

August 21, 2006

Dear Marie White,

First of all, we would like to thank you. You have in the past been very fair and understanding, helping us to arrange a payment plan when times were rough and jobs were hard to come by. We have done our level best to repay that kindness by making timely rent payments and being conscientious, courteous neighbors and tenants.

And now we ask of you another favor. We've been told that Certified Property Management, when asked, will grant permission for tenants to own a single cat, in spite of the official "no pets" policy in the lease. Furthermore, we understand that in the summer of 2005 a resident was granted permission to keep a large dog in the building. Given this precedent and our long record of good tenancy, we would like to request permission to adopt a Pug.

As you can see from the enclosed pet resume, we have put a great deal of thought into this decision and the responsibilities – and benefits – involved. Should permission be granted, we would ensure the following:

We would be happy to introduce Diva, and if desired we would make arrangements for check-ins to see how she is adjusting to her new surroundings.

Diva will be licensed within one (1) week of her arrival, with the City Clerk of Somerville, and will have pet insurance (Superior Plan with Vaccination and Routine Care coverage) through VPI Pet Insurance.

She will never be unattended or unleashed outside our apartment. We will pick up all solid waste, on property and off. She shall never be left unattended in the apartment for longer than 9 hours (we may engage a pet-walker or 'doggie daycare', if deemed necessary). We shall prevent her from gnawing, scratching or otherwise defacing doors, walls, windows and floor covering of our apartment, other units and common areas, as well as shrubs and landscaping of the building. (Diva has never demonstrated an impulse to dig or bite, and has been raised to be quiet and self sufficient during workday hours.)

She will not be allowed to disturb the health, safety, rights, comfort or quiet enjoyment of other tenants. Diva will not create a nuisance to neighbors with excessive barking, whining, or other unruly behavior. Diva is neither possessed of a loud voice, nor generally inclined to make much noise, but even if she were, she would likely not be able to penetrate the well-insulated walls of our building.

Should you decide to admit Diva as a tenant, we would happily sign a lease addendum reflecting permission to keep her, along with whatever terms and conditions you deem fit and necessary. These may include an additional security deposit, inspections to ensure Diva and the apartment are being cared for properly (in frequency according to your discretion), and any other requirements you might make for investigation of complaints, and issuing of warnings, billing for damages, scheduling for repairs, etc., should these unfortunate circumstances ever arise. We would like to emphasize our absolute confidence in Diva's ability to be a model tenant, and our very high standards of guardianship and care.

Upon request, we can certainly supply Diva's attending veterinarian's name, address and telephone number; veterinary certificates of spaying, rabies, distemper combination, parvovirus, etc.; dog licensing certificates in accordance with local and state law; two (2) alternate caretakers, their names, address and telephone numbers, who will assume immediate responsibility should we become incapacitated or be otherwise unavailable; emergency boarding accommodations; as well as general reference letters from Diva's breeder and trainer.

We ardently hope this meets with your approval. If you should want additional information or wish to address any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, whether via phone (617-694-2945), email (cvidinha@wesleyan.edu), or in person.

All our best wishes and thanks,

Catherine Vidinha and Jeffrey Zieger



Diva

(Prospective Owners: Catherine Vidinba & Jeffrey Zieger)
17 Bow Street, Apartment #35
Somerville, MA 02143-2928
Tel.: 617-694-2945



DESCRIPTION: Diva (or Dreamcatcher's Cher's Farewell) is a one year-old Pug, fawn colored with a black mask. She weighs about 12 lbs., and is 10 inches tall at the shoulder. As she is a "runt," she has been spayed – to benefit both her behavior and her health, preventing puppy-rearing complications due to her small size. (Diva's mother, Cher, died of such complications after giving birth to Diva and her brother Rocky.) She is being offered to our little family to protect her from roughhousing kennelmates and to give her well-deserved, undivided attention. She is housebroken, and is leash & harness-trained. Diva does not bark excessively, save for during energetic playtimes, and she will give a short warning bark to announce strangers in the home. She listens to quietly playing radio during the day, and at night she snores with a volume astonishing to behold from so small a body. She has a very fine, short, and soft coat. Diva is, among other things, devoted, hardy, cheerful, well behaved, affectionate, and willful, but eager to please.

BREED INFO: Originating in the Orient, pugs came to America through Holland and England. They are popular at shows and are a wonderful addition to any household. The Pug has a quiet voice, but tremendous attitude. They are curious and very attentive, responding well to the human voice, usually with their signature head tilt. Pugs are highly personable pets, easy-going, independent, and sturdy. Pugs are lively little dogs; however they are relatively active indoors and do well without a yard. This breed is excellent in apartment environment. The American Kennel Club defines the Pug thusly: "This is an even-tempered breed, exhibiting stability, playfulness, great charm, dignity, and an outgoing, loving disposition. The Pug is well described by the phrase "multum in parvo" which means "a lot of dog in a small space." He is small but requires no coddling and his roguish face soon wiggles its way into the hearts of men, women and especially children... His great reason for living is to be near his people and to please them. He is comfortable in a small apartment or country home alike, easily adaptable to all situations." (www.AKC.org)

PEDIGREE: Dam: Dreamcatcher's Shaman; Sire: Dreamcatcher's Fraxtr Me Laffin; Granddam by Dam: TLC's Hannah; Grandsire by Dam: TLC's Diamond Dreamcatcher; Grandsire by Sire: Dreamcatcher's Et Tu Brute; Granddam by Sire: Jubo's Marcasite.

ACTIVITIES: Diva is entirely self sufficient during daytime/working hours, and she is calm and contented relaxing indoors while her family is away. She is walked twice per day, morning and night following feeding, and will visit some of the Somerville's many dog-acceptable areas for more vigorous exercise at least three times a week (Nunziato Park is just two blocks from our home). Growing up in a kennel in West Virginia, she has been well socialized with other dogs (of varied sizes and demeanors), cats, and various other animals. Diva will have a soft-sided pet transport for T and vehicular travel.

HEALTH / GROOMING: Diva is given 'Pedigree Small Bites' kibble twice per day, and water all day long. She only very rarely gets table scraps as a special treat (she favors chicken above all) and will perform 'pretty pirouettes' when this is offered to her.

Having a short hair coat, she is fully groomed at least once per week (including shed, eye, ear, and nose-wrinkle cleaning), and is bathed at least monthly. For dental care, she will have tooth brushing (with liver-flavored dog toothpaste) and appropriate chew toys. She hates the heat, and having her nails trimmed, but we are prepared with several techniques to deal with these issues.

Diva is administered Heartgard Plus (heart-, hook-, & roundworm prevention) and Advantix Flea & Tick treatments monthly, and receives a rabies shot & general physical exam annually.

MEDICAL HISTORY:

Most recent full physical, vaccination (Rabies, Distemper, Parvovirus, Type 2 Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, K9 Corona virus), and spay: 8/22/06
Previous vaccinations: At birth (6/13/05), at 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 17 weeks, and 6 months of age (Distemper, Parvo, Type 2 Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, K9 Corona).

ABOUT US:

Catherine Vidinha
and
Jeffrey Zieger

Both of us have experience in pet care – in addition, Catherine was ranked third nationally in Canada for Junior Showmanship in 1989 and has been around, has trained, and has been trained by dogs nearly her entire life. Having recently joined Weight Watchers, we are frequent walkers, but leading relatively quiet lives, we tend to just hang out with friends or snuggle on the couch and watch television, all of which a pug should eagerly embrace. As dog owners, we always try to act responsibly. We'll consistently clean up after our dog – outdoors with a scooper, inside with enzymatic odor neutralizer if needed. We will arrange for reliable pet care if we are going out of town. As an aid in minimizing pet dander and fur (as well as dirt and dust), we are also proud owners of a Roomba vacuum, widely agreed to be a pet owner's lifesaver!

We may pursue Obedience classes, Canine Good Citizen certification, or membership with the MSPCA or Pug Club of America, for information and bonding experiences with Diva. Diva's breeder and trainer, Brenda Lee Reynolds (parent to Catherine), is an active member of the Monroe County Animal League, in addition to running Dreamcatcher Kennel where she breeds, raises and trains pugs, and editing her dog-themed cyber-zine, Barkbytes.com. She can attest to Diva's character, health, training, and personality.

REFERENCES:

B. L. Reynolds & L. L. Jones
RR 1, Box 121-6, Union, WV 24983
(304) 832-6668

CONTACTS:

Vet:
Porter Square Veterinarian
360 Summer St., Somerville, MA 02144
(617) 628-5588

24-hour Emergency Care:
Fresh Pond Animal Hospital
15 Flanders Rd., Belmont, MA 02478
(617) 484-1555

OR
Massachusetts Veterinary Referral Hospital
21 Cabot Rd., Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 932-5802

Catherine Vidinha cell phone: 617-694-2945
Jeffrey Zieger cell phone: 617-686-9845
Brenda Reynolds phone: 304-832-6668

