

Condo pet peeve: Dogs, cat

Pet owner says board turned head at first

BY BRAD SULTAN
STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth Nelson's Boca Del Mar condo association told her to get rid of her beloved dog, Snoopy. She refused, it sued, and now the fur is flying.

"He never barks; he never bothers anybody," Nelson said of the 15-pound black miniature poodle. "He never even goes outside."

Snoopy is transported in and out of the building in a bag and lives in West Palm Beach part of the time.

Nelson bought the dog five years ago as a companion for her sick daughter. Everyone knew about Snoopy — even board members — but nobody ever complained, because many other residents have dogs and cats, she said. Now she and her sister, Mary Alice Malone, who lives with her, face eviction or the loss of Snoopy.

Owner: Rules ignored

The Glens' rules prohibit animals, but Nelson said the rule has been ignored until now. One long-time neighbor with a cat moved out this week because the association named her in the suit, she said.

"It's so irritating to find out you have neighbors who dislike you," she said.

Representatives of the homeowners' association would not comment on the dog or the suit.

Fellow pet owner helps

Boca Raton attorney Mindy Felinton, who is representing Snoopy and his owners, said the condo board doesn't have four legs to stand on. Because the members knew about — and winked at — Snoopy for more than five years, they essentially have waived the right to order the dog out.

The suit is now with the state's new condo arbitration board. If a deal cannot be struck, the case goes to court. Felinton said the condo board



JANET AUMAN

Sisters Elizabeth Nelson (right) and Mary Alice Malone could get the boot from their Glens condominium Boca Del Mar if they don't get rid of their poodle, Snoopy. Nelson says her dog never steps on the grounds where they live. She transports him in a flowered bag.

Felinton, who successfully native is nothing to sniff at: If move. fought having her own dog she loses arbitration or a subse- "They're just doing it evicted from Charleston Place. quent court action, either vicious and nasty,"