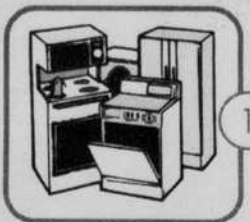


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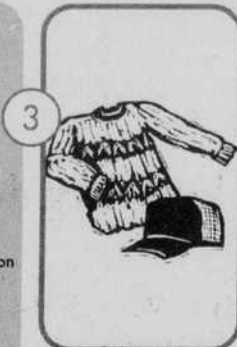
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- 555 High St., 344-2115 (our closest location to campus, across from 5th St. Market).
- 201 Division Ave., 762-7837 (clothes, books, furniture, beds, appliances).
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NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Business senior Brian Thomas has owned his golden retriever, Ellie, for 10 years. She usually lives with Thomas' parents but occasionally stays at his campus-area home.

The price of pets

Taking care of an animal is a big responsibility for college students with busy schedules and tight budgets, but pet owners say it's worth it

BY EMILY CHARRIER
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Swimming in a bowl in Eugene are two well-traveled goldfish named "Oso" and "Pearl." They have traveled more than 4,200 miles from Eugene to Wisconsin, and back in a milk jug.

"They've been to more states than most people," said political science major Matthew Botts. Botts got the fish his freshman year in the residence halls. When he went home to Wisconsin for the summer, the fish came with him. Many students, like Botts, are learning that having pets in college is a big responsibility.

There have been a number of psychological studies about the benefits of having pets for both physical and emotional health. The Delta Society, an organization that supports human health through animal therapy, says on its Web site (www.deltasociety.org) that the benefits of pet ownership can range from lowered blood pressure to combating loneliness. Scamps Petstore and Greenhill Humane Society said it is common for college-aged students to buy or adopt pets.

"Girls buy kittens. Guys buy dogs. Athletes buy fish," said Scamps employee Jessica Ketelsen.

Audrina De Moss, 20, received "Alfie," a 4-month-old calico kitten, from her roommates for Valentine's Day. The two quickly became inseparable.

"Everywhere I went, she'd have to go with me. I was that girl that showed up at people's houses with a cat," De Moss said.

De Moss said the multitude of costs is the

worst pet owner responsibility. She estimates spending \$50 per month for general expenses.

There are many financial responsibilities for pet owners. A regular vet visit, recommended once per year, costs around \$40. Spaying or neutering a pet at low-cost clinics ranges between \$35-\$160, depending on the type and size of animal.

A baby animal requires a number of vaccinations against diseases like rabies. Some of these vaccines need to be repeated annually at \$14-\$20 per shot. In addition to routine costs can be unexpected costs.

"People are never (financially) prepared for the accidental broken leg," said Liz Cooley of the Eugene Animal Hospital.

Finding a place to live with pets is another potential cost. Chase Village near Autzen Stadium is one of the few rental places that allows dogs in some apartments. Other rental companies usually have some apartments that allow cats. Most rentals require a pet deposit from \$50 to \$350, and in many cases the landlord can still charge tenants for any damages the pet causes.

Aside from financial responsibility, pets take time and require a good deal of personal attention. The Humane Society recommends that dogs get at least 30 minutes of exercise per day. Because many students have full schedules, pets run the risk of being neglected.

"It's like another life, being responsible for more than yourself," De Moss said. "Some crave it, others can't handle it."

Even with the additional costs, students with pets find it worthwhile.

"It's something to come home to other than homework," De Moss said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Greenhill Humane Society & SPCA Web site at www.green-hill.org or e-mail at information@green-hill.org.

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MTV: College budgets not limitation

Continued from page 16B

Mozersky. "I wanted to give an indication of what it was architecturally here before."

The bookshelf includes "Wildly Austin" by Vikki

Loving, "She Comes First" by Ian Kerner and "How to Make Love Like a Porn Star" by Jenna Jameson.

While the college student budget and resources aren't as

substantial as those at Mozer-sky's fingertips, they can benefit by taking many ideas from his creative and themed approach when decorating their own, more humble, college abodes.

Pricing: Problems extend to suburbs

Continued from page 12B

just more than half of what was necessary to buy the median priced home for \$130,000, and the gap was wider still in St. Louis, where the median home cost \$139,000.

In the rental market, a paralegal earning the median income of \$21.26 in New York City made more than enough to get a two-bedroom apartment that did not

consume more than 30 percent of the paycheck.

But a paralegal earning the median \$16.32 an hour in Chicago would fall short of the \$17.85 an hour needed to have a two-bedroom apartment without an undue stress on the budget.

The findings also indicate that housing problems are far from limited to central cities. Most homeowners with critical housing needs lived in the suburbs. For

renters, more than half lived in central cities.

Lipman said government must do more to encourage construction of affordable housing through zoning regulations. Communities need to work with developers and allow them to increase the density for market rate housing. In exchange, the developers have to allow for a certain amount of houses to be sold at affordable rates.