

To: All Members of the Bennington College Community

From: Dean of the Faculty

Re: Faculty action regarding Student Resolution on Pets

At its meeting on October 4, 1967, the Faculty took note of and discussed the recent resolution on pets adopted by the Student Constituency on September 20, 1967. In its discussion the Faculty indicated its strong sympathy for the students' desire to have their pets on campus. It registered concern, however, over the serious problems which arise when animals are kept by students and when student government is left with the task of administering the pet rule.

Foremost was the humane concern for the animals. It was noted that each year some animals were abandoned at end of term. Live kittens have been found in trash cans, and mice, cats and dogs left in student rooms or roaming the campus. In addition the Faculty noted the insoluble problems of maintaining sanitary conditions in the dining halls and student houses when pets roam freely (we must meet the sanitary standards established by State public health authorities), the unpleasant cleanup burdens placed on maids and dining hall staff, and the danger to faculty children and others (faculty children and dining hall workers have been bitten by dogs).

The Faculty did not think that these problems could be adequately met by the provisions of the new student resolution on pets. It therefore voted unanimously against the student resolution and asserted its view that the present College regulation on pets remain in force. That regulation, last reaffirmed on March 29, 1965, reads as follows:

"Students may not keep pets of any kind (except small fish and turtles) on campus."

The Faculty also voted to add to the present policy the regulation that dogs owned by members of the faculty, administrators and administrative staff must be leashed when on campus.

October 5, 1967