

## UNIVERSITY

# Curious cat caper causes confusion

By Karen Engels  
Emerald Reporter

Terian McComb just wants her cat back.

The feline in question, a beige and white male named Cujo, lived in McComb's Amazon Housing apartment until housing officials discovered him during a routine fire inspection in September. Because of a no-pets policy, they gave McComb 48 hours to remove him and charged her \$25.

Being very emotionally attached to Cujo, McComb asked for and was granted a week's extension to find a foster home for the cat. She did so and paid the \$25 fine.

What was a simple cat removal three months ago has now escalated into a cat caper that neither McComb nor University officials could have foreseen.

The case has now been referred to the District Attorney and could go to the grand jury as a felony.

But before reaching this point, Cujo's tale entangled a Housing department employee, Housing officials, the Eugene police department, the Office of Public Safety, Student Advocacy, a University professor, the University assistant for legal affairs and a local attorney.

"This borders on the ridiculous," Family Housing Direc-

tor Ron Tendick said.

So why all this fuss and fur over a cat? The chronology is complicated, but worth perusing.

After a few weeks separated from her cat, McComb missed Cujo so much that she brought him back to live at Amazon. One evening, the cat disappeared. McComb called the animal shelters in town and placed lost-cat posters around the neighborhood, but to no avail.

More than a month later, an anonymous caller told McComb she had seen the poster and that a groundskeeper, Ann Menge, had given the same lost cat away.

McComb contacted the Amazon office and then Menge at her residence. Menge told McComb she had given the cat a good home, thinking it was a stray. Eager to claim Cujo, McComb asked for the identity of the recipient. Menge chose not to divulge Cujo's whereabouts, wanting to first speak to her supervisor.

McComb then contacted the Eugene police department. Because Menge refused to reveal the cat's location after meeting the owner, McComb considered the incident a theft.

Officer J.R. Ellis of the EPD spoke to McComb and contact-

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