



THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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The Pet Professionals

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AUTUMN 2018

THE AUSTRALIAN KELPIE



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SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

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ROAD TEST: THE AUSTRALIAN KELPIE



The Kelpie is an Australian sheep dog successful at mustering and droving with little or no guidance. It is a medium sized dog and comes in a variety of colours. The Kelpie has been exported throughout the world and is used to muster livestock, primarily sheep, cattle and goats. The Kelpie's signature move is to jump on the backs of sheep and walk across the tops of them to reach the other side of the mop and break the jam ...

HISTORY

The Australian Working Kelpie is one of Australia's truly National Dogs and was first registered as a breed in Australia in 1902, one of the earliest registered breeds in Australia. This was actually 4 years before the Border Collie was registered as a breed in Britain. Kelpies have been claimed to have some dingo blood and they are similar in conformation and colour having evolved in the 1870's. There were a number of Kelpies called Red Cloud and one became very famous in WA and this started the tradition of calling all red or red and tan Kelpies, especially those with white chests, Red Cloud Kelpies.

Its origins lie in Scotland, where a number of collie-types (*collie is Scottish for sheepdog*) contributed to the development of the breed as we know it. The name *kelpie* comes from the water kelpie mentioned by Robert Louis Stevenson, the Scottish writer, in the novel *Kidnapped*. They were developed to handle the harsh, hot landscape, extensive acreage and unruly Merino sheep on Australian sheep stations.

APPEARANCE

A compact, robust and tireless working dog they are excellent herders. The black and tan is regarded as the truest colour of the working Kelpie but they also appear in red, blue or fawn, with or without tan. Generally double coated they have a close

outer coat and a short dense inner coat. They are athletic with muscular shoulders and a strong hindquarter. They grow to between 43-50cm and between 12-22kg in weight and live to 10-14 years.

CHARACTERISTICS

They are workaholics and run until they drop. Tending to be one man dogs they require a strong owner who exhibits natural calm but firm authority and problems will arise if the owner does not take the lead. They require a job and so will become bored and destructive if not given enough exercise and stimulation. Certainly not recommended for apartments. They are an all-weather dog and are content to live outdoors with adequate shelter. With extremely high energy levels they need daily runs and make a great jogging partner. As working dogs they have a gathering style using eye, bark and bite (grip) to move stock. Agile, eager and alert they are highly intelligent. They are good with children as long as they are properly socialised though will try to herd other dogs, pets, animals and children. They can easily cover 60-80 km a day when fit and whilst not naturally aggressive are good watch dogs and will protect their family.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE

Not ideal for suburbia but if properly socialised and well exercised will make a great pet as long as you don't expect them to be a couch potato or live in the backyard unattended. They will find a job to do and it may not be to your liking! The coat requires minimal grooming and a rub down with a rubber glove or chamois is all that is necessary every so often. They make good watch dogs and guard dogs and they are ideal for Perth's climate being prick eared, short coated and around 20kg in weight which are my personal guidelines for an ideal dog in Perth.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS: They are a hardy breed with few problems, but are susceptible to common disorders like all dogs. hip dysplasia (an early onset hereditary arthritis of the hip joints), luxation patellas, cryptorchidism, and PRA (progressive retinal atrophy which is a heritable condition resulting in retinal deterioration and blindness).

In summary, an Australian icon immortalised in the film *Red Dog* in which the star won the hearts of all Australians. *Red Dog* died in November 1979 and the movie based on his story was made in 2011. Ideal for Perth's hot climate but city living may be a problem, unless the dog has been properly socialised and trained. They are ideally suited to a rural existence where their boundless energy can be directed towards a job in hand. Not for everyone but a quintessential sheep and herding dog the world over.

Tony Viganò



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD



As is always the case Summer has ended in a sting in the tail with some warm days in March but all in all it has been a mild season across the board.

Fingers crossed for a mild day for Pets at the Park on Sunday March 18th between 8-12pm and it looks like the weather Gods have smiled on us some 5 days out. More on that and a washup of the activities later in this Dashboard.

The ninth Pets at the Park and now proudly associated with the Nedlands, Claremont and Cottesloe Councils, it is a community awareness event celebrating the ownership of animals with the emphasis on responsible ownership, puppy school and dog obedience classes, all of which are highlighted later in this newsletter. It is supported by many others in the animal industry so should be a fun morning for all.

Autumn is a difficult month in that many of the concerns of Summer still exist along with the impending colder or at least "darker" months in Winter starting to be a factor for all of us. I have included an article on Autumn Pet issues to be aware of in this newsletter.

We are about to finish our commitment on the Weekender on Saturdays with Harvey Deegan and Mel Bonolo on 6PR, but our Thursday slot with Simon Beaumont and Andrew Fordham continues.

It may well be that Neri Karazija our iconic dog trainer who joined us this year on the weekender with Harvey and Mel may well have a guest spot on the Thursday show this year. Watch this space.

Popular nurse Naomi Davis takes maternity leave for approximately 6 months in late May and her replacement, still in the pipeline, will commence soon, along with one other nurse to augment our qualified nurses to even up the balance now we have Dr Talia Morgan working part time.

Sundays are busier than ever now with two veterinarians on duty, and the hours have been extended to 2pm. Traditionally our Puppy School morning it was filled with 4 classes in the training area

held on the hour with Lisa Ricketts (Neri's offside).

Equally Public Holidays (apart from Good Friday and Christmas Day when the practice is closed) have been extended with coverage with a veterinarian from 9-12pm and a full time nurse as backup.

Dr Innes Chester is back in harness, now working as a GP in medical practice, she is keen to keep her hand in as a veterinarian and has been seen frequently on weekends here at Swanbourne. What an amazing feat!

A new surgical light has been installed in the surgery recently as well as a misting system in the training area to make those hot Sunday mornings at Puppy School more bearable.

Dr Laura Giraud will be away for a belated honeymoon in October and Tony Vigano will be in the USA for 4 weeks at the same time.

I have now come back to this page following Pets at the Park held at Claremont Park behind the Claremont Council buildings.

It was a resounding success with positive comments from all that attended and gives us the impetus to hold it again next year. Thanks to Claremont, Nedlands, and Cottesloe Councils who once again joined in to run the event with their Rangers featuring prominently. Thanks also to Andrew Fordham from 6PR who worked tirelessly on the microphone all day as the MC, including providing the PA system. Thanks to all the Veterinary staff who attended, the exhibitors and the supporters and sponsors all of whom are thanked separately. A great morning with perfect weather all in the interests of promoting responsible pet ownership and celebrating our great love of our pets.

What more can I say!

A community event with aspirations of becoming the Pet Expo of the western Suburbs....well done to all who helped and thanks to all who attended.

Tony Viganò



DOG TRAINING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Good Citizen Program

Understanding what your pup needs at this stage is very important and why they are doing the behaviours that we may find unpleasant. They are going through the first circle of development which requires patience, trust and understanding.



You may encounter certain behaviours with your pup. Understand they need to learn how to fit into our world and what our rules are. Teaching them the right before the wrong is crucial to developing a well-rounded puppy.

The puppy classes we have on offer here are unique to this practice. Here you will learn how to emotionally regulate your pup, another important lesson in your pups development. Other things you will learn how to teach your pup include basic leadership commands such as lay down, stay, heel, and recall and provide an initial level of socialising.

To this end we have 3 steps in our canine education program:

PUPPY CLASSES (Steps 1 & 2)

Puppy Classes are held on site at Swanbourne Veterinary Centre on Sunday mornings. Puppies must be between 8-12 weeks old when they start their first class and have had at least their first

vaccination and be de-wormed.

Puppy Preschool is the first instalment of your dog's training. We have a 9am and an 11 am class each Sunday. Puppy Management is the second phase of training which builds on and enhances the training learnt in preschool. This is held at 10am and 12pm on Sundays.

As each group is at a different stage of the 4 week program, we recommend joining one and coming at the same time every week. This also means that the puppies will go through their training together and will be the best of friends by the end!

DOG OBEDIENCE- For puppies and dogs over 6 months old

Basic Dog Obedience is the natural progression from Puppy School and Management.

These classes are designed to:

- * Socialise the young dog
- * Brief owners on dog behaviour, communication and obedience training techniques
- * Demonstrate how to discipline the young dog

These classes are held Saturday mornings at 9:30am at Swanbourne Oval and Wednesday evenings at College Park.

Please call us on 9384 2644 for more comprehensive information, start dates or to book your spot!

Tony Viganò



AUTUMN ISSUES

This year has been hard to read with record rains in January and more to come. We are even promised a mild Summer which further blurs the calendar. Autumn embraces several festive seasons, the tail end of Christmas and then New Year. Then Australia Day, Valentines Day and finally Easter! A plethora of occasions when your pet can over indulge, is left to its own devices, and can be forgotten in the mayhem!

A season to be aware of all the nasties and believe me there are many.

1. The festive season overload is a real curse and chocolate can run from Christmas right through to Easter! Caffeine and theobromine are the toxic components with dark chocolate the worst. Vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness (just like human kids!) can occur and lead to seizures and death in dogs. If you must give the family dog a treat give carob instead but better still a healthy treat made for pets!
2. Also be aware of tooth picks in savory food, onions in hamburgers and at BBQ's, but fat associated with ham and turkey and indeed any meat can be hazardous to pets. Very old school but how many times have you heard older family members say "save the off cuts and fat for the dog!"
3. The blurring of the seasons in Autumn often catches us off guard in that it can still be warm on the one hand and we can forget issues such as heat stroke, and on the other it can be cooler and things like deworming, flea control and heartworm can be neglected or forgotten, which is never the case in Perth with its moderate climate all year around.
4. So, flea control, heartworm awareness and even flies can be of concern and neglected. Any temperature over 25 degrees C is too hot to leave the pets (or most certainly children) in a locked car even for 5 minutes
5. Flies can be a problem with wet coats, smelly ears and open wounds such as grass seed abscesses. Fly strike is a not uncommon problem in domestic pets. If in doubt check it out with your local veterinarian.
6. Hot pavements (try walking from the beach yourself bare footed!), and there are a plethora of really good dog boots for animals that are working or subject to grass seeds. Long haired dogs particularly, are at risk when they are on vacation in the country so plan for this.
7. Water availability (a shaded area and with ice blocks) is essential for hydration all year round and of course access to a fan or an air conditioner is very important.
8. Snail bait poisoning is on the agenda whenever the rain brings out the snails and hence the snail bait. Don't overuse this product and try to keep it away from the prying eyes of our pets by using ornamental snail traps, wide necked jars buried in the garden and conduit pegged to the ground. The snails are attracted to it just like our pets! On the subject of herbicides and pesticides be sure to use pet safe ecofriendly products at all time for the sake of our frogs, birds and reptiles.
9. Routine procedures such as annual health checks, vaccination boosters and the like are always important but more so when pets go to

boarding establishments during the breaks so keep these current.

10. On the other side of the coin ailments like arthritis creep in at this time of the year so ensure you cater for the older pets by keeping them off the ground, in sheltered areas (if not inside) particularly at night, South of Perth and inland when the nights are cooler. Nutraceuticals such as 4 Cyte are worth using to ward off the pain of arthritis as do injections of cartrophen (a joint conditioner) and even non steroidal antiinflammatories in advanced cases.
11. On the topic of the garden ensure you plant varieties that enhance the presence of our native species of birds, frogs and reptiles. Please stay away from Lillies, Sago palms, Oleanders, Amaryllis, Kalanchoe, Yew, Wandering Jew and English Ivy just to name a few toxic species harming our dogs and cats.
12. When walking your best friend and on the way to the park in the dwindling light that Autumn brings (and doesn't it creep up on us quickly!), be aware of cars and ensure your dog has been well trained off lead so he/she answers the recall cues so important when training your dog. A bright collar, even with a light attached or fluoro strips 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!
13. The beach can be a hazard as well in Autumn with fish heads left by careless anglers full of hooks, blowfish, jelly fish and other ocean debris
14. Exercising your dog creates another layer of danger when owners continue to use squash balls, sticks (the native variety are very troublesome as they splinter easily) and the like instead of tennis balls and frizzbies.
15. Particularly be aware when you throw the ball using a ball thrower. Dogs like staffies are not built to twist and turn in the air as much as they try! My own dog suffered a potentially serious back injury at the beginning of Summer last year so please take care. Remember run the ball along the ground for most dogs. Leave the athletic jumps in the air to Collies and Kelpies!
16. Also when walking avoid patches of sand that the neighbourhood cats use as a 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 people claim they only have a short term memory!
17. Finally, remember the 10 commandments:
 - a) 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! Also recently we have been reminded



AUTUMN ISSUES (continued)

that raw chicken is a haven for bacteria so all that stuff about raw chicken necks being good for their teeth etc is not worth the risk

- b) Supply clean, cool water at all times. Preferably in the shade and several bowls...add iceblocks if it is hot!
- c) Provide a cosy, dry sleeping area, out of the wind and off the ground (preferably inside!?)
- d) 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
- e) Protect their health at all times with a regular wellness program including vaccination, deworming, heartworm, flea and tick control
- f) 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!
- g) Keep your dog confined on the property at all times and cats should always be kept in at night
- h) 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

- i) 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
 - j) Consider their welfare when planning a holiday and book them in early to local boarding kennels or better still organise a live-in minder!
18. And definitely finally(!)...always have in the back of your mind that an animal's behavioural health and welfare must be protected in all phases of its life by adhering to the Five Freedoms:
- (a) Freedom from hunger and thirst
 - (b) Freedom from discomfort
 - (c) Freedom from pain, injury and disease
 - (d) Freedom to express its normal behaviour
 - (e) Freedom from fear and distress

Tony Viganò

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.



ASK THE VET

Question:

Keith from Cottesloe asks "I've heard that grapes can be toxic to dogs. Is this actually the case?"

Answer:

It is well known these days that grapes and raisins can be toxic to dogs, and when ingested can cause acute (and potentially fatal) renal disease. Despite several hypotheses, the exact mechanism of toxicity is still largely unknown. Dogs of any age, breed and gender may be affected. It is also not known why many dogs can ingest grapes with little ill effects, whilst others develop renal failure after ingestion of the smallest quantity of grapes or raisins (as few as 4-5 grapes).

Symptoms of vomiting (where you may see remnants of grapes/raisins in the vomitus), diarrhoea, loss of appetite, lethargy and weakness can appear within 6-12 hours of ingestion.

Most affected dogs develop signs of renal failure within 72 hours of ingestion, and these symptoms include:

- Increase in thirst
- Dehydration
- Abdominal pain
- Reduction in urine production (sometimes to the point where no urine is produced)
- Foul-smelling breath
- Seizures and tremors
- Coma

With the potential for severe renal failure resulting in death, it is so very important that you seek immediate veterinary attention if your pet has possibly ingested any grapes or raisins. If it is within the last few hours, your vet will attempt to decontaminate by inducing vomiting and administering activated charcoal to absorb any remaining toxin. Other components of treatment include aggressive intravenous fluid therapy and supportive care modalities for example medications to reduce vomiting, kidney supportive medications and pain relief. Your vet will also closely monitor your dog's renal function with blood and urine testing.

Research and study is ongoing into the mechanisms for grape and raisin toxicity in dogs. Until more information is known, our advice as always is prevention is better than cure! It is very important to keep grapes and raisins out of your dog's reach at all times, and if you do discover that your dog has eaten any grapes or raisins, act immediately to give them the best chance of survival.

Mel Criddle

Question:

Gwyn from Floreat asks "I've noticed my cat has been vomiting hairballs more frequently. Should I be concerned?"

Answer:

You have probably seen your cat spend countless hours grooming itself and maintaining his or her coat. As your cat does this, the tiny hook-like projections on the tongue catch and remove dead hair which is then swallowed. Often, this hair then simply passes through the gastrointestinal tract and out into the faeces, however sometimes the hair is vomited, in the form of a 'hairball'.

A feline's gut is designed to handle the passing of fur and it is not uncommon to see the occasional hairball. However, if you are starting to notice your cat vomiting hairballs more frequently, or other symptoms such as retching and gagging or a reduced appetite, then it is important to have your feline friend checked by your veterinarian. Your veterinarian will aim to identify an underlying cause for the increased frequency of hairballs (for example gastrointestinal disease causing reduced motility, or excessive grooming due to skin disease) and provide an appropriate solution for your feline.

If hairballs are a chronic issue for your cat, there are several remedies you can institute at home. These include:

- Bathing and/or grooming your cat regularly so that you are removing most of the dead hair, rather than your cat swallowing it
- Laxative products which help to lubricate your cat's gastrointestinal tract and assist with the passage of the hairball
- Dietary adjustments utilising hairball control foods – there are many diets available formulated to help improve your cat's coat, reduce the amount of shedding and encourage hairballs to pass readily through the gastrointestinal tract

A build-up of hairballs in your cat's gastrointestinal tract can lead to blockage, with catastrophic consequences. If you notice your cat is vomiting frequently, gagging, retching, or lethargic and has a reduced appetite, please contact us immediately for an appointment.

Mel Criddle



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 2018 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!

