

Pets & Vets



All pet owners know your furry, scaly or feathered friend is an extension of your family, and these local veterinarians are committed to treating them as such. Whether your pet exhibits signs of depression or has a chronic disease, the vets and caregivers here go the extra mile to make sure your animal gets comprehensive care, from kitty adoptions to Healing Touch for pups, antibiotics to applied kinesiology. The local heroes in these pages win appreciation for their unparalleled devotion to the community's animals in need, ranging from finding homes for stray cats to setting tiny broken parrot bones.

BAYSIDE PET RESORT



BAYSIDE PET RESORT IS A LUXURY CANINE AND FELINE BOARDING FACILITY OFFERING OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS, doggie daycare, agility and obedience training, and professional grooming. All guests receive a daily 5-point health check and activity schedules customized to their energy and personality. Founded on a commitment to pet happiness, Bayside takes pride in philanthropic endeavors with area rescues and animal welfare organizations. The company's pledge is to provide conscientious care for the animals entrusted to them, being constantly attentive to their security, safety and well-being. Guests' welfare is placed above all other business considerations. Certified veterinary technicians are on staff and employees are certified in off-leash play, pet CPR/First Aid and canine and feline body language. Bayside Pet Resort continues to grow, with plans to add three more locations in the next five years.



BAYSIDE PET RESORT • 8154 NORTH TAMIAMI TRL., SARASOTA, FL 34243 • 941-351-0730 • BAYSIDEPETRESORT.COM

DR. HOWARD RAND



Dr. Howard Rand's practice revolves around the idea: "He who attempts the ridiculous achieves the impossible." With this in mind, he has become a pioneer of alternative techniques in the field of veterinary medicine. After being in the practice of conventional veterinary medicine for 10 years, he broadened his view by studying in China and Japan, and was one of the first vets in the Southeast United States to practice acupuncture for animals. Holistic medicine often provides a solution when conventional medicine fails because you are no longer "up against a stone wall," says Dr. Rand. "When you first succeed with holistic medicine and you see it working—you are really amazed." Dr. Rand is the only practitioner in the area to use applied kinesiology, a form of muscle response testing, to help him make diagnoses. A type of non-invasive energy medicine ideal for animals that don't respond well to chemical medications, applied kinesiology helps diagnose allergies, locate pain and pinpoint treatments. Whatever method he uses, Dr. Rand is all about getting results. "I live on seeing these dogs that are really bad off and helping to bring them back to life," he says. "If you don't try you can't succeed."

Dr. Howard Rand cares for pets in the Sarasota, Florida area, with two convenient locations in Sarasota and Bradenton. With a combination of conventional and holistic medicine, Dr. Rand is committed to keeping pets healthy throughout every phase of their lives. Dr. Rand is a pioneer in alternative veterinary medicine, but also offers conventional medicine and preventative treatments to promote your pet's quality of life. Dr. Rand is one of the few US veterinarians certified in NAET allergy testing and treatment, an innovative approach with proven success in treating challenging health issues. NAET has allowed him to fully carry out his commitment to treating the causes, as well as the symptoms, of animal health problems. If you have a new puppy or kitten, Dr. Rand will get them off to a healthy start. If you have an older pet, you will discover innovative treatment options that may ensure many more years of happiness.

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BEAR CREEK VETERINARY ALTERNATIVES, INC.



BEAR CREEK VETERINARY ALTERNATIVES, INC. COMBINES THE BEST OF EAST AND WEST. Dr G. (as he is affectionately called) practiced as an animal emergency physician for 20 years, worked in two specialty clinics in Chicago, is an expert in herbal therapies and has been using acupuncture for his patients for 23 years. He and his wife are both Healing Touch for Animals® (HTA) practitioners. “Dr G. has such a rich, deep background to pull from,” says wife and Bear Creek Veterinary Alternatives, Inc. (BCVA) co-owner Susan Blake Gonzalez. An integrative practice, BCVA’s patients are treated using a combination of traditional and holistic medicines. With holistic options “you have a big toolkit of things that work,” says Blake Gonzalez, and the approach is based on treating the whole animal, not just the symptoms. They look at each animal’s emotional, spiritual and physical state to choose what course of action is best. Energy work is a major part of their practice including HTA, a method that uses energy and intention to balance the chakra system. The energy field can be thrown out of balance by stress or physical trauma. “Animals try to balance out our stress because they love us unconditionally,” says Blake Gonzalez. “They end up taking that on, which can create illness.” The practice also uses essential oils and flower essences to address imbalances, as well as fine-tuning diet. At BCVA, your pet gets treated with their emotions in mind, and isn’t seen as merely a body with symptoms.

The BCVA philosophy is rooted in the ancient belief that all things are interconnected including our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health and that of our animal companions. Their holistic approach to veterinary care combines 25 years of conventional medicine practice along with emergency care experience, and holistic medicine including energy medicine. Services include acupuncture, HTA, laser, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), herbal treatments, prolotherapy, homeopathy, glandular therapy, homotoxicology and nutritional therapy alongside conventional medicine when needed. Their holistic approach to healing takes into account the spiritual and emotional state and the body’s condition as a whole. As a family-owned, holistic practice wellness for animals and their people is the focus.

CAT DEPOT



CAT DEPOT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLEY THAYER IS INSPIRED—BY HER STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, THE PUBLIC AND MOST OF ALL BY HELPING KITTIES IN NEED. “Right now we have about 102 foster care families taking care of around 140 kittens—these people are so inspiring to me,” she says. “Especially the ones who are giving up a bedroom or bathroom to help a kitten and mother be safe. It’s uplifting.” Thayer and her team are on a mission to change the destiny of the over 30,000 homeless cats that live in Sarasota County. Through adoption opportunities, lifetime cat care, the affordable Rose Durham Clinic and resources for the public, Cat Depot brings the plight of Florida kitties to the forefront, keeping the public informed and aware. “I hear so many stories of good samaritans—people that can’t turn the other way and walk by,” says Thayer. “People are tuned-in; there is so much empathy, kindness and concern.” Cat Depot works in conjunction with other area rescue groups to help every cat in distress. Yet they go above and beyond by staying open seven days a week, even on Sundays and Mondays when no other organization throughout Sarasota and Manatee keeps doors open. “We stay open because we know that we are needed,” says Thayer. Cat Depot takes those rescued cats and opts out of the culture of euthanasia, even if there’s not enough space “We made a pact four years ago—no kitten is euthanized in Sarasota for lack of space,” says Thayer. “We all work together. It takes dedication.”

Cat Depot’s mission is to save lives, find loving homes and provide the resources and education to improve the destiny of homeless cats. Cat Depot, a non-profit, no-kill, free-roaming center, is recognized for its progressive design and commitment to helping homeless, abandoned and injured cats and kittens. In 2015, Cat Depot rescued 1,430 felines and assisted with local and national rescues, and dedicated efforts have resulted in increased adoption numbers every year for the last five years. The Community Cat Program was developed to educate the public about free-roaming cats, supply food for community cats and personal pets, offer resources for free and low-cost medical care, loan traps and offer transportation assistance, provide free and low cost spay/neuter surgeries and place adoptable cats and kittens into loving homes. In 2014, the Rose Durham Cat Care Clinic, a small yet highly functional discount clinic, opened in an effort to care for sick and injured cats and their distressed owners.