



Vets Bet on Small-Town Pets

David and Michelle Harriton considered opening their veterinary practice in a city in order to be near a large population of people and pets. Instead, they chose to build The Animal Hospital in Barrington, New Hampshire. The Harritons thought they were trading in the potential for a large clientele for the benefits of a smaller community. In fact, their location has given them both a more relaxed family lifestyle *and* a booming business.

Doctors David and Michelle met on their first day of veterinary college, and soon knew that someday they would want to have their own practice. After a few years working for established vets, they began their search for the perfect place.

Having heard stories about how long it can take to get financing and build a veterinary facility, the Harritons were prepared for a long process.

Banknorth, however, assembled a financing package and enabled them to close their land purchase in two weeks. The Animal Hospital was up and running in July 2003, three months ahead of schedule.

Soon, a regular stream of dogs, cats, and “pocket pets” were coming in for vaccinations, routine medicine, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, and dentistry. As word of the quality of care provided at The Animal

Hospital of Barrington spread, the practice became one of the fastest-growing start-up small-animal hospitals in the country.

The practice now has a receptionist and four nurse/technicians. While certification is not needed for the position, three of the nurse/technicians are certified, and the fourth is in school working toward certification. “All of the people who work for us,” David says, “have worked with us previously at other practices. They share our standards and we know they care.”

If you visit The Animal Hospital of Barrington, you are likely to meet the Harritons’ two children: 5-year-old Benjamin and 2½-year-old Elijah, who come in all the time. Not that they need to go there to find animals to play with: the Harritons have two Labrador retrievers and a new pug puppy named Annie Rose.

The Animal Hospital of Barrington

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