



# BLUE CROSS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



11051 - 97 Street NW

### DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL PLACE

The 1948 two-storey wood frame and stucco Blue Cross Animal Hospital has a complex plan form with original side kennels, and an original narrow two-storey projection on the southeast corner. The building also has a flat roof. A central vertical frontispiece rising from the entrance to just above the roofline characterizes the façade. Its central element is raised above the main component, accenting the restrained suggestion of verticality within the façade design. The main entrance, flanked by contoured glass block windows, is located at the base of the frontispiece. Standing at the busy intersection of 97 Street and 111 Avenue, the Blue Cross Animal Hospital Building remains a familiar sight for Edmontonians living in and travelling through the neighbourhood.

### HERITAGE VALUE

Constructed in 1948, the Blue Cross Animal Hospital is significant as the first purpose-built small animal veterinary hospital in Edmonton. It was built to the highest standards of the day, providing full service for sick, diseased, or injured animals, mostly cats and dogs, but with facilities for more exotic pets as well. The hospital included an operating room, X-ray equipment, kennels, and isolation wards.

Dr. Alex J. Rattray, born in Wainwright in 1919, decided to build the hospital “when Edmonton’s population increase pointed toward an increase among small pets in the city” (Edmonton Journal 27). Dr. Rattray attended veterinary college in Guelph, Ontario, from 1938 to 1942, and after graduation practiced veterinary medicine with his brother James E. Rattray in Edmonton. By the 1950s Dr. Alex Rattray was specializing in pre-race racehorse examinations.



The two-storey wood frame and stucco Blue Cross Animal Hospital is valued aesthetically for its central vertical frontispiece, rising from the entrance to just above the roofline, which characterizes the façade. Its central element is raised above the main component, accenting the restrained suggestion of verticality within the façade design. The main entrance, flanked by contoured glass block windows, is located at the base of the frontispiece. Four original windows, 1 over 2, are located within the centre of each quadrant of the façade which are demarcated by the intersecting lines of the vertical frontispiece and horizontal signage projection located above the door.





## CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

The character defining elements as expressed in the Moderne Style of the 1948 Blue Cross Animal Hospital include:

- + flat roofs on the central building and above the former kennels and carport;
- + pebble dash stucco and stacked bond concrete block exterior; and
- + the pattern, style, construction and proportions of all original windows and doors.

### West Façade

- + central vertical frontispiece rising from the entrance at grade, to just above the roofline;
- + Horizontal signage projection above the first storey;
- + Contoured glass brick walls flanking the front entrance; and
- + Concrete landing and steps with metal railing.

### South Façade

- + attached carport with structural element composed of a laminated beam beveled at each end with steel tube posts.

*Designated as a Municipal Historic Resource through Bylaw 18450 in July 2018.*



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