

Building Solutions

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Quarterly construction tips & updates
from A.C.E. Building Service

A.C.E. turns Port Cities Animal Hospital's vision into reality

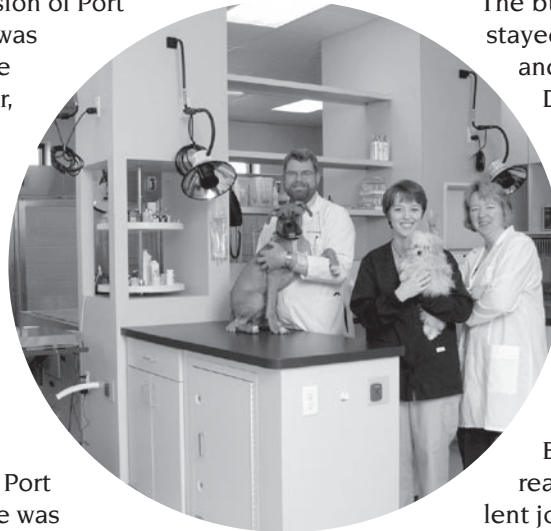
Meeting the comprehensive needs of animals is a mission of Port Cities Animal Hospital, but their old facility in Manitowoc was limiting their growth. "Our business was expanding, and we had simply outgrown our building," states Dr. Jared Bremer, DVM. "We wanted to be able to offer more expansive services for animals, such as an intensive care unit and after hours care, but we just didn't have the space."

So the search began for a new site, as Dr. Bremer and Dr. Angie Madden-Heinzen, DVM, owners of Port Cities, started looking ... and looking ... and looking ... for the right location. Finally they came upon a piece of property on Dewey Street (near Wal Mart) that was up for sale on a no-reserve auction.

Dr. Bremer put in a bid and ended up winning the auction, which was a perfect site for their new hospital. Choosing a design/build contractor was the next step, and Port Cities knew from the beginning that A.C.E. Building Service was the one. They were immediately impressed with how A.C.E. dug into their project. "They did an amazing amount of research, becoming very familiar with veterinary facilities. A.C.E. was able to steer us in the right direction, helping us stay true to our vision and our budget," recalls Dr. Bremer.

A.C.E. also helped ensure a smooth process by working with the city and former land owner Wal Mart on getting the appropriate building approvals. The next step was turning the Port Cities vision into reality. "Dr. Madden-Heinzen and I had a vision of what we wanted, and A.C.E. created a building design for that vision that met all of our needs." That vision-turned-reality included:

- A large boarding facility with luxury suites
- Separate boarding areas for cats and dogs
- Intensive care unit
- State-of-the-art medical treatment area
- Diagnostic imaging and laboratory
- Surgical suites and recovery rooms
- Pharmacy
- Anti-microbial floors
- Outdoor animal exercise area



The building project stayed on schedule and on budget.

Dr. Bremer and Dr. Madden-Heinzen were thrilled that the new 9,084-square-foot hospital reflected their professional and caring image. Says Dr. Bremer: "A.C.E. really did an excellent job of guiding us through the building process.

They paid close attention to details and had a lot of good ideas but always communicated and consulted with us. We are extremely pleased with A.C.E. and the facility and are already using it to its full extent!"



Pictured above are Dr. Jared Bremer, Johanna Vance and Dr. Maura Mansfield. At right is the inviting entranceway of Port Cities Animal Hospital.

Tips for choosing your design/build contractor

The key to a successful building project starts with hiring your design/build team. The following tips can help you with this process:

- **Start with a phone interview.** Find out about the builder's background, previous experience and the scope of services offered.

- **Schedule an interview** at your facility so the builder can get a sense of your company and needs. A follow-up visit to the contractor's office will reveal what type of resources they have and allow you to get a sampling of their work.

- **Ask how he or she might approach the project.** Past experience and a willingness to understand your business are two important attributes of a quality contractor.

- **Ask about a variety of materials** and products that might work in your budget range. Discuss your priorities to see where you can splurge and where to compromise.

- **Find out how they charge for their preliminary services:** hourly, a fixed fee, a percentage of construction costs or some combination of the above.

- **Ask for references and speak with past customers.** Develop a list of questions for past customers and call several of them. Also, ask the builder to see a completed job or one that is still in progress.

- **Ask yourself the most important questions of all:** Am I comfortable with this professional? Do our personalities mesh? When done properly, your design/build project will be fun and rewarding. You will learn a lot. Your design/builder should be able to match your enthusiasm.

- **Select a builder who is truly a good listener** and has your interests at

heart. A successful project requires honest communication and trust among all the players on your design/build team.

A.C.E. Building Service's comprehensive design/build services offer a single source for all your construction needs. A.C.E. can combine design and build functions by working directly with a project design team to maximize communication, minimize cost and put your entire project on the fast track to completion.

It is simply the fastest, most efficient, most cost-effective, and most fun building process you can use! Call today for more information.



Ever wonder what the initials A.C.E. stand for?

- Amazing Client Experiences?
- Always Cost Effective?
- Awesome Construction Experts?

All good guesses, but it actually stands for **Allen Charles Eberhardt**, the man who started A.C.E. Building Service in 1950 and created a successful company built on trust, quality and relationships. Today A.C.E. is the Lakeshore's source for commercial and industrial construction. Call or visit us online for more information on how we can serve your company's design/build needs:



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