

Animal lover's unique business a great success

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Melanie Walker sticks her head in Chief's area. Chief, is a 12-year-old dark tabby cat who is quiet and reserved, and seems like he doesn't want to be bothered. But Walker has a gift. For the last two years, she has been studying animal communication.

Walker closes her eyes and begins the process. Slowly, Chief begins to approach her and rubs her nose. She pets him, as he crawls back and curls up into a ball. Just like that, it's all said and done.

She said that communications with different animals is one of the most fascinating things she has ever encountered. She

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Melanie Walker
Animal Communicator

added that it's important for people who own pets to know how to communicate and understand their pets.

She gained the necessary skills from a well known, international animal communicator, Amelia Kinkade.

"People would be surprised on how much they (cats) understand our lives," she said. "The experience has opened my eyes and changed my perception of the animal's emotional and physical behaviours."

Walker's love for cats and other small animals sparked her to open her own unique, and one of a kind business. She is the proud owner of Orleans'

first bed and breakfast for small animals, which is located in the Canotek Business Park.

The entrepreneur designs and builds all of the centre's structures for the animals, which includes ferris wheels, rockets, planes and space ships that the cats hide and play in.

Her business doesn't involve the use of cages.

Although it's targeted mostly for cats, the centre also caters to a number of different animals. Walker and her staff care for birds, rabbits and even guinea pigs.

She always wanted to have a place for pet owners to bring their animals when they didn't want to leave them unattended in their homes. It gives these animals a chance to enjoy a fun and healthy environment, while their owners are off enjoying a little vacation time.

"My goal has always been to offer the cats a stimulating, low stress and secure environment so that they can relax and play," said Walker.

She says her busiest time of the day is during the morning, when the animals get dropped off and are wide awake and fully energized, while the busiest time of the year is Christmas.

She can have up to 100 cats at a time.

"It's absolutely crazy in the morning," she said. "That's why I close at lunchtime, to give the cats an hour to take a nap."

The two storey bed and breakfast has a number of activities for the animals to keep themselves busy with, and even with a high number of feline occupants, some people perceive that the cats tend to fight or get aggressive with each other. But Walker insists that's not the case.

"When they're in an environment like this, cats don't fight," she explains. They'll just hiss. Sometimes, when a cat gets nervous, they'll hide for a day or two. They have their own personalities, some are friendly, and some will have attitude."

With the success of her business venture, Walker said that she has plans of expanding her business with more locations across the city.

Visit www.petbedandbreakfast.ca for more information.



Melanie Walker has created a safe and healthy environment with her unique bed and breakfast for small animals.

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