



# Cashmere Veterinary Clinic is homeward bound

by Nevonne McDaniels | May 18, 2018, 6:02 p.m.

Business

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Cashmere Veterinary Clinic owner Dr. Megan Kelley, Lead Tech Lynett Robertson and Practice Manager Matthew Kelzenberg organize equipment and supplies in preparation for the clinic's debut June 2.



CASHMERE — Veterinarian Megan Kelley is reopening the hometown Cashmere Veterinary Clinic next month, picking up where Mick and Sheryl McDevitt left off when they retired in 2015.

The clinic has been dormant since then.

The McDevitts founded the practice in 1977 at 401 Aplets Way before moving in 2006 to the former Braun's Funeral Home building at 227 Cottage Ave. As retirement neared, they had hoped to find another veterinarian to carry on, but nothing materialized, so they closed the doors while the hunt continued.

Kelley heard about the opportunity and was tempted.



"I thought that would be so awesome, but the timing wasn't right," she said. Her second son was about to be born.

"Now, three years later, I'm in a better place for taking on the adventure of owning a business," she said. "It was fortunate for me that they were still wanting to sell after all this time."

Kelley spent her early years in Cashmere — her family moved to Wenatchee when she was in third grade — and remembers when the clinic was on Division Street (now Aplets Way).

"This area has been home to me for my entire life," she said. "The opportunity to come back was too good to pass up."

She graduated from the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005 and has been practicing since then, cutting back on hours when the kids were born, but picking up again as family schedules permitted. During college, she got interested in integrating holistic veterinary medicine — techniques like acupuncture and spinal manipulation — with conventional medicine. She added a certification in veterinary acupuncture in 2011 and became a fellow in the College of Animal Chiropractors last year.

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#### MORE INFO

##### **Cashmere Veterinary Clinic**

227 Cottage Ave., Cashmere

**Owner:** Dr. Megan Kelley

509-782-3572

**Cashmervetclinic.com**

**Grand opening:** Noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 2

**Opening date:** Monday, June 4

When she wasn't on call with the Animal Hospital of Wenatchee or working as an emergency veterinarian for BluePearl Veterinary Partners in Tacoma, for the past several years she has been building a mobile practice providing acupuncture and spinal manipulation to large animals — mostly horses.

Her vision for Cashmere Veterinary Clinic is to continue that work while providing integrated service to small animals at the clinic. She expects eventually to hire additional veterinarians for the small animal side, which would allow her to focus on building the mobile large animal holistic practice.

"I want to provide safe, high quality and effective pet care that incorporates conventional medicine with acupuncture, chiropractic and laser therapy," she said. "Our motto is natural pet care in everything we do."

She approached the McDevitts last year to see if the clinic was still for sale.

It was. She wrote her business plan and searched for a lender. She needed to pay for the building and state-of-the-art equipment, including digital X-rays, ultrasound machine, laboratory diagnostic equipment and the Class 4 therapeutic laser, plus the usual things like phone and security systems. The process was daunting.

"Because the business had been closed for three years, the banks considered it a startup," she said, even though it was the same building, using the same name and phone number. "They said startups are too risky. I had no idea that would be an issue."

She didn't give up.

"I believed in the vision of the integrated service and that Cashmere should have a vet clinic," she said. "I was disheartened, but I didn't stop."

Jim Fletcher at the Small Business Development Center, who had helped her write the business plan, suggested she apply for a Small Business Administration loan and approach local lenders.

By then, she had crystalized her business plan into a fine-tuned 50-page document.

Seven presentations later, she found success with Banner Bank.

"They embraced the business plan and the dream," she said. "They've been enthusiastic from the beginning."

She admits the SBA loan paperwork was extensive and seemed to be never ending, but it all came together on April 25. She said if all goes according to plan, she will have the loan paid off in less than 10 years.

"We've been able to put into action what we've been planning for over a year now," she said. "The McDevitts were wonderful and patient. They were in no hurry."

Since then, she has hired staff, including Lynett Robertson as the lead technician, and Matthew Kelzenberg as the practice manager. The equipment is on order. The outside has been painted and landscaping is underway. The inside paint, including a mural, is scheduled. The phones were turned on Wednesday.

The building has 2,446 square feet of space on the main floor for the reception, treatment area, surgery suite and storage. It also has a full basement.

"It's unfinished at this point, she said. "Plans for that are still open. We have many avenues where we can grow in the future."

The official opening day is set for June 4, but an open house is set for noon to 4 p.m. June 2.

The community has been welcoming, she said.

"People seem to be excited to have a vet coming back to town," she said.

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