

## WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

For Rent. No Children. No Pets. Now apartment planners are including facilities that give apartment living a natural style that keeps their buildings fully occupied.

Before the recent boom in apartments and condominiums, children and pets posed a problem to families. Condominiums, in fact, are touted to present a family with exactly the same joys of owning a home without the headaches of maintenance. The idea of condominium townhouses is not new. Look in the older sections of downtown Detroit. The old rowhouse is basically the same.

Does apartment and condominium living have an effect on the occupant children? Is their development different in any way? The answers aren't conclusive, but the observable differences seem positive.

Children learn from other children. Certain conditions permitting children of apartment and condominium dwellers have a greater and earlier exposure to a number of other children than a family with one child in a single-family home. Although this exposure for apartment children is somewhat better than the limited group exposure of the comparison child, the child at home may have a greater variety of things in his immediate environ-

ment. He may have a backyard available to him to be used daily while mother supervises from inside the home.

Apartment confined children of pre-school age would not be allowed outside without Mother's complete and undivided attention.

As children advance to adolescence apartment living may take on a distinct advantage. The recreational facilities in most new apartment and condominium developments include lessons on a variety of sports including tennis, golf, dancing, etc.

The child easily fits into the exclusive group that use the facilities. This feeling of belonging is what social psychologists term a must for positive development.

Of course, there are negative aspects to living in a multi-family dwelling with children. One problem often cited is the lack of parental control of acquaintances the child may make. A child may meet and befriend a person that the parents feel is undesirable.

Occupants without children tend to have little or no tolerance to diaper rash screams, sibling disputes, and miniature handprints along halls.

Both single home and multi-family living has its pros and cons. In the end, however, the parent decides how the child uses the environment.

## 'HERE, ROVER'

If you're an apartment dweller and want a dog, think small. And short-haired. "A large dog has no place in an apartment area," said a Farmington veterinarian. "A small dog is fine, preferably a short-haired one that doesn't shed much." The animal doctor asked that he not be named "because we don't want or need publicity."

He quickly reeled off a list of animals that make good pets for apartment or townhouse tenants: Cats, parakeets, hamsters, guinea pigs, reptiles, aquarium fish.

"Cats make ideal pets for an apartment," he said. "They're very clean animals. And they can have their front claws removed if they tend to tear up furniture or draperies." He said the claw-removing operation, done under anesthetic, doesn't affect the cat's sense of balance or ability to get around.

But, dogs, too -- if they're of the small breeds -- adapt well to apartment life, he said. Keeping down the ruckus

"Dogs should be on a leash at all times when they're out of the apartment," the veterinarian said. "And females should be spayed. That keeps down the ruckus that arises every six months with a female dog. An apartment is no place to have puppies."

The animal doctor continued:

"Dogs just don't have good places to run around most apartment complexes. They leave droppings and that presents a sanitation problem. A dog kept in an apartment should be housebroken and paper-trained. Obedience schools are very good, too. In this way, the dog knows what's expected of it."

The doctor said that all dogs kept in apartments "should by all means have all the necessary inoculations because they come in contact with so many people there." He said he knows of no serious physical problem in keeping a dog in an apartment but added, "It's most important you get a small breed. An apartment is no place for a big dog."

Free-choice food, water

He went on, "Many of the dogs we have today are house dogs. Why, many women don't allow their dogs to get out on the ground. In an apartment, if a puppy gets bored, he may gnaw at the door casings to try to get out. A dog that barks or yelps frequently can be given tranquilizers."

Water and dry foods should be put down in the apartment as a free-choice food for the dog, the veterinarian said. And the pet owner should be careful to keep insecticides out of the reach of the dog.

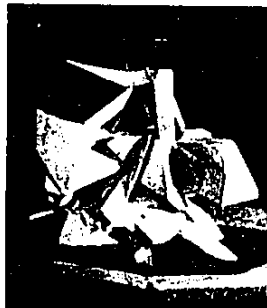
When accidents happen with an apartment pet, the doctor said, there's help handy. A first-aid emergency kit is on the market that can be used to quickly clean stains from rugs and furniture.

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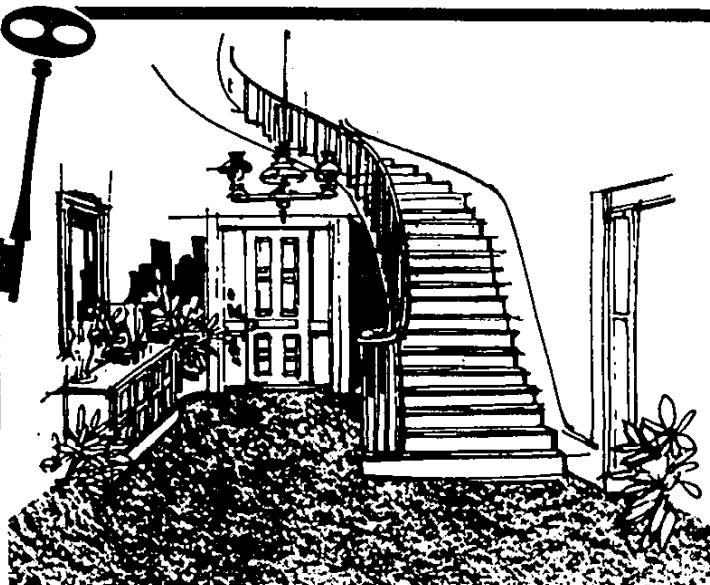
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