

Fewer Pets on Campus in the Future at Guilford

By Jonathan Lawson and Anne Jonas

A new policy regarding on-campus pets will take effect pending final approval, according to Director of Housing, Bob White.

The new policy both redefines and clarifies the administration's interpretation of the City of Greensboro's health codes.

Under the new rules, campus students living in a dormitory, a Dana House or in alternative housing will not be allowed to keep furred animals in their rooms. This includes cats, dogs, rabbits and rodents.

Students living in Frazier apartments will be less restricted, but must inoculate and confine dogs and cats kept as pets.

The Greensboro code, which in itself does not prohibit students from keeping any specific pets,

states that "effective measures" must be taken to keep "vermin" such as fleas, ticks, flies and other disease-causing agents out of dormitory housing.

Small, caged animals such as hamsters, gerbils and small rabbits have heretofore not been considered health problems under campus policy.

Earlier this year, however, the Health Department received specific complaints about such animals at Guilford, and sent White the message that he needed to tighten up Guilford's policy on paper and in practice.

As a result, the College's Housing department notified some owners of rabbits on campus that their pets would have to leave. One student affected by this was Kathleen Johnston who had to leave her rabbit, No Bunny, with her mother in

Winston-Salem. Others have resolved this problem by giving their pets a home away from home with an off-campus student. Bryan resident Linda Kreem frequently visits her cat, Fletch, who is living with a friend in Deerwood Meadows apartments.

Some campus pet owners will be forced to find alternative homes for their furred pets once the new policy goes into effect. "This is one of the parts of my job I'm not really crazy about," White admitted. But, he said, "If an animal is capable of having fleas," said White, "we certainly don't want that animal to be on campus."

Since this standard applies only to dormitory and alternative housing, Frazier apartment residents will still be allowed to keep their pets, under certain restrictions. Cats and dogs must be covered by a \$50 deposit to the college, and all animals must be confined to an apartment's lawn area.

A misunderstanding

about the current policy has risen from the attitude that if Frazier residents can keep animals, Dana house residents should be allowed as well.

There is a clear distinction between the two, insists Bob White. Since the Dana houses are technically dormitory housing, they are governed by the same restrictions which apply to campus dormitories and other alternative housing.

According to the updated policy, pets may still be brought on campus, but they must be tagged (with inoculation date and owner's name and address) and leashed, and they will not be allowed inside dorms or other campus buildings.

Many students already make use of this privilege, and some of the most familiar figures on campus should continue to be dogs.

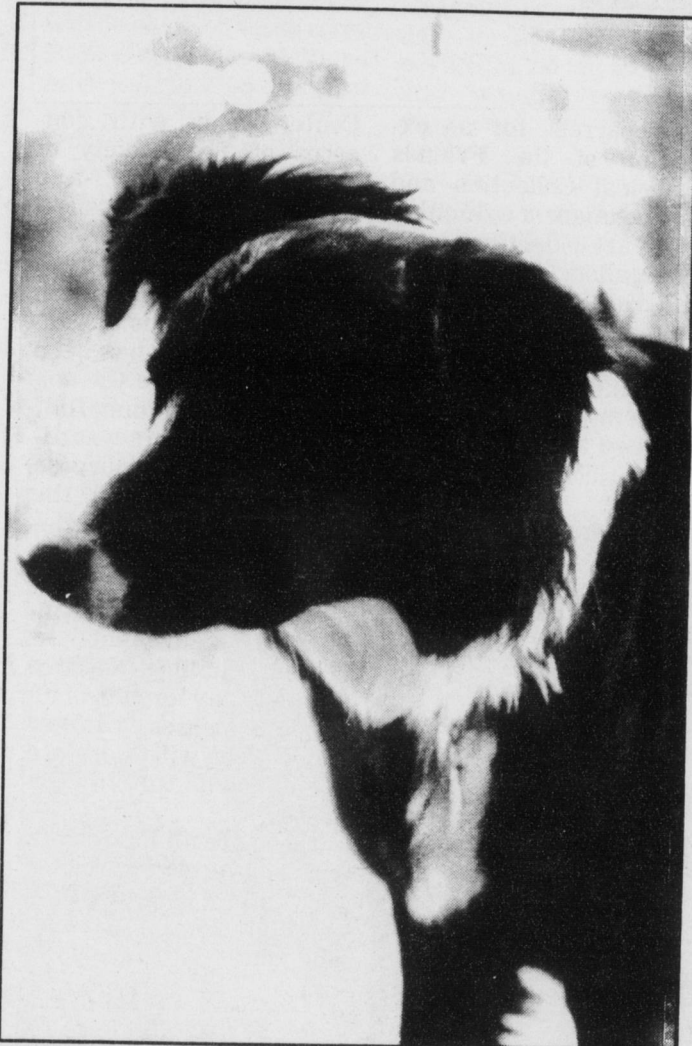
Allen Fetter, a day student, can be seen on campus occasionally trailed by three black labs: London, Whiffy, and Lil. Allen says, "they love to come to

campus to chase squirrels and be petted by students. But we leave Lil home usually because she barks at people with beards."

Beth Mariner, another day student, owns Chelsea, a familiar dog to many students at Guilford. Chelsea has been a part of college life for about a year now, and Beth says she has been exposed to many cultural experiences. "Chelsea will be the first dog to graduate in my family," says Beth.

Friendly Hills apartments resident Ruth Taylor likes to bring her year-old shepherd, Calypso, to campus and walk in the Guilford woods. Calypso also likes to chase squirrels, one type of rodent the administration will have a difficult time getting rid of.

Because of the upcoming policy change, abiding campus students will have to give up their own pets, excluding vermin-safe animals such as goldfish, and enjoy London, Whiffy, Chelsea, and other pets brought on campus by day students.



Chelsea

Photo: Eric Buck

Honor Code...

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"a formal and official option for the faculty member and the student to work out, together, a resolution of an alleged violation", which is given strict guidelines.

The goal of his proposal is to allow the offender and his or her instructor a process whereby they can work out a resolution without the consultation of a third party.

The most important part of the proposed changes, if adopted, would be the initiation of community-oriented activities such as workshops and convocations for new students that would educate people about the Honor Code.

"If students find themselves experiencing an emotional connection with Guilford as a place at which they are learning and growing, abiding by

the Honor Code could become a coveted practice," said Barton Parks.

In summary, McCauley added, "an Honor Code isn't just another set of rules and regulations; it is the standard we hold as an academic community.

"(Academic integrity) is what we deal in; ideas are our currency. Stealing an idea is one of the most heinous crimes you can

commit in an academic community...and this emphasis is a central part of it."

Since these revisions are a community effort, SAC welcomes and strongly encourages the introduction of new ideas. If interested in taking part, contact SAC, Marlene McCauley, or Barton Parks as soon as possible.



Marlene McCauley

Photo: Eric Paul Ziegler