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## The Pet Professionals

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

Summer 2005

### The French Bulldog Road Test



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E-mail us at: [vet@petpro.com.au](mailto:vet@petpro.com.au)

### 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 FRENCH BULLDOG Road Test

as featured on the Gary Carvolth and Friends Talking Perth Show Monday November 29<sup>th</sup> 2004



## THE FRENCH BULLDOG:

Also known as the Bouledogue Francais and The Frenchie this characterful little bulldog has been likened to Pugs with cropped ears, Boston Terriers on steroids and even Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pigs.

They found their way to France from England and became the favourites of the Belles de Nuit (French street walkers), and French postcards of the time often depicted scantily clad prostitutes posing with their Frenchies!

At this time they became fashionable with the artistic set right across Europe and even the pet of Russian royalty. It is said that a French Bulldog was on board the ill fated Titanic on her maiden voyage.

## HISTORY:

The breed was originally developed in England in the 1860's as a miniature version of the English Bulldog. By breeding from smaller examples, and in particular those with tulip shaped ears, a new type was created. They found their way to France with English lace workers and were initially bred with French Terriers and soon became popular as ratters but then achieved notoriety with the artistic set. It was American fanciers at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who established the breed and in particular developed the bat ears which have become the breed signature.



## APPEARANCE:

These are a sturdy, heavy boned little Bulldog with erect and rounded "bat" like ears.

They have a flat, powerful muzzle and a pug nose with a square flat head though not as massive as the English Bulldog. The forehead is rounded and they have a pear shaped physique with a short, soft, easy-care coat which comes in most colours with brindle, fawn, white and combinations of brindle or fawn with white, being the most popular.

The skin is soft and fairly loose and their eyes are prominent. The tail is straight or cork screw and they grow to 30cm in height, weigh between 9-12 kg and live 10-12 years.

## CHARACTERISTICS:

A pleasant and easy care companion, they are playful and affectionate. They are also endowed with a comical personality and they love clowning around so often find themselves the constant companion of travelling people such as truck drivers because of their bright and cheery nature.



They get on well with strangers for the most part but many do bond with one person and they like nothing better than to be by the side of their chosen one 24 hours a day.

Some males can be dog aggressive and as they can also be willful, obedience training is recommended albeit with a patient and consistent handler as they do not respond to harsh treatment.

A ruthless hunter of mice some can drool and slobber but no where near as much as traditional Bulldogs.

## WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

They are excellent in apartments and in fact will do well anywhere as long as they are in close contact with the family.

They are better with older and more considerate children and are not good in extreme weather conditions so Perth's hot weather can be hazardous due to heat stress if they are left outside.

Very little grooming is required, just a quick brush occasionally as they are average shedders of hair.

They rarely bark and so in general are no intrusive around the house but do need company.

## VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

As with all Bulldogs (and they are in fact the best of them) they are not a low maintenance dog and so be prepared for regular veterinary attention.

They are prone to eye and respiratory problems and swimming is not recommended so beware around the family pool!

Von Willebrand's disease (a heritable blood clotting disorder), thyroid abnormalities, elongated soft palates and cleft palates and spinal problems (due to the early selection from dwarf stock) are just a few of the long list and so care must be taken in selecting a puppy that is free of the more recognized and heritable problems.

They are quite often not delivered naturally so caesarian section is common in the breed and therefore as a breed they are quite expensive to purchase.



In summary, and inspite of their inherent problems, they have quite a strong following in Australia. Their friendly, comical disposition (and looks?) makes them a joy to have around in the eyes of many devotees and as the Bulldogs go they aren't too bad as regards medical issues.



For the right person who wants a constant companion, and in preferably luxurious surroundings (they are a bit of a couch potato) with air conditioning and all the trimmings they may be just the dog.





# Cat Corner

## Living with an Elderly Cat:

There comes a time in every cat's life no matter how well he or she has been looked after that old age sets in.

In cats this is a far more silent process than in dogs and man as cats are far more private than these latter two species.

Cats tend to grow old gracefully. Unlike dogs the signs of aging are more discreet with graying of the coat with age almost always absent in the domestic cat and arthritic changes not as noticeable.



Cats are well into middle age by the time they are 8 years old but many cats outlive the average lifespan of 14 years if they are well cared for. Un-owned cats have an estimated lifespan of only 2 years.

The first year of a cat's life is equated to about 15 human years, but the rate declines gradually until the by time the cat is in its "teens" each year is equivalent to about 3 human years. In both the average lifespan (14 years) and maximum lifespan (25-30 years) the cat is longer-lived than almost all other small domestic animals, including the dog. The oldest recorded cat was called "Puss". He died in 1939, the day after his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Cat naturally slow down as they age and spend more time sleeping. The elderly cat will appreciate a warm draught-free bed indoors. Progressive weight loss is the most common problem in old cats and some will lose weight and some may have diminished sight or hearing and although the sense of smell will allow the cat to compensate somewhat for the loss of one or both of these senses it is important to confine the cat so that it is kept safe from traffic.

Old cats may become fussy eaters and prefer smaller more frequent meals. Fresh clean water must always be available as kidney function declines in elderly cats. Observant owners may notice increased thirst, reluctance to eat, drooling, an inability to groom or a

reluctance to move and take "Puss" to the vet for a checkup. Regular veterinary checkups may help detect any changes in the cat before they become advanced problems and there are several non invasive things that can be done to increase the quality of life of your old cat, some as simple as diet changes and of course cleaning those teeth which can become a source of discomfort when tartar build up irritates the gums and mouth generally.

Although less common in cats than in dogs, arthritic changes may make it difficult for the cat to twist into the many positions younger cats contort themselves when grooming. Old cats will benefit from a regular brush and/or comb and even the occasional bath if you have the nerve! (we even clip ours in the Spring so that she doesn't shed hair all over the house & after the initial embarrassment she seems much better for it!). A sign that the cat is having problems with grooming is a clumped and unkempt coat, particularly down the backbone and hindquarters and in these situations fleas and other parasitic problems can be a real issue.

Elderly cats are rather similar to elderly humans. They like to take life a little easier and sit on the verandah in the sun and watch the world go by.





# 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
2. puppy socialization until 12 weeks
3. PUPi management classes until 16 weeks
4. Dog Obedience classes from 16 weeks

Makes sense to create a continuous forum right through then everyone knows where they are going and what to expect.

We have discounted the whole process including sterilization by 10% as an incentive (the Puppy Plus Package...coupon to be found in this newsletter) and I'll bet your dog and everyone who comes into contact with your new best friend both now and in the future, will love you for it!

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.

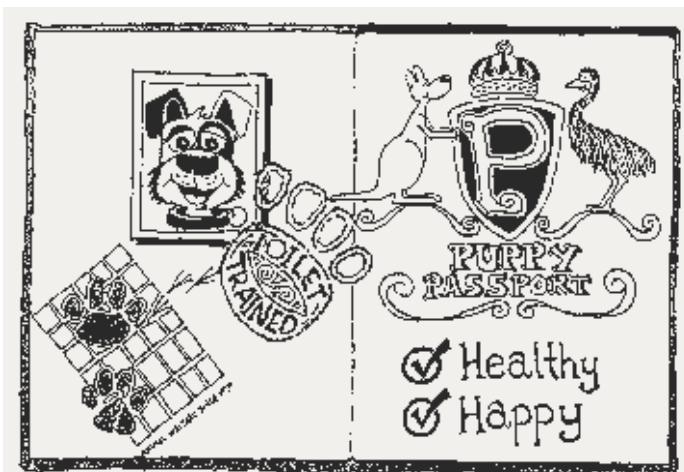
Legislation however is only a small part of the story and the benefits you will obtain from a well mannered dog in later life are far more important.

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 he/she 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).

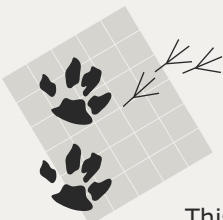


For our part we are keen to be part of this and so offer you the third part of the equation - an affordable package which includes a discount on the sterilisation of your new pet.

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), dog obedience & sterilisation package (within 6 months of issue).
- Petpro discount card which provides 10% discount on all over the counter products for the dog's lifetime.

*\*Not to be used in conjunction with other offers*

**Authorised:** \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry September 30th 2004





# www.petpro.com.au - your vet online

What's new at Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

## 1. Our midweek evening Dog Obedience Classes.

To supplement our ever popular Sunday Classes at Swanbourne Oval, John Connell has agreed to hold a class under lights at College Park (the lower oval) on Wednesday evenings. The same format as the Sunday classes and just a bit more convenient for people who have heavy weekend commitments. 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 food from Swanbourne. Currently we are offering beach towels, water bottles and water wallets in preparation for your impending visits to the beach once the hot weather arrives. This plus cat igloos, ball throwers and so on are a regular feature. Just ask Dot or Nickee when next you come in.

## 9. Pet Accessories.

We currently have water bottles, water wallets, poo bag holders and back packs on special for those long early morning and late afternoon jaunts with your best friend now the summer has arrived. We also have the usual comprehensive range of collars, leads and so on and if we don't have it we can order it in within 24 hours.

## 10. Our Web Site.

Don't forget to visit our bulletin board at [www.petpro.com.au](http://www.petpro.com.au) Currently Tony is road testing dogs each week on the new "Weekends with Gary Carvolth Show" Sundays at 3.15pm and these road tests are all on the web site along with lots of other practice news 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 out a 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

Michelle Buller

Michelle joined the practice in September 2004 as our full time groomer which she combines with her own business.

Born in Perth, Michelle was educated at John 23<sup>rd</sup> then attended the Harvey Agricultural College before rounding herself off with a certificate in Business and Administration.

Initially she worked as a receptionist but this did not satisfy her urge to work with animals and she started her own dog grooming business in early 2004.

She has two horses, Hercules and Reggie and she rides competitively, plus a dog Jessie.

Her hobbies are her work, her animals and working on the family farm. She joined the team at Swanbourne in September 2004 as our full time groomer and her happy and cheerful disposition was an instant hit with everyone.

Good to have you on board Michelle and particularly as in working with us she has fulfilled a childhood dream of "working at the vets' around the corner". We look forward to a long association.

**Michelle Buller**



Simone Altieri

Simone recently joined the Swanbourne team straight from school.

She has just finished her TEE at the Rockingham High School and gained entrance into the part time Veterinary Nursing course at the Bentley School of TAFE, commencing 2005. Well done Simone, it has been a flurry of activity for her since her exams finished and she has fitted in well to the workplace.

Her duties include helping in the kennels, assisting the full time groomer and as an extra pair of hands when needed in the surgery and consulting rooms.

She is a keen horsewoman owning a quarter horse called Solly which she rides regularly in Shows and for leisure.

She also has two dogs (Dexter and Bender) and a cat named Emma.

We chose Simone from a formidable list of applicants as she has a background with animals and a burning ambition to make animal care her career.

We look forward to being part of this dream, and a long association with Simone.

**Simone Altieri**



## 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 31st March 2005 for your chance to win... *A years supply of Flea Control products for your pet!*



*Proudly sponsored by Bayer Australia*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Good Luck!*

