



# www.petpro.com.au

*Professional • Diverse • Different*

## The Pet Professionals

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

Spring 2006

### The Lurcher: Road Test



### Inside this Issue

Road Test: The Lurcher	Page 2
Puppy Plus Package	Page 3
Cats Corner, Kittens	Page 4
Adopt-a-cat Program	Page 5
Dog Lovers Creed	Page 6
Baby Boom, Welcome Back	Page 7
Kids Corner	Page 8



Visit our website: [www.petpro.com.au](http://www.petpro.com.au)  
E-mail us at: [tony@petpro.com.au](mailto:tony@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 4.00pm
Fax: (08) 9383 2846	Sunday: 8.00am to 1.00pm
	Public Holidays: 8.00am to 1.00pm





## Road Test: The Lurcher



**Traditionally** used for poaching rabbits, hares and other small creatures the Lurcher is basically a customized greyhound being bred to a type rather than a standard and is generally not considered a breed as it is more of a cross bred. The favorite of roguish types in the early days these dogs have a more popular image in recent times being

used for legitimate purposes such as pest control. They are still commonly seen in the UK but seldom elsewhere though the once popular kangaroo dog seen in WA was really a type of lurcher in that it was a customized greyhound bred with other dogs to produce an animal that could hunt roos.

### History:

A hunter and a companion dog, these dogs were originally bred in Ireland and Great Britain by Irish gypsies and tinkers in the 1600's and used for poaching small game. They were generally three quarters greyhound and depending on their use the greyhound was crossed with a herding dog such as a collie or terrier. Forever associated with rogues the name is thought to come from the Romany word "lur" meaning a thief. Many stately and country homes in Great Britain and Ireland even today still have an inglenook fireplace surrounded by a couple of Fox hounds, a Jack Russell or two, and a Lurcher, all used for the control of rabbits, hares and foxes on the estate.

### Appearance:

Very much like a greyhound these dogs have a short coat (there are long haired varieties) with a smooth undercoat that thickens in the winter. They have long straight legs, a deep chest (with a large lung capacity), small, high set ears, and they can be almost any colour as they derive from sighthound crosses (saluki, greyhound, deerhound, wolfhound, whippets and even terriers).

They vary in height from 69-76cm, weigh between 27-32 kg and live to around 13 years of age.

### Characteristics:

A loveable, fun loving and affectionate dog these are high energy animals that need to run.

They inherit all the traits of agility, speed and hunting instinct from their sighthound background and are great escape artists needing to be exercised in enclosed areas lest they see something that attracts their interest, at which time they will take off.

They can be an obedient dog if trained and they learn quickly. Hence a good companion dog though best for outdoor activities.

### Who Should Have One:

These are a dog not recommended for city life, being high energy. They are extremely fast and a natural racer so care must be taken to socialize them with cats and other small pets as they will chase these instinctively and kill them.

They need regular brushing and combing and are average shedders, though are generally a low maintenance animal.

Good for outdoor and country families, they are naturally gentle with people and make good companions.

### Veterinary Problems:

Because of their cross bred background they are generally a hardy, healthy breed.

The soft coat and skin can be torn easily (depending on the cross) and their deep chest can make them susceptible to bloat (a distension of the stomach occurring after eating that can lead to torsion of the stomach which becomes a surgical emergency).

### In summary:

These are a very interesting type of dog that have a working background as they are bred to a type rather than a standard and as such they are quite hardy.

Seldom seen outside the UK where they are still used today to reduce rabbit and hare numbers on farms, their Australian counterpart must surely be the kangaroo dog used by roo shooters.

As long as they are socialized and obedience trained they make excellent pets in Perth's climate and most people will remember the popularity that roo dogs enjoyed in years gone by.





# Milestones in a Kitten's Life:

## What is the gestation period of a cat?

63 days

## How large are newborn kittens?

Generally between 11-15cm long and weighing between 70 and 135gms

## Can newborn kittens see?

Kittens are born with their eyes closed and the eyes will open at around 2 weeks of age

## What colour are kittens eyes?

Regardless of whether the eye colour of the adult cat is green, blue or amber, the eyes of kittens will be grey and do not change to the adult colour until about 12 weeks of age

## What age will the kittens be able to hear?

Although kittens may respond to vibrations they will not begin to hear until about 2-3 weeks of age

## If kittens cannot see or hear how do they find their mother?

Kittens are born with a fully developed sense of smell which allows them to locate their mother to feed. They also seek out the warmth of her body.

## At what age do kittens walk?

Kittens are unable to walk when they are born and will drag themselves to the mother for a feed. At about 2 weeks old the kittens will start to lift their bodies off the floor and crawl. At approximately 3 weeks they will be able to walk and by 4-5 weeks they will run.

## Are kittens born with teeth?

All kittens are born without teeth but by the age of 8 weeks will have their "milk" teeth. The permanent teeth appear between 12-18 weeks.

## What age do kittens start to play?

Kittens begin to play with their litter mates and show "washing" behaviour at about 4 weeks and at 6-8 weeks will chase and wrestle each other.



## What age do kittens start to eat solid food?

Kittens may be given solid food at 3-4 weeks although they will still require mother's milk until fully weaned at 6-8 weeks.

## What age can a kitten begin toilet training?

Kittens begin using the litter tray as early as 3-4 weeks

## When should a kitten have its first vaccinations?

Kittens should have their first vaccinations between 6-9 weeks then again at 12-16 weeks. More frequent shots are necessary if they are to be vaccinated against feline AIDS.

## When can a kitten go to a new home?

Kittens are usually weaned at 6-8 weeks and should not go to new homes until they are able to feed and have been vaccinated. The earliest a kitten should be taken away from its litter mates is 8-10 weeks. This may vary particularly with orphan kittens.

## When should kittens be desexed?

We recommend females be sterilized at 5-6 months and males castrated at about the same age or a bit older. Some cats particularly exotic breeds mature earlier and so will need to be done sooner.





# 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.

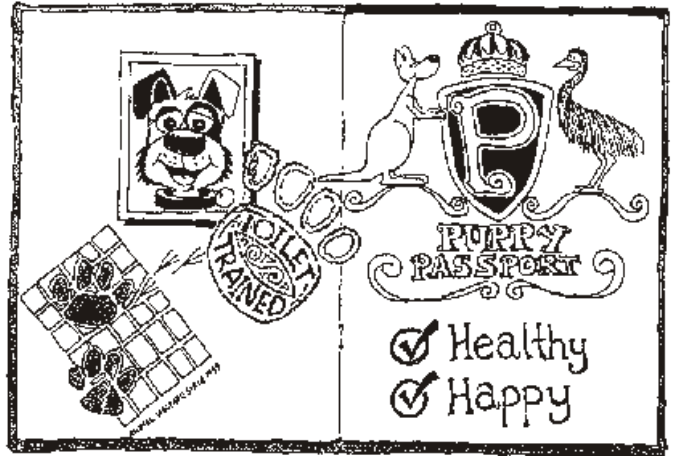
Legislation however is only a small part of the story and the benefits you will obtain from a well mannered dog in later life are far more important.

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.



## 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 December 31st 2006





# Adopt-a-cat Program:

With Spring and Summer fast approaching so will the availability of kittens.

As many clients will know we play an active role in helping the Cat Haven place dumped and unwanted kittens.

Many thanks to those clients who have given one of our orphans a home to date.

If you are planning to share your life and your home with a new kitten don't fail to ring us before you take the plunge as we generally have a litter on display and one in waiting most of the time during the warmer months. Cats come into season depending on day length and in Perth whilst it is not uncommon to see kittens in Winter the vast majority are born during the longer and warmer days of Spring and Summer.

There is no obligation of course and it seems we always manage to place these appealing little balls of fluff, but if you are in the market or are considering one as a gift all we ask is that you ensure the recipient of your gift is aware and willing and in the position to look after a



kitten. Give it plenty of thought before you commit yourself and talk it over with the family first.

Once that has been established then we are pleased to offer these orphans at 50% of the cost of sterilization, vaccination, deworming and microchipping.

## Weekend and Public Holiday Hours:

As of immediately the Weekend and Public Holiday opening times will be as follows:

### SATURDAY:

Office Hours: 8am until 4pm

Consulting Hours: 8am until 4pm

### SUNDAY:

Office Hours: 8am until 1pm

Consulting Hours: 8am until 1pm

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

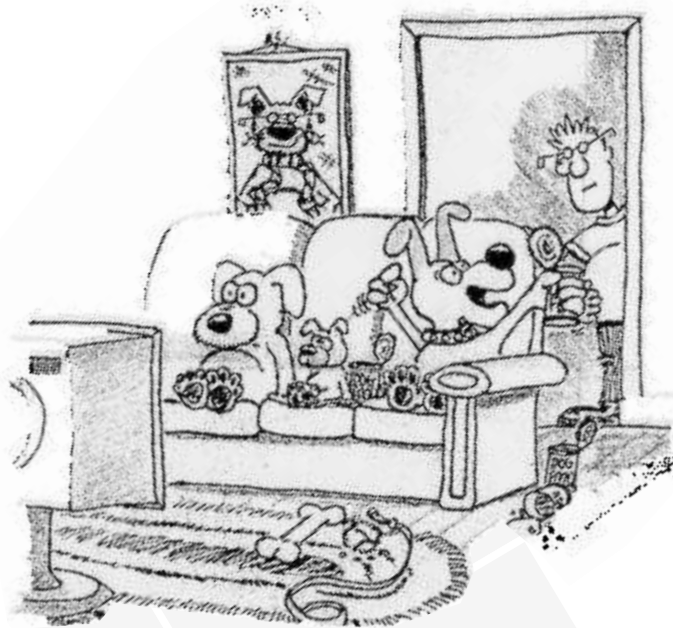
Office Hours: 8am until 1pm

Consulting Hours: 8am until 1pm





# NOTICE TO PEOPLE WHO VISIT MY HOME: House rules for all dog lovers!



1. The dogs live here. You don't!
2. If you don't want dog hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture!
3. Yes, they have some disgusting habits. So do I and so do you. What's your point!
4. OF COURSE they smell like dogs!
5. It's their nature to try to sniff your crotch. Please feel free to sniff theirs.
6. I like them a lot better than I like most people.
7. To you they're dogs. To me they're adopted children who are short, hairy, walk on all four and don't speak clearly. I have no problem with any of these things.
8. Dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive the car, don't hang out with drug using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about whether they have the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and if they get pregnant you can sell the pups!

Visit our new *revised web site*  
for up to date information about everything at Petpro

[www.petpro.com.au](http://www.petpro.com.au)

- › Information
- › offers
- › all about us
- › breed road tests
- › links to other sites
- › and much more.



UPDATED EVERY DAY





# The Baby Boom at Swanbourne

January/February 2007 will be an important time in the lives of many present and former team members of the practice but also family members within the practice as well.

Globetrotters Claire and Adrian McCallum (1999-2001 then 2002-2004) have finally decided to settle down long enough at least to herald the arrival of their first born due in January. Currently living and working in Canberra, Claire emailed Tony on her way to the US, the Pyrenees and Norway with her news, and even let it slip that a landing in Perth was still not altogether out of the question. Watch this space!

Current vet team member Ellie Drynan, and Ryan (also a vet at Murdoch University) are expecting their first child in January, and if that wasn't coincidence enough, Pauline Hoskin (weekend team member and former full timer) and Jason then announced their news that indeed January was also the date for their first to be born.

But it didn't end there! Tony's daughter Mietta, and husband Bryce (farming in Mt Barker) then announced that they are expecting their third child in January.

By this stage it was no surprise when Tony's son Richard and wife Suzanne then announced that February was to be the month for their first child to be born.

Add to this what seems to be a procession of clients (yes...also expecting in January!), and it all adds up to a post Christmas party in 2007 that will lift the roof.



*Rori Vigano-Skinner with Dad (Bryce),  
Mietta's first born*

## Welcome back Deanne Strommen:



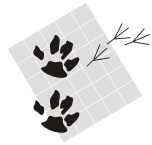
Earlier this year Deanne took maternity leave for 6 months and on March 24th she and husband Nigel were blessed with the arrival of Amelia Gorawen (Welsh for Joy).

Since then Amelia has thrived and in mid August a role reversal occurred in the Strommen household with Deanne returning to work and Nigel becoming a house husband for a while. Also pictured with Amelia are Deanne and Nigel's other children, Catherine and Alexander.

*Great to have you back Deanne and seems only yesterday that Amelia was just a twinkle in your eye.*



# Kids★ Corner

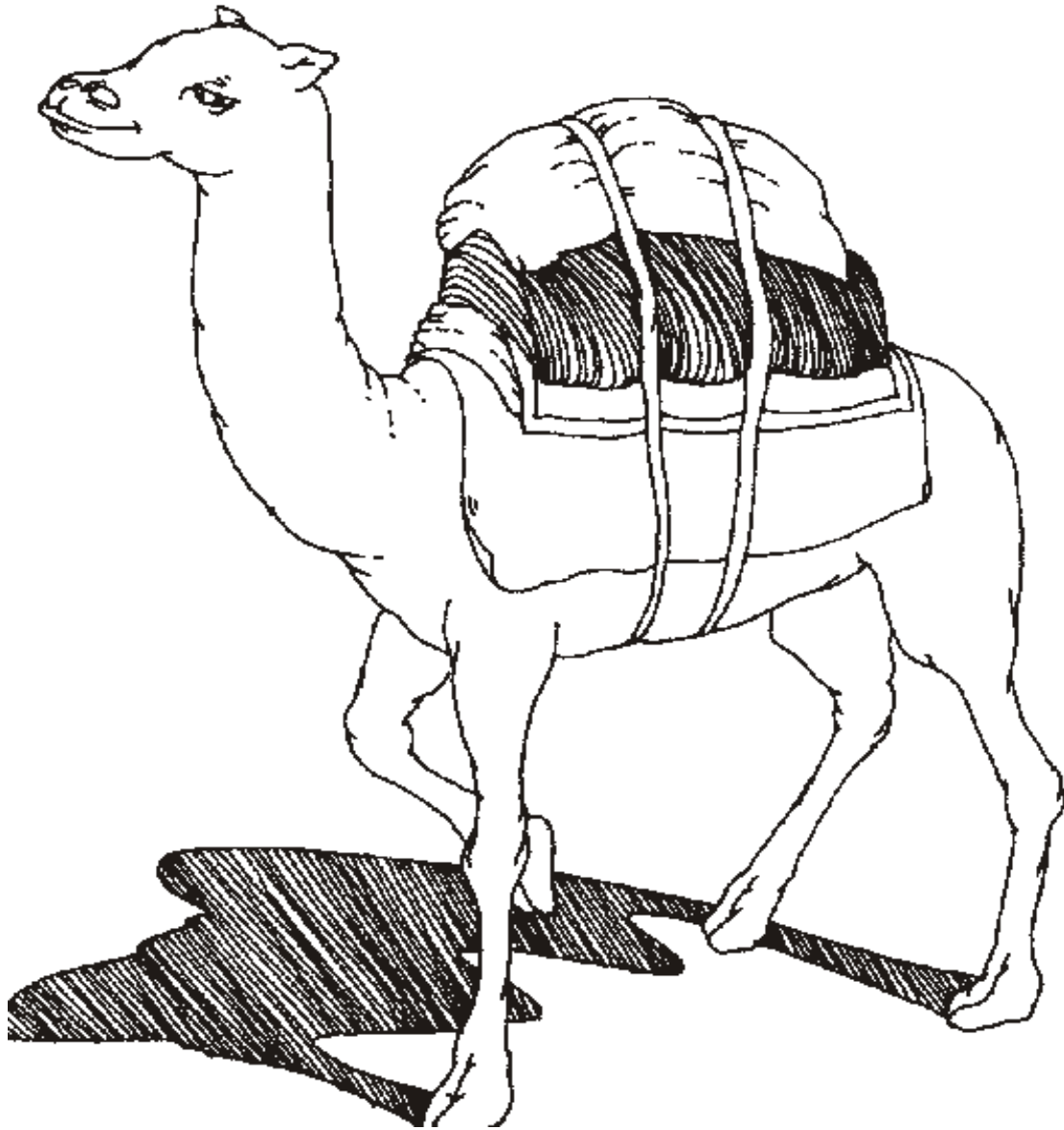


## SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

*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 31st December 2006 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!**

