

She's my **BEST**

FRIEND



In the early morning hours, John Draeger and Reville V lead the E-2 outfit during formation.

Many students would love to bring their pets to class or around campus with them. John Draeger does it every day.

Since 1960, The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets has selected a mascot corporal from Company E-2 to take care of A&M's beloved mascot Reville.

This year it's Draeger's turn to continue the tradition.

The 19-year-old sophomore from Houston became Reville V's guardian April 5. The mascot since has accompanied him everywhere.

To win the honor, Draeger said he studied about 45 hours to learn facts about the history of Reville.

Factors such as merit and personality were considered in the selection because Draeger has a visible position and represents the University.

Although the pair will travel together to every football game this season, they did not attend the one in Hawaii.

He said Hawaiian officials are particular about animals they allow to enter the islands. Reville would have been quarantined for 150 days to make sure she was free of rabies and other diseases.

Another option was for Reville to travel under the category of circus animal, he said, but Reville does not travel cargo. She flies in the cabin with the rest of the team, and is never put in a cage.

Reville was brought to A&M as a puppy and learned the ropes from Reville IV. The mascot also spent a summer in obedience school learning to be better behaved.

When he first became mascot corporal, Draeger was a bit apprehensive about how he should treat his new responsibility, but said it was easy.

"She trained me," he said.

Draeger takes Reville literally everywhere — on and off campus. He feeds and brushes her, takes her to class and supervises freshmen cadets bathing her.

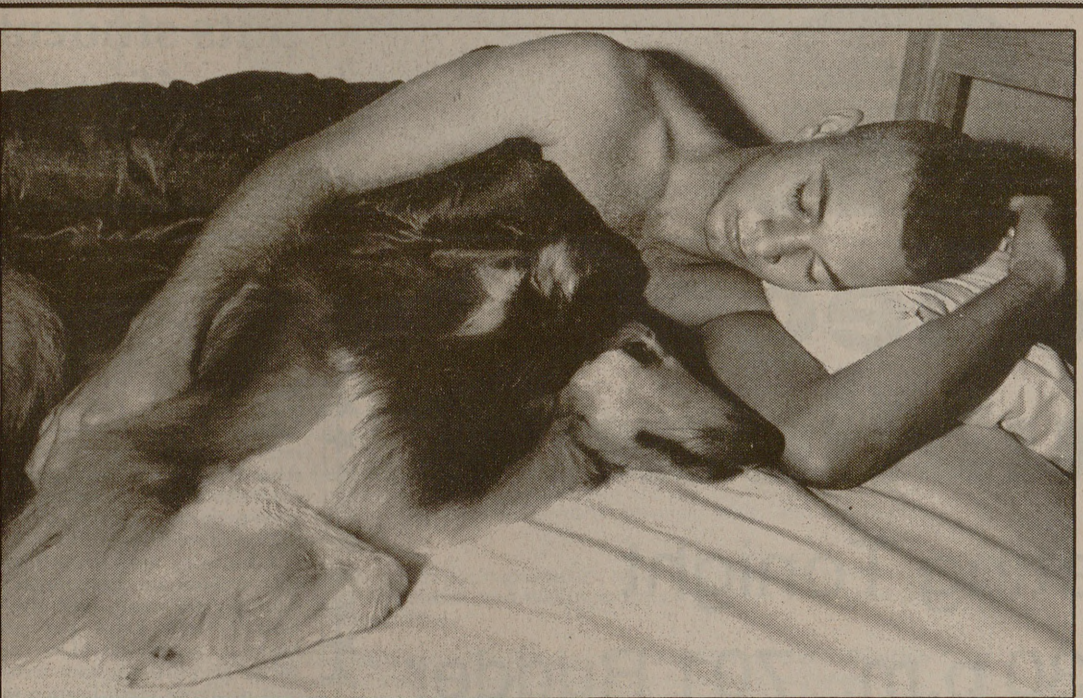
Most local restaurants even make an exception to their no pets rule and allow her in, he said.

Reville celebrated her sixth birthday Aug. 29. As a token of their esteem, freshmen cadets bought her a cake shaped like a bone that read "Happy Birthday Miss Reville, Ma'am."



RIGHT: Since she has her own diet food, Reville V sits and watches during meals.

BELOW: With two hours before their first class, Draeger and Reville V take a much needed snooze.



When the two are together, Reville V is not the only focus of attention around campus.

Photos by Phelan M. Ebenhack
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