

CASE STUDY

August 2015



COOLCALIFORNIA BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Ohana Pet Hospital Ventura, CA

Making a Paw-sitive Impact



Business of the Year Winner Ohana Pet Hospital and Larry Greene of Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District



Ohana installed LED surgery lights in their operating rooms



Opened in December 2012, Ohana Pet Hospital is a full-service veterinary clinic that is committed to environmental sustainability and serves as a role model for small businesses. Ohana was presented with a CoolCalifornia Small Business Climate Leader award in 2013 for their achievements in reducing waste, recycling, and conserving energy and water.

In 2014, the hospital saw their 2,000 sq. ft. facility expansion as an opportunity to improve upon their eco-friendly commitment. The new space was built with the same eco-friendly materials as the old, including zero emission paints, plant-based and Green Guard Indoor Air Quality Certified anti-microbial flooring, and LED lighting. It also included energy efficient appliances, an additional low water flow toilet, and increased insulation for the cooling/heating unit.

Going above and beyond their award winning efforts in the past, Ohana used new eco-friendly cabinet materials, such as Green Guard Indoor Air Quality Certified recycled content cabinet laminates. Whenever possible, Ohana uses refillable cleaning

BUSINESS SNAPSHOT

Ohana Pet Hospital is a full service veterinary clinic located in Ventura, CA

Green Practices:

- Switched to LED lighting
- Installed energy efficient appliances and air conditioning
- Attached occupancy sensors to lights
- Established a recycling program for cardboard, paper, cans, and plastic
- Provided reusable tote bags to their clients

Cost Savings:

- All actions resulted in cost savings of over \$10,000 a year in 2013
- Nearly \$3,600 in electricity costs
- \$4,800 after switching to paperless documents
- Over \$3,000 after switching to digital x-rays



products purchased from a local refill store. They also began to use office supplies that were recyclable or otherwise eco-friendly and purchased promotional products from a company that sells environmentally conscious items. Ohana continues to operate digital x-ray and record keeping systems, and uses an e-fax number. They've also implemented a new employee clocking-in system to further reduce paper waste.



Jamie Gill with a reusable tote bag that is given to clients

In an effort to maximize their waste reduction and recycling, Ohana employees went the extra mile by visiting the local recycling facility to share with them the types of medical waste produced and learn what may be recycled. In turn, to help educate their staff, they created and display a "recycling board" to show what materials can be recycled. Ohana continues to provide clients with tote bags when needed for food and prescription purposes.

Ohana Pet Hospital has been continually active in promoting environmental sustainability in its community. In 2014, it sponsored eight 'Poo-Free Park Stations' throughout Ventura's dog parks and beaches to promote eco-friendly bags for animal waste pickup. It also helped plan and execute a Summit on Water Conservation, which was a partnership between Ventura Water, the City of Ventura, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, and Assemblymember Das Williams. Additionally, its monthly e-newsletters, which go out to clients, occasionally feature tips on water conservation.

Previous Award Winning Actions

Sustainability

The hospital was constructed using green building materials including zero-emission paints, plant-based and anti-microbial flooring, recycled content cabinet laminates, EPA-recommended insulation to maximize the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system efficiency and recycled glass reception counter tops. Ohana Pet Hospital also installed energy efficient appliances and air conditioning system, low-flow toilets and occupancy sensor switches.

Other Environmentally Friendly Practices

At Ohana, medical, financial, and human resources records are paperless due to the purchase of an efficient software system, tablet laptops, digital X-rays, Dropbox file sharing, and the use of direct deposit by all staff members. Ohana also partnered with the City of Ventura, Community Memorial Health System and Ventura County Medical Center in the "Blue Drapes Project" that redistributes the outer wraps of surgical equipment packs to other veterinary hospitals and diverts waste from landfills. They hosted a Ventura Chamber of Commerce Green Task Force "Best Green Practices" workshop to educate other medical facilities and small businesses and were awarded the Ventura County Climate Change Award.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jamie Gill

Administrative Assistant/ Sustainability
Specialist

4547 Telephone Rd. Suite A

Ventura, CA 93003

(805) 658-7387

jamie@ohanapethospital.com