

Pets can pose challenges in housing

Some students enjoy having pets and will go to any length to keep them, even though many landlords do not allow pets in rented properties

Kara Hansen
Freelance Reporter

While students face many challenges in college, some still opt to take on the additional responsibility of owning a pet while going to school. Taking care of a beloved animal may not only require time and money — things that many students have little of to spare — but some students also have to struggle to keep their pets out of sight.

Senior Mary Morris got a cat in September, around the time she moved into an apartment with a strict no-pets policy.

"We lived in the alley, so we didn't think anyone would see her," Morris said.

She said she's faced the daily challenge of concealing her cat, which meant keeping shades drawn and maintenance workers out.

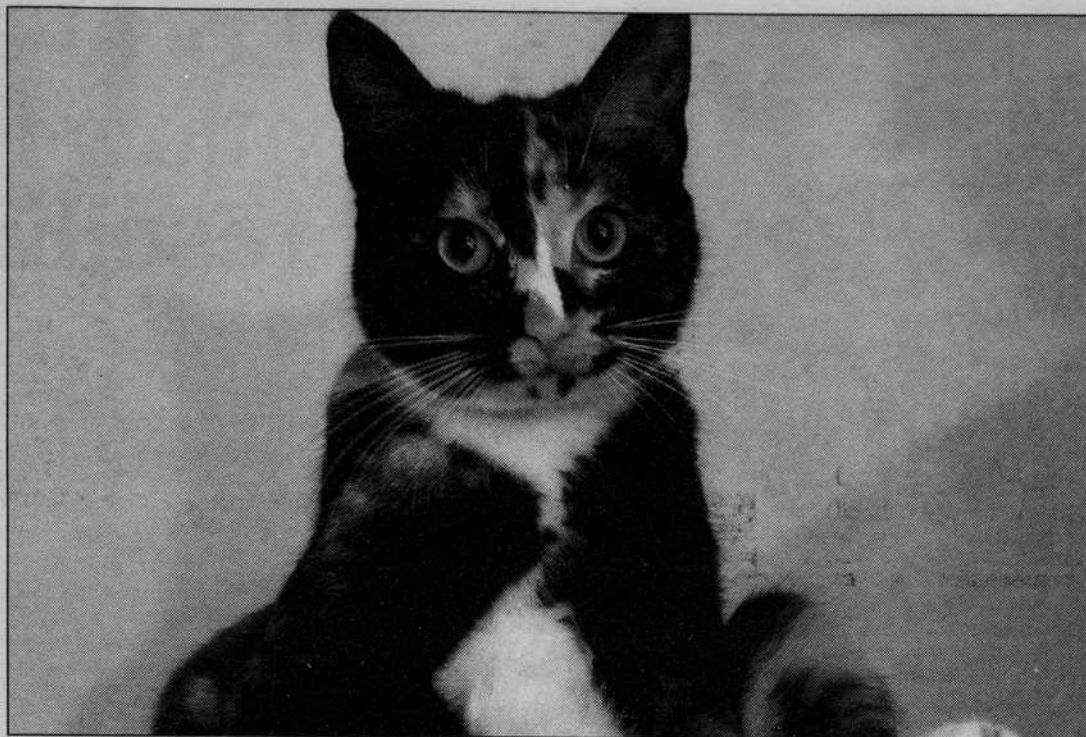
"We had a backed up garbage disposal for six months," Morris said. "I didn't want to call maintenance."

Morris was caught when her cat was spotted in a window and was forced to cough up a \$100 fine and get rid of her cat within just a few days. She said her cat now lives with her parents, but Morris isn't sure if having her at school was worth the cost.

"It probably wasn't worth it because of the fine," Morris said. "But when I move, I'm going to get an apartment that allows cats."

Not every property prohibits pets entirely, but most have

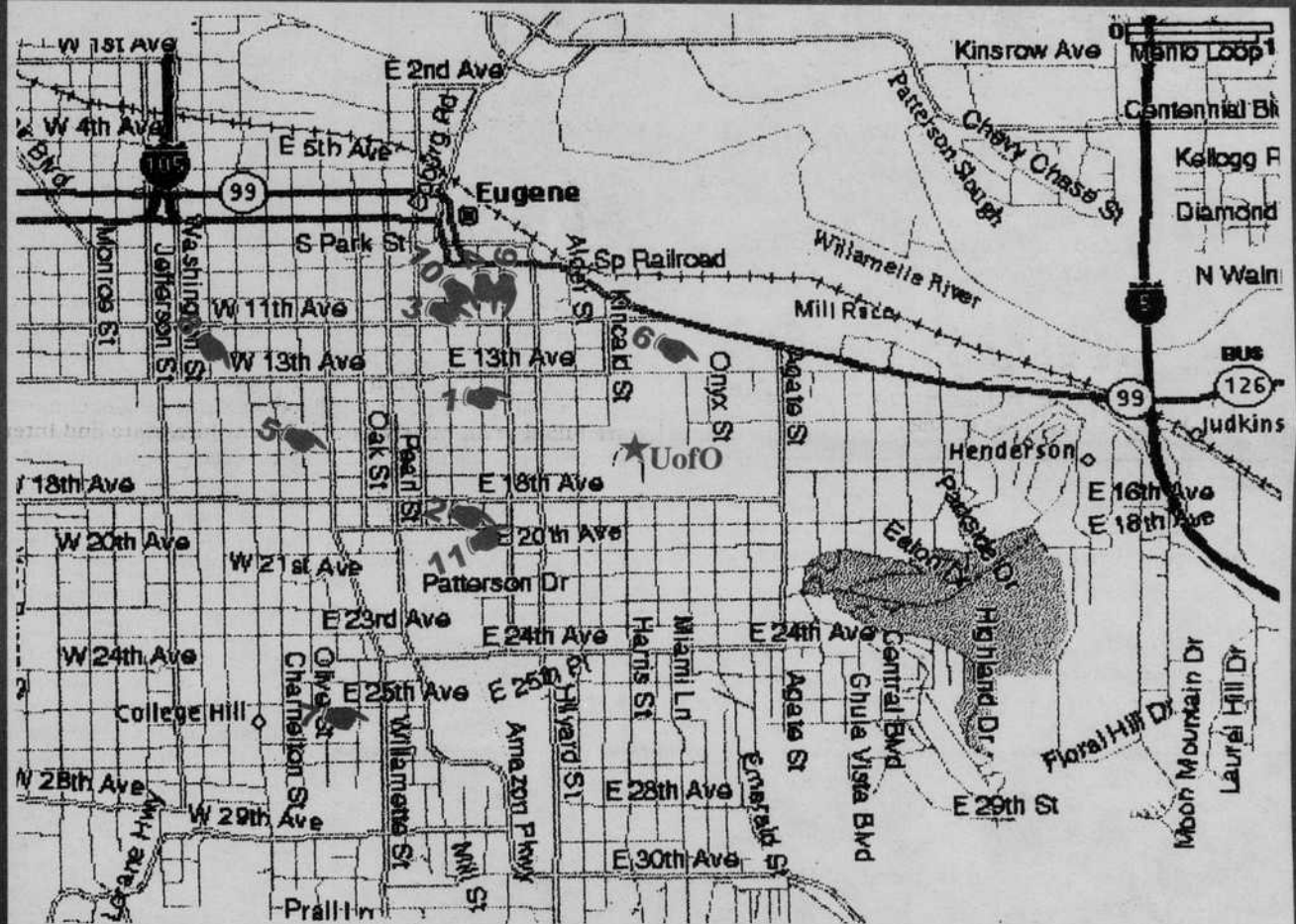
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"Fart" is a friendly cat that is apartment-friendly and one that a student could take home to mom. Be sure to map out living plans before choosing to have a pet.

Danielle Hickey Emerald

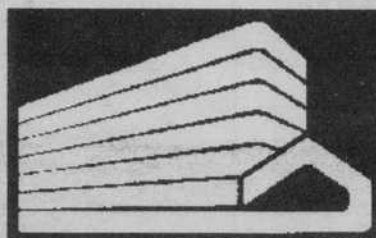
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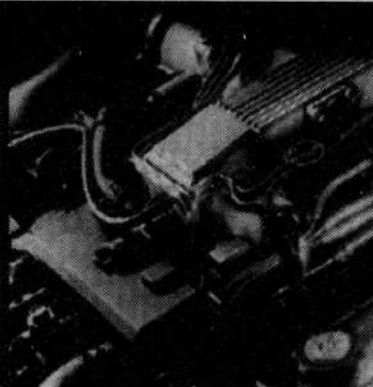
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