



One Tail At A Time

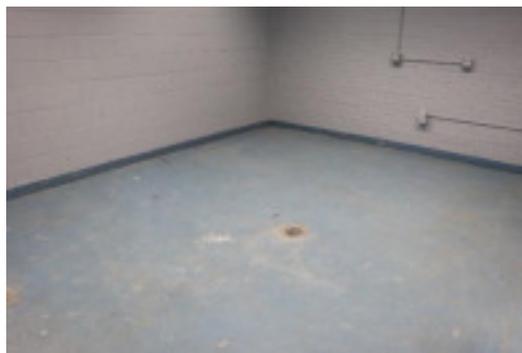


The Challenge:

One Tail At A Time is a dog and cat rescue organization whose mission is to “end pet homelessness by making pet ownership a joyful and accessible experience for all.” The organization which was founded in 2007 by Heather Owen has expanded greatly and now includes multiple programs to assist with pet adoption. They now have multiple locations around the Chicago area and are able to help as many families and pets as possible.

Chris Collopy of Broadleaf Inc., a certified Thermal-Chem coatings contractor, is an animal lover who believes in the mission of One Tail At A Time and annually donates to the cause to help their foundation continue to thrive. This year his donation was in the form of epoxy flooring at their newly renovated veterinary clinic in Ukrainian Village in Chicago. When Thermal-Chem heard about Broadleaf’s donation of their time and experience to install the new epoxy flooring, they wanted to be involved and donated the materials necessary to complete the project.

This facility was having some problems with the floor coatings in the kennel and operating areas. The existing floor coating was not durable enough to withstand the rigors of their daily operations. “Because many of the animals are sick, it was really important to us that all our surfaces be easy to clean and disinfect. The original floors were a mess, and many were rubber surfaces that are porous and hard to clean” said Heather of One Tail At A Time. They needed flooring that would hold up against urine that is often found in a facility like this and also withstand wash downs needed to sanitize the floors. They wanted the floors to be scratch resistant and also safe for both the animals and the staff. Together, Heather and Chris decided that a flake flooring system with a gloss urethane would be the best option for this facility.



The Solution:

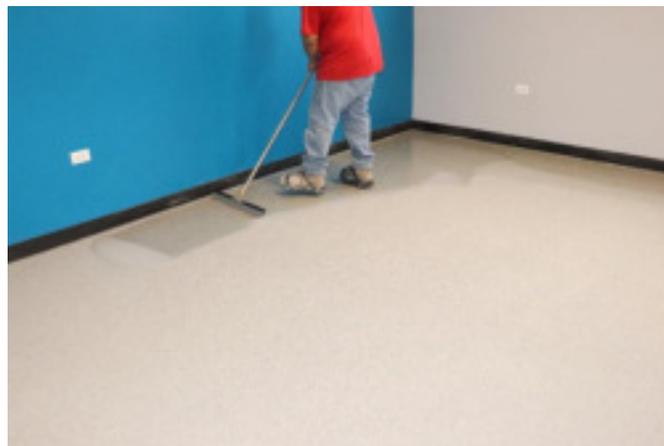
When Broadleaf began this project, they started by removing all the existing rubber and tile that was on the floor. After removal, they ground the concrete to provide a clean, sound substrate for the coating to bond.

Their next step was to create radius coves to ensure a seamless look that would make cleanings simple and effective. For this step they used Thermal-Chem's #726 Cove Kits. Following the cove, they primed the floors using #726 ArmorPrime in a pewter gray color.

After laying the base coat, they broadcast vinyl flake ensuring every spot was covered by throwing until rejection. Coming back the following day, they removed the access flake and began the top coat. For the top coat they used #748 DecoTop Clear.

Unfortunately, that weekend there was a heavy rain and water came in and covered the entire floor before it had a chance to fully cure. Broadleaf then went back to the site and started from scratch, re-grinding the floor and starting the process over again.

Once all of the stages were completed for a second time, Thermal-Chem's #1061 DecoFinish Gloss Urethane was used to seal the floor and provide a lasting barrier that now makes the floor scratch resistant and extremely durable.



The Result:

After seeing the final product, Heather Owen could not have been happier with the results. “The makeover we got not only looks amazing, but it's going to be really functional in keeping our pets safe and healthy. The veterinary clinic build-out was done on a shoe string budget. We really could not have come up with something so beautiful and ready to serve so many animals without the generosity of our community. We are so thankful to Broadleaf and Thermal-Chem for donating the floors. They turned out better than we could have imagined!”

