



# TATTLE TAILS

MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER / (574) 259-5291 / SUMMER 2013

## MY PASSION ~EMILY PHILLIPS

Everyone has a passion. Mine is music and animals. I probably knew since I was eight that I wanted to be a veterinarian. Whenever I see an animal I always get distracted...in fact one time I walked into a large cement pole because I was watching a squirrel. Also, when I played with my stuffed animals, I used to pretend I was giving them check ups. They would always be fine except for the times I wanted them to be sick so I could care for them.

Up to today, I still enjoy going to the vet with my mom to get our dog or cat a check up. It's one of my comfort places and whenever I go I learn something new and it always excites me. Last summer, I job shadowed a few Vet Technicians at Magrane Pet Medical Center. There were three euthanasias, which I had a tough time with. I asked Neika how she could do this and she told me she thought of it as giving them a gift. It made me feel better (but not much). As I think back on it, it still makes me cry but I feel like I can deal with it better. I also got to watch a couple of dogs get their teeth cleaned. I really enjoyed watching it because it was neat how the Vet put the tubes down the dog's throat so they could still breathe. I also saw a cat get shaved and that was pretty cool.

A few years ago I went to a science camp held at Christ The King. A few of the things we did were dissection of a baby pig, a sheep's brain, a heart and an eye. My favorite was the eye because there was so much to look at (no pun intended). The activities we did were fun, and I also learned a lot from them. I didn't realize that it all helped me until later. Some of the things I learned at that camp came up in the past two years during science at my school, so I felt like I had a head start, and my grades were very good. Last summer I went to Purdue Junior Boiler Vet Camp. I really wanted to go to this and I knew only fifty kids got accepted so I was determined to get in.

At Purdue, we were all split into groups for the whole week. Each group had information about an animal along with its daily routine and health records. We had to talk about what we thought was wrong with it, and then when that was figured out, we'd talk about treatment options. We also learned about the problem so that we got a full understanding of the anomaly. Finally after we had all our information, we built our presentation to present at the end of the week at graduation. The week was very busy, but totally worth it. I

have to say it was one of my favorite weeks ever. I had the best time and hope to attend their Senior Vet Camp when I'm in high school.

I am the primary care giver for our cat and dog at home. I give my cat Candy a Prednisone tablet every day, and my dog Colby a weekly injection to help his joints and arthritis. I always watch them to know if they are feeling ok. One thing I do know about animals, which is interesting to me, is that they respond well to music. When I play music on a CD they don't really care, but when I play my guitar, my dog Colby is my number one fan. I love that I can use my passion for music with my passion for the care of animals.



### New E-Newsletter!

We are proud to announce our new E-Newsletter. We need your email address. Please take time to provide us with your email address the next time you are in the office or call and have us add your e-mail to our list. The online version of Tattle Tails will be available at [www.magranepmc.com](http://www.magranepmc.com) for you to view and print. We will send you an email notification as soon as the next E-Newsletter becomes available.

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by the sheet or

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## SHELTERS NEED YOUR HELP

When I first started working with animals in 2002, one of the few places that was hiring was a nearby open-admission municipal animal shelter. When I applied, I had many misconceptions and worries about shelters in general. I thought I knew that there were “good” shelters that were “no kill,” and “bad” shelters that were “kill.” The truth is much more difficult to pin down, and I could write a book about the topic. While there are shelters that have difficulties, it’s important to remember that every shelter does the best they can with the resources they are able to cull from donations and budgets. The bottom line for every shelter that receives public funding is that they were put in place by a particular community to take care of an issue that particular community created. Shelters are not responsible for the number of animals they receive, and while many a shelter administrator across the country fights tooth and nail for every dollar they are allotted in their budget, it is never, ever enough. The extremely unfortunate side of these budgetary battles is that the less funding a shelter receives means there is less money to spend on the animals in every way—staffing, food, kennel space, toys, bedding, medical care—and the more that shelter will depend on donations for their needs. And, like a horrible snowball, the shelters with less funding have higher euthanasia rates. Higher euthanasia rates mean significantly less donations of any kind, monetary or supply-wise. They also mean fewer volunteers and, in every way, less support from the very communities they were put in place to serve—including fewer potential adopters.



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# F.Y.I.

## Veterinarian Schedules

Starting May 2013

**Monday AM**      **Thursday PM**  
Dr. Niemann      Dr. Niemann  
Dr. Doversberger      Dr. Meltzer

**Monday PM**      **Friday AM**  
Dr. Neuhoff      Dr. Niemann  
Dr. Niemann      Dr. Neuhoff

**Tuesday AM**      **Friday PM**  
Dr. Doversberger      Dr. Meltzer  
Dr. Neuhoff      Dr. Niemann

**Tuesday PM**  
Dr. Niemann

### Surgery Schedule

Monday-  
Dr. Meltzer  
Dr. Doversberger  
(ultrasounds and  
echocardiograms)

**Wednesday AM**  
Dr. Logue  
Dr. Neuhoff  
Dr. Meltzer

Tuesday-  
Dr. Neuhoff

**Wednesday PM**  
Dr. Neuhoff  
Dr. Logue  
Dr. Meltzer

Wednesday-  
Dr. Logue

Thursday-  
Dr. Niemann

**Thursday AM**  
Dr. Doversberger  
Dr. Meltzer

Friday-  
Dr. Neuhoff

**Saturday Hours:**  
7:30 am - 12:30 pm

### Friendly, Fast, and Affordable!

We are matching PET MEDS' online pharmacy prices for 12-month supplies of Heartgard. No more waiting for your pet's preventative to arrive in the mail! Call us at (574) 259-5291 for fast, friendly service!

### Mission Statement

The Magrane Pet Medical Center Health Care Family seeks fulfillment by providing the best medical and surgical care available. We are dedicated to relieving pain and suffering in a compassionate way. The care and education we provide will maintain the highest quality of life for pets, their owners and our community.



Vet Tech Coach - Neika Smessaert, RVT  
www.vettechcoach.positively.com  
email: vettechcoach@positively.com  
(574) 220-6487  
fax: (574) 968-1885

### "My dog goes CRAZY when I get the leash out!!"

Jumping! Barking! Biting the leash! Running around! Whining!  
Pulling towards the door! Knocking things over! Out of control!

If your dog does any of these things listed above or something new that I haven't yet seen, this handout is for you!!

First let's talk about the "Why?"

Mostly because it gets a huge payoff for acting that way....the end product is getting to leave the house! You could be leaving by car or just going for a walk, either way it is an opportunity for your dog to experience new things, and likely have some FUN! So think about it....you start to get the leash and your dog goes crazy but you still take it to wherever it is you are going, so you put the leash on and try to tell your dog to settle down. Vow that you will get this under control before the next time you have to take your dog out on the leash.

Now let's talk about "How do I fix it?"

A few things need to happen in order to get this under control. First, we need to stop rewarding the exact behavior that we find so frustrating. Second we need to teach your dog a new behavior. Below is a list, consider it your to-do list for the next couple of weeks.

1. Get your leash to an area of the home where it can be accessed easily multiple times a day
2. Touch or pick up the leash multiple times daily and set it right back down and walk away. No matter what crazy thing your dog does, ignore it! You should start with just touching or moving the leash if your dog gets especially jumpy with you. I do not want you to simply ignore jumping and allow it to jump all over you. Just touch the leash, move it and simply walk away like nothing happened. Only progress to step 3 when there is no longer a reaction for this step.
3. Once there is no reaction to the above, start to carry the leash small amounts of time. You might try moving it from one counter to the next, or one end table to the next and gradually get to the point of carrying it from room to room. Don't progress to the next step until there is no reaction.
4. This final stage is about attaching the leash to your dog. I would encourage you to expect a sit from your dog before bending down to attach the leash. Anything less than a sit, you put the leash on the counter and walk away. Continue this process until you are able to attach the leash with your dog remaining in a sitting position.
5. You can take this one step further by requiring your dog to walk calmly to the door and sit before opening it. It's a step I would encourage as it makes the entire process much more fun for all!

It's important to keep up the skills that your dog has just learned. Do not allow the crazy behavior and don't reward it, ever!

Walk your dog daily, it is important for its well being and your well being.

If you need help with loose leash walking skills please talk to me, we can make that process much more enjoyable as well.

A well behaved dog on a walk (and prior to a walk) is much more likely to be walked frequently, lengthening its life and yours. :)

## Thank You

We'd like to thank the following clients for their referrals:

Jan Gammon	Nick Sexton
Jackie Gnot	Sandy & Ed Sherrick
Betty Golichowski	Neika Smessaert
Michelle Kajzer	Susan Youens

If you made a referral and your name does not appear on this list, please accept our thank you for the referral and our apology for omitting your name.



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True enough, there are always differences of opinion in the way shelters should be run, the way finances should be handled, how to present an image of the shelter to the public, and the policies within the shelter that dictate which animals will go up for adoption and which will not. I've had friends and colleagues from shelters be booed at, spat on, yelled at and more because of the policies of the shelters they worked at, but not a single one of those friends and colleagues ever wanted to do anything more than help animals and serve their communities. I was lucky: my former employer in California had an incredibly supportive city behind it with a budget that was the envy of everyone I talked to. We even had a program in which we went to high volume shelters outside of our jurisdiction and brought back dogs and cats that would certainly be euthanized and instead placed them for adoption at our facility. We had a lot of great press, but to me, the most heartwarming and wonderful thing about shelter work was my friends at the high volume shelters. They were working hours past their scheduled shift for no pay to see that every animal had what it needed for the night, or they would clock out and use their own car and gas to drive a few dogs hours south to give them a chance at life at another shelter. It was the calls I got at 11 o'clock at night, "Please. He's got a broken leg, but he's so sweet. Can you help me find placement? He's got until tomorrow."

And now I put it back to you all: Please. Shelters and rescues of all kinds need and value your support. After all, they were created to provide much needed services to the community you live in. Help them, and be respectful of the work they do and the toll it takes.

**~KELLY D'AMICO**

## A Referral Program

Please take advantage of our Client Referral program that works in conjunction with our Feather and Fur Fund. We've developed a "Gift Card" that you can pick up at our office. However, this is a Gift Card that you do not have to pay for! Just pick up several of these cards the next time you are in our clinic. When you refer a friend and give them the card, they will receive a complimentary complete physical exam and Magrane will donate \$20.00 to the Feather and Fur Fund in your name. We appreciate the confidence you've placed in us to care for your pet, and we appreciate each and every referral you send our way.



## Friend Us on Facebook

Magrane Pet Medical Center prides itself in staying current with the most up-to-date medicine available for your pet. When it comes to social networking, we want to do the same. However, we can't do this without your help. Please search for and friend Magrane Pet Medical Center on Facebook today and begin networking with our clients and staff. It is a fun way to share stories, pictures, and information with people who have something in common—a unique bond with their pets!

