

Purrrrrfect Pet Planning

pet-lovers can find fuzzy

friends at animal shelter

BY LEAH TEMPLETON
Staff writer

Those sad, droopy eyes look up, that little head cocks to one side and pink tongue licks your face. Now how could a person actually say no to adopting a pet? Many students probably have a pet or two at home, but few have pets here at school. A pet is an animal that will brighten the day if it's going badly or make it even better if it is going great. The only problem is not enough pets are being adopted.



Kathy Bice,

director of the Brazos Animal Shelter, said that on any given day the animal shelter has 100 to 200 animals just waiting for good home.

"Our long range goal is to reduce the pet population; however, 85 percent of the population doesn't think there is a pet overpopulation

problem," Bice said. Bice also said the Brazos Animal Shelter goes through about half a dozen to a dozen pet adoptions a day, and there is a long-term reward for adopting.

"A pet is a friend that gives you unconditional love," Bice said. "They will stick with you for a good fifteen years."

Adopting a pet does not mean being limited to only a dog or cat, Bice said.

There are a variety of animals waiting to be taken in. "We don't just have dogs and cats; we get rabbits, chickens, horses, ducks and even goats. It can get a little crowded. It's important that people think of us first when getting a pet. A third of our dogs are purebred, and we have a purebred waiting list."

Bice said there are also many benefits to adopting rather than buying a pet. "Adoption costs \$65 and that includes spay or neuter, worming, vaccinations and an adoption kit that has coupons to pet trainers and groomers," Bice said. "The whole package is worth over \$150."

To increase adoption, the shelter conducts mobile exhibits that go everywhere from the mall to campus. Bice said the shelter is always seeking corporate underwriters to hold the events.

Over 1,000 pets that have wandered away from home end up at the shelter. However, if a pet is wearing its Brazos County licensing tag, which is required by law, there is a much better chance the pet will be returned.

Bice said that the only way to stop animals from being put to sleep is "to get them spayed or neutered, get them tagged and keep them as long as possible."

Hollye Crutcher, a sophomore biomedical science major, had a close call while trying to adopt her cat, Farrah.

"I was supposed to get her from a friend of a friend, but come to find out her parents had taken the cat to the pound," she said. "She had already been there two days and we had to be there by three that afternoon to adopt her or she'd be put to sleep. We made it at 2:50."

Crutcher said she has never been a cat lover, but Farrah has changed her mind, almost.

"I've come to realize Farrah isn't just a cat. I don't know what she is, but I still hate cats," she said.

Crutcher also she believes that pets are good company.

"I decided to get a pet because I was living by myself, and cats are easy to take care of," she said.

Shannon Ramsay, a veterinary technician and receptionist at Wellborn Road Veterinary Hospital, said pets can even improve students' studying techniques.

"Students are more likely to stay home with their pets and study than go out and party and leave the pet alone," Ramsay said. "When your pet falls asleep on your feet, you just can't leave them."

Ramsay also said pets adopted from the shelter get their first shots free at the veterinary office, because the cost is included in the adoption fee.

"It is always best to start your pets out healthy," Ramsay said.

The Brazos Animal Shelter handles over 2,000 adoptions every year, but that is nowhere close to the number of animals that are put to sleep or still out wandering around. So whether living alone and looking for a little companionship or just feeling big-hearted, adopt a pet and give them a good home.

Students' pets cannot survive the college lifestyle



HELEN CLANCY
copy chief

He looks out the window, waiting for headlights to break the darkness. Maybe a cat will walk by, or a neighbor will take out his or

lifestyle and have its surroundings uprooted every few months.

Many owners also do not realize the implications of college graduation.

Job interviews in far away towns and post-graduate living arrangements can complicate the owner/pet relationship. Graduates will have no choice but to Q-drop their companions when a new landlord forbids pets.

Many of the animals found in shelters were once pampered by a well-meaning college student.

Usually named after a student's favorite ale, little "Shiner" and furry "Pearl" would have grown into loyal, trustworthy pets. Instead, they were eschewed for corporate internships and allergic roommates.

Students should seriously consider the permanence of owning a living creature.

Serving as the sole provider and nurturer of a cat or dog requires more than filling a food dish and paying for vaccinations.

Pets are playful and gregarious when they aren't spurned by preoccupied owners. However, one can't assume that all college students are negligent.

A distinct few transcend this stereotype by balancing work, academics and pet-owning without a hitch.

But for the rest of us mortals, "Heineken" the iguana is a guilt-free alternative.

Helen Clancy is a senior English major.

her trash.

The phone rings, but isn't answered. Some unfamiliar voice rambles on the machine, and then the caller hangs up.

It's a common existence for many pets owned by college students. Prisoners of an apartment, these cats and dogs spend their days languishing in boredom.

They are not abused, however. The owners are often affectionate and nurturing — when they're around.

But their busy schedules and competing interests force these loyal companions into a life of neglect.

Students ignore the gravity of pet adoption. Like parents who have children to enrich the portrait on their Christmas cards, some students own pets for their personal enjoyment.

Pets are expensive, temperamental, messy, vulnerable and time-consuming. Almost like boyfriends.

And similar to those fateful college romances, pet-owning doesn't always stand the test of time.

It's unfair to assume that a pet can survive the transient

Titanic approaches top-record sales

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Within the next two weeks, *Titanic* is set to become the highest-grossing film of all time.

With a total domestic gross of \$427 million, *Titanic* is only \$34 million behind *Star Wars* for the top spot on the all-time charts, not adjusted for inflation.

Counting admissions and adjusting the top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per loca-

tion, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Entertainment Data:

1. *Titanic*, Paramount, \$19.6 million, 3,035 locations, \$6,469 average, \$427 million, 11 weeks.
2. *The Wedding Singer*, New Line, \$8.7 million, 2,826 locations, \$3,086 average, \$48.8 million, three weeks.
3. *Good Will Hunting*, Miramax, \$6.6 million, 2,203 locations, \$3,013 average, \$96.4 million, 13 weeks.
4. *Dark City*, New Line, \$5.6 million, 1,754 locations, \$3,180 average, \$5.6 million, one week.
5. *As Good As It Gets*, Sony, \$4.1 million, 1,831 locations, \$2,216 av-

erage, \$112.9 million, 10 weeks.

6. *Sphere*, Warner Bros., \$3.8 million, 2,238 locations, \$1,702 average, \$32.5 million, three weeks.

7. *Krippendorf's Tribe*, Disney, \$3.3 million, 1,529 locations, \$2,169 average, \$3.3 million, one week.

8. *The Borrowers*, Polygram, \$2.83 million, 1,606 locations, \$1,763 average, \$14.7 million, three weeks.

9. *Senseless*, Miramax, \$2.78 million, 1,850 locations, \$1,506 average, \$9.2 million, two weeks.

10. *Caught Up*, Live, \$2.4 million, 713 locations, \$3,398 average, \$2.4 million, one week.

"QUOTE OF THE DAY"

This Week's Theme: What's your most embarrassing moment?

"It was my first time on stack at Bonfire and I was hanging on a rope on the third stack ... I lost my footing and everyone laughed."

— Joseph Wells
Senior agricultural business major

Go Surfing With Your Internet Phone Book.

Your Area-Wide Phone Book has it all and more. Now you can surf the new Area-Wide internet site and make those last minute travel arrangements in our **Travel** section or just cruise on over to our **Classifieds** section and pick out that new dream car you've been wanting. Investing? Get the latest in investment information in our **Stock Market** page. Or for making those plans for your free time, check out our **Entertainment** section and get the latest movie information or get ratings on your favorite restaurant. It's all here at **AREA-WIDE.com**. Your phone book with a byte.

BRAZOS VALLEY AREA-WIDE PHONE BOOK

AREA-WIDE.com

MSC GREAT ISSUES presents:

Cult Awareness

Featuring:

Ronald N. Loomis

Cult Awareness Educator and Consultant
Director of Education, American Family Foundation

Tuesday, March 3
7:00 PM
MSC 212

Ronald N. Loomis is an internationally recognized expert on cults and mind control who has been educating others on the phenomenon for over 20 years. He is a Past President of the American Colleges Unions International, and has over 35 years experience with student activities administration, as well as being recently named the Director of Education of the American Family Foundation. Mr. Loomis has been cited in the New York Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and The Congressional Quarterly. He has appeared on the Canadian Broadcasting Company, as well as the Today Show. His expertise was sought out during both the Waco standoff with the Branch Davidians as well as in the aftermath of the Heaven's Gate suicides.

Persons with disabilities call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs we request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

Ski Steamboat Springs

with the
TEXAS A&M SNOW SKI CLUB

This Spring Break

Trip includes: 6 night/5 day luxury condo stay, 4/5 day lift ticket, round trip transportation on luxury sleeper coaches

Price: \$495, for more information, call Chuck at 694-2726

Golden Key National Honor Society

We have a meeting Wednesday at 7pm in Rudder 301.

The Career Center will be there
So Should You!

PAPA JOHN'S
Better Ingredients. Better Pizza.

Tuesday Nite: Beat the Clock
Time You Call is the Price You Pay!
(from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

On a Large 1 Topping Pizza
Tips are appreciated

College Station 764-7272 1100 Harvey Rd.	Northgate 846-3600 601 University	Bryan 268-7272 3414 East 29th St.
--	---	---