

2002 EnviroGuard Company Profile Small Business Category



The Cat Doctor Veterinary Hospital & Hotel, PA is an exclusive cats-only, veterinary hospital and boarding house. Kath'ren Bay and Alexis Higdon, owners, along with 14 employees have been committed to pollution prevention since opening the business in 1997.

The Cat Doctor made a conscious decision to operate their business from an existing building. Improvements to the facility include remodeling the interior to accommodate a veterinary clinic, increasing the amount of insulation in the ceiling, and adding a boarding wing to the hospital.

Their commitment to the environment is built into their company mission statement. Employees recite the mission statement at each team meeting and incorporate pollution prevention into all aspects of daily work. Some of The Cat Doctor's pollution prevention achievements include:

- Recycling program to collect cardboard, paper, plastic, and aluminum;
- Investment of time and money into storing recyclables and transporting to recycling centers;
- Provide recycling containers in offices and lounges;
- Recycle oil from equipment;
- Buy recycled paper;
- Retail cat products made from all natural, chemical-free materials and packaged in recycled packaging;
- Contract with a professional to dispose of radiology chemicals;
- Use wheat, paper, or sand litters that are flushable and/or biodegradable;
- Use sand instead of caustic ice melters on sidewalks in winter;
- Use washable cat bowls whenever possible and avoid Styrofoam food and waste containers;
- Donate Styrofoam ice chests to local thrift stores and recycle packaging peanuts at local shipping outlets;
- Investment in surgery equipment that can be sterilized and an autoclave to sterilize instead of using disposables;
- Installed a new air conditioner that does not use Freon (i.e. Puron).

The Cat Doctor's commitment to the environment seeks to create a healthy and pollution-free environment for both patients (cats) and employees.