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## D Business

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# IVs, EKGs, CT scanners for furry beasts

ANNE KRISHNAN, Staff Writer

If the patients weren't in cages, it would be hard to tell that Veterinary Specialty Hospital of the Carolinas isn't meant for people.

The records and radiology scans are all digital. The equipment is human-grade. The bustling reception area would look at home in a medical practice where patients enter on two legs.

Over the past nine years, the founders have built their practice from a 4,000-square-foot startup into a 24,000-square-foot hospital that competes daily with the academic facilities at N.C. State University.

Building a practice that employs nearly 100 people requires risk-taking, said Kevin Concannon, a co-founder.

"It's only been through time that we've realized there are a lot of opportunities," he said.

Veterinary Specialty took a chance several years ago when it became the first animal hospital in the state to buy a linear accelerator, a high-tech device used to administer radiation therapy to cancer patients. "It was a tremendous expense, and we were hoping we were going to make that work," Concannon said.

Today, the hospital's cancer practice is booming.

Just down the hall from the linear accelerator is a CT scanner. Both devices were used, not too long ago, in human practices.

Concannon estimates that 90 percent of the equipment in the hospital's intensive care unit was made for humans.

"IVs, EKGs, it's pretty straightforward," he said. The only problem is keeping patients from chewing up the tubes.

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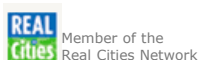
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