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Erin Rasmusson, left, and Gary Sargent examine a patient at Southwest Veterinary Hospital. The veterinarians recently opened the hospital and offer digital X-rays, digital dental radiography and ultrasound.

High-tech pet hospital embraces 'going green'

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SOUTHWEST VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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After a 30-year career with a local veterinary hospital, Gary Sargent has partnered with colleague Erin Rasmusson to open Southwest Veterinary Hospital on Moana Lane at Lakeside Crossing Shopping Center.

With an emphasis on establishing a high-tech facility offering digital X-ray, digital dental radiography and ultrasound, this practice will be a paperless technology practice and a "green" office.

Rasmusson, who graduated from Ohio State University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 2003, came with her husband to Northern Nevada for her internship and eventually worked with Sargent, where they discovered a mutual interest in owning their own practice and offering clients new discoveries and technologies in

the veterinary medical field.

"My partnership with Dr. Sargent makes a good balance," Rasmusson said. "His experience and my just beginning my career."

Sargent, who graduated from Colorado State University with a doctorate in veterinary medicine, said that there were rewards in designing and building a new practice along with Rasmusson, using his past experience and taking advantage of new equipment and software.

"Everything will be digital. No film. No waste from pro-

cessing," Sargent said.

Southwest Veterinary Hospital is in a 3,200-square-foot, state-of-the-art animal hospital with pharmacy, laboratory, sterile operating room and the latest in technology and improvements. He said the cost of tenant improvements and equipment was about \$500,000.

The hospital, where they care only for dogs and cats, opened in September.

Sargent credited many in the community for their assistance: local realtors, attorneys, bankers, builders and those who helped in obtaining licenses and building permits. His wife, Elaine, serves as business manager, and there are four employees.

"People always ask me why would I do this?" Sargent said. "I say 'why not?' I have this opportunity and a new challenge."