



TATTLE TAILS

MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER / (574) 259-5291 / FALL 2015

Where, Oh Where Did Dr. Ron Go?



Many Magrane Pet Medical Center clients have asked what Dr. Ronald Doversberger is up to since his semi-retirement. Perhaps you know that he has been doing ultrasounds at Magrane on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but he no longer sees patients needing regular care. We caught up with him and asked a few questions, with this result:

When did you decide to become a veterinarian?

I was in the third grade and it was a surprisingly clear calling.

Why?.

I think my interest came from both of my grandmothers. My grandparents lived on farms in Tipton and Carthage, Indiana and I spent the summers of my youth enjoying everything about farming. It wasn't unusual for each of my grandmothers to care for a sick or injured lamb or some other critter.

One day a young, stray dog was hit by a car and severely injured on the gravel road in front of the farm. He was unconscious and covered with blood and dirt and had a ghastly, gaping wound across the top of his head. I thought he was dead. Grandma calmly wrapped him in a towel and carried him to the house saying "well, we'll just see how he does." The dirt and gravel and blood were cleaned up before he was fully conscious, He slept on an old blanket in the kitchen next to the stove even though dogs were normally never allowed in the house. That night he enjoyed some of the best farm cooking any dog could ever hope for. Over several weeks I watched the miraculous healing of his nasty head wound. He turned out to be a first rate farm dog with a large scar on his forehead and the classic name of "Lucky."

Now that I think about it, Lucky wasn't the only one to have a life changing experience that day. There were two "Luckys" there that summer.

What positive result have you enjoyed from your career choice?

I think one of the reasons why caregiving for animals is intrinsically gratifying is because you are expressing a reverence for life, a gift that I wish all people could experience. It's a shared bond among my co-workers, pet owners, and anyone who cares about animals.

I have enjoyed my relationships with pets and their owners. Some pets are quick to trust people, sometimes it comes slowly and that can provide a special reward. I remember Chancellor, a golden retriever that for years growled every time I walked



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into the exam room. One day he needed surgery to remove a large growth from his side. That evening I spoon fed Chancellor some canned food. When he came in to have his sutures removed he was actually happy to see me and never growled again.

Being a veterinarian is meaningful work. You are privileged to use your technical skill and medical knowledge in a setting filled with the full range of emotions that life brings. There is never a dull day and most days provide abundant smiles and laughter.

You decided in the past few years to specialize in ultrasounds. Do you have a favorite case with a positive outcome from this?

Ultrasound imaging is a safe, noninvasive, pain free, and extremely valuable diagnostic tool. I enjoy helping the primary veterinarian care for their patient. It's gratifying to calm a nervous pet before and during imaging and gain the pet's trust. Most people are surprised that we almost never have to sedate a patient for ultrasound. Cats will almost always allow us to image the eye using only numbing eye drops.

I remember an elderly dog named Chief that was referred for an abdominal ultrasound because an x-ray showed a possible abdominal mass. Ultrasound revealed a mass in his spleen, but in addition, without anyone suspecting it, we could see that there was another growth inside his bladder. Dr. Neuhoff performed two surgeries in one by first removing the spleen, and then opening the bladder and removing that growth, too. The splenic mass and the bladder growth were separate, unrelated cancers, but they were caught early. Chief did very well post operatively and was fortunate to have had ultrasound available when he needed it most.

How are you using your "extra" time away from work?

I can sum it up in three words: Grandsons, Gracie, and Grandma!

We are blessed to have our younger son's family nearby with our two grandsons, ages 1 and 5. I get to watch our older grandson one afternoon a week. Along with his enjoyment of building things, he has had a long term fascination with the Titanic. Last winter and spring we built a homemade ROV, a "remotely operated vehicle," with an underwater camera to explore Diamond Lake. There is a hundred year old steamboat shipwreck, the "South Bend," that we hope to discover before this season is over.

Gracie is our 2 year old golden retriever that we adopted last year. We are her third and forever home as she was too overwhelmingly active for her first two owners. My job has been to physically exhaust her on a daily basis. Fortunately, we both love to play ball. My throwing and her retrieving is a match made in heaven, and we found out that she loves to swim and dive. We built a floating ramp so she can get off and on the boat and retrieve her beloved tennis ball. Linda and I adore Gracie, she goes everywhere with us, and with our schedule she has minimal time alone. She is maturing now and that helps, too.

"Amma Linda" and I spent our 35th anniversary last February in Death Valley - how romantic is that?

I told Linda that I would take her to a hot spot for our anniversary! We are contemplating a big trip to Paris this fall because our oldest son will be there for three months for his work. I have to admit that being pretzeled in an airplane for 8 hours is not appealing. I will end up like the tin man in the Wizard of Oz, but, since Linda is excited and this is a unique opportunity, we will probably grab the Advil and go.

Thanks to everyone who has inquired or thought about me. The one big negative about doing ultrasounds is that I don't get to see all of you that I have so enjoyed seeing over the years, and for whom I have heartfelt affection and gratitude. I hope you and yours are happy and well. Please drop me a note or say Hi if you're at the hospital on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, it would be great to hear from you!

New Magrane Staff



Bailey

Bailey, one of Magrane's new Pet Care Specialists, graduated in May 2014 from Purdue University with a degree in Animal Sciences: Behavior and Well-Being.

After a year working at the Columbian Park Zoo in Lafayette, she returned to Mishawaka with her husband and their dog, Calvin. Calvin is a funny-looking little dog who loves to run around and to learn new tricks.

Bailey enjoys spending time outside, taking pictures, scrap-booking, reading, and working on household projects. She is excited to take an active role at Magrane, caring for pets of all shapes and sizes.

Corinne, one of Magrane's two new Pet Care Specialists, joined our team in July. She enjoys meeting clients and working with them and their pets. Corinne has three dogs at home: a Rottweiler named Nova, a Husky mix named Zues, and a Golden Retriever named Princess. Corinne is a reptile enthusiast, and has an albino Ball Python named Albie. When Corinne isn't working, she is usually in her home garage, working on her Harley with her boyfriend.



Corinne

F.Y.I.

Veterinarian Schedules

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Monday AM
Dr. Niemann

Monday PM
Dr. Niemann
Dr. Neuhoff
Dr. Spake

Tuesday AM
Dr. Niemann
Dr. Neuhoff

Tuesday PM
Dr. Niemann
Dr. Spake

Wednesday AM
Dr. Spake

Wednesday PM
Dr. Neuhoff
Dr. Logue

Thursday AM
Dr. Spake

Thursday PM
Dr. Niemann
Dr. Spake

Friday AM
Dr. Niemann
Dr. Neuhoff
Dr. Spake

Friday PM
Dr. Niemann
Dr. Spake

Veterinarians work on alternating Saturdays; they also fill in for each other on an irregular schedule. Always call for an appointment!

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We are matching PET MEDS' online pharmacy prices (after we send in your rebate) 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.

Helpful Holiday Tips

- Holly, Mistletoe, poinsettias, and lilies are toxic.
- Leftovers can cause upset stomachs when given to pets.
- Chocolate, onions, grapes/raisins, and coffee are toxic.
- Sugar free chewing gum is toxic to pets.
- If your guests want to give your pet something, have treats readily available instead of people food.
- Wires from lights and electrical cords can shock or burn a pet.
- Unattended candles can burn pets or be easily knocked over by them.
- Ribbons, bows, strings, and tinsel can cause intestinal blockage.
- Needles from the Christmas tree can puncture a pet's intestines if eaten.
- Water in snow globes and liquid potpourri are poisonous.
- Make sure pets have a quiet place that they can go to hide during the festivities.
- Have clean fresh water available to the pet at all times.
- Don't force your pet to socialize with people, especially if your pet is anxious or nervous.
- Try exercising your pet before the event so that it is calmer and less anxious.
- Be careful of open doors.
- Make sure your pets have collars, tags, and microchips.
- If the temperatures are below freezing please don't leave your pets outside unattended.
- Watch out for cats that can crawl into car engines for warmth.
- Antifreeze can cause irreversible and fatal kidney failure, even in small quantities.
- The salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Wipe all paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates their mouth.

Prescription Refill Reminder

Please allow our office at least **24 hours** from the time you request a prescription refill to the time you will pick it up. Thank you!

MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER
3945 Edison Lakes Parkway
Mishawaka, IN 46545-3006
(574) 259-5291
www.magranepmc.com



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Xylitol in Peanut Butter Alert!!

It has recently come to our attention at Magrane that some peanut butter manufacturers have begun adding Xylitol to their products as a sugar substitute. Xylitol can be poisonous to dogs. It is also found in other sugar-free products such as gum, mints, sugar free candies used by diabetics, mouthwash and toothpaste.

The veterinarians at Magrane want to inform our clients about this because many of you use peanut butter as a treat or to hide medications for your dogs. There is a link on the Magrane website to additional information.



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!





THE FELINE

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A MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER INSERT FOR CAT LOVERS, FALL 2015

DENTAL XRAYS TO THE RESCUE!



from Bonnie Schermer

When Dr. Neuhoff told me that my six-year old cat, Smudge, needed a dental exam and cleaning under anesthesia, I assumed that he just had tartar buildup. I knew that a mild tooth cleaning with full mouth xrays would help detect and prevent issues such as gum infection and abscesses. It turned out that FULL MOUTH XRAYS saved Smudge a lot of daily pain from a tooth that looked perfectly normal to the naked eye.

I had never heard of FORLS (feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions) before. It turns out that FORLS is the most common of feline dental diseases, affecting from 30 to 40 percent of adult cats. And because

cats are so good at concealing pain, owners often do not realize that there is a problem.

Tooth resorption is the gradual, painful destruction of a tooth or teeth caused by cells called odontoclasts. Tooth resorption usually starts on the outside of a tooth at the gum line. The condition is most common in premolars in the lower jaw, but can occur in any tooth.

The resorption can be obvious, detectable under normal examination of the mouth. Less visible resorptions, can be found using magnification devices and lighting once the cat is anesthetized and immobile.

But tooth resorption under the gum line, like Smudge's, must be diagnosed via dental x-rays.

Unfortunately, once the disease is diagnosed in one of your cat's teeth, it is very likely to occur in additional teeth.

And FORLS is only one of the painful oral issues that can be discovered with Full Mouth Xrays of your cat's mouth. Abscesses beneath the teeth, under the gum line can cause sepsis throughout the cat's organs, especially in the kidneys. Infection in the mouth can travel to the cat's eyes and/or brain, with serious, sometimes fatal, results.

Geriatric, immune-deficient, renal insufficient, and diabetic cats can be especially at risk from complications of oral infections.

In one study, full mouth x-rays revealed clinically important dental issues in 46.5% of cats having dental cleanings. The doctors at Magrane Pet Medical Center, following recommendations of the American Association of Feline Practitioners, believe that it makes no sense to place a cat under anesthesia to clean its teeth, and miss an important problem that could be found with full mouth xrays. Smudge agrees!

MESSAGE FROM OPIE



by Vikky Warner

Dear Opie:

How do I keep my cat safe during the upcoming holidays?

Answer:

Of course your cat wants to be a part of your family holiday celebrations! Cats are naturally inquisitive, so all those holiday decorations that you put out are cause for investigation by your cat.

A few points to remember:

- When putting up your Christmas tree, be sure it's securely anchored so that it doesn't tip over and cause injury to your cat.
- The tree water, if it contains fertilizer, could cause your cat to become ill, so be aware if your cat seems to be getting under the tree and into the water!
- Speaking of getting under the tree, holiday presents with ribbon could pose a problem as well. The ribbons are very tempting to play with, but if ingested, they could cause obstruction issues.
- Tinsel is another decorating item that your cat views as an opportunity to play! It's light and moves and it sparkles! But if your cat would ingest it, it can lead to an obstruction in their digestive tract, which may lead to emergency surgery! Better to find an alternative tree decoration.
- Holiday plants should be kept out of reach. Mistletoe, holly and lilies can be toxic, and poinsettias can be very irritating to your cat if he takes a bite.
- If you are lighting candles, do not leave them and your cat unattended.
- If you are having a large holiday party, it's better to put your cat away in a quiet room so that he does not get scared and try to get out the door with all the guests coming and going.

Dear Opie wishes you all a safe and happy holiday time!

Thank You

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

Karen Antonio
Stephanie Carlson
Kim & Doug Fecher
Steve Felman
Hannah Freeman
Dawn Grabowski
Ella Hess
Lisa Kaniewski
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Kathleen Neuhoff
TJ Nieman
Whitney Podell
Christopher Quiroz
Ann Riley
Julie Rupchock

Gordon & Bonnie Schermer
Elizabeth & Scott Slavinkas
Neika Smessaert
Mike Trujillo
Kristen Van Dyke
Mary & Rick Vanes
Jena Wiczorek
Anne Wietstock

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.