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

Winter 2007

The English Toy Spaniel: Road Test



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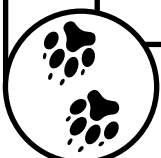
Fax: (08) 9383 2846

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 7.00pm

Saturday: 8.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am to 1.00pm

Public Holidays: 8.00am to 1.00pm





Road Test: THE ENGLISH TOY SPANIEL:



Considered the quintessential lap dog these beautiful little spaniels were the darlings of British Royalty and in particular King Charles 11, who adored them. The black and tan varieties became known as King Charles Spaniels. Bred primarily as companions (though they had some early use as gun

dogs), they were known as comforters and foot warmers in drafty English castles!

They should not be confused with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels as whilst this breed more approximates the original Toy Spaniels (being developed in the early 20th century in an attempt to recreate the dogs depicted in the works of the old masters in paintings of King Charles 11) of earlier times, the Toy Spaniel underwent changes in the 19th century and became a smaller dog with a flatter face, protruding eyes and rounded skull.

HISTORY:

The origins of this breed probably trace back to Asian Spaniels and possibly the Pug, but they were primarily developed in England in the 16th century.

They were the dog of choice of British Royalty and it is said that Mary Queen of Scots went to her death with one of these devoted little spaniels hidden in the folds of her skirts.

Due to changes in breeding trends the breed changed from the earlier type and today they are a much smaller dog.

APPEARANCE:

A small, sturdy, square spaniel with a pug nose they have large round eyes and long pendulant ears, with a well feathered and soft coat.

The colours are black and tan (the King Charles), ruby (solid red), Blenheim (white with red markings) and tricolour (the Prince Charles).

They are around 25cm in height and weigh between 4-5kg. Traditionally the tail was docked.

CHARACTERISTICS:

This breed are gentle, happy and playful with a sweet temperament though they may be timid.

They are very sociable with their people, and people they feel they can trust, and are naturally well behaved and intelligent.

They need to be treated gently and are very quiet and non demanding.

The ultimate lap dog they make great companions for the elderly, are generally friendly with other dogs, and live between 10-12 years.

WHO SHOULD OWN ONE:

They make very good family pets craving the attention and constant companionship of their family.

An average barker they make reasonable watch dogs though they are considered exclusively a companion dog.

Good with children and other pets, older children are better as these dogs are very sensitive and need careful handling.

They are primarily an indoor dog and do not tolerate heat or cold at all well so are good for apartments as their exercise needs are minimal.

Reasonably low maintenance they require regular brushing but not stripping or clipping and they are average shedders.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Some blood lines are prone to respiratory problems and their short muzzle predisposes them to heat stroke in the hot Perth climate.

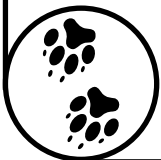
They also suffer from mitral valve disease (a heart condition involving faulty valve function), slipping patellas (knee caps that slip to the inside of the leg causing temporary loss of function of the knee or stifle joint), ear infections and eye problems.

The mitral valve disease and to a lesser extent the patella problem can be selected against when breeding so when purchasing an English Toy Spaniel care should be taken that the breeding stock have been screened.

In summary the English Toy Spaniel is an interesting little dog with a heritage that goes back to 16th century England and the Royal Houses of that era.

Today they have changed and become a smaller breed with the mantle of the dog favoured by King Charles 11 passing to the newer Cavalier King Charles which are a similar but an entirely separate breed.

Tony Vigano





Moving house with a cat:

I am often asked by concerned cat owners about the best way to settle their cat into a new home.

Cats form definite attachments to places and may try to return to their old home but a few precautions can ensure your cat accepts a new address.

Ensure that your cat is wearing a collar and an identification tag but better still that he or she has been microchipped. The tag should have your telephone number as this makes it easy for the finder to reach you. The microchip has a number encoded in it and on scanning this all your details are quickly available on making a phone call.

Cats do not like change or disruption to their household and routine and will often become uneasy when packing commences and may "leave home" rather than be in the midst of all the confusion. It is best to lock the cat securely in one room while packing so that it cannot do this and this also ensures that the cat doesn't climb into a packing chest for a sleep and get packed off with the household goods!

When it is time to move out of the old home make sure that you lock the cat in a secure room or cat carrier before the removalist arrives. The cat should be transported to its new home in a secure cat carrier as many cats become frightened in a car and may escape en route.

When you arrive at your new address do not release the cat until the removalists, visitors etc have all left and the household is quiet. Make sure that all doors and windows are closed and if you have an open fireplace screen the chimney as frightened cats will often



hide in there. Restrain the cat to one room and sit quietly with it, allowing it to explore. This room should be the cat's own room for a few days so place a litter tray and its food and water bowls and a sleeping basket in the room. The cat will explore every corner of the room and rub itself around



the furniture to add its scent and claim it as its territory. The use of a relatively new product Feliway which comes in a diffuser and lasts about one month when plugged into a wall socket will enhance the cat's comfort in its new surroundings. Feliway contains basic naturally occurring cat pheromones and when these are allowed to diffuse into the air the cat will feel more comfortable and familiar. Ask us about this product when next you visit the surgery as Feliway can be used to treat a variety of territorially driven behaviour problems such as spraying in the house. An "old wives tale" recommends putting butter on the cat's paws. All I can see this doing is to keep the cat occupied for a while as it cleans itself so I would not rely on this method.

If your cat is normally an outdoor animal it should be confined to the house for at least two weeks to allow it to develop an attachment to the new home. This will gradually happen as a feeding pattern is developed and the cat develops a familiarity to its new surroundings. The new cat enclosures developed and marketed by Catamax allow your cat to explore the outside whilst still being enclosed. These are becoming more popular in areas where the movement of cats has been curtailed and regulated due to the presence of native fauna such as on the edges of natural forests. In Lorne Victoria such a regulation exists and cats have to be home in bed





Moving house with a cat: continued



by 6pm so many people opt to have their cats permanently housed in an enclosure similar to a large outdoor aviary. Cats are very territorial and it may be that a neighbour's cat has claimed your new backyard as its territory. When you first let your cat outside do so for only short periods and stay with it. A harness applied around the cat's neck and chest will allow it some freedom whilst still being contained.

Do this for a few weeks until you are confident that your cat has a feeling of attachment to its new home. Your cat will have to claim your yard as its own territory and this may involve a lot of posturing and hissing with neighbourhood cats but generally the cats will work things out for themselves. If you have a family dog and both your cat and the dog are friends then the dog can be a great help to your cat in establishing the ground rules for marauding invaders. If your cat goes missing, check in garden sheds and those of your neighbours, and also under the house.

Cats soon go to ground in small places where they feel secure if they are frightened.

Also notify local veterinary clinics, your local Council and any nearby animal welfare agencies if your cat goes missing as these people generally network to return beloved pets to their owners.

In general cats make the move very well and probably settle in better and more quickly than the kids. The stories of cats covering vast distances to find their way back to the old home are few and far between particularly if you adhere to a few rules.

Tony Vigano

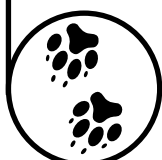


Our Good Citizen Program:

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 Sunday 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.





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.

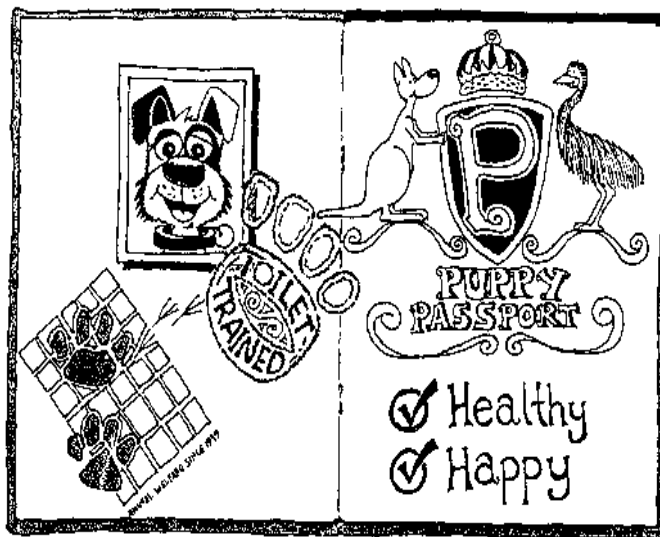
Legislation however is only a small part of the story and the benefits you will obtain from a well mannered dog in later life are far more important.

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 you 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.



Petpro Veterinary Centre

Swanbourne

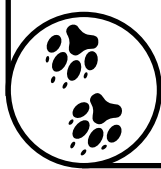
Puppy Plus Package



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 2007





The Woolly Winter Clip

Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

Woolly Winter Clip Voucher

This voucher entitles the bearer to a Swanbourne Woolly Winter Clip at the VIP price of \$35.00
*Not to be used in conjunction with other offers

Authorised: _____ Expiry: September 30th 2007

With winter well and truly upon us it is definitely time to make some decisions regarding your winter wardrobe. Although in the warmer months you choose the full body clip for its comfort and style, winter demands a different approach to dressing.

That's why we are now offering our valued clients a "Woolly Winter Clip". It's not a full clip but a trim of your face, backside and paws, as well as a bath, blow dry, nail clip, and ears and anal gland check. You can be sure to strut your stuff at the park with confidence and panache after all this!

The Swanbourne Veterinary Centre also stock a wide range of accessories such as doggy jumpers, collars, and leads so you can co-ordinate your entire wardrobe.

Ask to see our full range of dog coats as well. They are beautifully tailored and come in some great colours so you can make a bold statement while remaining snug and warm all winter.

If you are interested in our Woolly Winter Clip offer please get the boss of the house to ring Swanbourne Veterinary Centre on 9384 2644 for an appointment.

Plus, if you bring in the voucher with you, you will receive our special promotional price of \$35.00

What's New at Swanbourne:

Cotton Carry Bags:

In line with retail outlets generally we have now discontinued our use of plastic carry bags. We have had cotton carry bags made up for those clients who buy food and other merchandise on a regular basis and, like our supermarket shopping bags, these can be left in the car for continued use. We pass these on to you at the cost price of \$2 so when you next come in to make a purchase resist the temptation of asking for a plastic bag and do your bit for the environment that we live in.

Sheepskins:

We have managed to obtain a limited number of quality sheepskins from a Geraldton tannery. These make great underlays for your best friends' bed though they are definitely good enough to use decoratively in the home or as seat covers in the car. They are superior to anything else we have handled in the past and come in 4 sizes: Small, medium, large, and extra large and they sell at \$42, \$58, \$66 and \$82.50 respectively.

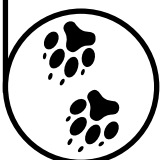
Ask Dot or Nickee to look at the selection next time you call into the hospital.

Glucosamine, chondroitin and fish oil:

Scientific opinion is divided on the efficacy of these products for arthritis in man, and trials in the past have at best shown that supplements of particularly glucosamine and chondroitin slow down rather than replenish the loss of articular cartilage that occurs with age.

Nevertheless there is much anecdotal evidence to suggest that supplementation using these products in many cases appears to give both people and animals considerable relief from the pain and joint stiffness associated with arthritis.

We at Swanbourne, whilst employing the use of non steroidal pain relief when applicable, and, for the want of a better description, joint conditioners such as cartrophen injections, we also strongly recommend supplementation with fish oil, glucosamine and chondroitin in dogs with arthritis. To this end we stock a range of very competitively priced products. Check it out when next you call.





Elderly Pets- A comfortable relationship made better

Just as the lifespan of humans is increasing, so is that of our dogs. This is due to improved nutrition and health care that our "best friends" receive.

As the years go by, the relationship between dog and owner deepens and whilst most owners will notice some natural signs of ageing, they may not be aware that a few small adjustments can improve the quality of an older animal's life.

Signs of ageing may include graying of the coat, especially around the muzzle, and lower activity levels.

Degenerative changes in the eyes are common in ageing dogs. Owners may notice that the eye appears slightly cloudy, due to thickening of the lens. Most dogs cope well with this gradual loss of vision, but you must be aware of their need for familiar surroundings in which they can comfortably and safely move.

Other senses that may be impaired due to age include hearing and smell. The total loss of hearing makes it difficult to control your dog and the owner must pay particular care to ensure the dog is always supervised on the street and never out of visual control.

Your elderly pet will be happiest in an area with which he is familiar. Never let him wander alone.

Stiffness and difficulty in getting up or jumping are common problems due to arthritis in older dogs. These changes mean that your old friend moves more slowly and may not want to play rough or active games.

Medication can relieve some of the discomfort of aching joints and stiff muscles, so if your pet is showing obvious discomfort then make an appointment with us to check him out.

Whilst evidence is largely anecdotal, supplementation with glucosamine, chondroitin and fish oil can have a profound effect even commencing at a young age in those breeds that are particularly affected.

Later on when the effects are more widespread and debilitating the use of non steroidal medications for pain relief, and joint "conditioners" such as cartrophen injections can also help immeasurably in returning considerable quality of life to your older best friend. Weight control is also essential in managing stiffening joints.

Elderly dogs are also less able to cope with extremes of temperature.

During the hottest days they must be kept in the coolest areas...air conditioning is greatly appreciated by dogs as well as people!

In the winter they require a warm, draught and damp free area, preferably up off cold surfaces such as concrete, and devices like hammock style beds are excellent but even a wooden pallet



from a packing crate suffices.

Regular, gentle exercise is vitally important to retain muscle tone and to stimulate heart and lungs.

A 15 minute walk once or twice a day is ideal but be sure not to walk them until they tire.

Grooming is also important, paying particular attention to removing any food or excreta adhering to the fur.

This is an ideal opportunity to check for any unusual lumps or bumps, parasites or pressure sores.

Any skin problems should also be noted and reported to your vet at the next visit, which should be more frequent as your best friend ages...at least twice a year.

Reduced activity may mean that the dog's nails are not worn down and these may require cutting more often as if left to grow they will make walking more difficult.

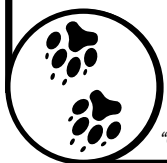
This is best carried out by your vet as special implements are necessary and experience is essential to ensure the nails are not made to bleed which happens more readily the longer the nails become.

Older animals often suffer from a loss of bladder tone. Dogs generally urinate more frequently with age and it is important that you are sensitive to these needs allowing them free access to the backyard. Females in particular may suffer from excoriation as a result of urinary incontinence and this may require routine attention and on-going treatment to address the cause.

The general decline in health experienced with age is something we all have to deal with and regular examinations of your best friend by your local vet are an essential part of supporting the older animal as indeed it is with ourselves.

Routine checks at least every 6 months are recommended to ensure your pet enjoys a comfortable life into his/her older years.

Tony Vigano



Kids★ Corner

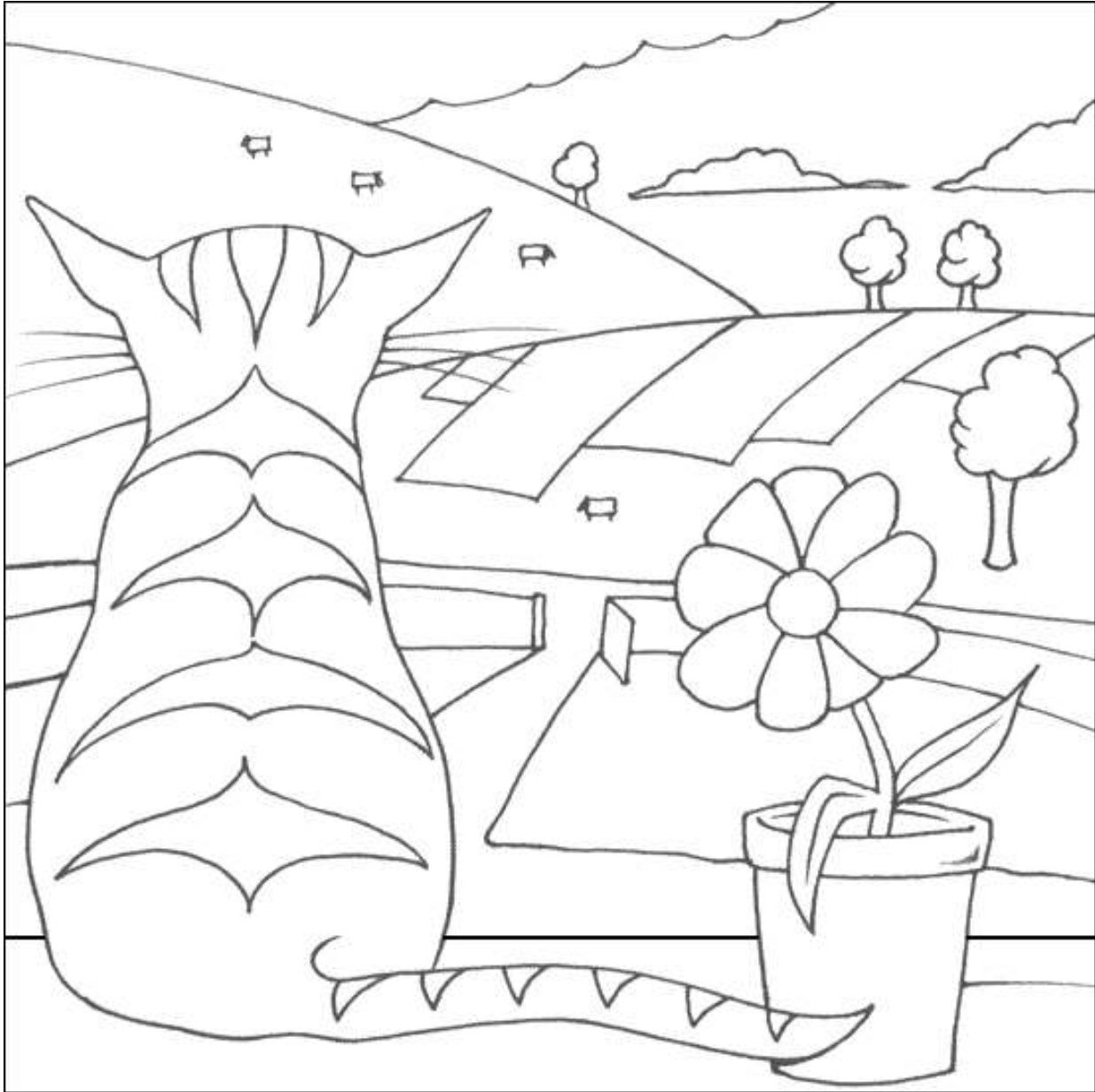


SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

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 September 2007 for your chance to win...*A years supply of Flea Control products for your pet!*



advantage
The Fast Flea Control
Proudly sponsored
by Bayer Australia

Name: Age:

Address:

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Telephone No:

Good Luck!

