

## **2018 Texas Animal Hall of Fame Inductee: Amber**

In 1984, the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation (TVMF) created the Texas Animal Hall of Fame to share the joy of the human-animal bond by recognizing exceptional animals. Through the Texas Animal Hall of Fame, TVMF strives to honor the outstanding contributions our animal companions make to human lives, to heighten public awareness of the human-animal bond and to allow animal lovers to share in celebrating their pet's accomplishments by serving as nominators. Nominations are sought in three categories: hero, companion and professional. TMVF is proud to celebrate animals that give back within their home communities as we announce the 2018 Texas Animal Hall of Fame inductees.

The 2018 Texas Animal Hall of Fame inductee for the companion category, which recognizes an animal that has provided a special benefit to its community or human companions, is Amber.

Amber was an incredible companion and heroin through her lifetime of achievements and contributions to science. Amber was abandoned and soon found herself at the Gulf Coast Humane Society in Corpus Christi. She was soon rescued by Dr. and Mrs. Gaylord Hoyt and quickly became Dr. Hoyt's running companion. Amber also served as a mascot for the Gulf Coast Humane Society as the Hoyt's were so grateful to have found her that they felt it their mission to give back themselves and to encourage others.

Over the years, Dr. Hoyt and Amber ran more than 1,000 miles per year, but at the age of six, Amber started showing signs of arthritis in her hip. The Hoyt's decided to provide Amber with a total hip replacement, which was provided by Dr. William Liska. Amber recovered quickly and ran more than 8,000 miles on her new hip during the remaining nine and a half more years of her life.

Amber passed away on May 16, 2011, due to multi-organ failure at age 15 and a half. However, her contributions to society were not over as the Hoyt's donated Amber's hip to science. Research was performed on the hip replacement at The Ohio State University and at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom using electron microscopy and laser profilometry for the first time ever on a dog to evaluate durability of canine hip replacement implants after long term usage in the body. The findings confirmed that the implants are extremely durable. This was reported for the first time on September 25-28, 2017, at the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Amber's life as a companion is beyond words, as she meant so much to so many people. Her contributions to science are immense, showing the amazing durability of hip replacements in dogs.

Amber's legacy will forever live on in a four-foot-tall granite monument to her at the entrance of the Gulf Coast Humane Society in Corpus Christi, Texas about her contributions to mankind and science.

Amber was nominated by TVMA member Dr. William Liska of Global Veterinary Specialists in Sugar Land, TX.