

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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**WEST COAST VETERINARY CENTER OPENS NEW GREEN BUILDING
RIBBON CUTTING DECEMBER 4, 11:30 pm to 1:00pm**

Sarasota November 21, 2008

West Coast Veterinary Center, located at 7910 S.R. 72 , Sarasota, Fl. 34241 is holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new clinic on December 4, at 11:30 A.M. The clinic, consisting of a 6000 square foot office /hospital and a 4000 square foot equine (horse) barn facility, was built with many environmentally friendly and energy efficient features, enabling it to undergo the certification process by the Florida Green Building Coalition as a "green" building. County Commissioners and invited guests will attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, tour the facility and be served lunch. A grand opening for the general public is planned for January 17, 2009. The new building will serve the ongoing large animal and equine specialties, as well as continuing services for common pet veterinarian needs of the community.

"Green" features recognized by the Florida Green Building Coalition include heat reflecting metal roof, foam sealed roof interior, two passive solar water heaters (photo below), windows with low e-coatings, and Florida friendly, native drought resistant plants for landscaping. The created pond is stocked with native fish and has proper site orientation allowing for water run off to be contained on the property for irrigation. The clinic is even located near public transportation. The center has a specialized hard surface flooring for animal comfort , clean ability and disease control. For indoor air quality, there is an energy recovery ventilator with proper mechanicals for efficient air-conditioning and fresh air ducting, so kennel air does not mix with office air, for the good of both the employees and the animals being treated. Low Energy use of LED and compact fluorescent lighting through out the complex help reduce energy consumption. The barn area utilizes natural ventilation, concrete block with foam filled cells also increases insulation throughout the stables and holding area. Roof orientation and structure will hold a future 20kW planned solar electric (photovoltaic) module providing as much as 60% of the energy needed on a daily basis.

"We felt from the beginning that building our facility this way was the right thing to do, for the planet, and for the human and animal occupants", said Dr. Beth Brown, owner and director of the Center. "And though it cost a bit more to build this way, we expect that the monthly energy savings will more than cover the increased financial cost of the building, so we will actually spend less every month to run the business", added Dr. Brown.

Many of the efficient features at the center were provided by Eco-Smart, Inc. (www.eco-smart.com) a Sarasota based distributor throughout the southeast U.S. of "green" construction materials in business since 1993. The Florida Green Building Coalition Certification is being handled by Rob Struckman, of Green Sustainable Consulting and Certification (941-266-6321) gsc.rob@gmail.com. The building was built by Crofut Construction (941-812-0755) crofuts@gmail.com.

For more information, please contact either Matt Ross, President of Eco-Smart, Inc. at (941) 376-8484, or Dr. Beth Brown, Director WCVC, (941) 926-8985 .



Commissioners Staub and Mason, Beth Brown DVM and staff



Beth Brown DVM and staff with Eco-Smart's Mike Evans on right.



Rear Exterior of the Clinic showing two Solar Panels for Water Heating mounted to a Heat Reflecting Roof.



Interior of Clinic during Open House.

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