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Anthony J. Viganò (Paterson) & Associates.
Veterinary Surgeons

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THE AUSTRALIAN KELPIE: Road Test



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Saturday: 8.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am to 1.00pm
Public Holidays: 8.00am to 1.00pm





THE AUSTRALIAN KELPIE: Road Test



Considered to be the best medium sized sheep dog in the world they are exported as working dogs to many other countries and are renowned for their stamina, agility and workaholic nature. An Australian icon and definitely a national treasure if we bestowed this honour on dogs as they do in many other countries.

HISTORY:

The breed is thought to have evolved in the 1870's in Australia as the sheep industry gathered momentum. Some people believe that they have dingo as part of their makeup but informed opinion is that they originated from the British and Scottish working Collies (as did the Border and Scotch Collies and the English Shepherd). They were developed to handle the harsh, hot landscape, extensive acreage and unruly Merino sheep on Australian sheep stations.

APPEARANCE:

A compact dog with well developed limbs, a broad chest and a long, narrow head they are double coated (a close outer and short dense inner coat) and colours include black, black and chestnut, red, red and chestnut, tan, dark chestnut and bluish grey.

In general their working ability is considered far more important than any colour combination or their general appearance (as with the Border Collie) and they grow to between 43-50cm, weigh 12-22kg and live for 10-14 years.

CHARACTERISTICS:

A gathering style dog using eye, bark and bite (grip) to move stock they often work unsupervised relying on their own wits to find and gather stock.

As such they are agile, alert, eager and highly intelligent.

They have a mild, tractable disposition and so are easily trained though will become bored and hence destructive and a nuisance if not worked. They need a cause!

Great natural herders they need to be socialized and obedience trained as pets as they will herd children and other pets nipping at their heels.

They are loyal to a fault to both master and their work.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

The Australian Kelpie is not a dog for everyone and certainly not one for apartment living. They are a working breed and whilst making ideal family pets with young vigorous children, they need early socialization and obedience training lest they become bored and destructive.

Daily exercise is essential ideally in an open area where they can run to their heart's content.

They are fine with other dogs and cats as long as they have been socialized with them.

The coat requires minimal grooming and a rub down with a rubber glove or chamois is all that is necessary every so often, as with bathing that should only be done as necessary.

They make good watch dogs and guard dogs and they are ideal for Perth's climate being prick eared, short coated and around 20kg in weight which are my personal guidelines for an ideal dog in Perth.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

They are a hardy breed by definition but hip dysplasia (an early onset hereditary arthritis of the hip joints) is reported as are some genetic bone disorders, and progressive retinal atrophy which is a heritable condition resulting in retinal deterioration and eventual blindness. Thus care must be taken in choosing a puppy with due research of the bloodlines.

In summary the Kelpie is an ideal dog for Perth's hot climate but city living may be a problem unless the dog has been properly socialized and trained. They are ideally suited to a rural existence where their boundless energy can be directed towards a job in hand. The quintessential sheepdog for Australian conditions.





Cat Corner: Why Does My Cat Do That

DOES YOUR CAT SHARPEN ITS CLAWS ON YOUR LOUNGE?

The cat is performing several functions. It may be marking its territory by rubbing the scent gland on the underside of its front paws against the furniture. This explains why your cat may do this when strangers visit your home and also why one chair seems to receive the most attention.

Many people purchase cat scratching posts believing that the cat scratches the furniture to sharpen its claws. Many people find a claw on the carpet and think that the cat has been injured but in fact the cat is really trying to shed the old worn out sheaths which cover the claw and the old sheath is left lying on the carpet while the cat sports a brand new claw.

WHY DOES AN ANGRY CAT WAG/QUIVER ITS TAIL?

Any cat which is uncertain as to what action to take will wag its tail. Some cats do this when greeting their owners. Although this may appear to be the same action as a 'spraying' cat on these occasions there is no spraying.

WHY DOES AN ANGRY CAT ARCH IT BACK?

A cat which is afraid will stand on tiptoe and arch its back and fluff up its tail to make itself appear larger. This gives it an excellent chance of intimidating the enemy, especially if it hisses and spits at the same time.

WHY DO SOME CATS SCRATCH AND BITE WHEN YOU RUB THEIR BELLY?

The belly area is the most vulnerable and it is instinctive for the cat to protect this area. Cats which greet owners frequently roll on their backs but still will not allow the belly to be stroked. It is only in the most trusting relationships between cat and owner that it will allow the belly to be touched.

WHY DO MY CAT'S EYES GLOW IN THE DARK?

It is not true that cats can see in absolute darkness but they can see more than humans can. They have a light reflecting layer at the back of the

eye which acts like a mirror and absorbs the light that enters the eye allowing the cat to see in semi-darkness far more efficiently than humans. It is the reflection of light off this 'mirror' which makes the eyes appear to glow when the cat is caught in headlamps.

WHY DOES MY CAT RUB AGAINST MY LEGS?

The cat has scent glands on the side of the head and the root of the tail. When it rubs around your legs it is exchanging scents with you. It will impart its own scent by rubbing the side of its head against you and will twine its tail around your leg as it twists and turns in and out of your legs.

WHY DOES YOUR CAT KNEAD YOU WITH ITS FRONT PAWS?

All cat owners will know that when they sit down to watch television their cat will sometimes jump up on their knees and start purring. When it settles down it will often start kneading the owner with its front paws. The cat will get a far away look in its eyes and may even start to dribble. Eventually its claws may come out of the sheath and the kneading becomes uncomfortable for the owner. Kittens feeding from their mother knead her with their front paws to stimulate the flow of milk and this behaviour is thought to be a pseudo infant-parent behaviour.

WHY DOES A CAT LICK ITS FUR?

When cats have been sleeping in the sun they groom themselves repeatedly. Cats are unable to manufacture vitamin D in the body but the action of sunlight on their coat produces it and they ingest it by licking it off the coat.

Cats use their tongue to regulate their body temperature. In the cold weather they will sleek their coat down to keep warm. Cats do not have sweat glands all over the skin like humans, nor do they usually pant like dogs. Licking the fur places saliva on the coat which evaporates and cools the cat in the hot weather. Grooming also cleans the coat.

Stress can cause cats to over-groom to the stage where they have bare patches of skin. These cats are doing the cat equivalent of human nail biting. These cats can be treated so mention it next time you are in the clinic.



New Weekend and Public Holiday Hours:

As of immediately the Weekend and Public Holiday opening times will be as follows:

SATURDAY:

Office Hours: 8am until 4pm
Consulting Hours: 8am until 4pm

SUNDAY:

Office Hours: 8am until 1pm
Consulting Hours: 8am until 1pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Office Hours: 8am until 1pm
Consulting Hours: 8am until 1pm





PUPi Management Classes: the mid school

Puppy Socialization Classes at Swanbourne have been a popular Sunday morning event for some years.

There is no doubt that socializing your new puppy with other puppies, large and small is a very important part of the development of your new puppy to the dog you want him/her to be. The grounding at puppy school is, just like pre school for children, the beginning of a life long learning experience for your dog and one with which you as the new owner should be integrally involved.

Once you learn and understand the way your dog thinks then these basics can be applied to almost any situation you encounter along the highway of life.

Recently we as veterinarians have been concerned at the number of cases of separation anxiety that we have been seeing clinically in young adult dogs.

Garth Jennens from Amrex Behaviour Services is convinced that this problem is due to the closeness that exists between pets and their owners these days and exacerbated by the way some people approach puppy classes.

In the past there have been many golden rules of dog management that in recent times have largely gone by the board, just as the bringing up of children tends to less dogmatic these days.

Some of these are:

1. You should never feed the dog from your own table...how many of us feed the dog almost as one of the family these days
2. The dog should never be allowed on the furniture, and never never on the bed...how many of us now allow the dog to sleep on the bed with us

And so on.

As veterinarians we have no real problems with this in that a lot of the old rules, as with children, were far too rigid, and my favourite quote when people apologise for being anthropomorphic with their animals is "there are far worse things you could be doing than loving your dog"!

The reality is however that there are times when you need to leave your dog alone...like when you go to work to feed it (and yourself), when you go out with non canine company and so on.

Puppy Socialisation is all about rewarding your dog for good behaviour and to condition it into doing things on command.

In this way the dog becomes closer and closer to you and the family....great...BUT...what happens when you want to leave it. This is when the dog misses you and the family terribly, becomes stressed, fretful and then destructive and willful.

The garden suffers, the washing on the line is fair game and in some cases furniture and household décor get trashed (not to mention the neighbours' annoyance at the incessant barking).

This is where we get involved in trying to sort this out.

Anyway, Garth Jennens has readdressed the way we approach puppy socialization and has also introduced a new mid school between the puppy classes which generally conclude at 12 weeks, and dog obedience classes that are best started at about 5 months.

So...we at Swanbourne are about to start the PUPi management class for graduates of puppy school and a prelude to Dog obedience with John Connell.

This will also act as a bridge between the two so that owners can see more clearly the pathway from the beginning to then end as it were. I have the distinct impression sometimes that owners drift out of puppy class thinking they (and the dog) know it all and they never make it to dog obedience.

How about taking a "whole-istic" view of these early months with your new friend:

STRATEGY:

1. puppy vaccinations at 6 weeks
2. puppy socialization from 8-12 weeks
3. PUPi management classes 12-16 weeks
4. Dog Obedience classes 16-22 weeks

Please note that PUPi management classes can be undertaken at any age as they are designed to help deal with separation anxiety but are best done immediately following puppy socialization classes.

Tony Vigano





The Puppy Plus Package:

The most important thing you can do for your new puppy is to properly socialise him/her particularly in view of the stringent new application of the Dog Act.

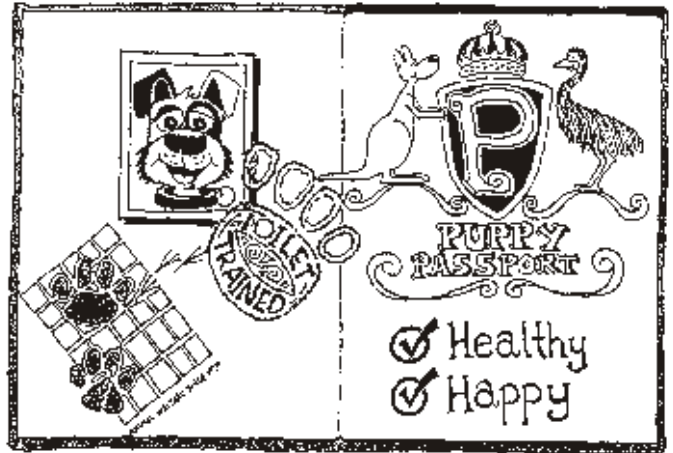
Legislation however is only a small part of the story and the benefits you will obtain from a well mannered dog in later life are far more important.

Instead of a stressful situation whenever your dog interacts with other people and animals on those wind down walks in the park at the end of the day, it will become the pleasurable experience it should be.

Your heart rate is said to go down when you pat a dog but is this always the case if your best friend is hell bent on tearing out the throat of everyone he/she sees on that walk?

The answer is simple. Puppy Class is the place to start when your new companion is malleable and receptive to new experiences of the pleasurable kind and a good start here sets him/her up for life. The next stage however is as important and so we have positioned John Connell's Dog Obedience classes to follow on and compliment puppy class.

After 6 weeks on the beach front at Swanbourne (what could be more enjoyable, even on these brisk Sunday mornings than an hour spent with like-minded dog lovers under the guidance of big John) you and your dog should be set up with a real understanding that will set the pattern for the rest of your relationship (maybe the next 15 years).



For our part we are keen to be part of this and so offer you the third part of the equation - an affordable package which includes a discount on the sterilisation of your new pet.

Therefore if you have just acquired a new puppy and are about to embark on the road to responsible pet ownership by attending the Swanbourne Puppy Class, ask about our package of puppy class/dog obedience class and discounted sterilisation. This plus the Petpro card which gives you 10% on all your over the counter products (wormers, flea products, and heart wormers) plus dog food make owning a dog much more affordable.

Ask Dot at reception next time you visit the Swanbourne Centre.

Tony Vigano



Petpro Veterinary Centre
Swanbourne

Puppy Plus Package



This voucher entitles the bearer to:
10% discount on puppy class (4 class block), PUPi management (4 class block), dog obedience (6 class block) and sterilization package (within 6 months of issue).
**Not to be used in conjunction with other offers*

Authorised: _____

Expiry June 30th 2006





www.petpro.com.au - your vet online

What's new at Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

1. Dog Obedience Classes:

To cater for the changing weather patterns in Perth and now that the College Park evening classes in Claremont (Wednesday evenings) have taken off, John has refined the usage of the two venues (the other being the Swanbourne oval above the surf club on Sunday mornings).

It is envisaged that the Swanbourne oval venue on Sundays will be used in May/June/July/August/September/October and November, thus avoiding the hot summer months. The College Park venue on Wednesday evenings will be used in February/March/April/May/September/October and November, thus avoiding the bitterly cold winter months.

Please ring Dot or Nickee on 9384 2644 for more details.

2. The UWASH dogwash.

This is a DIY dogwash which enables you to take control of your dog's bathing needs using our equipment 7 days a week.

Quick and easy to use the Hydrobath takes the work out of the exercise and contains the dog while you get on with it. We also offer a free ampoule of ADVANTAGE flea control if you buy a standard pack of 4.

If you would rather have us do it for you we still offer this service 7 days a week but only until 12pm on weekends.

3. Our Pet Tags.

With the revival of our former complimentary service of identification, we are now offering a numbered tag to identify your best friend in the event he/she goes missing in the local area. The finder rings us 7 days a week and we can pass on your details. We of course still strongly recommend all dogs and cats be microchipped as this is the only sure and permanent method of identification.

4. Ambulance Service.

For those people unable to come to us we can arrange same day pick up and delivery home of your best friend should the occasion arise. This service is run in conjunction with our visiting vet service for vaccinations and the like.

5. Adopt-a-cat program.

We have beautiful kittens available most of the time for re-homing to the right person. They are all vaccinated, dewormed, sterilized and microchipped for around 50% of the normal cost of these important procedures. You will be giving a little stray a home but please, no surprise gifts. It is essential that the recipient of the gift of a kitten (or a puppy) be in on the selection process and the decision

to take one on in the first place.

6. Petpro card.

Be sure to ask for your petpro card when next you come into Swanbourne. This covers all purchases other than professional fees and drugs, and after 10 registered purchases we will give you 10% of the total value back redeemable against your next purchase.

7. Puppy Plus Package.

The details are covered in this newsletter and offers you a 10% discount on the starter package when you buy a new puppy. Puppy school, PUPi management, Obedience Classes and sterilization are all included.

8. Premium Pet Food Offers:

There is always something on offer when you buy premium pet foods from the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre. Igloos and carry bags for your cat, ball throwers, halti collars and so on for your dog, to name just a few of these value added promotions.

Just ask Dot or Nickee when next you come in.

9. Pet Accessories:

If we don't have what you want for your best friend we can order it in within 24 hours.....just try us out. We have a comprehensive range of collars, leads, exercise toys, dental exercisers, bowls, beds and so on at the practice at any time. Just ring Dot or Nickee to check first or we can order it for you.

10. Our Web Site:

Don't forget to visit our bulletin board at www.petpro.com.au.

Tony road tests dogs regularly on 6PR and these are all available on the site with lots of other practice news, tips and gossip.

If you would like a copy of a particular road test you can download from the site or give us a ring and we will send you a complimentary copy.

11. Weight Loss Clinics with Kristy.

If you are having trouble keeping your best friend in trim, make an appointment to see Kristy who can formulate a diet to suit your larger than life friend.

12. Grooming 5 days a week.

We are now grooming at Swanbourne 5 days a week so it is easier to get an appointment at short notice.

Visit our new **revised web site**
for up to date information about everything at Petpro

www.petpro.com.au

- › Information
- › offers
- › all about us
- › breed road tests
- › links to other sites
- › and much more.



UPDATED EVERY DAY





Petpro People

Dr Nahiid Stephens

Welcome back to Nahiid Stephens who spent two years with us until 12 months ago. Over the last 12 months Nahiid has been in England living and working (the traditional Aussie working holiday) and has taken time to come back for 4-6 months before she decides whether or not to use up all of her visa to the old country.

She will be playing a cameo role with us working Mondays and Fridays but this will change and be expanded from time to time as permanent petpro team members take holidays. Just great to have Nahiid back and her many friends amongst the clients of the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre will be overjoyed to hear she has returned.

Dr Nahiid Stephens



Dr Pauline Hoskin

Many of our clients will remember Pauline as a full time member of the team for 18 months until September last year when her partner who lives in Merredin persuaded her to come a bit closer. The offer proved too tempting and Pauline joined the Agricultural Department and is currently stationed in Northam. In the meantime the call of an intensive small animal city practice proved too much for her and when Deanne Strommen left on 6 months maternity leave in February, Pauline jumped at the chance to come back to Swanbourne to do regular weekend work. So, if you come to the practice on a weekend and see someone who seems familiar amongst the regular faces, it will be Pauline.

We must be doing something right to attract previously valued team members back to the fold when they have the opportunity and we have a vacancy.

Dr Pauline Hoskin



We have a new groomer!

Nerissa Frindt

Welcome to Nerissa Frindt our new head groomer here at Swanbourne.

Nerissa, like Tony Vigano, is a Melbourne-ite, having arrived here in Perth just after New Year. She was born and bred in Melbourne, a real devotee of AFL being a Bombers fan with a leaning towards the Saints, she even plays Aussie Rules and is currently looking for a team in Perth to join. Her move to Perth is an experiment in life style, a sort of seachange after the hurly burly of Melbourne and she is accompanied by her two Scottie Terriers, Harold and Daisy (Harold is a member of the Pedigree Super Dog Agility team).

Nerissa is a very experienced groomer with over 8 years experience and has already developed a following with her expertise and friendly manner. Our gain is Melbourne's loss and the occasional weekend may well see Nerissa travelling back to her old practice every so often to help out whilst they try to replace her, such was her popularity over there.

Nerissa's arrival is also a plus for our trainee Flic Mason who will continue to hone her skills with help from Nerissa.

We look forward to a long and happy association with Nerissa and encourage you to come and see her to discuss your best friend's favoured style.

Nerissa Frindt



Kids★ Corner



SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



Professional • Diverse • Different

Children up to 12 years are invited to enter our colouring-in competition. Please post or return your entry to Swanbourne Veterinary Centre by 30th June 2006 for your chance to win...*A years supply of Flea Control products for your pet!*



Proudly sponsored
by Bayer Australia

Name: Age:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone No:

Good Luck!

