

Skitterskat

Wherever she travels, Tamara Wyatt loves to shop at boutiques catering to humans who have special affection for four-legged members of their families.

To her dismay, she could find no such place near her home in Glen Allen. This is the reason she started Skitterskat with its "eclectic gifts for those who love dogs and cats."

"I like unique things and felt there was a market here," she says. "I have always liked retail, working with customers and helping them find what they want." She visited a cat shop in California that she really liked and decided to try offering a similar line of products on the Web. When friends opened the Wellesley Animal Hospital across from Short Pump Town Center, they offered to carry the line. This was a fortuitous development says Wyatt, "because that's where the customers are." What started as a hobby in 2003 has since begun to blossom into a growing business.

Skitterskat's dog and cat motif offerings include bracelets, earrings, watches, charms, necklaces and other jewelry. Also home décor items such as clocks, collectibles and picture frames. The hottest sellers are charm bracelets and earrings as well as "wagging tail" clocks. The docks are a Skitterskat exclusive here in Greater Richmond.

Jewelry is reasonably priced, in the \$5 to \$90 range. The "wagging tail" docks sell for \$35. Merchandise comes from vendors and suppliers across the country; the docks are made in Tennessee.

Skitterskat products are sold on the Web at www.skitterskat.com, at the Wellesley Animal Hospital at 3460 Lauderdale Drive, and occasionally at pet-related fairs, expos and events such as the Pet Expo, Paws in the Park, the Ashland Strawberry Faire and school fundraisers.

Wyatt grew up in an animal-loving family, a family that saw lots of travel and relocation because of her father's career in the U.S. Army. She came to Richmond originally to study at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is now married and the mother of twin daughters, and is having great fun as a work-from-home mom.

"At Skitterskat, we believe that animal lovers are special people who devote their lives to the care and concerns of our animal friends," she says. "We know they agree that every animal deserves a loving home, where they are able to spend their days being appreciated for the joy and companionship they provide. Skitterskat aims to honor these special people by offering eclectic gifts that remind them of those amazing dog and cat members of their family."



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