

Students sometimes try hiding pets from landlords

Students who have pets juggle the responsibility of caring for their animals with school work and jobs

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 strict guidelines. According to Woodside Property Management's Jim LaBarre, pets are not al-

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Sarah Vail
Jennings & Co.
Property Management

lowed 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

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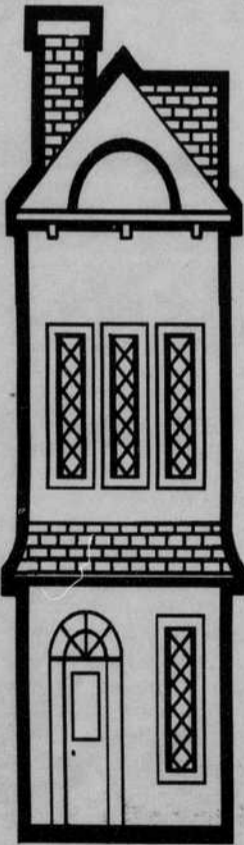
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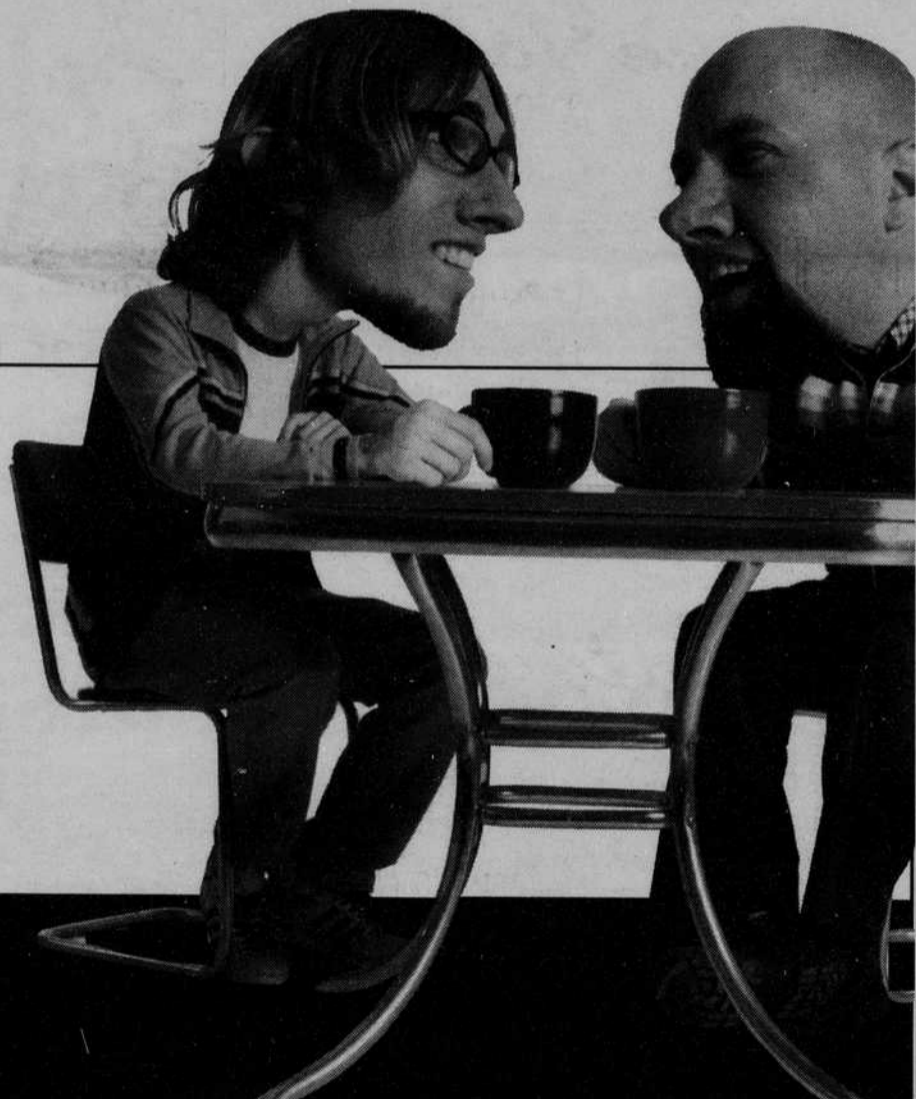


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