



Photo illustration by Danielle Hickey Emerald

Finding a likable roommate can be difficult when moving to a new place. Being up front about expectations may ensure a less-conflicted atmosphere. Roommates should also be open to communication.

Roommate

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Hill said when people are matched up with roommates simply by filling out a form, problems are bound to arise. She added that in roommate conflicts, even the smallest issues can become inflated. While Kellar and Dolan-Williardson offer interesting strategies for

dealing with troublesome roommates, such as silence and moving out, Hill said better communication might help people find the source of the problem.

"Be upfront and honest, and talk about expectations for the living situation as soon as possible," she said.

Allyson Goldstein is freelance writer for the Emerald.

Pets

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strict guidelines. According to Woodside Property Management's Jim LaBarre, pets are not allowed in Woodside's apartments, but house and duplex rules vary by building.

Jennings & Co. Property Management's Sarah Vail also said her company's policy is on a "property-by-property basis."

"Some will allow a cat only; some will allow dogs based on size," Vail said. "The only standing policy we have is that there are certain breeds of dogs we do not allow."

Guidelines based on breed may be getting more common. According to LaBarre, insurance coverage for property owners is playing an increasingly important role in prohibiting specific breeds.

"Insurance companies are now dictating what can and can't happen on some levels," LaBarre said.

Despite rules and regulations, many students still decide to adopt pets. Jamie, a junior who preferred to use only his first name, has had his cat since October. He said he and his roommate took her in as a stray, and after failing to find her owner, they kept her despite living in an apartment where pets are not allowed.

"It's because she's a stray," Jamie said. "This

is better than out there."

So far, the cat hasn't posed a huge problem. Jamie said she hasn't damaged the furniture or required expensive visits to the vet.

"I figure if she was a rowdy cat, it might be a problem, but she's quiet and tame," Jamie said. "Otherwise, we'd probably have to get rid of her."

Jamie admits it's quite difficult keeping the cat out of sight. However, he also worries about keeping her indoors.

"If I had to give her away, I'd give her to a house," Jamie said. "She's missing out on a lot ... cats need to be outside."

While pet-friendly apartments may be few and far between in Eugene, students can get advice at www.rentwithpets.org, a Web site sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States. According to the Web site, "moving" and "landlord won't allow" are among the top reasons people give up their pets. The Web site offers tips for finding pet-friendly housing and ideas for making pets appear more apartment-friendly to potential landlords, such as reference letters and résumés for their furry companions.

Morris said she has her own advice for students keeping pets in their apartments.

"Keep them out of the windows," Morris said.

Kara Hansen is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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