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The Pet Professionals

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AUTUMN 2017

BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG



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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 12.00pm



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ROAD TEST: THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG



THE BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG:

Originating in Switzerland from ancient mastiff type dogs brought in by the Roman invaders 2000 years ago this gentle giant of a dog is named after the province of Berne.

Used for herding, guarding, tracking, search and rescue, carting and latterly as lovable pets they are ideal for cold climates and so are not well suited to the harsh Perth summers.

HISTORY:

An ancient breed the origins of which are not well documented we do know they probably came to Switzerland originally as herders and guard dogs with the Romans 2000 years ago. The breed developed from that time but all but became extinct in the late 19th century when dog fanciers of the time realised that these native mountain breeds of Switzerland were worth preserving. Remaining specimens were collected and the breed stabilised as the Bernese Mountain Dog finding recognition first in Switzerland where they became popular in the early 20th century and then finding favour overseas.

APPEARANCE:

These are a striking, sturdy big dog with a moderately long double coat.

Black and white in colour with chestnut markings they have a white blaze on the chest, with white markings on the head and toes. They have rust markings over each eye, cheeks, chest, under the tail and on each leg.

Their broad skull and triangular flopped ears give them a sedate and gentle appearance which largely matches their temperament.

They thrive in the cold weather and are large dogs being 58-70 cm in height and 36-50 kg in weight, the males being larger than the females.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Gentle and cheerful dogs, they are good natured, alert and confident. They are intelligent and easy to train and are very loyal bonding strongly with their owners to the point that they do not take well to a new family after the first 18 months or so.

They are natural watchdogs (barking may be a problem) though they are generally not aggressive and fit in well with other dogs and pets.

They are generally good with strangers though need socialising as puppies and remain boisterous and puppy like for some time.

Gentle training is needed to get the best out of them as they are a sensitive breed.

Not long lived it being normally accepted that 6-7 years may be all you will get and anything over 9 years is definitely a bonus.

WHO SHOULD OWN ONE:

This is a breed that is not well suited to Australian conditions let alone the hot summers in Perth.

They need daily grooming and are seasonal shedders which means this may be a year long problem in our climate.

They love children and being with the family at all times but this does not mean always in a "play and fetch" way as they are independent. This can be an advantage because if they do become boisterous and playful you may get hurt such is their size.

They certainly need a large backyard and are not recommended for apartments, though their exercise requirements are only moderate.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

As with all large dogs hip and elbow dysplasia (hereditary tendency to early development of osteoarthritis of the hips and elbows) is a common problem.

They also have a high incidence of cancer particularly of the long bones and internal organs, and their deep chested conformation can lead to bloat and torsion of the stomach (serious conditions which require emergency surgical correction).

The conformation of their eyelids can lead to a turning in or out (entropion and ectropion) which requires surgical correction, and in view of their heavy coats heat stroke is a major issue in our hot weather.

In summary a beautiful though high maintenance dog which has found favour with many Australian families in spite of their dislike of the climate here.

Like most large breeds they are not for everyone and due to their sensitive nature they need a family that is prepared to give them the attention they crave. If buying one make sure that the lines have been screened for hip and elbow problems.

All these things aside the Bernese Mountain Dog can be a good choice under the right conditions and with the right family and are far easier to manage than many other giant breeds that come to mind.



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

Whilst March 1st supposedly heralds the beginning of Autumn and the change in the season I have never been a believer as we seem to get the hottest bursts of weather in March and so it is this year.

It has been a real mixed bag in practice this Summer with bursts of hot weather and all the problems such as heat stroke that this brings, but we have also had some really wet weather and cold nights making arthritis in our pets (and some of their owners) a feature as well.

Read our Autumn tips column in this newsletter, but one thing is for sure, Autumn brings with it Easter and the threat of over indulgence largely in the form of chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate.

An absolute NO NO for our pets so please ensure that Easter eggs are kept out of reach. Caffeine and theobromine are the toxic components with dark and cooking chocolate being the worst. Vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness (just like kids) occur but can lead to seizures and death. If you must give the family dog a treat at Easter give carob instead, but better still a healthy pet treat.

Autumn also means Pets at the Park which this year will be bigger and better. Nedlands City Council are in the chair ably supported by Claremont, and newcomers, Mosman Park and Cottesloe. Many thanks to all these Councils who continue to support us in building our own Pet Expo here in the Western Suburbs.

We also have plenty of support this year from surrounding veterinary practices who will help in the Vet at Work tent under the guise of Pets Around the Western Suburbs (PAWS). This is a generic representation by the practices servicing the area which will be showcasing what vets do as a profession rather than individually.

There will also be other facets alongside the general practitioners, including Kalmpets (Dr Kate Lindsay an animal behaviourist), Dr Ken Wyatt (a veterinary specialist oncologist) representing Perth Veterinary Specialists, and the Animal Emergency Centre. Carmel Keylock from Active Pet Rehab will also be there showcasing her valuable adjunctive work in the rehabilitation of our much loved pets following surgery and the like.

We are also indebted to our general exhibitors, all allied to and part of the pet industry with an amazing variety

of goods and services.

It all adds up to a marvellous day and a celebration of our love for our pets.....anthropomorphism and all!

I hope to see you there.

The other thing Autumn brings is the football! After 6 weeks of election buildup it can't come quickly enough for me, and this year we are inviting you, our friends and valued clients to be part of our Petpro Football tipping competition.

It should be an interesting year with the Eagles looking very strong and the Dockers promising a quick return to the winners list this year. Maybe GWS will be the front runners (?), and you can never discount the Hawks and the Cats.

There will be a \$10 entry fee and with that will come regular prizes along the way with really worthwhile prizes at the end. Ask about joining when you next come in or you can join on Facebook.

Remember we will be closed Good Friday as this and Christmas Day are the only days we aren't open. After hours service is available and by ringing 9384 2644 you will be directed to the "back of the clock" practices situated around the city with the closest just 9km away. These practices are in contact with us 24 hours a day so case histories can be accessed if the need arises and all details of visits relayed to us immediately, and at least by the next day.

Our staged Good Citizen Program for your new puppy is a must to ensure you and your puppy meet the exacting standards of doggie behaviour now demanded under the revised Dog Act of 2013. Councils have increased power now, but that aside, a good mannered dog is not an accident of birth any longer. Ensure your new puppy grows up to be a pleasure and not a trial by joining us every Sunday with a 14 week commitment commencing at 8 weeks of age at our toddlers class at puppy preschool and concluding on graduation day with Neri (our Dog Whisperer) at Dog Obedience class.

As the winter months approach be sure to choose that kitten from our Adopt-a-cat program before the colder months bring to a trickle the number of kittens seeking homes. We work with Cat Haven to re home these little waifs which are in abundance over the Spring and Summer but with the colder months they become scarce. A blessing some would say and I agree but once born they deserve a chance at life.



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD (cont.)

When ordering pet food from us be aware that whilst we guarantee to match or better other than give-away sale prices from elsewhere. If we don't have the food you require we will order it, and provided it is paid for at order, we will deliver free of charge within a 5km radius of the practice.

Next time you visit the practice you will notice our newly completed renovation of the reception and waiting room. The consulting rooms have also had a make-over and whilst these changes and the new entrance are visually appealing, the in-patients now benefit from 24 hour background music which has been shown to reduce anxiety and settles them at night.

Don't forget Pet insurance as it is the sure way to insure yourself against the unexpected. I am always on about it but it really is the answer, and time and time again I see harrowing decisions having to be made in the face of costly treatment. Best as soon as your new puppy arrives so there are no pre-existing problems and the better programs, which are probably cheaper than you think, will cover you for up to 80% of your costs for as

little as \$60 a month. Be sure to read the terms and exclusions but like most things in life you get a way better service by paying a bit more.

Finally, always ask our opinion if you are unsure about the type and breed of dog that best suits your life style. We have access to a myriad of road tests including the most popular breeds. As an example we all know what tearaways Staffies are in the first two years of life but did you know that the fabled mum and dad dogs such as Labradors and Retrievers are also really hard work for the first 2-3 years!

Remember we are available Saturdays and Sundays with a full complement of staff as we understand that these days are often the only time you can get to us.

Appointments are essential and work both ways in that it makes our day more orderly but should ensure you don't have to wait.

Tony Viganò

PET TALK! Autumn Issues

Autumn problems are always difficult to differentiate from Summer and Winter and this year has been a classic example of that with the threat of a late Summer as we are nearing the end of Summer and record rainfalls to date. That is if you believe that Autumn starts on March 1st.

After unprecedented rain thus far this year we have even seen arthritis rearing its head in January/February.

1. Festive season curse....chocolate has been on the agenda since Christmas and with Easter in April and the shops already selling Easter eggs, vigilance is always necessary. Caffeine and theobromine are the toxic components with dark and cooking chocolate being the worst. Vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness (just like kids) occur but can lead to seizures and death. If you must give the family dog a treat give carob instead but better still a healthy pet treat.
- also be aware of tooth picks in savoury food, onions in hamburgers, and the fat off meat of any sort as these are all hazardous for our pets.
2. Autumn often brings an erroneous relaxation of all the rules we observe in summer. We consistently see the Summer problems in Perth all year round and particularly those

only associated in other parts of the world with summer.

- heat stroke...the car is still a lethal place to leave the dog or cat even for a few minutes
- fleas and other ecto parasites are a problem in Perth's Mediterranean climate all year round so don't forget to continue control measures all year round including heartworm and ticks
- flies can be a problem with open wounds, but wet and smelly coats, bad ears and even undetected grass seed abscesses can attract flies and "fly strike" in our older pets particularly is a not an uncommon problem
- hot pavements (dogs DO have sensitive feet contrary to common opinion).....there are a plethora of really good dog boots for animals that are working or subject to grass seeds etc
- water availability (shade and even with iceblocks added) is an essential part of ensuring our pets remain well hydrated in hot weather and of course shade and access to the house (fans and air-conditioning) are also very important with only winter really being the season this is less important



PET TALK! Autumn Issues (Cont.)

3. Equally winter problems such as arthritis are typically seen all year around in Perth and opinion is divided amongst human sufferers as to which season is worst
 - Keeping older dogs and cats in at night, off cold (concrete) floors and out of the wind in sheltered areas if housed outside is particularly relevant the further you go inland and south of Perth.
 - Coats for those early morning and late evening walks, supplements such as fish oil, glucosamine/chondroitin, 4 Cyte etc are all worthwhile and very relevant to Autumn as the weather ebbs and flows.
4. The garden is also a dangerous place with snail bait being thrown around by some (with no thought to manufacturer recommendations), and all animals (dogs and cats but also frogs, lizards, birds and the like) being subject to adverse effects from herbicides and pesticides indiscriminately used.
5. Whilst on the topic of the garden ensure you plant varieties that enhance the presence of our native species of birds, frogs and reptiles, and stay clear of lilies, Sago palm, Oleanders, Amaryllis, Kalanchoe, Yew, Wandering Jew and English Ivy just to name a few of toxic species harming our dogs and cats.
6. The routine procedures of vaccination, twice yearly health checks, deworming and so on need to be kept up to date at all times of the year, particularly if you are planning a holiday and the pets will be going into a kennel as these things need to be current.
7. When walking your best friend and on the way to the park in the dwindling light that Autumn brings, be aware of cars and ensure your dog has been well trained off the lead so he/she answers the recall cues so important when training your dog. A bright collar, even with a light attached alerts drivers of their presence. A full complement of puppy school and dog obedience classes is so important to maximise your enjoyment of each other but also so essential with the current Council crack-down on unruly public behaviour under the new Dog Act. This includes territorial behaviour of other dogs at the park, particularly avoiding fights over toys and balls all of which can end up in a fight with their owners as well!
8. The beach is still a hazard in the Autumn, fish heads left by careless anglers full of hooks, blowfish, jelly fish and other ocean debris
9. Exercising your dog creates another layer of

danger when owners continue to use squash balls, sticks and the like instead of tennis balls and frisbees.

10. Also when walking avoid patches of sand that the neighbourhood cats use to toilet as "cat truffles" (cat poo) seems to be a canine delicacy and many a bout of gastro is caused by this activity often recurrent as dogs (my dog!) continually go back to the same place on each walk and some claim they don't have a memory!

Finally, remember the 10 commandments of responsible pet ownership:

1. Feed an adequate balanced diet, preferably one of the premium diets such as our locally produced Natural balance and ease off the quantity as Winter approaches, the sedentary season!
2. Supply clean, cool water at all times. Preferably in the shade and several bowls
3. Provide a cosy, dry sleeping area, out of the wind and off the ground (preferably inside!?)
4. Provide your best friend with regular exercise and allow he/she regular family contact...include them in all you activities wherever possible...they are part of the family so don't exclude them
5. Protect their health at all times with a regular wellness program including vaccination, deworming, heartworm, flea and tick control
6. Register both dogs and cats with the local Council and ensure the tag, and owner's details are easily identifiable and legible. Microchipping is now compulsory and a no brainer!
7. Keep your dog confined on the property at all times and cats should always be kept in at night
8. Consider the neighbours and ensure your dog is well trained (proper socialisation at puppy class and obedience classes is essential), doesn't bark in your absence and is polite to everyone on walks
9. All domestic dogs and cats should be neutered if not used for breeding. It does them no harm and in fact helps eliminate mammary cancer in bitches and prostate disease in the males...another no brainer
10. Consider their welfare when planning a holiday and book them in early to local boarding kennels or better still organise a live-in minder!

Tony Vigano



ASK THE VET

Question:

Graham from Floreat asks:

"I've been told I need to collect a urine sample from my dog. How do I do that?"

Answer:

Your dog's urine can play an important role in confirming his or her good health, as well as investigating a cause for many health concerns – including vomiting, weight loss, increase in water drinking, blood in urine, and many more situations. Obtaining a urine sample from your dog can seem like a confounding task! However, there are a few tips and tricks that can assist you.

* Pick the right time

Dogs will generally urinate first thing in the morning, after dinner in the evening, and almost always on a walk.

* Pick a suitable container

It is often easiest to collect a urine sample in a large plastic container (perhaps even taping a ruler to it so it's easier to lower to the ground) or an old frypan or soup ladle. We can also provide you with a specimen jar.

* How to collect it

In some cases, the collection process may be a 2-person job. As your dog squats or lifts their leg and begins to urinate, slowly and gently slide the container into the urine stream and collect the sample. Try not to be too quick as that can frighten them. You may have a dog who is very private about going to the toilet – the trick here is to keep them indoors for an extended period. Then when they are let out, they will urinate for a longer time than normal, allowing you get into position to collect a small amount.

* How much to collect

We don't need a lot of urine – often a tablespoon will suffice. Once you've been successful in collecting a urine sample, try and get it to the clinic within 1 hour. If you're not able to get it to us straight away, keep it in the fridge for up to 12 hours.

And if all else fails

We're here to help! Keep your dog indoors for a few hours before bringing them in to see us. We'll be ready here with a friendly nurse and a collection dish. A short stroll up the street with all the nice smells they will encounter, and your dog will hopefully oblige with a urine sample.

Question:

Olivia from Cottesloe asks:

"I think my dog needs to have his teeth cleaned? How can I tell and what does it involve?"

Answer:

Dental disease causes bad breath (halitosis) and pain, and it can also be a source of infection throughout the body. Symptoms may include bad breath, inappetence, weight loss, oral discomfort or lethargy. Some factors that influence dental disease include age, breed, diet, tooth alignment, chewing behaviour, and home care.

A dental descale procedure will allow us to start your dog's dental care with a clean mouth, and we can help you to prevent or slow dental disease in the future.

What is involved in dental prophylaxis at Swanbourne Veterinary Centre?

- Make a booking for your pet's dental procedure, and remember to not give your pet any food after 8pm the night before the surgery. Water is still okay!
- A blood test may be performed prior to surgery to check vital organ function
- Our vet will perform a thorough physical examination before administering an anaesthetic
- Your pet will receive intravenous fluid support during the anaesthetic
- Under general anaesthesia, a full dental examination is performed and all teeth are charted
- Ultrasonic scaling of all teeth is done and the plaque and tartar is removed, and then the teeth are polished
- If there are any teeth requiring extraction, your pet will be sent home with appropriate medication for this (pain relief and antibiotics)

A post operative check will be performed, and we will then discuss a dental prevention program with you, tailored specifically to your pet.

Please call the clinic on (08) 9384 2644 to book your pet in for teeth cleaning – this includes a complimentary dental check. Alternatively, we can help you tailor a dental prevention program for your young pet!

Mel Criddle



ACTIVE PET REHAB

Active Pet Rehabilitation - A new rehabilitation therapy referral business available to small animal practitioners in Western Australia.

Established by Carmel Keylock RVN (W.A.), MNAVP (U.K.), employed within the veterinary profession since 1984 and now involved in the rehabilitation field, Active Pet Rehabilitation provides an independent service, working in conjunction with veterinary professionals, for canine rehabilitation following injury or disease.

Carmel has been working alongside orthopaedic and neurological referral specialists in the U.K. since 1996 and is also studying towards her Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner status with the University of Tennessee.

Active Pet Rehabilitation is currently running the only aqua treadmill for pets in Western Australia, a huge step forward in controlled, targeted rehabilitation, providing better recovery, faster. With a unit designed specifically for canine rehabilitation, the aqua treadmill allows dogs to begin the treatment process

earlier than normal. Using the natural properties of water, the treadmill creates a low-impact workout that helps the animal to increase muscle strength and endurance, as well as benefiting nerve function and gait re-education.

Patients that benefit from rehabilitation services include those with back pain (from muscle problems to spinal problems), arthritis (both young dogs and old), and post orthopaedic surgery patients (from road traffic accidents to joint surgeries). Not to mention young dogs dealing with growth abnormalities including hip dysplasia, luxating patella and Legge Perthes disease.

Other therapies provided for veterinary practice patients include, therapeutic ultrasound, phototherapy laser, neuromuscular stimulation, as well as active and passive exercise programs customised for each patient. Carmel works on a referral basis and can see your pet at Swanbourne, or at her premises in the Mosman Park Veterinary Hospital at 588 Stirling Highway Mosman Park where the aquatreadmill is housed.



FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION

The Petpro Social Club runs a yearly AFL tipping competition for the team here at Swanbourne.

This year we have decided to widen the competition to include our friends and clients of the practice.

For an entry fee of \$10 there will be weekly prizes, and a first prize of a 12 months wellness package for your best friend (dog or cat) including dewormers, flea control plus vaccination.

You can enter at the practice or on our Facebook page. Cash or direct transfer (sorry no credit cards).

Swanbourne Veterinary Hospital
NAB

BSB: 086 131

a/c No: 77 508 6890

**Tony is pretty good at this so it
won't be a push over!**

Be sure to include your pet's name and your surname so we can identify your payment then visit at www.footytips.com.au and join the Swanbourne Vet 2017 Competition (ESPN site) using the password "swanbourne".

It should be an interesting year with the Eagles a pre-season favourite and the Dockers looking to turn their fortunes around with a rampant Nat Fyfe back in the side. Maybe it will be GWS at the end of the day, though you can never discount the Hawks and the Cats.



Kids★ Corner

Children up to 12 years old are invited to enter our colouring-in competition. Please post or return your entry to Swanbourne Veterinary Centre by June 30th 2017 for your chance to WIN a year's supply of Flea Control products for your pet, plus a pet toy for your best friend.



Name:

Age:

Address:

Contact No.:

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Good Luck!

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