

Pet Store Opens in Downtown Fairfield



Harley, a Harlequin Macaw, stands on the edge of his cage inside the new downtown store Pet Shop Jungle, Thursday. (Robinson Kuntz/Daily Republic)

By [Barry Eberling](#)

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FAIRFIELD — People can now go to downtown Fairfield to buy such things as a leopard geckos, iguanas, neon tetras, platies and a harlequin macaw named Harley.

Perhaps soon, they'll be able to buy an octopus.

Pet Shop Jungle has come to 950 Texas St., at the corner of Texas and Madison streets, in the building formerly occupied by Clay Creations. Stephen Prall decided that downtown was the place for his new venture.

“It’s the downtown vibe, I guess, the foot traffic you get,” Prall said.

He’s brought a different type of store to the downtown, joining the restaurants and the businesses that sell things ranging from guitars to bicycles to furniture to clothes. No pets stores, though, not before Pet Shop Jungle’s recent opening.

“It’s just a great location,” said Margaret Manzo, executive director of the Fairfield Main Street Association. “It’s just exactly what we need in terms of the unique business mix. Our job is not to compete with malls or strip malls, it’s to create a unique shopping experience.”

The shop on a recent day sounded lively, with zebra finches and parakeets chirping. Guinea pigs roamed in a pen.

Pet Shop Jungle is still a work in progress. A key entryway feature is a 450-gallon aquarium that contains blue-yellow damsel fish. Prall has plans to arrange coral and other design features in the saltwater tank and wants to have sharks.

He would like to have rescue groups come with dogs and cats every week or month, Prall said.

How Pet Shop Jungle will evolve remains to be seen.

“I’m trying to keep it a little different than probably your normal pet shop,” Prall said. “I want to have more of the exotics.”

Prall has lived in the area for a quarter-century and attended Fairfield High School. His family moved here because his father was in the Air Force and came to Travis Air Force Base.

He used to buy pets at Mike’s World of Pets, first when it was located at the Marina Shopping Center in Suisun City and later on North Texas Street in Fairfield.

Prall used to work as the warehouse manager for a large supplier of pet supplies. But the job moved from the Cordelia area of Fairfield to Benicia. He didn’t want to deal with the commute, given that he must take his daughter to school, Prall said.

Pet Shop Jungle is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day and is usually closed from 2 to 3 p.m. for lunch.

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