on Saturday we'll hold a fun day," said Seale. "If anyone wants to donate some bouncy houses for that day that would be more than welcomed."

She requested anyone interested in attending to pre-register their children so that they will be able to accommodate to all children.

She said they are also looking for more women to join the auxiliary.

"You don't have to be a member of the fire department to be a part of the auxiliary," said Seale. "We're a group of women raising money through bake sales and the like so that we can do more for the community at no charge. We also welcome junior firefighters, which we help train until they are of age to volunteer."

For more information contact Seale at 768-0848.

# Reveille VII, former A&M Mascot, dies

The Aggie family lost a beloved member when Reveille VII, the retired mascot of Texas A&M University, died last week. Ever since her arrival in Aggieland, Reveille VII, a female American Collie, had been receiving the best care available at the Small Animal Hospital at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Science (CVM). Stacy Eckman, a lecturer at the CVM, had been treating Rev for arthritis since last August, when Rev's caregivers, Tina and Paul Gardner, noticed that she was having trouble sitting down like she normally would.



PET TALK

"Arthritis can attack bones and joints in animals the same way the disease does in humans," said Zachary Goodrich, veterinary resident instructor at the CVM. "However some animals, especially dogs, can be affected by arthritis at a much younger age than humans generally are. Some pets will be affected by arthritis before they are even one year old."

Reveille VII was twelve and a half.

Although there is no certain way to prevent arthritis in pets, owners can help stave off arthritis by making sure their dog has a good, healthy diet and gets plenty of exercise.

"Dogs that are overweight tend to be more affected by arthritis," Eckman said.

Reveille VII did not have that problem. "Tina Gardner did a great job keeping Reveille slim and fit, even with her reduced activity level in retirement,"

Eckman said.

"Consistent low-impact exercise such as walking and swimming helps maintain good muscle mass as well as keeping your pet at an ideal body weight," said Goodrich. "The more extra weight your pet carries around, the higher the stress being placed across its joints which may worsen the arthritis or affect your pet's quality of life."

There are several signs for pet owners to look for if they suspect their animal is suffering from arthritis.

"The most obvious sign is decreased activity level," said Goodrich. "The animal may not want to go as far as it used to on a walk or may not want to walk at all. Other signs can include stiffness when rising, especially after sleeping, and varying degrees of lameness." It is also important to have your animal examined.

A veterinarian can take x-rays of the affected joints to diagnose arthritis. However, x-ray images can't determine the disease's severity.

"Their signs on x-rays don't necessarily coordinate with their physical findings," Eckman said. In other words, a lack of change in the x-rays doesn't mean your pet's arthritis isn't getting worse.

Although there is no cure for arthritis, there are a number of treatments available to help your arthritic pet feel better. These treatments vary depending on the severity of the case.

Early detection—before the disease has progressed too far—is important to help maintain your pet's ability to walk, run, and play.

"There are several surgical and medical treatment options available depending on which joint is affected," said Goodrich. "Joint replacements are performed on a case-by-case basis. Arthroscopy is also routinely used to evaluate and treat the joint in a minimally invasive manner."

A veterinarian may give your dog steroid injections to help relieve inflammation. Drugs, such as polysulfated glycosaminoglycan injections, help protect cartilage with minimal side effects.

"Medical options include non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, of which there are several on the veterinary medical market," said Eckman. "Most of them are actually formulated for osteoarthritis." However, never give your pets human medications such as ibuprofen or aspirin, as they can cause serious harm to your pet's stomach, kidneys, and liver.

"When you use the drugs together, you can actually use less drug overall because they complement each other," said Eckman.

Physical therapy, such as work on a water treadmill, is very important.

"Treatment for arthritis sometimes requires multiple types of therapy," said Jacqueline Davidson, clinical professor at the CVM. "Reveille was given several different types of oral medication for pain and inflammation and received injections of a joint lubricant and a steroid into several of the more severely affected joints. She also received injections of a medication in the muscle to help with joint pain and inflammation."

Reveille's diet was also controlled throughout her therapy to make sure that

she stayed at a lean body weight, and she took several different dietary supplements for her joints, one of which was an omega-3 fatty acid, to help reduce pain associated with inflammation.

"Being overweight results in more stress on the joints because they are supporting more weight," said Davidson. "In addition, excess body fat promotes inflammation in the body and can worsen the signs of arthritis."

Reveille came to the TAMU veterinary physical rehabilitation service several times weekly. Her treatments included electro-acupuncture and laser therapy for pain and she exercised regularly in the underwater treadmill.

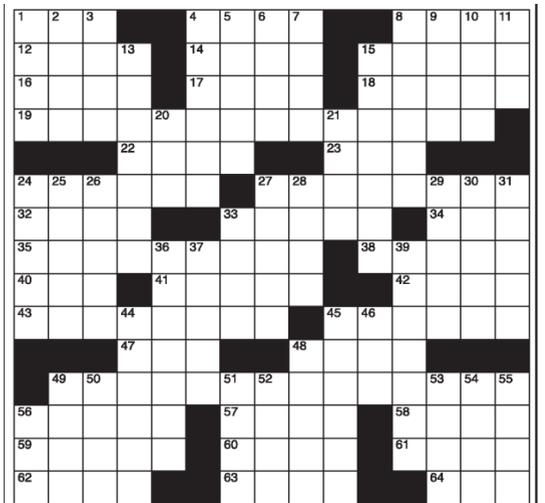
"Walking in water is helpful for arthritis because the buoyancy of the water reduces stress on the joints, allowing for more comfortable movement," said Davidson. "In addition, the water provides some resistance, which helps promote leg strength."

The TAMU Small Animal Hospital also provides nonmedical treatments to help with pain, such as dry needling, laser, high-energy wave therapy, therapeutic ultrasound, electrical stimulation, and electro-acupuncture.

A veterinarian can give recommendations for various dietary supplements and a home exercise plan, as well as provide dietary counseling to choose the most appropriate diet to maintain lean body weight in your pet.

"There is no one right recipe for every dog," Eckman said. "You have options, and you have to determine what works and what doesn't work."

## Crossword PUZZLE



### CLUES ACROSS

1. \_\_\_ Dhabi, Arabian capital
4. Invests in little enterprises
8. Stalk of a moss capsule
12. Beach material
14. Maneuver in a game
15. A castrated male chicken
16. Write bad checks
17. Sewer inhabitants
18. Farewell (Spanish)
19. Player makes 3 goals in one game
22. Greek rainbow goddess
23. Tax collector
24. Make unhappy
27. Hygienic
32. Double-reed instrument
33. Beetle Bailey's dog
34. Fee, \_\_\_, foe, fum
35. One dish meal
38. Goatlike antelope
40. Consumed food
41. Peels
42. Emerald Isle
43. Duties helpful to others
45. Fragments of cloth
47. Frozen water
48. Spanish river
49. Stated an inquiry
56. Laid-back California county
57. Fearless and daring
58. Sound after its source has stopped
59. Blackboard rock
60. A domed or vaulted recess
61. Six (Spanish)
62. French city
63. Herringlike clupeid fish
64. Oriental sauce

### CLUES DOWN

1. Requests
2. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan
3. Up to the time of
4. Common ankle injury
5. Tedium
6. 9th Greek letter
7. Abnormal closed body sac
8. One who obtains pleasure from other's pain
9. Long narrative heroic poem
10. Possessed by force
11. Autonomic nervous system
13. Treats with contempt
15. Bears
20. Before
21. Light ringing sound
24. Blends of soul and calypso
25. Fall off in intensity
26. Gives medicine
27. Gross receipts
28. Square measures
29. Ablaze
30. Incapable of flexibility
31. Bears, sheep or goats
33. An open skin infection
36. Effeminate
37. Competed in a speed test
39. Supplies with air
44. Short stays
45. Sown a lawn
46. 60 min. units (abbr.)
48. Second largest Oklahoma city
49. Fence picket
50. 2nd largest Algerian port city
51. Camel or goat fabrics
52. 19th Hebrew letter
53. Frosts
54. 17th state
55. Inquisitorial
56. Manuscripts (abbr.)

SOLUTION ON PAGE B5

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