

## An animal's 911

Aggies for Animal Rescue bring hope to abandoned animals

By Beth Muldoon  
THE BATTALION

Cristalle Martin, president of Aggies for Animal Rescue (AAR) and a senior biomedical science major, said the best thing about volunteering with AAR is the chance to make a difference in the community and the lives of animals.

"Although we do not rescue animals directly, we volunteer at the animal shelter and other local rescue organizations," Martin said. "This gives students, faculty and staff a chance to indirectly serve the community and help to rescue animals at the same time."

Martin said AAR is a recognized student organization that consists of students, faculty and staff from departments across campus. Its goal is to provide members with an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of several aspects of the animal-related field through trips, speakers and hands-on experience with animals.

Martin said the group provides support to local animal rescue organizations such as Golden Retriever Rescue and the Search Dog Network.

"Since most of our members are students, we don't have the financial support to rescue animals directly," Martin said. "However, we do provide them with volunteer support."

For three years, AAR has been helping animals. Among other activities, AAR traps cats for the Brazos Feral

Cat Allies, cleans and trims goat feet and horse hooves and tours the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection.

Another of AAR's main goals is to educate the Bryan and College Station communities about animal rescue. However, AAR recruits professionals to give presentations at its meetings so members are also educated.

Jim Yeager, a member of Texas Task Force 1 and the Search Dog Network, and his partner, Flash, a 7-year-old golden retriever, recently visited one of AAR's organizational meetings. Yeager said there are many different types of search dogs.

"Flash has been trained for wilderness searches to find lost people," Yeager said. "He once found a body that had been buried for 15 years."

Flash proved his honing skills during a demonstration where he located Yeager's wife, who was hidden somewhere on West Campus. He found her in less than five minutes, with a little help and instruction from Yeager, his owner and partner.

Julie Storm, the public relations representative for AAR, said the organization is working on a new education program for Bryan and College Station.

"We plan to go to elementary schools and give a presentation which will include how to take care of animals, the importance of spaying and neutering and fun facts about animals," Storm said. "We want to teach information that is fun and interesting, but at the same time important."

Martin said students of any major can be a member of Aggies for Animal Rescue.

"Our members range from biomedical science and animal science majors to economics and chemistry majors," Martin said. "Everyone and anyone is welcome to join AAR."

AAR will hold its final meeting for the semester April 27 at 7 p.m. in Kleberg Center 127.



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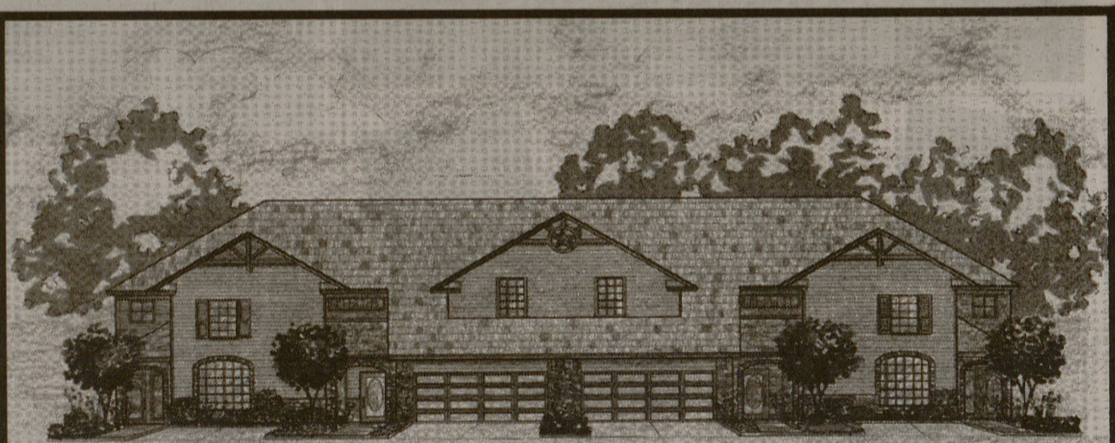
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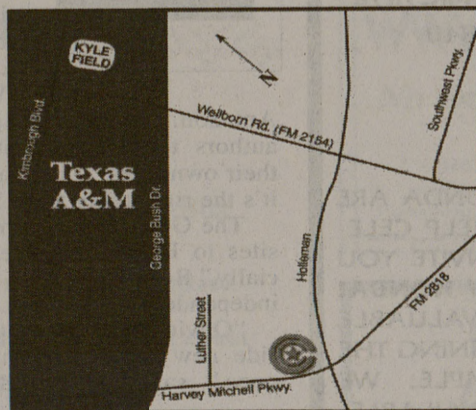
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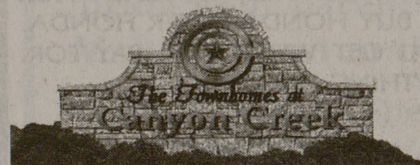


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