

Pet Project

Dr. Craig Quirk brings humor, humanity to Rose City Veterinary Hospital

Rose City Veterinary Hospital turns 100 years old this month, having established itself as the first veterinary facility in Portland in 1911. Some 84 years after it was built, Oregon State University graduate, and budding veterinarian, Dr. Craig Quirk, purchased the clinic. The move was the realization of a lifelong dream for Quirk.

"I've always had a connection with animals," explains Quirk, 48. The doctor has lived in Portland for 20 years after growing up in Eugene. "I can't ever remember not having pets. From dogs and cats to tortoises, snakes, iguanas and birds, I've always been surrounded by critters of one species or another," he says. "The decision to become a vet was very organic to me; there really was no other choice. That's what I've always wanted to do and have never once regretted it."

Quirk is also president of the Portland Veterinary Medical Association and a member of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association. He's been busy rejuvenating his practice since 1995. Part of that process has been a healthy heaping of good humor to his work—something he says is important in the veterinary world.

"I was always the class clown," Quirk says. "It certainly keeps you grounded if you can laugh at yourself or an amusing situation. Work can get very serious and even depressing at times, so being able to joke around is a good coping mechanism. Unfortunately it's not just puppies and kittens 24/7."

Quirk has two dogs, a Border Collie-Cattle mix named Dakota and a Border Collie named Chaos, whom he owns with his partner of 20 years, Larry. All four are likely to be present during Rose City Vet's birthday bash at the end of July, exuding the same kind of professionalism that's made Rose City, and Quirk, a success.

"We certainly maintain a lighthearted, friendly atmosphere at the clinic," Quirk says. "Everyone should enjoy where they work and I think our clients notice that. Our clients and their pets are our main priority."

Rose City Veterinary Hospital marks its 100th birthday from noon to 4 p.m. Sun-



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day, July 24 with an open house and celebration at the hospital (809 SE Powell Blvd.). The afternoon will feature family-friendly festivities including free food and drinks, face painting, balloon animals, door prizes, hospital tours and more. There will be a "Turn of the Century" pet costume contest and professional photos, and a representative from the Portland Animal Welfare (PAW) Team will be on site to answer questions and accept pet food and supply donations. Also, the Oregon Humane Society will be bringing several dogs available for adoption, as well as the adoptable cat for which Rose City always holds a space.

For more information on Rose City Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Quirk, visit rosecityvet.com.

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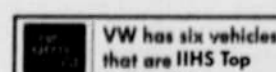
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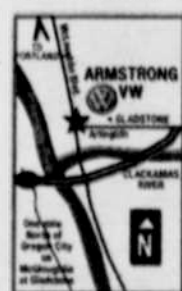
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