



TATTLE TAILS

MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER / (574) 259-5291 / SUMMER 2016

SOPHIE AND HER HEARTWORMS

By T. J. Niemann, D.V.M.

Sophie is a sweet 7 year old Golden Retriever who was recently adopted by a conscientious pet lover. Prior to being adopted, Sophie lived on a farm and had received minimal health care. She was not spayed, nor current on vaccinations. As part of the annual health care done at Magrane, we performed a blood test for heartworm disease. Unfortunately, Sophie's lack of routine health care caught up with her; she tested positive and was diagnosed with heartworms.



Over the years heartworm treatment has changed and improved, but is still quite involved, and complications are common. The worms must be killed without damaging the pet's heart or lungs.

Sophie was otherwise healthy and fortunately showed no signs of heart failure related to the worms in her heart. The treatment to kill the adult heartworms consisted of giving Sophie a single injection followed one

Heartworms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) are transmitted by mosquitoes, and their lifecycle is quite complicated. It takes 5-7 months for the larvae injected by the mosquito to travel through a pet's body and eventually live as adult thread-like worms in the right side of the heart. Heartworms are a specific parasite that only affects cats, dogs, ferrets and other mammals. (Editor's Note: In rare cases, heartworms infect people, but they do not complete their life cycle. They may migrate to the lung and cause a round lesion that looks like a tumor. The worms then die.)

month later by a series of two injections given 24 hours apart. Throughout the entire treatment, Sophie had to be restricted from exercise, which for some dogs can be difficult.

Sophie's treatment began in February and won't be considered complete until November after a negative heartworm blood test. Sophie's case is a reminder to make sure your pet is receiving its monthly heartworm preventative medication because it is a lot easier and cheaper to prevent heartworm disease than to treat it. Sophie would agree!

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It's easy to manage your pet's health! Just go to our website, www.magranepmc.com and click on the Pet Portal log in at the bottom of the screen. Then click on the "Request an Account."

WRIGLEY'S "MIRACULOUS" RECOVERY



This happy Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is Wrigley, in April, one week after nearly losing his life to spontaneous pneumothorax (collapsed lungs).

His owner says, "We awoke to find Wrigley laboring to breathe and a look of 'help me' on his face. Wrigley is only 7 and we were in no way prepared to lose him so abruptly!"

Wrigley was taken to the Animal Emergency Clinic, and referred by them to Magrane for continued care when we opened in the morning. When it became clear that Wrigley would not get better with time, and with surgery not being an option, Dr. Spake performed a relatively new procedure in an attempt to save his life. After another night at the AEC and a week that included two rounds of treatment and cautious care, Wrigley had recovered enough to go home.

His owner adds, "We know every day is a gift, and no day is promised, but last night after watching Wrigley play like nothing ever happened, we appreciated Dr. Spake and the gift of life she provided for an animal and a family that was not ready to part!"

Wrigley is enjoying trips to the beach this summer, and his owners are delighted.

We Accept CareCredit

CareCredit is a credit card for medical expenses. It allows you to make convenient monthly payments on out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for you, your family, and also your pets.

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You can use your CareCredit account to pay for the things that keep your pet healthy and happy—the cost of annual check-ups, vaccinations, dental care or other treatments. While the card can be also be used for unexpected expenses in the case of emergency, many pet owners use their CareCredit healthcare credit card to budget for their best friend's care all year long. It can also be used for doctor recommended pet food purchased from your veterinarian's office.

There is a link on our website, www.magranepmc.com for a link to apply online. Applying is fast and easy, with almost no wait time to find out if you've been approved. You can also apply over the phone by calling (800) 677-0718 to speak with one of the live customer care representatives Monday - Friday, 9 am - 8 pm EST.

We have a new "On Line" Store!



Shop from the comfort of home for your pet's medication refills and prescription food. You can now purchase many of these on line. If you choose the "Auto Ship" option, there is no charge for shipping! Check out our store to see if your pet's medication and/or prescription food is in the catalog. It's easy to log on: Go to our website at www.magranepmc.com and click the icon (pictured at left) on our home page to begin shopping. If you don't find what you're looking for, check back often, as new items are always being added. Save \$5.00 on your first order by using this coupon code: welcome62 at checkout.

We Now Offer Texting

We have a new texting app that allows us to text updates while your pet is here for procedures. You can also text us using this number: 574-253-0063. When dropping off your pet, always let us know your preference on how to be contacted.



THE FELINER

3945 Edison Lakes Parkway • Mishawaka, IN 46545-3006 • (574) 259-5291 • www.magranepmc.com

A MAGRANE PET MEDICAL CENTER INSERT FOR CAT LOVERS, SUMMER 2016

BEFORE YOU BRING A NEW CAT HOME ...

Selecting a new cat or kitten for your home can be overwhelming emotionally for pet owners. The process is both exciting and satisfying because you are both doing a good deed AND changing the dynamic of your pet family. But paying attention to the health conditions of pets you already own, as well as the new cat or kitten can save anguish and expense for everyone involved.



Have your current pets been examined by a veterinarian within the past year? Have their stool samples been checked, as well? This can prevent the spread of illness and of parasites between pets. If you have a senior cat or a cat with an illness or disability, it may not be fair to bring a young, active cat into the mix.

The fact that your new cat comes with papers documenting veterinary care and vaccinations does not guarantee a clean bill of health. - If at all possible, take the new cat or kitten to your own veterinarian for an exam BEFORE bringing it to your home. If this is not possible, place the new pet in quarantine in a separate room (with litter box, food and water, and a cozy pet bed or pillow), possibly on a separate floor of your home until you can take it to the veterinarian. Cats are prone to many contagious viruses affecting the upper respiratory system. The effects of these viruses are not always obvious, but they can be difficult and expensive to remedy.

Cats are quite territorial. Although some do no more than hiss at newcomers, others attack each other swiftly. To prevent injury, don't just put a new cat or kitten down next to your other pets. Allow new and old pets to exchange scents, either from the safety of a cat carrier or through a baby gate placed in a doorway. Be sure to monitor the first interactions, not

leaving the pets alone together for several days (or longer, depending on your cats!) following the first introduction. Cats who crouch, growl, and run toward other pets are up to no good!

Make sure that your new cat or kitten knows the location of the litter box before allowing it free access to your living space. Keeping the box clean will encourage it to use the litter box instead of other areas in your home. Cat experts recommend providing one litter box for each cat in the home; some even recommend an extra litter box to keep everyone happy in multi-cat homes!

Make sure that all pets in your home are spayed or neutered as soon as possible. Unneutered cats are prone to spraying, marking territory with urine that will leave your home strongly scented!

Acquiring a new feline pet can be easy or difficult, depending on the interactions between owners and pets. With a little forethought and care, it can be very rewarding for you.

MESSAGE FROM OPIE



by Vikky Warner

Dear Opie,

My cat never goes outside. Does he need a rabies vaccination?

In a nutshell, the answer is YES!

It's the time of year for bats to be getting into homes, and cats (hunters by nature) hunt bats! According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, bats are on the list of wild animals in the United States most likely to get rabies. Other wildlife on that list includes skunks, raccoons, coyotes and foxes. In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies. This is because many cat owners are not getting their cats vaccinated. Your cat could contract rabies from another cat!

The state of Indiana requires all cats and dogs to be vaccinated for Rabies. If your cat should bite someone, and is not vaccinated, you could be fined and your cat quarantined at a facility at YOUR expense. If your cat is not vaccinated for rabies and comes into contact with a rabid animal, the regulations have been changed. Your cat would either have to be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing, or be quarantined for a minimum of 4 months to a maximum of 6 months, and this would be at your expense. Even if your cat bites you, and you have to visit a doctor for treatment, your doctor may have to report the bite to authorities, and the above procedures will apply.

If your cat is current on its rabies vaccination and comes into contact with a bat, it is still recommended that you contact us as well as reporting exposure to the Humane Society. Your cat's doctor may ask you to bring your cat in for revaccination and you may still be asked to keep your cat under an observation period as specified by local ordinance.

When your cat becomes overdue on rabies vaccination, we will be contacting you. Our reminders consist of the Healthy Pet Magazine or postcard as a first reminder, a phone call as a second reminder, a postcard as a third reminder and if we still have not seen your cat, we will send a final postcard at 90 days overdue. These reminders are important, and we hope you respond to them, for the sake of your cat!

Thank You



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

Judy & Michael Anderson

Lisa Bartkowiak

Janice & Robert Bright

Pat & George Brown

Susan Cress

Kelley D'Amico

Rob Declene

Jackie Fraser

Sarah Kinder

Robert Lysobey

Chelsea Miller

Patrick & Ellie Mullins

Anne-Marie Overstreet

Julie Schneider

Neika Smessaert

Brigid Stapleton

Alexis Tate

Kristen Van Dyke

Barb & Dick Vollmer



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.

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!

Friendly, Fast, and Affordable!

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.

Recognizing Pain in Your Pet

No one likes to think about pets being in pain. But pets cannot tell us how they are feeling—we must observe them every day to keep track of their health. Below is a list of signs most often exhibited by painful pets.

- Loss of appetite: Pet may appear to be hungry but then loses interest in the food
- Urinating or defecating in the wrong locations; vocalizing while urinating or defecating
- Other unusual vocalizations such as growling, whining, whimpering
- Aggression or impatient interactions with other pets or family members
- Altered facial expression, such as a fixed stare or a glazed appearance
- Increased body tension or flinching in response to gentle, normal, petting
- Unusual activities such as licking, chewing, rubbing
- Decreased activity level; unwillingness or slowness when rising from lying down; just standing when taken outside or lying in a corner all day
- Decreased grooming
- Failure to greet people coming to the door
- Unusual actions or posture: Restlessness or trembling, restricted movement, thrashing, weak tail wag or low carriage of tail, lowered head, stiffness, lameness
- Physiologic indicators: Increased heart rate and/or breathing, elevated body temperature, dilated pupils
- Normally social cats may avoid people, while normally aloof cats may seek out attention from owners, hoping for help.

If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms please call us to schedule an appointment!

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!

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3945 Edison Lakes Parkway
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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!