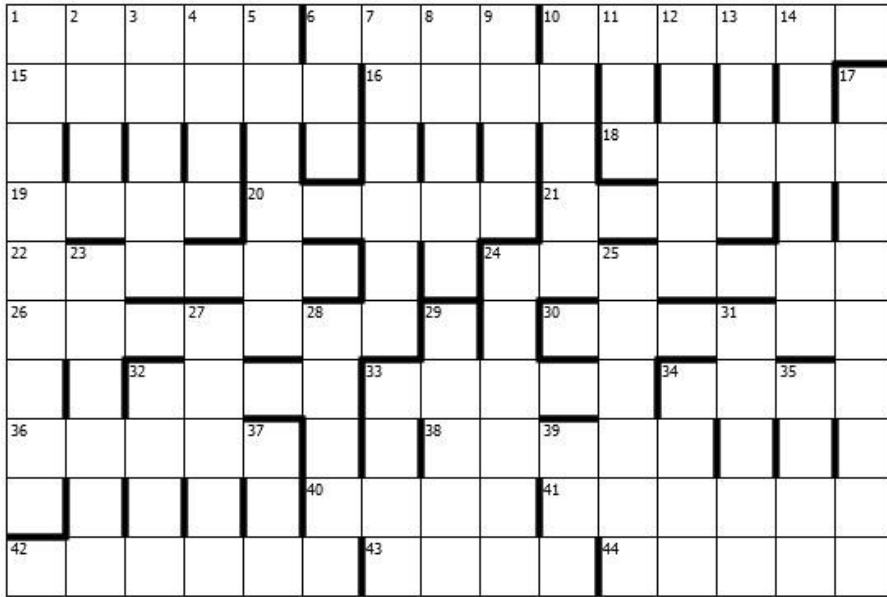


# Ode to Duckmedic

by [redacted]



**Across:**

- 1. Entrance to Aswan not granted to French freeloader
- 6. Footballer's GM accompanying league on vacation
- 10. Place where you can sleep late that's existed since you were born
- 15. Related goal requiring ace to lose
- 16. Parade is part of papal celebration
- 18. Many in spooky mansion known for preferring the color green erase edges of blue sigil
- 19. On the roof, couple of tooters tooted by a pub's façade
- 20. Companion traversing hell with potion bottle
- 21. Egad! Our dictionary includes a lexicographical error from 1934
- 22. Metric units measuring weight of mother's wine casks
- 24. Is Oersted causing quark to become an atom with an unusual number of neutrons (-235, say)?
- 26. Brit adopting dogs with Dan
- 30. Gus along with several Irkutsk lutists initially tuning Russian musical instruments
- 32. Take back small chunk of cup Don smashed
- 33. Serve complaint -- hairy cousin is missing each copay
- 34. Left lost at sea
- 36. Among others, Brock eats mush that's gross all without stopping
- 38. It's essential to the arts!
- 40. Someone who draws self
- 41. Once the bane of Brenda Harvey-Richie, he sings numbers in two languages, totalling 102 in all?
- 42. Go around and annoy ghosts, yes?
- 43. Originally, anils alchemist needs weigh gram
- 44. Been with Doctor Oscar E.

**Down:**

- 1. Soldier's moms taking November morning to capture best revolutionary (hyph.)
- 2. Kick out a bunch of people fighting each other on horseback, not accepting noise anymore

In pursuit of improvement of our condition, many duckmedic-related improvements are needed for this puzzle (leaving real words).

In 13 clues one letter must duck out for the clue to be solvable.

10 other clues require a medic to stitch them up with one letter extra.

9 other clues improve in another relevant way (some say because of the first improvement).

All these improvements are made in the hopes of acquiring something in the final grid that cannot quite be reached yet (shown by the entries of 18 other clues).

Reading the letters affected by each improvement recontextualizes them and suggests a way to improve the one remaining entry (leaving crossers no longer real words).

This final change will leave one row in the grid indicating another way to improve, and describing this whole affair in a way only a duckmedic could prescribe.

- 3. No one peeled long vegetable
- 4. Storm in place near California moving to the north (2 wds.)
- 5. Win for that man a soft thing
- 6. Dope Byzantine column (hyph.)
- 7. "Rip off! Boring! Don't buy second book!"
- 8. Area surrounded by tiny upset spitting creatures
- 9. A sticker or ten left?
- 10. They're produced in yellow farmlands after the first of February
- 11. Christmas semi-perked up law student with a lot of work ahead of them (hyph.)
- 12. Out of sorts hunter sounds fine
- 13. Aide brought round Cora's lad's tart
- 14. New Tepig adoring others' starter Pokémon
- 17. The way one is feisty, dancing in the middle of valley
- 23. Ensure abridged sixth to last pieces of Pius's hymnary stay in
- 24. Famous poem about sea bird mostly is something worth knowing
- 25. To get to the finish line before Iditarod's front-runner, entering sketchy detour
- 27. With one bit of underhandedness, fool Alfred
- 28. Very frequently, having nothing in common is dull
- 29. Eat her cooking and deal with the leftovers
- 31. Jimmy Fallon expressing "Sous-chef's baking getting plain"
- 32. Patron withdrawing some more Seuss
- 33. Person found dropped \$1000
- 34. Stone and mineral deposit
- 35. Unseal cover of official writ
- 37. Very old senator ordered insane explosive fresh taco
- 39. Unfortunately, fixed up assortment of vegetarian foods doesn't include date