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

Winter 2005

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER: Road Test



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Visit our website: www.petpro.com.au
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Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

2 Devon Road Swanbourne 6010	Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 7.00pm
Tel: (08) 9384 2644	Saturday: 8.00am to 5.00pm
Fax: (08) 9383 2846	Sunday: 9.00am to 3.00pm
	Public Holidays: 8.00am to 1.00pm





THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER: Road Test

as featured on the Bob Maumill Talking Perth Show Tuesday March 8th 2005



Known as the nanny dog such is their legendary reputation with children, the Staffie is fast climbing the list of popular breeds in Australia. They live life at full throttle and whilst not for everyone their sense of humour, size, and appearance have earned them the reputation of a human in "doggy fur".

HISTORY:

They emerged in the 17th century in Staffordshire, England, a product of mating the now extinct and ferocious Bulldog with terriers of the time. The resultant dog was known as the Bull and Terrier or Pit Dog and was initially used for bull and bear baiting but when that was outlawed in the 1830's they were used as fighting dogs in the infamous sport of dog fighting. The champion of the working class in the midlands in England at the time they also had a reputation as guardians of the home and were excellent family pets and particularly good with children. They were also used for badger hunting and as ratters.

When dog fighting was finally outlawed the breed was maintained as a companion animal and show dog and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier was recognized in 1935.

APPEARANCE:

A compact, powerfully built dog that literally has muscles on muscles. They have a large square head that is short and broad with pronounced cheek muscles, strong jaws and large teeth. Being short coated they have a sleek appearance with semi erect ears, straight forelegs, a broad chest and bowed, powerful back legs. Colours come in red, fawn, white, black, blue and brindle, or any of these with white.



A relatively small dog they grow to between 33-40cm in height, weigh 11-16kg (though many we see are between 15-22kg) and they live 10-16 years.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Originally bred for fighting and ridding they can be dog aggressive if not properly socialized and this is a must and a major

responsibility of a Staffie owner if they are to get the best from their dog and be free of hassles.

They are intelligent, albeit a bit headstrong and stubborn particularly in adolescence when their boisterous nature can be overwhelming. Firm handling is required at this stage until they turn the corner at about 2 years of age and all the work put into them is repaid 100 fold.

Life is for the taking for Staffies and they live for the day so care must be taken lest they injure themselves in their exuberant play. Everything is a joke to a Staffie and their sense of humour is one of their most endearing attributes.

They can suffer from separation anxiety such is the strength of their bond with their owners and whilst they are good watch dogs, barking can be a problem if they are left alone when they can also become destructive in the house and garden.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

The quintessential dog with children, hence their tag as the nanny dog, they make great family pets though do need a firm hand and are therefore not for everyone.

They can be dog aggressive though generally get on well with other dogs in the household and other pets such as cats as long as they are socialized with them.

They need regular exercise to curb their boisterous nature and in general adult dogs prefer the company of humans to other dogs.

Barking and destructive behaviour can be a problem if they are left alone when they are young but they do mellow quite quickly after 2 years of age.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Generally a hardy dog they do suffer from hereditary eye problems, and in Perth's climate we see allergy problems both skin and other forms.

In breeding for bowed and powerful back legs there can be a tendency for slipping patellas (a surgically correctable slipping of the knee cap due to developmental twisting of the leg), and arthritis and cruciate ligament problems can also occur as a result of this "twist".

Hip dysplasia has also been reported and we see many Staffies with injuries due to their "devil may care attitude" and the scant regard they seem to have for their own well being.

In summary Staffies come highly recommended for young growing families as long as the new owner has researched the breed and is prepared to spend the time at puppy school, PUPi management and obedience classes to ensure their Staffie grows up to be the delightful, funny, devoted dog that it should. A MACK truck in a manageable body, I always think a 16kg Staffie can hold its own in a tug of war with a dog of any other breed twice the weight.

I am a devotee as this article probably indicates!





Cat Corner: Toilet Training Your Cat

Many cats spend much of their time inside, particularly at night to keep them safe from traffic and protect wildlife, or because owners live in high-rise apartments or residences without a backyard. For this reason, all cats should be "toilet trained" i.e. they use a litter tray.

Luckily cats are naturally clean animals so toilet training is usually very easy.



In most cases, the mother cat has already taught the kittens to use the tray. If your cat has kittens, make sure the litter tray is readily accessible to both the mother cat and her offspring. So long as she is litter trained, she will naturally encourage her kittens to use it. Cats also naturally bury their faeces in loose earth so have an instinct to use the litter.

When you bring your kitten home, choose an area such as

the laundry and place a litter tray with fresh, clean litter in this spot. Make sure that this place is relatively quiet because kitty won't want to be disturbed while using the tray. It should be well away from the cat's eating areas, and the litter should be replaced regularly because cats will not use a dirty tray. The new "clumping" litter makes the job of cleaning much simpler as you can just remove the used litter which has congealed together.

Your kitten will naturally want to relieve itself after eating, so place it in the litter tray immediately after meals. You may need to encourage it slightly the first time by moving its paws gently in a digging motion. Reward it with a pat and praise when it does the right thing.

If your kitten does have an accident, never punish it. If you catch it in the act, pick it up gently and carry it to the litter tray. If you find out after the fact, don't try to correct it because it won't understand. However make sure you clean the soiled area thoroughly otherwise the smell of urine will encourage it to use that spot again.

Never use ammonia based products to clean up after accidents as these contain nitrogen which smells similar to urine to cats and may actually encourage it to use that spot again. The best thing is to use an enzymatic odour remover available from supermarket pet sections or pet stores but ideally speak to your veterinarian who will have reviewed the products available.

There are many reasons why cats may have accidents or stop using

the litter tray. If this happens it is important to have a veterinarian check your cat to ensure there is no physical reason or illness causing the problem.

Things such as bladder infections and inappropriate feeding can cause these aberrations from previously learnt behaviour.

Many cats prefer the texture of a particular type of litter and a change of litter type may make the cat reluctant to use the tray. Some cats will not share a tray with another cat in a multi cat household and it may be necessary to have two or more trays!

Cats are rather private about their bathroom habits and sometimes a cat may be reluctant to use a tray where it may be disturbed. Noisy appliances, such as washing machines, may scare the cat from using the litter tray. Strong or perfumed disinfectants used to clean the tray may stop a cat using it so hot soapy water is the best cleanser. Litter should be scooped to remove solids at least once a day and wet litter replaced as necessary.

There are many types of litter trays available from simple open trays to covered trays, trays with odour control filters, self scooping trays and even trays which do not look like trays to anyone but a cat! In some countries (in the colder northern hemisphere) where cats spend most or all their time inside, litter trays are often enclosed in a compartment as part of a complex cat tree that doubles as an activity centre and virtual home for the cat.

There is no doubt that an indoor cat with its own ensuite is a safe and well adjusted cat!

Tony Vigano





PUPi Management Classes: the mid school

Puppy Socialisation 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 decor 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.

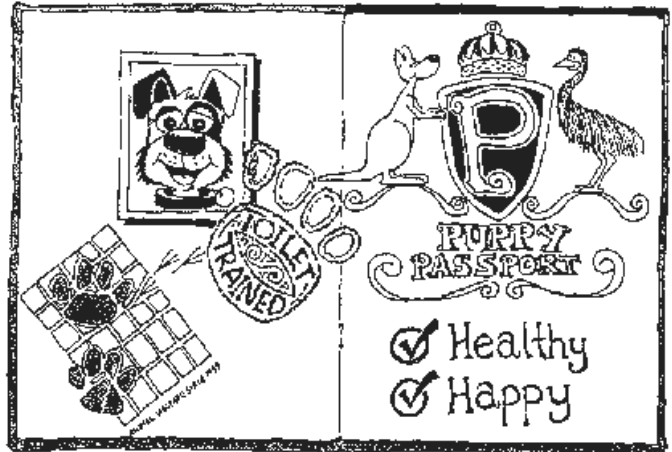
Legislation however is only a small part of the story and the benefits you will obtain from a well mannered dog in later life are far more important.

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 September 30th 2005





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 1pm on weekends.

3. Our Pet Tags.

The revival of an old complimentary service of identification of dogs and cats we are 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 tailor make a diet to suit your larger than life friend.

12. Grooming 5 days a week.

Michelle is now at Swanbourne grooming 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

Dot Bray

Dot is a former Telstra employee who at the time of her arrival to join the Swanbourne team as a receptionist seven years ago was a valued client at the Doubleview practice. She quickly fitted into the scene at Swanbourne where her experience and calming influence has been a great model for younger staff and she is a friendly face to those many clients who call in regularly to buy food and other items updating their Petpro cards and ensuring they receive all the myriad of give-aways that the rest of us are hard pressed to keep up with.

Apart from her role as head receptionist she shares office duties with Linley and Nickee and liaises with John Connell to ensure the Dog Obedience classes run smoothly.

Dot shares her life with partner Norbert, Zena her Staffie cross and Minute (one of our adoptacats).

Weekends generally find her in Lancelin where she and Norbert have a retreat, hauling in their craypots and generally living the good life.

A Queenslander by birth she keeps a low profile during the football season as does Tony.

Dot Bray



Kristy Stower:

Kristy is one of our success stories joining the practice fresh from school seven years ago as the kennel hand. At the same time she enrolled in the part time Veterinary nursing course at Bentley TAFE which she completed with ease and then joined the full time nursing staff at Swanbourne.

Her reliability and unflappable nature have made her an integral part of the practice and she ensures the back half of the practice functions efficiently organizing the vets, monitoring anaesthetics and supervising the younger staff.

Most clients will know Kristy as the admitting nurse in the mornings when animals are booked in for surgery and she also conducts the Wellness checks that have become a feature here at Swanbourne as part of our commitment to preventive medicine.

Kristy also plays an enormous role in the practice co-ordinating school visits to the practice, attending career sessions with Tony at secondary schools, and mentoring work experience students when they spend time with us either as part of the Instep program or as part of school curriculum.

This part of veterinary practice goes largely unnoticed by the general public but in view of the immense career popularity of our work we are constantly trying to cater to all the enquiries we get from budding vets and nurses.

Currently we have a trainee veterinary nurse at the practice full time under Kristy's supervision plus three students attending one day a week.

All this plus ordering the daily supplies from the wholesalers, does she ever sleep?

Kristy Stower



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 5pm

Consulting Hours: 9am until 5pm

SUNDAY:

Office Hours: 8am until 3pm

Consulting Hours: 9am until 3pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Office Hours: 8am until 1pm

Consulting Hours: 9am until 1pm





SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



Professional Diverse Different

★ Kids Corner ★

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 September 2005 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!

