

## SUCCESS STORY!

### RENTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL

A choice of kitty litter marked a turning point for Renton Veterinary Hospital. One day a staff member at the vet facility questioned how they were using and disposing of litter for feline patients. After doing some research, they replaced disposable litter trays with reusable ones and clay litter with pressed paper. Soon, the office began looking at other waste issues too.

“We looked at the amount of waste generated each week and searched for ways to be more environmentally responsible,” said vet Dr. Bruce Williams. “As we tried a few changes, we discovered we could do more.”

Like other health care facilities, Renton Vet generates used X-ray fixer from processing film. Because the fixer contains silver, which is considered hazardous as a waste, it should not go down the drain. Instead the veterinary practice reclaims the silver in the spent fixer.

The shop also chooses nontoxic cleaning products and replaced aerosol products with pump sprayer. Staff greatly reduced the amount of formaldehyde solution they keep on hand for diagnostic work. They now use only small containers for tissue samples.

Of course, Renton Vet collects all infectious or biomedical waste, such as used needles (“sharps”), for proper disposal with a biomedical waste firm. They give out sharps collection containers to clients who inject their



*Tammy Melton, Debbie Stevenson, Marie Hasleton, Layla Durant, Dr. Bruce Williams, Dr. Sue Warme and Kari Callin show off some furry friends at Renton Vet.*

**“I accept this honor on behalf of my great staff—who have continually looked for ways to be more environmentally responsible.”**

**Dr. Bruce Williams,  
Renton Veterinary Hospital**

pets at home. Clients return them for free disposal.

To let customers know about environmental practices, Renton Vet includes a postcard about the EnviroStars program in every new puppy/kitten packet. Dr. Williams also published an article on waste prevention in his professional association newsletter. He estimates the office has cut waste by 50 to 60 percent.

In 1995, the City of Renton honored Renton Vet as a “Business in the Green.” The facility is a member of Green Works, a local government program to reduce solid waste and promote recycled products.

### EnviroStars

- Enhances your business’s image as a community leader
- Gives the public a way to identify environmentally sound businesses

### Benefits

- Assurance for customers that they are patronizing an environmentally friendly business
- Fewer impacts on the environment and reduced risk of future liability
- Recognition of the business’s commitment to the community
- For businesses, free marketing and technical assistance and nominations for awards

### Support Environmentally Responsible Businesses

- For a Green Business Directory listing businesses that have made a commitment to prevent pollution, contact (206) 689-3043.
- For more information about EnviroStars or managing hazardous waste, call the Business Waste Line at (206) 296-3976 or visit [www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/estars/](http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/estars/).

### Renton Veterinary Hospital

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