

Breaking up is hard to do

Students cope with leaving pets behind

BY JULIA RECINDUS
The Battalion

Man's best friend has been by his side for thousands of years, and it is only natural for man to want to be by the side of his or her pets as well. It is the companionship each craves from the other and the unconditional love that pours forth without judgement.

Love and faithfulness is shown on both sides by a pat on the head or ruffling of fur, a lick on the hand or a nudge against the leg.

No matter how rough a day we have had or how bad a grade we have received, students' furry loved ones will greet them with tongues and tails wagging. So it may come as no surprise that when a pet and owner are separated, an absence is felt on both sides. This can be especially difficult for a student going away to college and that student's pet.

The pet sees its owner pack up and walk out the door, not to come back for months at a time. The person is without the comfort and stability of their lifelong friend in a new environment.

It is not uncommon for one or both parties to experience intense feelings of bereavement, and in some cases, anxiety.

Erin Vindrik, a freshman general studies major, has a German Shepard, Cheyenne; and three cats, Nixie, Misty and Frasier. She has had all of them for many years and says she views them as members of her family.

"They're like my brother and sisters. I love Cheyenne a million times more than I love my brother," she said. Vindrik has not been able to make it home very often because of the distance and said she misses her pets very much.

She keeps a picture of Cheyenne above her desk so she can see him.

When some students lived at home, it was sometimes a burden to care constantly for their pet, such as feeding and bathing and walking it.

"Whenever I see someone walking their dog, I get really sad. When I go home, I walk my dog in the morning and at night. Now I don't mind at all," Vindrik said.

Aimee Campos, a freshman general studies major, knows how difficult it can be for herself

and her pets when they are apart. She has two cats, Cleo and Trouble, and a dog, Sassy.

When she gets to go home, she says she starts to get very excited because she knows she will get to see "her babies," and they never fail to greet her at the door every time.

"I love Cheyenne [my dog] a million times more than I love my brother."

— Erin Vindrik
Freshman general studies major

"When I have to come back, it's really sad, because I have to say my goodbyes, and they don't understand and they get all upset. Usually when I'm there for a long time, like a week, they get really mad because they see my suitcase, and they know I'm going back, so they start giving me the silent treatment. It's hard to leave," Campos said.

One of the most difficult situations faced by a college student who is living away from their pet, is the possibility of their pet's death. Campos recently experienced this herself.

Her dog Duchess passed away this January, as a result of an accident that occurred when Duchess was a puppy that left Duchess with a punctured lung and poor health, and she developed arthritis in her older age.

"A few weeks ago, my mom called and said she [Duchess] had died, and that was really hard because I wasn't there, and I didn't really get to say goodbye. I had to wait two weeks before I could go home," Campos said.

She said that she will never forget how Duchess loved everybody and how her beloved pet never failed to cheer her up.

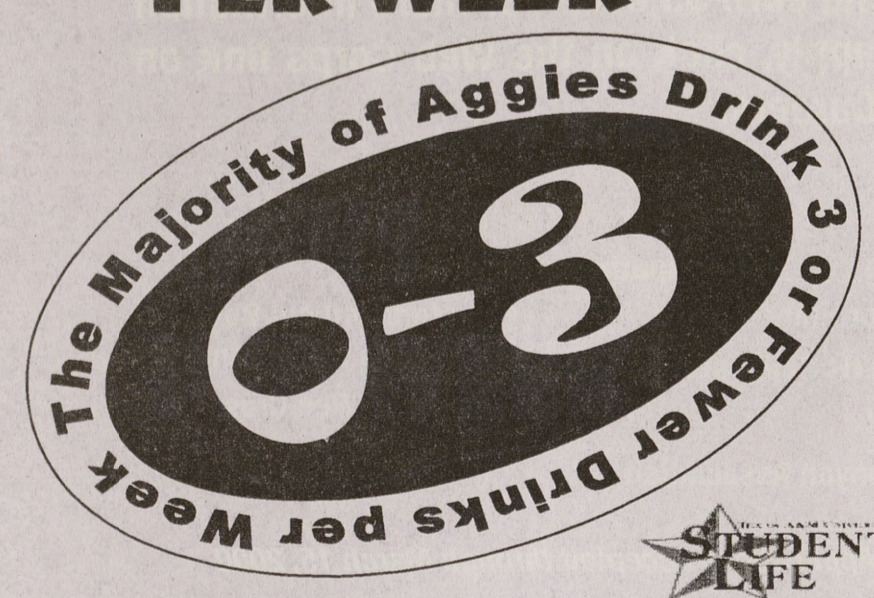
"They don't look at you how people look at you; they love you because you love them, and it's hard to part with them because the connection is so strong," Campos said.



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2000

OPINION VIEW

Continued from Page 1

an earthquake. All I remember this thud and saying "m still here, I'm still here." accident occurred shortly before on State Highway 43 two miles from Karnack, about 150 miles west of Pine Bluff, Ark. Preliminary Texas Department of Transportation safety report found speeding was a factor on the two-lane road. That when the van came upon a vehicle preparing to make a right turn, the van veered to the right and then turned and flipped over. The van was corrected to the left. Obviously, on the heels of a victory such as this is a celebration for four young people who are the team's weekend winners. The team's weekend trip is always sweet, but the entire occasion has caused a somber mood. It's almost like a funeral in church and everyone says "We are all very solemn."

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Continued from Page 1

ate, hopefully offering extra bar or a even a dry cleaner. I'm asked by a student in the about the congestion that would create, she said that on traffic patterns will not only increase the congestion in the area when parking capacity is exceeded by more than 2,000 cars. It is important to remember commendations that are in are just that — recommendations. Student groups have to be a part of the programs that are intended."

in nuclear engineering a charter member of the A&M Symphonic Band playing clarinet, oboe, and one.

dent Senate addresses fees

ral bills concerning fees for the student body. d on at Wednesday's Senate meeting. Two bills concerning fee increases to be read for the first time at the Student Senate. One bill calls for the Board of Regents not to broaden the definition of the Computer Access fee, changing the name of the Computer Access and Instruction technology fee. The second bill approves a fee increase in the International Fee, the University Tuition and the Equipment Fee.

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