

Number of stray animals rising

By Lynne Ertle
Emerald Contributor

Stray cats and dogs are a problem in Eugene because they multiply, spread disease and can cause traffic accidents, said Karen Church, senior animal welfare officer for Lane County Animal Regulation Authority.

Although no one knows exactly how many Eugene strays were once student-owned pets, animal control authorities and local apartment managers agree that students who abandon pets are part of this problem.

In 1989, Greenhill Humane Society took in 6,548 cats and dogs. Adoptions numbered 1,015, another 145 were returned to their owners, and 5,388 were euthanized. The Animal Regulation Authority tells a similar story, with 4,533 animals received and 1,829 euthanized during the 1989 fiscal year.

Why do Greenhill and ARA get — and eventually have to kill — so many animals? Failure to license and spay or neuter pets are two reasons. Mert Davis, executive director of Greenhill, sees another.

"People view pets as disposable commodities," Davis said. "If you get tired of it, you get rid of it."

While Davis is reluctant to characterize students as having such behavior, he admitted some of the seasonal increase in pets taken to Greenhill may be from students leaving for the summer.

Church is not as reluctant to place blame. The University area is a continuing source of strays — especially cats, she said. ARA gets many cats from the 14th Avenue and Patterson



Photo by Mark Ylen

The number of abandoned animals, especially cats, rises dramatically during June and July, the time when many students leave for the summer.

Street area and "lots of cats from around dorms" in June and July, Church said.

She remembered one incident a few years ago when a cat was left at the dorms to fend for itself during summer term. It was half starved before a groundskeeper took it to the shelter.

To reduce the problem, Church urges students not to get pets they can't take care of. Pets require long-term commitment and it's "too much to ask (students) to be responsible to another life," she said.

If a student feels the need to have a pet, Davis suggests that students participate in pet nights at the dorm or volunteer to play with or take care of the animals at Greenhill.

If a student already has a pet and can't care for it over the summer, abandonment isn't a responsible solution. "No one

has to abandon a pet," Church said. "You owe it to that pet to find it a responsible home or take it to the shelter."

Church said some people feel that dumping their pet in the countryside or leaving it at the empty apartment is better than taking it to the shelter where it might be killed. But such a solution may be cruel to a domesticated pet.

"It just takes a little longer for them to starve to death (when abandoned)," she said. "It's enough to break your heart to see a starved mother cat trying to feed five kittens when she can't feed herself.... The lifestyle strays lead is pretty gruesome and terrifying."

"If you have one, bring it to the shelter — don't leave it to fend for itself," Church said. And next year, before getting another pet "think about the cat you took to the shelter."

COPIES
SELF-SERVICE ONLY
2 1/2¢
8 1/2 x 11 White
NO LIMIT

The Copy Shop
539 E. 13th
8:30am-8:00pm

BAMBOO PAVILION
CHINESE RESTAURANT
省時快捷 經濟實惠
Oriental Buffet Lunch
Downstairs
& Try Our Dinner
Upstairs
Hours: Downstairs
M-Th 11:00-7:00 F-Sa 11:00-4:30
Closed Sundays
Hours: Upstairs
M-Th 4:30-10:00
F-Sa 5:00-10:30
Closed Sundays
1275 Alder Street • 683-8886

NOW AT KINKO'S!

**Unbleached
100% Recycled
Paper**

kinko's
Great copies. Great people.

860 E 13th

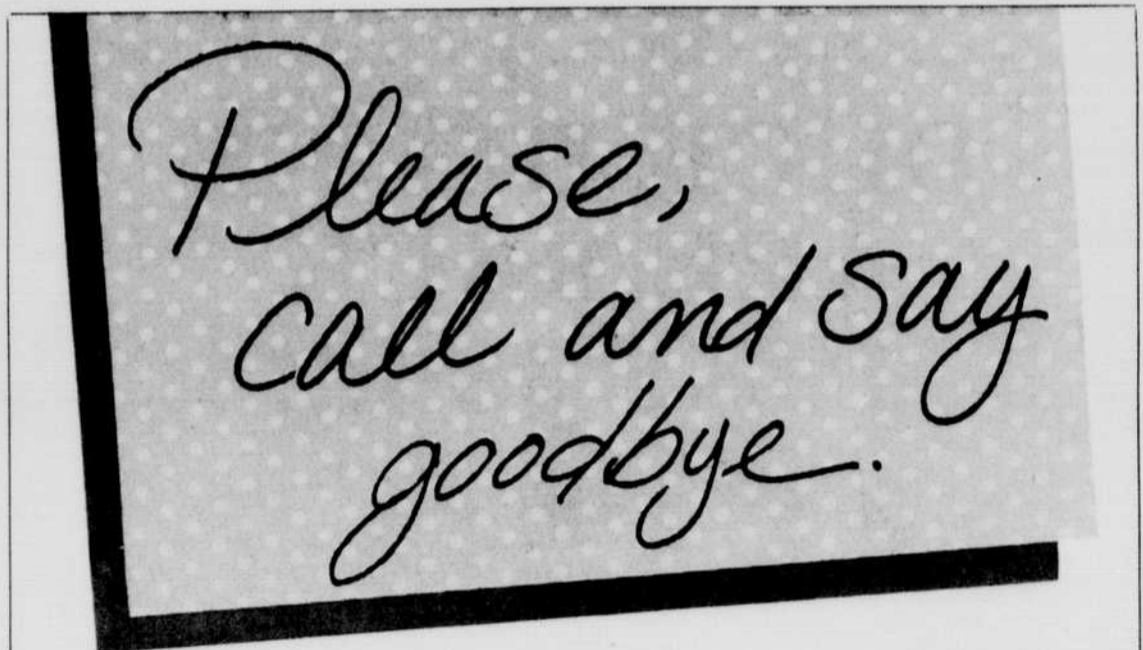
Open 24 Hours

344-7894

Don't give up the search! Try LOST AND FOUND in the classified section.

AMBASSADOR TRAVEL
UNIVERSITY BRANCH
831 EAST 13TH
683-5577
Toll Free 1-800-888-3799
Hours 8:00 to 5:30 M-F
9:00 to 1:00 Sat
Lowest Fares Anywhere
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

TINO'S SPAGHETTI HOUSE PIZZA
TINO'S
• Full dinner menu
• 23 varieties of Pizzas
• Whole wheat and white crust
• Pizzas to go-cooked and uncooked
15th and Willamette
Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 11:00-Midnight
Fri. 11:00-1:00 a.m.
Sat. 5:00-1:00 a.m.
Sun. 5:00-11:00 p.m.
342-8111



We hate to see you go, but before you move, give EWEB a call so we can stop your water and electric service in your name.

We'll come and read your meter right away. That way you'll be sure to avoid being responsible for service after you move.

So call EWEB before you leave, it will give us a chance to transfer your service and say goodbye. 484-6016



Eugene Water & Electric Board
500 East Fourth Avenue

Office Hours: 8 am until 5 pm
Monday through Friday