

PetDocks Veterinary Hospital: 'Your other family doctor'



When Allison Arnoult was studying at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, one of her sources of motivation was her personalized vehicle license plate, which read PET DOC.

A classmate – Todd Worrell – was to become a soul mate. They were married shortly after each earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1997.

Seeking to establish their home along the North Carolina coast, they began their professional careers at separate veterinary practices in Havelock, and by 2000, Drs. Arnoult and Worrell had formed their own veterinary hospital, opening their doors for customers in leased space in Morehead City.

"We decided it had to be a play on words with PET DOC," she said. "But we wanted to capitalize on our coastal location," he said, "and we settled on PetDocks.

The practice has been growing ever since. Todd and Allison designed and built their state-of-the-art veterinary hospital at 5307 US 70 West, Morehead City, and moved their offices to the new building in February 2007. With 5,800 square feet, it's twice as large as their former facility.

PetDocks was recognized by the Chamber at the 2008 Crystal Ball with an Award of Merit for Development.

"This is a program through which we recognize businesses, developers, contractors and entrepreneurs within Carteret County whose building construction and improvement projects make a positive statement for 'Community Character,' said Bob Upchurch of Bob Upchurch Appraisals, a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

"The structure has a 'coastal cottage' appearance with its white vinyl siding, pillars and porch effect. A cupola rising above the green roof provides a nice accent, allowing natural light to flow into the building.

"The interior is impeccable,"

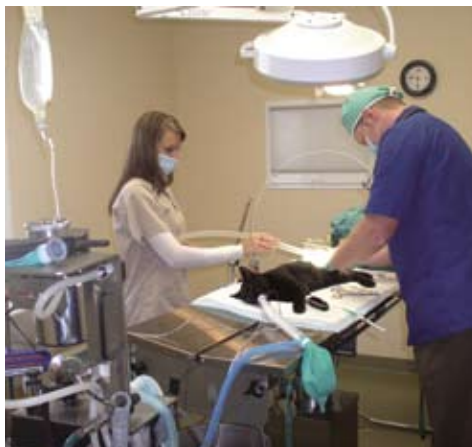


Drs. Allison Arnoult and Todd Worrell established PetDocks Veterinary Hospital in Morehead City in 2000.

Upchurch said, "and the open lobby is inviting to clients and their pets. The hospital contains four computerized examination rooms, a laser surgery suite, ultrasound, X-ray equipment, a dental lab, a pharmacy, a grooming room with separate baths for small and large dogs, an isolation ward and separate boarding areas for dogs and cats."

In addition to the two veterinarian owners, PetDocks has a staff of 13 full-time and three part-time employees. They have close to 10,000 active patients, representing more than 5,000 families in the area.

"We have been really pleased with the community's support for our



In the surgical suite, Dr. Worrell and Brett Brooks perform a procedure on Oliver, who has been sedated.

mission as your other family doctor to provide the very best care to all pets and their owners," Allison said. "We employ all the latest technology, but what truly differentiates our practice is the dedication, professionalism and commitment of the staff. They are the best in the business."

Todd enjoys a bit of radio celebrity status; for more than three years he has been a regular guest on the Coastal Daybreak program with Ben Ball on The Talk Station, WTKF – 107.1 FM. "Your Pet's Health" with Dr. Todd Worrell airs at 7:15 a.m. every Thursday.

He is also a member of the Morehead City Noon Rotary Club and serves on the Carteret County Board of Health, which sets policies and rules for the county Health Department.

Allison volunteers in classrooms and is active in the Parent-Teacher Organization at Bogue Sound Elementary School, where the couple's two daughters are enrolled. Jordan, 9, is a fourth grader, and Lindsey, 5, is in Kindergarten.

"Drs. Arnoult and Worrell are young professionals who are successful entrepreneurs...and make good neighbors," said the Chamber's Mike Wagoner. "They are pursuing their dreams as small business owners and are creating good jobs in the process. That's the American way...and they are to be commended."



Dr. Worrell and Sunni Floyd examine Tinkerbelle, a frisky Schnauzer.