Pets prove expensive for apartment dwellers

need By SELINA GONZALEZ Of The Battalion Staff

Before owning a pet, Texas A&M students should consider more than just that pretty dog-

ents some of the window.
Off-campus living differs from staying on e a probe campus in that students have the choice in different some apartment complexes to have a pet. But igh a polydoesn't come cheaply

Client Schroff, a Creekwood Apartments , Rausch representative, said residents who own a pet omen are no fleas, damage or odor are found when rentJames iss what his ers leave. Residents who don't alert managewho may ment of a pet can be charged \$10 a day from the day the pet is discovered until the resident makes amends, Schroff said.

hat many and pets because we pretty much told them rious enous (the residents) up front," he said.

less the ro Phillis Fontenote, a representative from g from Brazos House Apartments, said the pet policy ally serio includes a \$100 pet deposit, and \$50 of the deosit is returned if no damage is found, such as bad odor or torn carpet. There is a 15-pound tes need limit on the weight of a pet, she said.

The representative from Timber Creek Apartments said a \$350 pet deposit is collected for a cat or a dog. There is a 30-pound limit on the weight of the pet. No deposit is collected for birds or fish and \$150 of the deposit is nonrefundable while the remainder will be returned if damage is not found.

The representative explained that some the luxury of owning and caring for a pet apartments in Houston have pet rents. For example, a resident might have to pay up to \$25 per pet per month, so living at the residence for a year or two could result in an extremely

James Westbrook, a Casa Blanca Apartments representative, said although the management used to allow pets, their current policy doesn't.
"It became such a hassle in the past with

"We haven't had a problem with residents people leaving them in their apartments over vacation; they would leave a bunch a food and just leave them there," Westbrook said.

The management had to replace the carpet in many of the units as a result of pets occupying the residence, he said. Many of the units at Casa Blanca are furnished and in order to care



Battalion File Photo

Many students prefer living alone to having roommates

many study By JULIETTE RIZZO

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You can be your own best room- not to have a roommate.

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fferences

e Office of According to publications released ey is unab lone are met in the off-campus comfor a number of reasons. munity, which offers a variety of oneoblems w comparatively low rates per month.

A consensus from students who live worth the extra money it might cost

Elizabeth Thornton, a senior educa-rules. Living alone seems to be an alternation major from Mesquite, has lived

Although there are no figures avail- freedom to do whatever I want, at any able as to how many A&M students time of day, without having to worry

would approve," she said.
Several A&M students who chose by the Off-Campus Center, the hous- not to be identified in the interest of ng needs of those students who live safety said they choose to live alone

Most students agreed the option of o expense bedroom and efficiency apartments at living alone offers lifestyle flexibility and independence.

alone is that personal freedom is alone, Thornton said she can avoid the arguments that her friends have with their roommates about bills and house

"Living by myself, I don't have to tive arrangement for many students alone since her junior year and said worry, for instance, about a roommate who do not want to deal with hassles she wouldn't want to have it any other wanting to have the air conditioner on of sharing living space or splitting way.

"There's nothing like having the cery bill when they eat twice as much as I do," she said.

'Besides, I've got too much stuff to actually live alone, a significant num- about whether or not my roommate have a roommate," she said. "There's nowhere in my apartment to put one.'

> Holly Beeson, a senior journalism major from Houston who has lived by herself for four years, said she recommends that incoming students live with a roommate until they meet people at A&M. She said living alone is Building.

When asked why she prefers to live not lonely if you have friends who respect your privacy but still come over to visit

> "I live alone (with my dog and cat), because I like my privacy," she said. "I had a lot of problems with roommates in dorms, especially with the lack of personal space.

"It's not the same living with a

"I know that when I leave a mess no one will leave one after mine, no one will borrow my clothes and I can sprawl out on my couch whenever I

Students can get information about one-bedroom and efficiency apartments at the Off-Campus Center in Puryear Hall across from the YMCA

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Married Student Housing provides good location, activities to tenants

By ANDY KEHOE of The Battalion Staff

For those Aggies with famionable alternative.

polo fields on University ments' location to campus. Drive, the 651-unit apartment e with or without children.

cepted each year, and students

The Battalion Staff

currently have to wait more apartments are open to all than a year to get an apart-

Sandra Burke, president of es, Texas A&M's Married the Married Student Apart-Student Housing offers a rea- ment Council, said the first

complex is reserved for grad- walk or cycle to campus if participate in our activities like tte students and married peo- they live in the apartments," Burke said. "This allows them competition." MSH offers several benefits to save money on gas and alar alternative to off-campus close to campus also cuts s t u d e n t s. down on the daily wear and Only 700 students are ac- tear on your car.'

While the University-owned See Married/Page 16

Apartment locators save students

time, energy on search for home

graduate students, they are ideal for students with families, Burke said.

"We have many activities for the families, especially the and most obvious advantage to children," she said. "Every-Located across from the living in MSH is the apart- body is so busy, juggling school with marriage and fam-"A lot of people are able to ily life. We try to get them to

Several different styles of oits tenants, making it a pop- parking stickers. Living this apartments are available to

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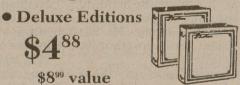
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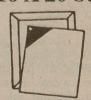
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specifying their price range, and answering a ew more easy questions. bilities, students can get a leasing agent to give fees. them a personal tour of the apartment com-

Bryan-College Station looking for a new

walking into a local apartment locators office,

filling out a card, meeting with an agent, say-

residences "We spend time trying to match property to they want before we jump in the car and start apartments faster.

looking. Apartments Plus, said there is no time limit for ing agent. ssisting a student in finding a place to live.

dents without the time or energy to pore ment complexes who participate with them. through the yellow pages or drive around Most locators are paid on a commission basis

we spend three to six hours per rental helping Apartment locators don't charge a fee to stu-Apartment locators were created for stu- dents, but make their money from the apart-

per apartment by the management companies.

Ome. "We don't get a dime until the first month's Students can save the time and energy by rent is paid," Ragland said. Rose Marie Lindsay of the Bryan-College Station Apartment Association said that being on what side of town they wish to live, cause not all apartments are listed with the loc ators, students may have to do some looking

on their own to cover all the apartments. 'It's entirely up to the apartment owner as The leasing agent then assists students in to whether to use an apartment locators or not," inding several properties that fit their needs Lindsay said. "Some of the apartment owners and wishes. After narrowing down the possi- aren't interested in paying the commission

The apartment locators agents say most stulexes, duplexes, fourplexes or any other type dents probably don't take advantage of the service for fear they will have to pay

'A lot of students don't realize what we do them," Charles Ragland, a leasing agent with is free," O'Brien said. "We save them a lot of Finders Keepers, said. "We get a feel for what time, and we know about the availability of

Ragland said students should trust apart-Shirley O'Brien, management director of mentlocators agents as much as any other leas-

We're licensed real estate agents, and we "The time limit is catered to everyone's spe- operate under a code of ethics just like they offic needs," O'Brien said. "On an average, do," he said.