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

Autumn 2008

The Maltese Terrier: Road Test



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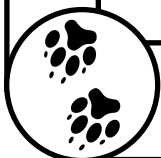
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Sunday: 8.00am to 1.00pm

Public Holidays: 8.00am to 1.00pm





Road Test: THE MALTESE TERRIER



THE MALTESE TERRIER:

One of the bichon family, the Maltese Terrier goes back 3000 years and is the oldest European toy dog. Described as a dog that floats along under a cloud of white hair this breed has been the quintessential companion and lap dog for centuries being a favourite of both men and women.

Today they remain an adored pet and sought after show dog.

HISTORY:

Considerable debate surrounds its origins some thinking they derived in Malta whilst others think they were developed in the Sicilian town of Melita from the miniature spaniel and the poodle. In any event they were a favourite with both men and women alike and story has it the Roman governor in Malta, Publius prized his enough to commission a portrait of "Issa" his beloved companion. They are thought to have first arrived in England with the Crusaders returning home from the Mediterranean.

APPEARANCE:

These are a hardy dog despite their fragile appearance. The luxurious silky white coat is their signature, hanging straight to the ground on each side from a central part. The coat is single with no undercoat and should be straight and thick with no kinks or waves. In fact the coat can be up to 22cm long!

White and light ivory are the only acceptable colours and the dog has long pedant ears, a tapered muzzle and a longish body.

They are fine boned but sturdy growing to 20-25cm in height and weighing 3-4kg.

They can live to a prodigious age, often between 15-18 years.

CHARACTERISTICS:

They are spirited and lively and can even be feisty with much larger dogs such is their fearless nature.

They are devoted to their family being gentle, loving and trusting...the classic companion dog.

Being highly intelligent it is important not to over pamper or over

protect them as they can play on this and become unstable with strangers and even jealous of visitors.

They are best with older children who respect their small size, and rough games can result in them snapping at their tormentors.

Eating can be a problem as they are notoriously picky and can be a disappointment to owners who like to see both children and animals tucking into food they have prepared.

They have a characteristic jaunty gait and can be barkers.

WHO SHOULD OWN ONE:

This breed makes an ideal family pet but don't over pamper them.

They are great for apartment living being very active indoors and so don't need a yard.

In fact exercise whilst enjoyed is not really a necessity as they are naturally very active.

They are good with children but better with older ones as they can nip if roughhoused.

They are reasonably high maintenance needing daily brushing though they do not shed hair much and are good for allergy sufferers.

Their eyes and beard need constant cleaning and some people put a top knot in their hair in attempt to keep the hair from their eyes whilst others have them clipped regularly.

Their ears also need constant plucking (hair from the outer ear canal).

Finally barking can be an issue if they are left alone in the face of outside stimuli as they are so alert so keep them inside in these situations.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Most of the problems are minor but they do suffer from sunburn and skin allergies in our harsh climate.

Dental problems are quite common as they have a small mouth and their teeth are often crowded.

Slipping kneecaps due to tibial torsion is occasionally seen and needs surgical correction though this can be selected against when choosing breeding stock.

Digestive problems are also seen and so care needs to be taken with feeding.

They do not enjoy extremes of temperature so keep them out of cold, damp conditions and cool in Summer.

In summary this breed goes back centuries as a favourite companion and lap dog. Their small and fragile appearance belies their fearless and hardy temperament and so when treated like a dog, and within reason given their small size, they are an ideal family dog joining in all the games and banter that is part of family life.

In short highly recommend.

Tony Vigano





Vale Hooch

A Tribute to a Swanbourne icon:

In the early 1990's and with most business establishments still coming to grips with the growing trend of drug related break-ins, we at Swanbourne were similarly going through an alarming increase in uninvited guests at night as well.

Finally after two such incidents in the one night, Tony embarked on a plan to get a suitable dog to protect both the practice and also himself when he came back at night.

Enter a young stray of about 9 months of age in late 1992.

He seemed a good type, was certainly big enough and with breeding that included Rottweiler, Labrador and Staffie, his temperament seemed to be right as well.

Named Hooch as soon as his arrived by the kennel attendant at the time, he was an instant success. Friendly to a fault but with an edge to him that spelt danger to strangers, he soon made the carpark and rear area of the practice his own. Last person out at night let Hooch out, and in the mornings he greeted the first arrival and accompanied them around the practice just to be sure. He would then settle in for the day having breakfast first, then lazing in his bean bag before his afternoon walk, and then evening duty once again.

This was his routine until 2004 and not once during that period did we have a break-in.

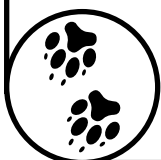
A new neighbour, irritated by his occasional nocturnal barking (which he seldom did and only if there was due cause), canvassed the near neighbourhood to see if others were similarly affected. Alas for him, all he could muster were commendations for Hooch as people felt safe when Hooch's deep bark would penetrate the night, knowing all was safe when he was around.

As age crept up on him he retired on his super in 2004 and went to live with Sue a dear friend and neighbour. Still a frequent visitor he would spend holidays back at the practice doing cameo appearances which he enjoyed. In 2006 arthritis was taking its toll and he went to live with Tony in Nedlands as a companion for Scampi (the family Staffie). His final days were spent living inside resting on his various bean bags, still enjoying his food and looking forward to his walks, his evening massages and all the love a dog could have. By this time he was firmly bonded with Jennifer, Tony's wife.

We had to end his life when, one day, he just couldn't get up anymore. He was tired and it was time.....nearly 16 years old, his was a dog's life.....we could all be that lucky!

Goodbye old friend. We will never forget you.

Tony Vigano





Our Good Citizen Program:

Swanbourne Veterinary Centre is proud to be associated with Dr Garth Jennens and Mr John Connell in providing to you our valued clients the very best puppy pre school, PUPi management program and Dog Obedience program. Lead by Jayne Mackenzie every Sunday at the Swanbourne Centre commencing at 9.30am with puppy pre school, this course is for the toddler commencing at 8 weeks of age. Following on from this at 10.30am every Sunday, and also with Jayne at the Swanbourne Centre, PUPi management is for the primary schooler puppy at which class they develop the early concepts learnt at pre school.

Finally after graduating from PUPi, the adolescent puppies are enrolled with John Connell either at the Wednesday evening class at College Park in Nedlands, or the Saturday morning class at the Swanbourne oval. In all a commitment of around 14 weeks. The young dogs graduate from John's class and at that stage both dog and owner will understand the rudiments of good dog control, making your best friend a joy to be with and not a trial on those walks when you are on your guard all the time for some misdemeanour.

Invest in yours and your new puppy's future by joining our citizenship program.



Dr Garth Jennens (M.Soc.Sci,Ph.D):

is an Applied Animal Behaviourist with degrees in Zoology and Psychology and a doctorate in animal behaviour.

Garth brings 25 years of experience in consulting and research in animal behaviour, management, welfare and training to the PUPi program.

In 1990 Garth set up the Animal Management Resource Extension Program (AMREX), and developed it into one of the largest private dog training and behaviour organizations in Australia.

Garth currently works as a private animal behaviour consultant and regularly advises various groups in the pet industry on Animal management issues.

His latest program PUPi (People Understanding Puppy Interaction) has been developed by qualified professionals to provide a flexible and practical approach to dog training and behaviour.

Currently operating in Perth, PUPi aims to provide accurate and appropriate advice to assist pet owners to better integrate their pets into the home.

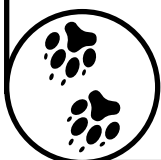


Mr John Connell:

our ever popular Dog Obedience instructor commenced his training career in 1977 as a novice handler at the Gosnells Dog Club with his two Rhodesians Ridgebacks. From these beginnings he went on to become an instructor and subsequently head trainer with the Club. He achieved remarkable results with his two Ridgebacks Zion and Jedda, obtaining their CD, CDX and UD obedience titles becoming the first Rhodesian Ridgebacks in Australia to attain a UD obedience title.

In 1992 John joined the Petpro team providing a specialized six week training course as part of Petpro's canine citizenship package. John has furthered his knowledge of canine behaviour by completing tertiary studies to gain the Certificate of Urban Animal Management during this time. His practical experience has also been enhanced through working with refuge dogs for 3 years. During this time John assessed dogs for their suitability to train as AQIS detector dogs, and he was presented with a commendation from AQIS in recognition for his contribution towards the Canine Detector Program.

We are indeed fortunate in having a person of John's caliber and experience to conduct our dog obedience classes and over the period of 16 years that he has been with us the classes have become the bench mark in Perth.





Our Good Citizen Program:



Jayne Mackenzie:

is a qualified veterinary nurse (certificate 4). Until recently she has been working full time in this field but has currently reduced her hours to concentrate on her emerging interest in animal behaviour.

She has been conducting puppy class and PUPi management classes for Dr Garth Jennens for some time both here at Swanbourne and also at other veterinary clinics in the metropolitan area and has become a popular favourite on Sundays with owners and puppies alike.

Currently spending time with Garth accompanying him on his consultations, Jayne has enrolled in psychology at Murdoch next year as the first step towards certification as an animal behaviourist herself.

A local Perth girl, Jayne has her own zoo at home including Cal, a Healer cross, and cats Narla a 3 legged moggie (a legacy of working at a vet hospital where vet nurses notoriously can't resist taking strays home!) and Monty. We feel sure you will warm to Jayne's empathy towards her class when you join puppy class and then on to PUPi management at Swanbourne with your new best friend.

Living With Dogs in the Suburbs:

So, you have decided to get a dog!

Deciding to become a dog owner/custodian, no matter where you live, entails many responsibilities.

If you live in a suburban environment, whether it be in a city or a country town, these responsibilities increase.

Your dog has to live surrounded by motor vehicles, other domestic pets and neighbours, some of whom may not own or even like dogs. It is important that your dog fits into this environment if you, your neighbour and most importantly your dog are all going to be happy.

There are many restrictions which apply to dog ownership in Australia. The number of dogs which may be kept on a property is often restricted-check with your local council before you embark on a breeding program!

There may also be restrictions on where your dog is allowed to go, and most areas require dogs to be leashed.

However, most Councils have dog parks and off leash areas where dogs can run free and play.

Dog parks are great meeting places for owners also, and in Summer many owners have a cheese and chardonnay whilst their dogs play. This is particularly the case in Perth where certain parks are renowned for their regulars who exercise their dogs and socialize amongst themselves on a regular basis....a great way to make friends and hear all sorts of gossip when you move into a new area.

In most urban areas of Australia it is against the law to allow your dog to roam the streets. While Fido may appear cute while romping in his own backyard, when he romps over the neighbours' prize chrysanthemums, defaecates in their rose garden or chews up their

garden hose, tensions can develop and you may end up with WW3 on your hands.

To avoid this ensure your home has adequate fencing and that gates are kept firmly closed.

Incessant barking is another problem that can have neighbours rallying against your four-footed friend. It usually indicates that the dog is bored and needs more mental and physical stimulation.

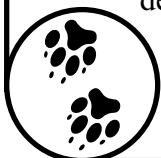
Although these problems are the exception rather than the rule, they can spoil the joy of dog ownership for everyone. Following a few simple rules can prevent these problems from disrupting your neighbourhood.

Firstly look at your life and lifestyle critically. Are you really in a position to share your life and time with a dog because that's what it amounts to. Don't expect that your new dog will be content to sit at home patiently all week whilst you are at work looking forward to the weekend. This is not the case and all sorts of behavioural issues will quickly emerge, the most common being separation anxiety.

Having decided you do have the time and you will be able to manage (and please ask your petcare professional....your vet, along the way as well), then you are ready to begin the process.

Firstly, choose a dog that suits your lifestyle. Bringing an active dog such as a Border Collie or a Kelpie into a suburban backyard and leaving him alone all day will inevitably lead to a bored and troublesome dog.

Maybe two dogs would be better if they are going to be alone for much of the time....beware of making this decision as well without careful consideration.





Living With Dogs in the Suburbs: cont.

Secondly, make sure your dog is properly restrained in your yard. A dog proof fence is the best method. The height of the fence will depend on the size and type of dog you choose.

Finally, when in a public place your dog should be restrained from rushing at people or other dogs. Although your dog may just want to play it may frighten someone not confident with dogs. Owners of small dogs are sometimes worried about larger dogs rushing up to their pet.

The best gift you can give your dog (and yourself) is a properly structured obedience program. This starts as early as 8 weeks of age at puppy school where the young puppies socialize with other pups of similar age, and other owners. From there and after about 4 weeks the pups then graduate to PUPi management (at about 12 weeks of age) which teaches the new dog how to behave as an independent being thus reducing the likelihood of problems such as separation anxiety which is a major problem as owners allow dogs to become equal members of the family living in the house and so on, but then leave them to go to work and the like.

A well trained dog that walks on a leash without pulling, comes when it is called and sits and stays, is a joy to own and a credit to the owner. A far cry from that feral creature that every member of the family avoids taking for a walk for fear it will bail up the neighbour, attack the other well mannered dogs at the park and chase every car in sight, and all in name of having a dog to ease the every day stress to which we are subjected!

Remember, the way your dog behaves is your responsibility.

He follows the cues that you give and if you allow him to misbehave he will deem it acceptable behaviour and continue to offend as you the owner have endorsed and even reinforced that bad behaviour. Complex business this animal behaviour management!!

However, all it takes is a little time (about 14 weeks from 8 weeks of age), and effort at the start and your new friend can be a perfect canine citizen and will be admired by all who meet him/her.

Tony Viganò

Petpro People: Welcome Emma Szczurowski



It is with great pleasure that I welcome Emma as a permanent part time member to the Swanbourne team.

Emma who was born and raised in Perth has had a life time desire to be a part of the veterinary industry and she first came to Swanbourne to do work experience in years 10-12.

A local girl Emma lives with her mother and sister and attended Rosalie Primary School before completing her secondary education at Shenton College.

She has a keen interest in horse riding and shares her life, apart from her family, with her two cats Milly and Cherry, two poodles Jack and Junior and a shoal of fish.

She is currently studying veterinary nursing full time at the Bentley School of TAFE, which allows her to work weekends and a couple of afternoons at Swanbourne.

The future looks very bright for Emma and she has a veterinary degree at Murdoch firmly in her sights as her ultimate goal.

Good luck Emma we look forward to being part of your plans.





Cat Corner: How To Give A Cat A Pill

Please let me apologise in advance for this facetious description of how to pill a cat.

We really DO love cats here at Swanbourne but this appealed to my sense of humour and those of you who have attempted to pill a fractious cat will I am sure get a laugh.

No wonder more and more medications are now prepared for cats in squeeze on form: Frontline, Advantage, Revolution, Profender (the new cat dewormer) just to name a few!

1) Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

2) Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3) Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4) Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

5) Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call partner from garden.

6) Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get partner to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7) Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

8) Wrap cat in large towel and get partner to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end

of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.

9) Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink one beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to partner's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

10) Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

11) Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus jab. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss-back another shot. Throw tee shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

12) Ring fire brigade to retrieve the cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.

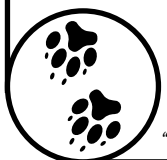
13) Tie the little bastard's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

14) Consume remainder of Scotch. Get partner to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15) Arrange for RSPCA to collect mutant cat from hell and ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

How to Give A Dog A Pill:

1) Wrap it in bacon.



Kids Corner

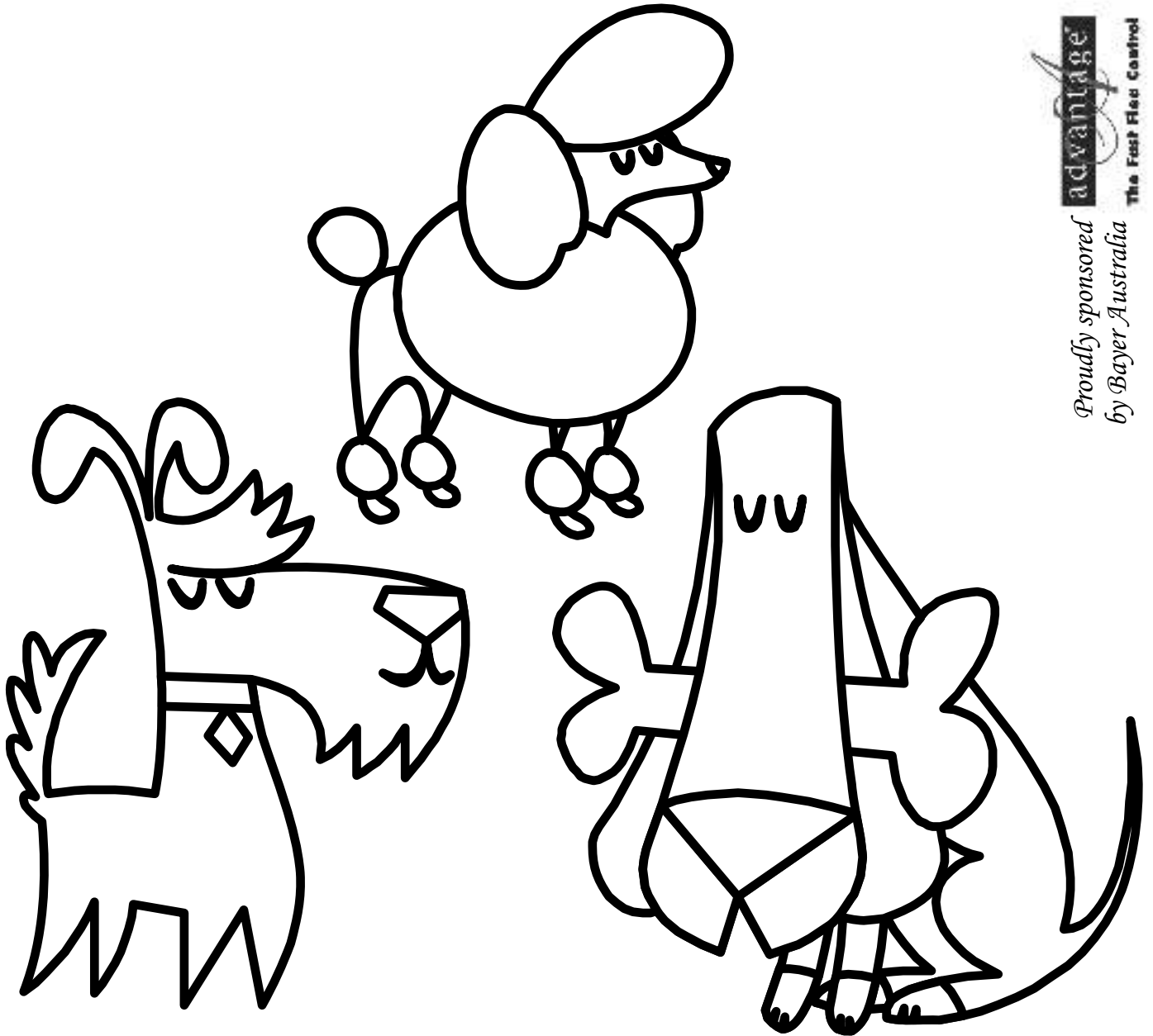


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