

Furry gifts to give

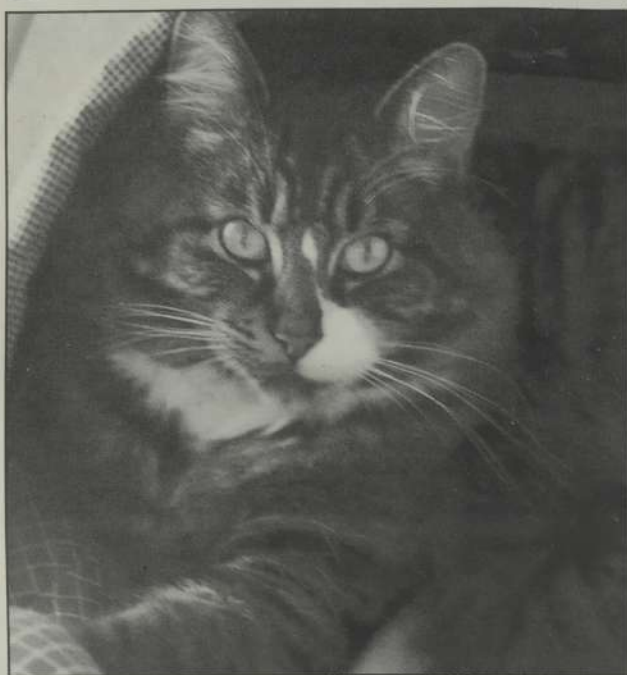
By Javierh Montero
The Clackamas Print

With all the shopping deals out there and with all the pressure of buying the right gift for those you love, you may not always know what to get. As the animal lovers that we are, here are some tips to help you choose the best pet for the holidays to suit your needs and why.

If you've been in a relationship for a while, giving a puppy to the person you've grown fond of might say, "I love you, look at how cute I am for giving you such cute thing," which will make you score big points.

Giving a kitty to someone you've dated for a while would say, "I appreciate you, and here is this cat to keep you warm when I'm not around."

However, as much fun and popular as dogs and cats are, they might be a little needy and demanding, so make sure that if you do get either one of them, the person has enough time to spend with them, a safe place for them to stay and commitment to keep them healthy.



All photos by Kayla Berge Clackamas Print

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But don't despair. Even though cats and dogs are awesome, if you don't have the time or don't want that type of commitment, there are some other pets that are great.

For instance, nothing is better than wishing a Merry Christmas with a hamster. You can wrap them in a small box, easily decorate their homes and watch them run around the house in those little tiny balls. When giving the hamster, you can say, "Here, I thought you'd like this; it's less gross than a mouse and smaller than a ferret."

The recipient of the hamster will think you're very sweet, all the while you're truly thinking, "I like you, but I don't quite have enough money to buy you a dog or something nicer."

However some people may not like furry companionship, so a toad might be ideal for those people who forget about stuff. Toads don't need to eat often, don't smell as bad as, let's say, bunnies and you can keep them happy with some leafs, a water dish and crickets.

If toads are not your thing, not too many things are as relaxing as fish. Fish are, after all, man's best...nope, nothing comes to mind, but they are

relaxing, and that's what counts. Fish come in beautiful colors and are very fun, at least, for the first three days.

If all fails, birds could be another option. Local birds are cheaper than those exotic ones from far away places. They are also easier to take care of, and if you get tired of waking up to their infuriating screaming everyday, you can just release them back into nature.

Regardless of what pets you might get this Christmas, just make sure you can give them a happy life and know what kind of pet would be best for you. They can be wonderful friends, great companions and cheer you up, so make sure you can reciprocate and treat them well. Adopt one if you can. Oregon has many places where you can adopt pets such as the Oregon Humane Society, adoptapet.com, Petco and various pet shops in the area.

Have a Merry Christmas with those you love and possibly a new addition to the family that you will grow to love more everyday.

Sleeping in: spells doom for students

By Jessica Horner
The Clackamas Print

It is 8 a.m. and the alarm clock goes off. Fall term is almost over. The decision arises: go to class or sleep in? This seems to be a typical conundrum for many students.

Starting around Week eight, there seems to be a significant attendance drop which seems to reflect in various aspects on campus. Lucky for those who attend class, there seems to be more parking spots and good seats in the classroom the more irresponsible students skip.

Many students say they have skipped class because they are simply sick and tired of school; however, the most interesting reason a student gave for skipping was, "tacos."

Cheap tacos at the Oregon City Whichita Pub and Grill every Monday night are what have distracted Aaron Cox from going to class and studying at this time of the week. Nevertheless, he states that he "attends enough" despite of this crazy kryptonite. A good suggestion for those trying to save money but in need of a quick study break Monday nights, chow down on some 50 cent tacos. However, it is advised not to skip class for this amazing deal.

There are other reasons some students choose to skip class. Jordan Hayes Snyder says, "Attendance isn't necessary."

Maybe for some, simply reading a book can be enough to ace a test.

Trevor Ruhl, on the other hand, skips out because of frustration. "In Comp and Numeric Control, there are only four machines, students and one instructor," he said. This makes learning much more difficult than it has to be. Ruhl said that he presumes when students skip because that means more time for the machines and one-on-one attention from the teacher.

Other students skip school a bit more seriously. They say, why skip if you are spending so much money?

"If you are going to skip for it, you might as well go," Zachary Holmes says passionately.

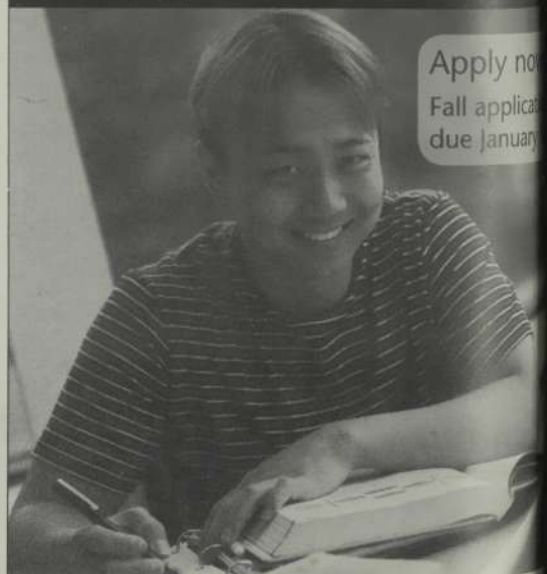
Jennifer Badeau, Lauren Pardee and Erika Velasco all share the same opinion. None of them skip class and the main reason is money. There seems to be a correlation in students who support themselves and paying for their own tuition versus students who do not.

This is and will continue to be an ongoing issue for students. Whatever the reason, it will most likely not change. Of course the choice is to attend class but next time the thought of skipping class comes to mind, weigh out everything. It does not benefit you in the long run, but it does benefit other students who get that extra parking spot, one-on-one attention from the teacher or more use of equipment needed in class. At least those who choose to be irresponsible are being thoughtful of others.



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