



THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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The Pet Professionals

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

Autumn 2005

The Pomeranian Road Test



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Saturday: 8.00am to 5.00pm
Sunday: 9.00am to 3.00pm
Public Holidays: 8.00am to 1.00pm



SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE
"Professional, Diverse & Different"

The one-stop pet shop



THE POMERANIAN: Road Test

as featured on the Gary Carvolth and Friends Talking Perth Show Sunday January 9th 2005



THE POMERANIAN:

The smallest of the Spitz breed they are descendants of the sled dogs of Iceland and Lapland arriving in central Europe as a herding dog and beast of burden in the region of Pomerania in Prussia from whence they gained their name, conferred years later when the dog became further developed in England.

HISTORY:

They originally weighed 12-14 kg when they were first introduced into England, and in the late 1800's Queen Victoria became a fancier and breeder and popularised the breed in that country.

She preferred smaller dogs and so breeders started selecting for smaller size and today they weigh only 1-3kg fully grown.

Over the years they have been used amongst other things as circus performers but today they are primarily valued companions and show dogs.



APPEARANCE:

A tiny, fluffy dog with a wedge-shaped head and pointed erect ears they have been described as having a fox-like face whilst others have a baby doll face.

They have a distinctive feathered tail that fans forward over the back and they have an abundant ruff around neck and chest.

The profuse double coat is generally a solid colour and any shade is acceptable though red, orange, white or cream, blue, brown or black are the most popular though some can be parti coloured. They grow to between 18-30cm in height, weigh 1-3kg and live up to and beyond 15 years.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Cocky, commanding, animated and feisty are all adjectives that describe this lively little dog which can be willful and temperamental as well.

They need a firm hand in the early stages lest they become over demanding and bossy and so early socialization and obedience training are essential.

They are generally alright with other dogs and small pets though

proper introductions are important as they can suffer from the small dog (man) complex of aggression.

They are excellent watchdogs with a resounding bark that can be a neighbourhood nuisance if not controlled.

This barking can be directed at strangers as they tend to be reserved at first but are intensely loyal to family. They are also picky eaters which worries many owners.



WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

Whilst they are generally fine with older children they can be snappy with younger children and they find their niche with older and elderly owners due to their loyalty and companionship.

They are good in apartments being active indoors and so don't need much extra exercise though they do enjoy a walk.

A constant shedder of hair the double coat is reasonably high maintenance needing grooming at least twice a week, and regular dental checkups are essential as gingivitis and periodontal disease are common problems.

They are also not good in Perth's hot weather when heat stress can be a factor in the summer so ensure they can escape to the comfort of an air conditioner!

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Possible a factor of early selection for miniature sizes they can have a few problems including slipping kneecaps (a surgical problem due to inward dislocation of the kneecap due to torsion of the tibia or lower bone in the hind leg).

They also are prone to heart problems, skin problems, eye infections and early dental disease due to early onset gingivitis and periodontal disease.

Often requiring caesarian births they are tiny as puppies and their fragility at this time is a concern with children.

Epilepsy has also been reported.

In summary the Pomeranian has remained a firm favourite of people who desire an inside dog that is a good watch dog, intensely loyal and happy to sit at the feet or on the lap of the older and elderly members of the family.

They are a striking show dog when presented in all their glory though I would have to say in Perth's hot weather and with a young, vigorous and growing family they would not be my choice.

Nevertheless they have a strong following and are certainly an entertaining and bright little dog to have around.





Cat Corner

Introducing another cat to the family!

TWO WITHOUT TROUBLE:

I am often asked how best to introduce a second cat to the family household when a resident moggie is lord and master of all he/she surveys including the family dog.

Cats, by nature, are very territorial and do not usually accept another cat into their area without a few displays of hissing and chasing, but with some forward planning and a little patience most cats do get used to the idea.



Sometimes the addition of an extra cat is unplanned, such as when a stray walks into your life. Your cat and the newcomer should be kept apart for 10-14 days to make sure the new cat is not incubating any contagious disease. A checkup here at the surgery is recommended and stray cats will need to be vaccinated, and on most occasions neutered.

If you have a choice about which cats joins your household, it would be better to choose a cat of the opposite sex but even more importantly, one that is younger than your existing cat and preferably a kitten. The adopt-a-cat program is an ideal source of kittens that have been quarantined to prevent the introduction of disease and generally ensures that the kitten is well socialized.

Before bringing the second cat into the household, prepare an area where it can be confined away from your cat. A spare room or the laundry is ideal. This allows the cats to become used to each other without contact. Spend extra time with your existing cat to make him/her feel extra special during this period.

Once you feel that the cats are settled, open the door to the room about 5cm and jam it in some way so that it cannot be opened wider or slammed shut. This allows

the cats to see each other and to touch noses if they wish but not to be able to fight.

Obviously if one of the cats is a kitten the amount the door is left open will have to be adjusted to a space which does not allow the kitten to squeeze through. Once the cats seem to have accepted each other without hissing and growling you may open the door. Do not make a fuss, let the cats wander about and do not interfere. There will almost certainly be some hissing and posturing and chasing. This is normal but if they do get into a serious fight do not try to pick them up to separate them.

Make loud noises or throw water on them to break up the fight.

It is best to provide two litter trays in case the original cat refuses to share its bathroom.

It is impossible to make animals be friends but in most cases cats will work out how to live together. In some cases they may become nothing more than housemates dividing the house into "his and her" territory.

In many cases they will become best friends, mutually grooming, snuggling up together and sharing food bowls.





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 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.

If your new dog has missed PUPi management after puppy socialization the admission to Dog Obedience will be delayed until 6 months of age.

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.

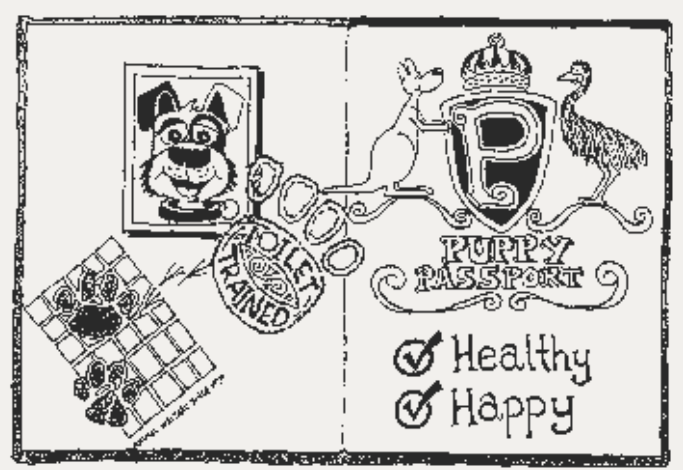
Legislation however is only a small part of the story and the benefits you will obtain from a well mannered dog in later life are far more important.

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 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

DEANNE STROMMEN:

Deanne graduated from the Murdoch University Veterinary School in 1997.

She originally joined the practice as part of the Doubleview Veterinary team in 2001 and quickly confirmed the decision to employ her amidst a flurry of excellent applicants at the time. The quality of her work, her unflappable nature and her teamsmanship have always been her hallmark and when the Doubleview practice was sold in 2004 we were sad to lose her from Petpro.

She has spent the last 12 months at Doubleview under new management and only leaves that practice to return to us as we had a position vacant with less hours, that suited her plans.

As you can imagine we are very happy to see her back here as part of the Swanbourne team and she is an ideal replacement for the very popular Nahiid Stephens who leaves us after two years to further her life experience in England.

Deanne, with husband Nigel, and their two dogs Alexander and Catherine enjoys walking and swimming in her leisure time and is looking forward to furthering her interest in Canine Medicine at Swanbourne. We look forward to renewing our friendship with Deanne when she arrives on March 14th.

Deanne Strommen



KYLIE WALKER:

Kylie is our latest team member, commencing in March as a kennel hand and grooming assistant.

From Tambellup, Kylie attended the local primary school and then completed her TEE in 2004 at the Katanning High School.

She has relocated to Perth and will attend the Bentley TAFE doing the part time Veterinary Nursing course whilst working with us. Her long term ambitions are to become a veterinary nurse, and then eventually to run her own kennels or an animal farm.

Kylie has a twin brother, and two other siblings who are also twins. The family has a farm in Denmark, and coming from a country background there is no shortage of pets in the household with dogs Derri and Mite, along with a pet sheep and fish.

Having done work experience at a vet clinic in Bunbury as well as helping her father in the shearing shed during school holidays we believe Kylie is the perfect choice.

Welcome to Swanbourne Kylie, we hope to be a part of the realisation of your dreams over the next few years.

Kylie Walker



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 June 2005 for your chance to win... *A years supply of Flea Control products for your pet!*

CATS & DOGS



Proudly sponsored by Bayer Australia

Name: Age:

Address:

.....

Telephone No:

Good Luck!

