



Rider Turned Vet Opens New Animal Hospital In Wellington

STORY BY RON BUKLEY • PHOTOS BY LISA KEENEY

Wellington veterinarian Dr. Jean Oberg, the current president of the Palm Beach County Veterinary Society, might have become an Olympic equestrian had a fateful event not turned her toward veterinary medicine.

In high school and college, Oberg won some important awards, and people told her she was headed for the equestrian circuit — until her 13 horses perished in a tragic barn fire.

"I've always wanted to be a vet," said the 51-year-old Oberg, who recently opened My Animal Hospital at the Kobosko's Crossing shopping plaza.

The barn fire put her back on that course, she said — rebuilding a stable of trained horses takes years, and the emotional strain would have been too much.

"When I lost the horses," she said, "I had to make a career choice: get more horses or go to vet school."

Once accepted to veterinary school, she found she was good with small animals and therefore went in the direction of companion animals rather than large animals. But she has continued riding and keeping horses, and also serves as a judge and steward for horse shows.

A native of New Jersey, Oberg said she fell in love with Florida as a child on visits with her parents to a summer home in Hypoluxo and later, Manalapan. She attended the University of Florida as an undergraduate and decided she didn't want to live in New Jersey.

She completed veterinary school at Tuskegee University in Alabama, but her plans to return to Florida were

(Far left) Dr. Jean Oberg with Lily and Smokey. (Below) Dr. Oberg and veterinary technician Cynthia Olson look at a digital x-ray.





Dr. Jean Oberg with her son Walter, toy poodles Mimi and Fluffy, Lily and Smokey the cat.

diverted when she married a man from New Jersey. They moved there, and she operated an award-winning clinic in Toms River for 13 years. The marriage did not last, and she eventually came to Florida. "This is the place I wanted to raise my son," she said.

Her son, Walter, was also an avid equestrian until he discovered BMX bikes and now at age 10, he rides at the Okechee Park BMX track.

Her parents Emelia and Bob Oberg moved to Wellington eight years ago, she said. Her father was a New York City police detective and for that reason Oberg gives discounts to members of the police and armed forces. She decided to open a clinic in Wellington to be closer to her mother, who has battled breast cancer.

As a rider, Oberg said she loved Wellington from the first time she visited, and opening My Animal Hospital enables her lifelong dream to live in Florida. "This is a smaller replica of my clinic in New Jersey," she said of her new facility, which features three examination rooms — one of them reserved for dogs only, and another strictly for cats.

"All the rooms have lift tables," she said, which allow animals to be lifted from the floor. A scale is built into the table, eliminating the need to move the animal to another part of the clinic.

The examination rooms are outfitted with the latest instruments for animal examinations. A tonometer tests for glaucoma. An otoscope, a wireless examination scope, takes pictures of the inside of the ears or any other part of the animal and transfers digital images to a computer, which saves the images to the client's digital records.

(L-R) Assistant Elizabeth Hiriart with Fluffy, veterinary technician Cynthia Olson with Lily, receptionist Marilyn Schaas with Smokey and Dr. Jean Oberg with Mimi.



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*Dr. Jean Oberg
of My Animal Hospital*

They are fully accessible not only by Oberg and her staff, but also by the pet's owners from their home computers.

Information available to clients via the Internet includes future appointment dates and reminders for monthly doses of heartworm or flea remedy. Her staff maintains the records and computers so she can practice more medicine, Oberg said.

Facilities include anesthesia-free dental work and radio wave surgery that removes growths with no burning or cutting. The clinic also features a complete surgery room with a complete set of monitors and digital radiology for instant readouts of internal images.

For more information about Oberg and My Animal Hospital, located at 9184 Forest Hill Blvd., call (561) 790-4677 or visit www.myanimalhospital.info. ■

