

## **CROW Case of the Week: New Hospital!**

by Brian Johnson



The new CROW wildlife hospital is officially up and running. On Wednesday, October 7 the last of the patients were transferred from the old building to the second floor of the brand new hospital.

“It’s functional and pretty amazing!” said CROW Vet Dr. PJ Deitschel, who helped with the massive project. “It really sunk in the following day, on Thursday, when we were doing Morning Rounds. It was: “Wow!” We started the designs on a piece of paper

not long after Hurricane Charley, and to be actually standing here – it was an emotional experience that’s hard to put into words.”

The new hospital, a solid edifice meeting the latest hurricane codes, allows CROW to better fulfill its mission in a multitude of ways, including the capacity to handle more animals with a floor plan suitable for patient care. It marks another transition from backyard rehab to modern wildlife medicine.

“The old hospital was simply falling apart from the pressure of treating over 4,000 animals per year,” said Dr. PJ. “We can now offer better patient care and work more efficiently.”

CROW began in 1968 in the home of islander Shirley Walter. The move to the current property on Sanibel-Captiva Road was a major development, but staff was always handcuffed by trying to operate a wildlife clinic out of a wood-frame residential piling home. Now they have a custom-designed modern wildlife hospital that will allow them to bring a very high level of individualized care to the hundreds of different native Florida species they treat.

Dr. PJ, Dr. Amber McNamara, “Cat” Turner and Nikki Talianko worked with architect Joe St. Cyr on the blueprint. They continuously adjusted, revised and retooled the plans to get it just right. “Joe St. Cyr is a wonderful architect, and it was a tremendous collaborative effort to make it all happen,” said Dr. PJ.

Crowbar Wayne Boyd sparked the move to build a new hospital by discussing with Dr. PJ the possibility of adding a new surgery room to the old building. Little did they guess, then, that they would end up with a whole lot more.

If you would like to contribute to CROW in its extraordinary mission, please send your check to:

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