

Oak Hammock Animal Hospital officially opens

New name, same great staff from Anderson Animal Clinic

BY TOM MEISENHEIMER
CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Wendell Anderson has served Highlands County pet lovers for over 50 years. His veterinary clinic between Lake Placid and Sebring had a long-time reputation of pet friendly care of dogs and cats.

Last Saturday, March 3, the name and owner officially changed its name to Oak Hammock Animal Hospital. They did it with an animal friendly open house last Saturday. The current vet, Dr. Chris O'Sullivan, has actually owned the Hospital since 2014.

"We kept the name of Anderson until recently so we could show his former clients that we were committed to the same dedication he had for small animals. In fact, I worked there when I was a younger man. Dr. Anderson helped me get into veterinary school," said Dr. O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan graduated



TOM MEISENHEIMER/CORRESPONDENT

From left; Debbie Wager, Angie Messler and Shyann Springl joined the line for a nail trim for their dogs.

from the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. Prior to purchasing the Anderson Clinic he worked for 11 years at Veterinary Healthcare Associates, a 24-hour animal hospital in Winter Haven.

Most of the 12-team

staff who worked for Anderson remain. One of Dr. O'Sullivan's team is his wife Tara who is his right-hand woman in charge of human resources, payroll and the overall management of the hospital.

The open house ran from 2-4 p.m. and pet

owners enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food, music and advice. Dr. O'Sullivan walked the grounds meeting with the pet owners, offering answers to their questions. Staff gave tours of the state-of-the-art facility and even did free nail clipping of the dogs and cats.

Robin Cobb, a representative of Trupanion, spoke to the pet owners about medical insurance for their pets. Ken and Barb Thomas owners of Paradise Hot Dogs, who have their pets cared for at the hospital, set up their concession stand and offered free hot dogs to the visitors compliments of Dr. O'Sullivan.

Kids enjoyed a bounce house and coeds from Lake Placid High School



Dr. O'Sullivan offers a bit of advice to Renee Lowe on the care of her pet Itsy as daughter Raelyn, age 5, poses for the camera.

completed some of their community service by doing face painting for the youngsters. Monica Turner who has done pet portraits for over 10 years was on hand to tell the guests how they could have a portrait, drawing, wood burning and even an ornament created of their pet. All this surrounded by mellow music.

Each visitor received a goodie bag filled with everything from pet shampoo, leashes, treats to portable dog bowls.

Many of the visitors whose pets were already patients of the hospital raved about the service and tender care given to their pets.

Scott Walton could not say enough of the care

his dog received during and after a recent surgery. "My dog was a bit fearful of coming into the hospital after surgery. We brought her back to have her stitches removed. Dr. O'Sullivan actually came out and got into our car to take the stitches out so she would not be fearful. That is the kind of service we receive here."

During the tour, guests visited the exam rooms, pharmacy, surgery and cage area. The staff humorously had placed a stuffed teddy bear on a surgery table.

Oak Hammock Animal Hospital is off U.S. 27 at 11751 E. Twitty Road, Sebring. Their phone number is 863-655-3155.



Visitors were able to tour the entire Oak Hammock Animal Hospital during the open house.