



The newsletter of the Swanbourne and Doubleview Veterinary Centres



www.petpro.com.au

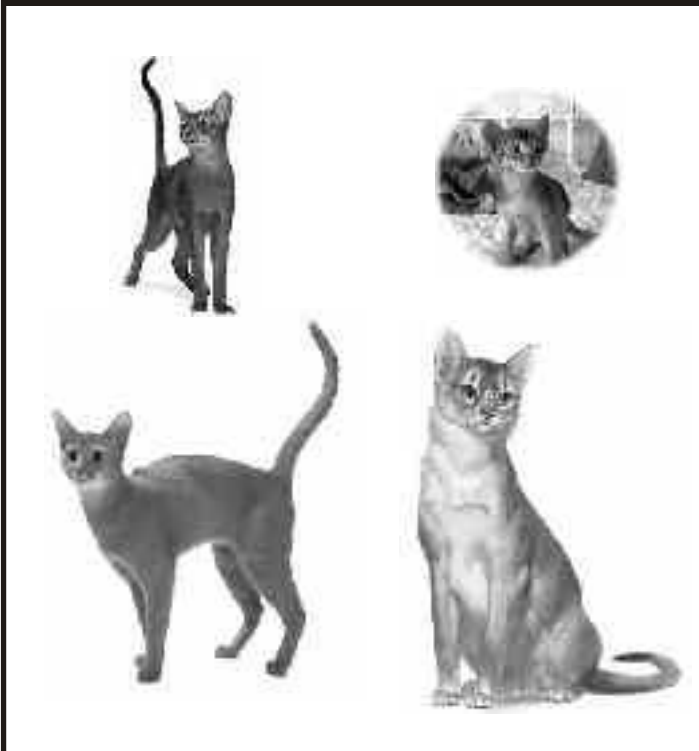
Professional • Diverse • Different

The Pet Professionals

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

Spring 2003

The Abyssinian Road Test



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Monday to Friday: 7.00am to 7.00pm
Saturday: 8.00am to 6.00pm
Sunday & Public Holidays: 8.00am to 6.00pm

Doubleview Veterinary Centre
177 Scarborough Beach Road Scarborough 6019
Tel: (08) 9341 1200
Fax: (08) 9341 6475
Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 6.30pm
Saturday: 8.00am to 5.30pm
Sunday & Public Holidays: 8.30am to 5.30pm



SWANBOURNE & DOUBLEVIEW VETERINARY CENTRES
"Professional, Diverse & Different"

The one-stop pet shops



The Abyssinian Road Test

ROAD TEST (as featured on the Gary Carvolth & Jenny Seaton Talking Perth Show Thursday 4.9.2003)

THE ABYSSINIAN:

Fancy one of the jungle's "big cats" in miniature?

Then you're in luck, the Abyssinian not only resembles a little mountain lion, walks like a panther, and has the proud carriage of a cougar, but encapsulates all those qualities that so appeal to lovers of the very natural looking big cats.



HISTORY:

The Abyssinian is often considered to be the cat that the Ancient Egyptians worshipped as it looks like the mummified cats that have been discovered.

It certainly comes from the right area, as the earliest Abyssinian type cats were imported from Abyssinia (now Ethiopia).

There is no question that the Aby resembles the African wildcat ancestor of the domestic cat.

The history is obscure but it seems that the first specimen was brought back to Britain by the wife of an English Army officer in 1868.

The breed was first recognised in the UK in 1883 and they reached North America in the early 1900's.

Recent studies by geneticists show that the most convincing origin is the coast of the Indian Ocean and parts of South East Asia and the earliest identifiable Aby is a taxidermal exhibit still residing in the Leiden Zoological Museum in Holland and was purchased around 1834-36 from a merchant from India.

APPEARANCE:

A medium sized cat they have an elegant and regal appearance with strong lithe bodies and long slender legs.

Their round wedge shaped heads and large pointed ears (with characteristic tufting) gives them an unforgettable appearance as does their agouti colouring (dark and light contrasting colours on each strand of hair) which comes in a variety of shades (not unlike the classic domestic tabby).

CHARACTERISTICS:

Of medium build the Aby is highly inquisitive, extremely agile and in fact a real acrobat.

They are a bold and busy breed - real athletes, and they enjoy a very active lifestyle being fleet of foot, fearless and they thrive on mental stimulation so be sure to provide them with toys and room to play.

They are also intelligent and affectionate, appealing often to dog lovers due to their easy adaptation to walking on a lead, retrieving, and performing tricks with their paws.

They generally have small litters but the chance to share your home with a miniature "king of the jungle" more than makes any wait worthwhile. Be prepared to have them for between 9 and 15 years.

WHO SHOULD OWN ONE:

These cats often win over the hearts of the traditional non-cat types particularly men, and I find that once a person owns an Aby they become hooked on the breed.

They make great family pets though in busy households it may be an idea to have two so they can amuse themselves.

The males are generally fine with other cats though the females can be a bit prickly. They are generally excellent with dogs, probably because they see them as equals.

Their independent and non destructive ways makes them a great childrens' playmate spending time playing until the whim takes them elsewhere.



VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

These are generally very healthy cats. They are prone to a few hereditary diseases such as progressive retinal atrophy (premature blindness), a storage disease (cells accumulating toxic substances) causing neurological disorders (seizures), renal disease (amyloidosis), and patella luxation/hip dysplasia (malformations of the hips and hind legs). Anecdotally we also see psychogenic dermatitis (overwashing due to anxiety) and gingivitis (gum disease).

Abyssinians come highly recommended for those people who would rather have a dog but don't have the time, as they respond to their owners more in the way we attribute to dogs. Having said this they are beautiful cats in their own right with real grace of movement, a playful spirit and that demonstrate real affection towards their people.





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 and easy to manage 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 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).

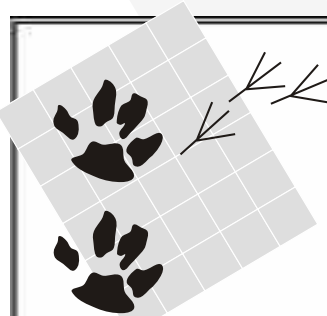
For our part we are keen to be part of this and so offer you the third part of the equation - an affordable package which includes a discount on the sterilisation of your new pet.

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 about this when next you attend either Petpro practice.

Tony Vigano




Petpro Veterinary Centre

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.







Exotics Corner..

A RAT FOR A PET:

Looking for a pet which is cheap to feed and easy to look after? Have you ever considered a rat? Although we tend to think of rats as dirty disease carrying animals, the species of rats kept as pets are among the cleanest and most fastidious of animals.

White rats and Hooded rats - so called because they have a black marking across their head, make intriguing pets.



If obtained very young and they are well handled they will become extremely friendly.

It is necessary to have an enclosure for your pet rat as they can be very destructive if left to

roam. Rats have an instinct to chew and also to go into narrow spaces, which may mean the back of your stereo where they will shred the wiring!

Many people keep their pet rats in a large glass fish tank as it is necessary to have a very sturdy "rat house" which they cannot chew through. Care must be taken to see that the glass tanks are not allowed to become too hot by leaving them near a window where the sun can shine on them.

Cover the floor of the rats' house with kitty litter and then a layer of wood shavings which can be purchased from the local pet store.

Don't use pine shavings as they are sticky. Shredded white paper is excellent, but newspaper is too dirty as the print comes off and the rats will swallow it as they try to lick it off their coats.

Rats spend a lot of time grooming themselves in a cat-like fashion. The rat house must be kept spotlessly clean.

Rats are very social animals and it may be better to have two, but try to get the same sex or you may be in for a surprise!

Pet stores sell pelleted rat food which can be supplemented with fresh, washed fruit and vegetables. Fresh water must be available at all times and it is best supplied in a gravity-feed water dispenser which keeps the water clean.

Rats are very curious little animals and enjoy playing with toys which can be obtained from most vets or pet stores. These alleviate the boredom and it is also necessary to provide hard blocks of wood so they can wear their front teeth down as these continue to grow. The downside of keeping them as pets as they have a very short lifespan of about two years.

Over the years I have been amazed at just who keeps rats, I even had a biker as a client who carried his around on the bike inside his leather jacket!

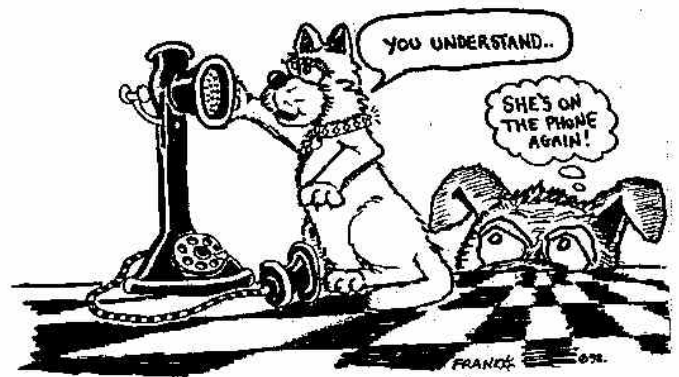




Talk to the Vet

The "Talk to the Vet" column assists us in providing articles and information that you, our valued clients may find of interest.

In each issue of the Petpro Newsletter we will select a couple of short topics and hints associated with various problems. If you have any questions in particular that you would like answered then please write in and we will publish your letter along with a response in the next Petpro Newsletter.



Please send your letters to:

Petpro Column
Swanbourne Veterinary Centre
2 Devon Road, Swanbourne WA 6010

Facsimile: 9383 2846

Email: vet@petpro.com.au

AN OBSERVATION:

For the last couple of years I have been doing a slot on Thursdays with Gary Carvolth and Jenny Seaton on the Talking Perth Show on 6PR.

It never ceases to amaze me when I do this and other Open Events such as the Royal Show and Pets in the Park, that 90% of the questions are about animal behaviour. Yet when we see people in our practices clients rarely bring this up and seemingly put up with behaviour that, whilst in most cases is normal behaviour for pets, is nevertheless annoying to say the least, in a suburban environment.

It doesn't have to be so! You can modify even the worst behaviour without being cruel or heavy handed.

Pet Psychology:

Animals can be complicated beings just like us. Their temperaments are often the result of prior experiences as with us and often that annoying habit that your new puppy seems to delight in strutting out when you have guests is in fact normal behaviour for dogs and just needs to be modified to make it acceptable (sounds familiar?).

Animal behaviour is one of the most asked about topics when vets offer themselves in open forums to answer pet related questions. On 6PR I am asked more about the sorts of things that pets do that annoy us than any other topic.

You don't have to put up with things just because you love your new pet to bits...it's okay to dislike and try to change some aspects whilst still loving them a bit like kids!

Most experienced vets know a lot more about animal behaviour than they realise and once you understand the way particularly dogs think (that they are a pack animal and that they just love to please the leader of the pack you) then it becomes a whole lot easier to deal with.

We at Petpro understand this as we all own and love pets and so you are amongst friends in this.

If we can't help you then odds on we will know who can and there are lots of very safe medications that will set the pattern for a better relationship with your best friend if that's what's needed.

Training the new puppy or kitten, dealing with antisocial behaviour, right through to the pampered pooch with separation anxiety are all part of what we do.

Looking after you and your relationship with your pet is more than just annual health checks and de-sexing.

We are keen to help you feel good about your pet and derive enjoyment from the relationship.

Try us.

Tony Vigano





What's in a Name - PETPRO?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I have recently been asked about the curious name PETPRO that bobs up here and there on our hand outs (eg: this newsletter), on the signage of the two hospitals and the web site.

The idea stemmed from the fact that "The Swanbourne and Doubleview Veterinary Centres" seems a bit long and we wanted to create the idea of familiarity between the two establishments.

The name was originally coined 10 years ago as the name for the Newsletter and then we extended it as the name for some of our ancillary services....Petpro Puppy Class, Petpro Dog Obedience Class, Petpro Dogwash and so on.

From the feedback I have received however all this seems to have gone on largely unnoticed by our clients (even less so by their pets!).

Currently I am developing our Web Page as the bulletin board for the practice and so you will notice that the name for this Newsletter is now www.petpro.com.au to emphasise this.

If you haven't seen the web site please have a look. Your comments favourable or otherwise are very welcome & whilst you are there please drop me an email with your email address if you have one so we can use this medium for contact as well.

The hospitals will always be known separately as the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre and the Doubleview Veterinary Centre but for brevity you may also see them called Petpro Swanbourne and Petpro Doubleview.

Petpro is not a buying group, or a range of products or a franchised name just my attempt at abbreviating the full practice name and branding the two practices as one.

U WASH HYDROBATH COMES TO SWANBOURNE:

From the last week in September from 8am until 12pm Saturday and Sunday you can bring your best friend to be bathed at the Swanbourne Centre and for \$14 the job will be done for you including a towel dry, with shampoo and flea rinse supplied. This is the same service that both Centres run 7 days a week.

However, after 12 noon on Saturdays and Sundays at the Swanbourne Centre and until closing time at 6pm you will be able to wash your own dog. We will supply the hydrobath and the shampoo. All you have to do is bring a towel and be prepared to do it yourself. It is very easy and the hydrobath will have instructions nearby as we will be if you run into trouble.

Why not come down and have a go and for \$9 save some money as well.

DAY CARE SERVICE:

We offer a handy pet minding service at minimal cost for those days when the going gets tough at home and it would be prudent to have your best friend(s) out of the way for a few hours.

Things such as special events, weddings and birthdays when gates are open and in all the activity Fido may do a runner.

Equally, when noisy maintenance work is going on at home or you have a Home Open we are very happy to look after all your pets for however long it takes We are open 7 days a week 52 weeks of the year for this and can even pick up and deliver in our purpose provided animal ambulances.

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

CHIARA VIGANO

As many of the client family at Swanbourne know Chiara Vigano works in the hospital each morning every weekday. She looks forward to her time here to such an extent that it distresses her greatly when she has to miss a day for whatever reason.

Recently she represented Petpro as the only staff member who competed in the City to Surf fun run completing the 4km shorter version in 37 minutes and 6 seconds. She has other such events in mind now and her efforts to overcome her handicap are a monument to her determination.

Well done Chiara, if everyone tried as hard as you do, well, the world would be a better place.

Chiara Vigano



Is My Pet Overweight?

Obesity can be a serious problem in our animals. It is the most common nutritional disease of pets in Australia.

Ask us about our Weight Loss Clinics conducted at both Centres to enable your best friend to trim off for Summer.

Kerry at Doubleview and Kristy at Swanbourne are both qualified veterinary nurses experienced in the field of weight reduction and they can tailor a diet to reduce your pet's waistline. The benefits are multiple for both you and your pet.

Where Are We After Dark?

In keeping with the modern trend the Swanbourne and Doubleview Veterinary Centres are now open 7 days a week from early morning until late evening. This means that we can accommodate those early morning appointments and drop offs, and late afternoon pickups.

Our associated practice, the Mosman Park Veterinary Hospital is open until 10pm every night to cater for late night appointments and for emergencies after 10pm and until 7am the Northern Suburbs Pet Emergency Centre in the North and the Murdoch Pet Emergency Centre in the South are well set up to cater for any situation.

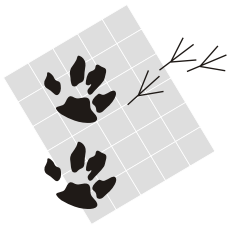
From the point of view of personal safety there are few if any practices that open all night anymore. We believe in offering the seven day service, augmented by the 10pm closure at Mosman Park we are providing an excellent coverage whilst still allowing staff time off to start the new day refreshed and ready to deal with anything that arises.

This plus the two Emergency Centres gives peace of mind that expert veterinary care is available around the clock.



Tony Vigano





SWANBOURNE & DOUBLEVIEW VETERINARY CENTRES

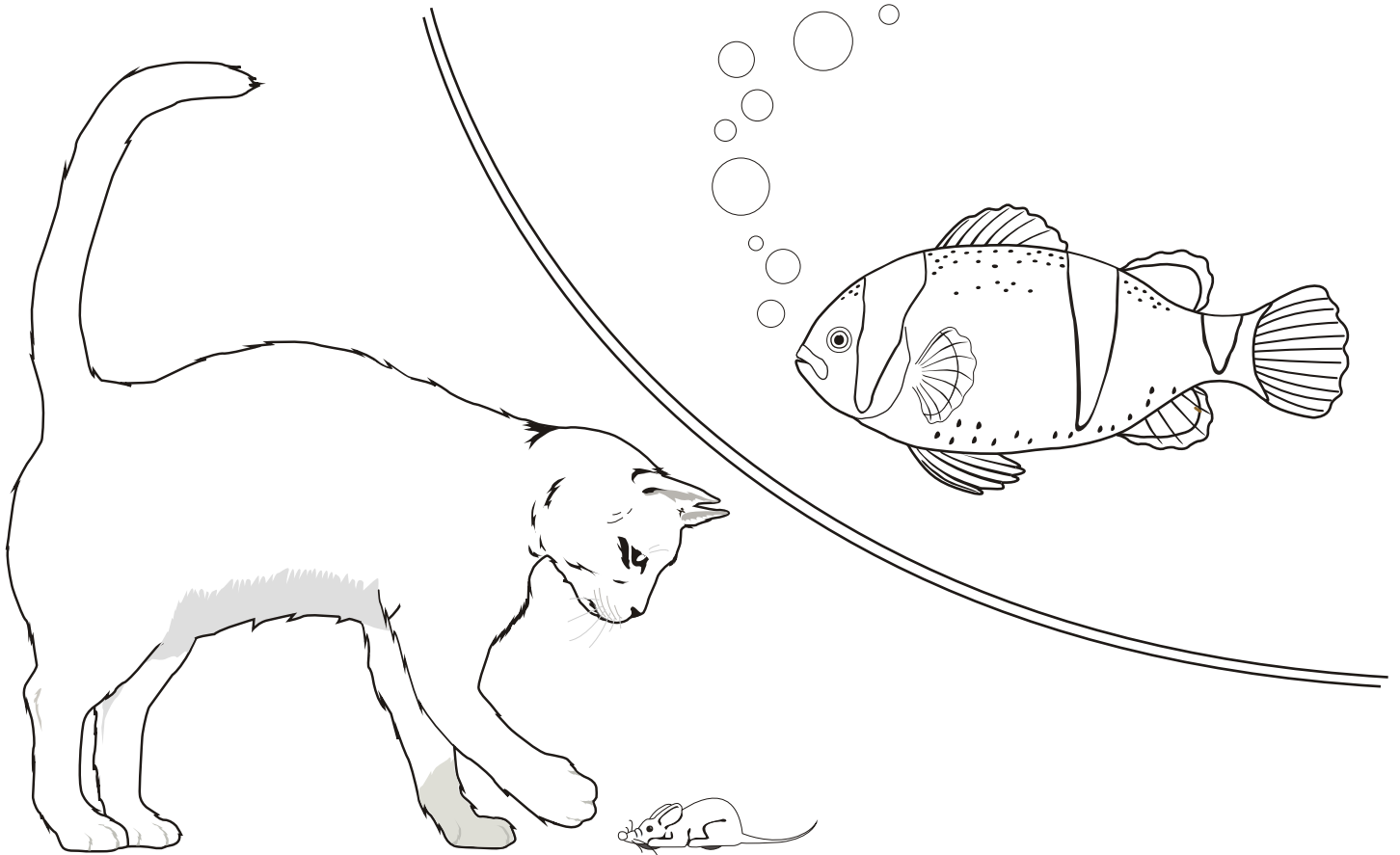
Professional • Diverse • Different



★ Kids Corner ★

Children up to 12 years are invited to enter our colouring in competition. Please post or return your entry to either Petpro Veterinary Centre by 31st December 2003 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!

