



THE ARTS AND CRAFTS AESTHETIC FOR MAN'S BEST FRIENDS: **Bungalow Bob's Pet Designs**

“Who would believe such pleasure from
a wee ball o’ fur?” —IRISH PROVERB

HUMAN BEINGS, WITH ALL OUR FAULTS, often make mistakes in love. We sometimes trust our hearts to the undeserving. But there will always be one unwavering source of true devotion—our family pets, who love without fail and beyond reason. Is there any better example of unconditional love than the steady gaze of a dog resting his head on his master’s knee?

In gratitude, we humans try to return the favor, sometimes going to great lengths to ensure our pets’ happiness and comfort. But commercially available pet accessories lack style, especially for those who seek the Arts and Crafts aesthetic. Most of the pet beds, toys, cat trees and food dishes on the market are either garish in color, cheaply made or simply lack imagination.

Bob Schroeder of Bungalow Pet Designs decided that the pets of Arts and Crafts lovers deserved better. And that, frankly, their owners deserved better too.



BOB SCHROEDER WITH HANNAH AND HER PRAIRIE LOUNGE.

In Search of Bungalow Style

“People who are enthusiastic about Arts and Crafts are very proud of their homes,” says Bob Schroeder of Bungalow Bob’s Pet Designs. “They want

everything in their home to look as if it belongs there. Why should they have to hide the dog’s bed in the laundry room?”

The hand-crafted beds, lounges and various pet accoutrements Bob has been crafting for nearly a decade will never be hidden—they’re displayed proudly, alongside Stickley rockers and Roycroft lamps. Using through-tenon joinery, quarter-sawn oak and featuring



THE MISSION PERCH.

elegant arches and cut-outs, Bob puts the same time-honored care and craftsmanship into his pet designs as the Arts and Crafts inspired pieces he’s made for his own home. His work is designed to please the avid Arts and Crafts enthusiast as much as their pets.

“Of course, these pieces are designed to be used by pets, but bungalow owners can identify with them as well. They’re the ones who really get a kick out of seeing their pets’ enjoyment. It’s adorable to see cats using the Mission Cat Perch or a dog resting its head on the ledge of the Prairie Lounge.”

If You Build it, They Will Purr

One of Bob’s most popular designs, The Prairie Lounge is a Stickley-style settle on a smaller scale, right down to the multiple corbels supporting the wide brim of hand-rubbed, quarter-sawn white oak. In fact, the inspi-



ration was the genuine article—a beautiful Stickley settle purchased by Bob and his wife Beth for their home in Lafayette, Indiana. When Beth wistfully remarked how nice it would be to have a piece of pet furniture that would complement their Arts and Crafts pieces, Bob had to agree.

“We’d been collecting Arts and Crafts items for years,” says Bob, “and we wanted things that fit with our décor. But when it came to our pets, there was nothing out there.”

Bob knew that if he wanted coordinating pet furniture, he’d have to build it himself. A lifelong woodworker with a fastidious nature, Bob had already built several Arts and Crafts forms—for humans. To fulfill his wife’s wish, he simply applied the same principles on a smaller scale, and soon the Prairie Lounge was born. It was an immediate hit. Hannah, the Schroeder’s cat and Bob’s first customer, gave her pawprint of approval by curling up on the lounge for a long, cozy nap.

Armed with a marketing degree, an MBA, and a well-equipped wood shop, Bob saw an opportunity for a unique business venture; to be his own boss by marrying three of his passions—Arts and Crafts, woodworking, and pets. He took a chance, and hasn’t looked back since.

Reclaiming the Inbox

The fact that people are willing to indulge their pets with elegant furniture is no surprise to Bob. His customers write to share charming stories and cute pictures of their pets enjoying Bob’s creations. He also meets customers at Arts and Crafts events, where they enthusiastically share their canine and feline tales.

“There was a guy who told me he liked to take his cat to work everyday, but he was tired of the cat sleeping in the inbox on his desk. He ordered the Mission Hammock. It’s really a fascinating piece that looks appropriate on a period desk. Now the cat’s happy and he has his inbox back, as well as a great conversation piece.”

While Bob started his business with just three pet beds, he has expanded to include toys, dens, stairs and even urns. Many pieces are enhanced with Motawi tile. Bob enjoys the challenge of custom designs. Some of the new additions to his line, such as the striking Cat Condo, were originally created to fill a customer’s request.

“One fellow wanted something higher than the Cat Perch, but fairly open for climbing, and functional for the cat. The design worked beautifully—I actually produced one for my cat. We took it to Grove Park, and it got a lot of attention. It’s a beautiful and comfortable place for a cat to relax.”

Indeed, the unique style of Bungalow Pet Designs has been garnering more attention; the Prairie Lounge has even been featured on ABC’s *Extreme Home Make-over*. But for Bob, the real satisfaction comes from providing pets with a comfortable place to play, eat and rest, while providing their owners with beautiful, well-designed pieces that keep their pets happy.

“Pets reduce stress, they’re our companions. “Pets are extremely important to our emotional well-being,” says Bob. “I enjoy making pieces that allow them to truly be a part of the home and the family.”

Bungalow Bob’s Pet Designs
800 432-6029
BungalowPet.com



ONE, TWO AND THREE BOWL DINING STATIONS COMPLETE WITH MOTAWI TILE.