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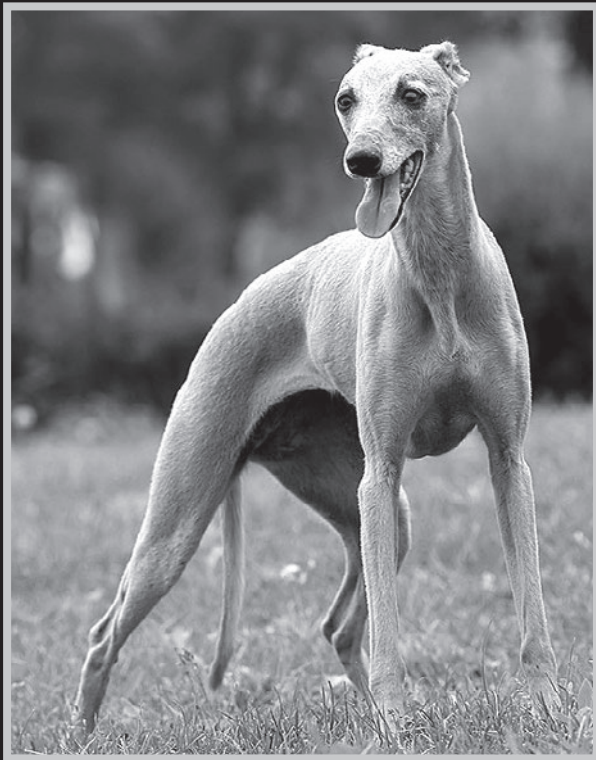
www.swanbournevet.com

The Pet Professionals

Tony Viganò , Michelle Harrison & Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons

SUMMER 2018

THE ITALIAN GREYHOUND



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Monday to Friday:	7.30am to 7.00pm
Saturday:	8.00am to 4.00pm
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Public Holidays:	8.00am to 12.00pm



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ROAD TEST: THE ITALIAN GREYHOUND



The smallest of the sighthounds, the Italian Greyhound dates back thousands of years being depicted in early works of famous painters, a darling of nobility and recorded in Egyptian tombs up to 6000 years old. A small greyhound was also found in the lava flow in the ruins of Pompeii.

HISTORY:

This breed originated in Italy though the date of origin is unsure, certainly dating back to ancient times. The Phoenicians are credited with bringing the breed to Europe and the Romans then developed the animal to its modern proportions. Originally thought to have been developed as a hunter of small game, it has also been a companion dog over the ages, being a favourite of kings and queens in the 16th century and depicted in many of the now famous artworks of those times.

APPEARANCE:

An elegant, miniature, fine boned greyhound, they are capable of great speed and so their very appearance depicts this. They have a long, thin head and neck, pointed muzzle, large dark eyes and an easily maintained short sleek coat. Colours are varied being generally solid grey, slate grey, cream, red, fawn, black or blue, and often broken up with white. They have a high stepping gait and are considered a toy breed at 30-38cm in height and between 3-5kg in weight.

CHARACTERISTICS:

A gentle, submissive and affectionate animal they require consistency in handling and a reasonably firm approach though being highly strung and often timid this must be gently applied.

They become very attached to their owners and are generally reserved with strangers. They just love to run and chase though care must be taken in the first 18 months of life as boisterous play can

lead to fractures of long bones as they are very fragile. They generally live to between 12-15 years.

WHO SHOULD OWN ONE:

These make excellent companion dogs, though are best in quiet households where there are no lively children. They need constant reassurance and affection and are easy to get along with. Equally they are good with other household pets though best with dogs of their own kind and many people have two or more. They love to run and so regular exercise is essential but apart from this are fine in apartments. Be prepared to keep them inside and even supply a jacket in the winter as they are very sensitive to cold.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

In spite of their fragile appearance they are quite hardy though beware of long bone fractures in early life as they really do have stick-like legs as puppies and young adults. Developing blindness (progressive retinal atrophy), luxating kneecaps, epilepsy and dental problems (periodontal disease) are also seen in this breed but as with many of our pedigreed dogs care in selecting a breeder can eliminate many of these heritable issues.

In summary, these dogs make excellent pets in the right household. They are affectionate and as long as you give them your love and attention they are very uncomplicated in their devotion. A real sight in full flight they are best kept in quiet households and with smaller variety pets as house mates and better still dogs of their own breed. As with many of the really specific breeds of dogs, I find that the people who have them are generally fanatical about them and would have nothing else.

Tony Viganò



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

For most people Summer will be a blessed relief after the cold, wet Winter we have experienced. Great to see the rain but nice to get up in the sunshine these early mornings to walk the dog! I have to admit to being a fan of daylight saving...

It is interesting to see how active our dog is early morning now as I feel sure she is scared of the dark and the rain (after all she is a staffie).

Even though she has to run the gauntlet of the magpies, butcher birds and honeyeaters and even the willy wag tails, at specific and regular spots along the way as they dive bomb her just so she doesn't get too comfortable around their fledglings.

A really happy dog now that she has this to look forward to twice a day as part of her daily routine.

But Summer does bring with it all manner of complexities for dogs and their owners as they both test the boundaries of safety chasing balls (not sticks we hope!) with the temperatures rising, even in the early morning as they can get exhausted (and hot) very quickly.

Please see the article on Summer Situations later in this newsletter as hot pavements, heat stroke, snakes, and cars make that walk more hazardous than at other times of the year. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Mel arrived back from her overseas jaunt suitably jet lagged but keen to get back into it which is just as well as things have been busy and for many of the same reasons as our dog enjoys her walks at this time of the year. The sheer joy of being.

Even the radio segments are busier and Tony widened the scope of the Saturday show with Harvey Deegan by having office manager and former head nurse Kristy join the panel for two shows as they discussed the veterinary nursing course and made all the more relevant as Vet Nurses' Day was celebrated on October 13th.

In a similar vein we had Neri Karazija our iconic dog trainer and behaviourist join the Saturday show as well, answering questions on her methods and how to interpret dog language as an aid to the whys and wherefors of why dogs do the things they do!

Talia Morgan our new vet has really hit the ground running as we had anticipated. Maybe all vets should

experience young children as part of their course! (not to mention a stint as a Flight Attendant). Talia has a special interest in cats (the feline variety) so look out for a few niceties directed towards that forgotten moggie you might have at home and that we have never seen! A new feeding system to keep them interested and active is just one of the things she will be introducing. Watch this space.

Laura Hickman is currently on leave and took time out to get married to long term partner Ian recently, honeymooning in Dunsborough. At this time of the year that would be just fabulous with the weather starting to warm up and the wineries swinging into action for the Summer but without the crowds. Well done Laura.

Sundays are busy at Swanbourne with the puppy classes in full swing and the practice now open until 2pm. Remember that classes will be suspended on Sunday 24th December and December 31st. The practice will be open for veterinary matters on both days and the rule of thumb is that on each public holiday throughout the year we are open from 8am and until 1pm. Except Christmas Day and Good Friday when we are closed for the day.

The Christmas card/calendar will again be sent to most clients, and available at the practice. They will again feature cartoons by Dr Frank Gaschk who has recently returned with his wife to WA from Brisbane. Frank will work part time at the Heritage veterinary practice in Busselton whilst his wife, a specialist Cat vet, has retired altogether. In the meantime they are building a beautiful home in Yallingup.

Dr Innes Chester will re-join the practice in January doing occasional weekends and helping out during the week as she can. Many will remember her but may not know that she is a qualified medical practitioner as well now and will be working in both disciplines. Now that is a hard act to follow!

Finally the WA State Veterinary Conference was held in October and again was a resounding success. A change for the vets in WA to attend a conference in their own state with quality speakers and attend an excellent Trade Fair.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Merry and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year

Tony Viganò



SUMMER WORRIES

Summer Tips to keep your pet healthy:

After a dreary wet winter (the rain was certainly needed!), everyone lights up when the warmer weather arrives, with its hot and dry conditions, and also the holiday season when outdoor activities ramp up and both humans and animals are more exposed to the elements and the environment generally. It is the house and garden season as well when the avid gardeners amongst us run amok with the snail bait and nitrogenous fertilisers. Backyard and beach cricket takes over and all in all we are all more at risk from accidents and misadventure. Not the least our pets!

1. HEAT:

(a) Parasites such as fleas become a major problem with the changing weather patterns with residual rain and the warmer weather creating massive flea hatching. There are a plethora of oral and squeeze on products available

(b) Heat stroke becomes a major issue particularly as the warmer weather creeps up on us and people forget about the rules of never leaving dogs and other animals in locked cars at any time. We find the worst cases occur as the weather warms up rather than the scorching days later on the summer. Six minutes in a locked car at 28C can have fatal results so be mindful.

(c) Dehydration occurs very quickly as it does with humans and so plenty of water and in shaded areas needs to be made available for all our pets and companion animals. Putting iceblocks in the water keeps it cool for longer and adding tuna water or beef broth may make it more palatable. We have some great recipes for popsicles you can give your dog when you are having an icecream. These are on our web site.

(d) Swimming pools need to be enclosed so the family dog home alone doesn't venture too close and fall in. Older animals have no hope of climbing out of a pool with wide smooth sides and hidden steps and many a death is reported from drowning. Equally the driveway needs to be checked when leaving or arriving in case the old moggie is snoozing in the sun or under the car when you leave.

(e) Hot pavements and sand at the beach burn small feet just as they do with us so spare a thought when taking your best friend walking

(f) On the subject of walking ensure it is early in the morning or later in the day and please NO enforced exercise like chasing balls and frizzbies as our best friends are so eager to please us they will chase until they drop! If you do exercise them PLEASE no sticks, throw soft balls and tug toys but do it in the cool of the day.

(g) Glare from the sun causes sunburn particularly on pale skinned dogs (noses and skin). White staffies and Bull Terriers are well over represented as are white cats! Use 30+ blockout on them too!

(h) Shade is important so set up an area that provides some air movement...possibly down one side of the house if they are outside, with a pallet of wood to sit on and their favourite bedding, which provides circulation of air under the dog.

(i) Water should be plentiful at several points and in the shade as well, and don't forget to replenish regularly. Filling a kiddies' playpool with a couple of inches of water and left in a shady place will allow the dog to paddle.....add ice blocks as well on that scorcher of a day!

(j) Consider putting some treats in the freezer..... make them up using doggie treats and then they can

have a frozen treat with the family on those boiling hot days

(k) Leave the airconditioner running when you go out and if you have a fan drape them in a wet towel with the fan going. This works really well when the dogs are crate trained.

(l) Take special note of the "seniors" as they are more susceptible and watch for breathing difficulties due to inherent heart and other conditions

(m) Beware when walking at the local park or in the bush. Territorial magpies and butcher birds can be very aggressive during the nesting season so wear a hat or carry an umbrella. We are so lucky to have an abundant bird presence in our suburbs but beware!

(n) Equally walking in the bush can be a hazard. Make plenty of noise in case snakes are around and avoid walking in the heat of the day. Stick to the paths and ensure your recall training is to the fore or keep fido on a leash! Most bites occur in the late afternoon/early evening.

(o) When getting into the garden this spring/summer check you haven't got an abundance of toxic plants growing. Something we don't dwell on much but we have a list of common toxic plants and you will be surprised at the list!

2. CHRISTMAS INDULGENCE and OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES:

(a) Please don't feed your pets the fat from the turkey and ham as this can cause or at least exacerbate pancreatitis when they get that huge fat overload! Not to mention all manner of gastrointestinal upsets from corn cobs (obstructions), tooth picks (from finger food), and other inappropriate food such as onions (Heinz body anaemia), garlic and chilli!

(b) Beware of raids on the Christmas tree, chocolate particularly must be kept out of reach as well as other sweets and those low hanging decorations which are great for obstructing bowels!

(c) The BBQ with well-meaning guests dropping morsels to the excited pets, onions from the hamburgers are to be avoided at all costs as well as alcohol, and by the way marijuana and other recreational drugs.....not to mention the hot plate which has caught many an inquisitive moggie by surprise as they jump up to check it out!

(d) That game of backyard or beach cricket is best done using a soft ball and not a hard cricket or squash ball...I have seen broken limbs and severely damaged eyes in our pets when fielding too close to bat and ball!

(e) Check our web site or a Government web site for gazetted fireworks over the Christmas/New Year period. Left home alone they may panic and do themselves an injury or break out and get lost

(f) On the subject of getting lost, ensure they are microchipped as this is now mandatory (the revised Dog Act 2013 and new Cat Act 2013) but more importantly allows an instant passage home should they get lost

(h) When walking take some fresh water and a foldup dog bowl with you. So much better and safer than drinking communal water at the park especially when canine cough abounds

(i) Make sure walks are restricted to the early morning or late afternoon as heat stroke and dehydration are all too common.

(j) Check feet and ears (particularly long haired cats and dogs) regularly for grass seeds that can penetrate the skin/ear drums with painful consequences



SUMMER WORRIES (cont.)

(k) When baiting for snails ensure precautions are taken when spreading the bait...none are really safe so follow the directions for use. Placing the bait in a buried wide necked jar in the garden, or putting the bait in a piece of conduit pegged to the ground will prevent the pets from accessing the bait but it attracts the snails.

(l) Beware of blow fish on the sea shore and river bank. These can be really toxic if eaten. All that good puppy/obedience training should come to the fore so you can warn them off picking things up on their walks. Phrases like "leave it!" are very handy and ensure recall skills are well learnt so you can call them to order.

(m) Wearing a seat belt and harness in the car or even travelling in a crate protects the pets and the human occupants in the event of a sudden stop or accident. A definite cause of injury in car accidents when flying pets can be a real hazard!

(n) Wash them off in fresh water after that play at the Dog beach as the salty water leaves their coats salty and itchy. Many dog beaches have an open shower close by for this.

(o) Remember dogs and drinks and cats and cocktails don't mix. Alcohol is an absolute no no as can be very toxic so PLEASE no tricks with the pets and alcohol as it isn't funny and can have dire consequences.

(p) On that fishing holiday ensure your dog is out of the way when you cast your line as a gang of hooks caught in his or her mouth is not ideal and please don't leave fish heads lying around with hooks still attached.

(q) On the subject of scavenging make sure the sanitary bin is out of the way of your inquisitive pooch as tampons are diabolical when swallowed and form into linear foreign bodies in the gut eventually leading to obstructions and extensive intestinal damage.

(r) When exercising your dog whilst riding a bike, I would suggest don't! Dogs have a habit of crossing over behind or in front of you and worst of all getting caught in the spokes of the front wheel sending you flying over the handle bars...not to mention breaking the dog's leg.

FORWARD PLANNING:

(a) Planning for your annual holiday includes getting in quickly at your preferred boarding facility as these fill up quickly and a home sitter is an even better option. Get onto this at the same time as planning your own getaway! If you are taking your best friend with you they may not be great travellers so plan for motion sickness and the anxiety of car travel (they may think they are going to the vet!) by speaking with your local vet regarding sedatives for the journey. The crate trained dog makes it easy and a cat box a must! Also to remember to pack their medications, favourite bedding, water bowls and leads and collars. They need their home comforts to feel secure in a new environment.

(b) Vaccinations and heartworm prevention need to be up to date during the summer when dogs are off to kennels or just meeting their friends at the park more regularly

(c) Include in that regular deworming as well

(d) Clipping your long haired dog and cat will make them more comfortable in the Summer so plan this well ahead as groomers are also very busy in the lead up to summer. A short well kept coat is easier to manage and helps keep parasites at bay

(d) Summer brings with it the unwanted kitten season so be sure to get your new cat sterilised before the

warm weather brings them into season. The local Cat Haven puts as many as 100 unwanted kittens to sleep during the summer months.

(e) Be sure you have the number of your closest after hours clinic near the telephone as your local vet may well be closed for the Christmas & New Year holiday periods. Things always seem worse at night when you are home alone and these excellent facilities are all set up to see you 24/7 over the holiday break no matter the problem.

(f) Finally in the Christmas rush when the calendar is full spare a thought for your pets as they become more anxious when you are in and out of the house and rushing about. Include them as much as possible and allow for those precious walks in between social engagements, when they can meet their mates at the park and exchange stories! They are creatures of habit and will get depressed if left out, or their world is tipped upside down!

(g) And...make sure at the present opening ritual on Christmas morning they have their own gift(s) to open. There are plethora of great gifts for dogs, cats and other pets available now and they can join in the fun.

(h) If you live in a bushfire zone you will no doubt have a plan in place (to evacuate or fight the fire). Make sure you include the pets in this and have cat cages, dog boxes and leads, collars and ID tags for all of them plus food and water all packed as well. When it happens is not the time to make your plan and collect the necessities of life as it is too late then. There are great suggestions on the DFES web site to get you started.

SUMMER and our NATIVE ANIMALS plus some ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

(a) Baby birds found out of the nest are best left where they are as mum and dad probably have the situation in hand. Unless they are injured, threatened by a cat or a dog, in danger of being run over, or in any way distressed, leave them alone. In the face of danger from another animal why not suspend them in a hanging basket above the ground

(b) Summer brings out native fauna onto the roads such as stumpy tails, ringtail possums and kangaroos so please take care when driving and avoid unnecessary deaths

(c) Take the opportunity of planting local species in your garden and landscape with rocks and logs to encourage conservation of biodiversity for native animals, birds, lizards and frogs

(d) Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly as birds, frogs and reptiles suffer if they feed on insects sprayed with pesticides...seek out friendly alternatives.

(e) Keep cats indoors at night and put bells on their collars to prevent the hunting of native birds and animals

(f) Take note of what goes down the drain...no oils, fats or harmful chemicals as they end up in lakes, rivers and the ocean, harming wildlife and the quality of the water.

(g) Reduce the use of plastic bags and recycle rubbish, compost kitchen and garden waste, recycle paper and reduce the use of your petrol guzzling, air polluting vehicle. Why not buy a Tesla!

The list is endless and I guess most of what I have mentioned is common sense, but then as they say in the classics.....sense can be all too uncommon

Tony Viganò



THE KITTEN SEASON HAS ARRIVED!



From now on (Spring until Autumn) we will have beautiful kittens available for adoption. To assist Cat Haven at a time when they are inundated with cats and kittens, we acquire the pregnant queens early in pregnancy, giving us time to gauge their health and blood test them before they give birth. Once born the kittens and mum are then isolated until they are 5 weeks of age and before they are put up for adoption. All are vaccinated, dewormed and microchipped before they leave (at between 8-12 weeks of age).

The rules of adoption include mandatory sterilisation which is included in the adoption fee.

They always create a lot of interest with clients bringing in their children to watch their antics. Once the kittens have been adopted the mum cats are then similarly put up for adoption under the same guidelines. On occasions it takes up to 3-4 weeks for these mum cats to be adopted, during which time clients and their children become quite attached to them, checking up regularly to see if they have been re-homed, even giving them names. The following is an appealing letter written by the son of a client of the practice who puts the case

that "Grandma should adopt Tigger".

"I believe that Grandma should adopt Tigger and take care of her. I encourage you to do this because the old people in your units will love her. You will always have someone to talk to and play with, our family will not have to worry about her and you will save her from living on the streets in the cold.

Firstly the other people in your units will adore her and want to take care of her forever. They would let her into their house and give her hugs and kisses all day long. It will make all the people in your units feel happy and less lonely.

Secondly, you will always have someone to play with and love. She would be very playful and loving. She would always want to sleep with you and play with you.

Don't you want to save Tigger from living on the streets? I think you do. If you don't adopt her she will have a sad life with some random person that we don't even know. I think she would prefer you to look after her than that random person that we don't even know.

My last reason is that our family will not have to worry about where Tigger is living. We will still be able to see her when we go to your house for sleep overs.

So this is why I strongly encourage you to adopt cute little Tigger because of all the reasons above. Please Please Please adopt her and take care of her".

Tom Hooker - 11 years

PS: Tigger is now living in the lap of luxury with Grandma

GROOMING AT SWANBOURNE



We are blessed to have great groomers at Swanbourne.

Under the guidance of senior groomer Shai Marie we have seen several really excellent groomers evolve. Annie Gleave is now working independently and doing great work.

Ashlee is our latest protégé and under the tutelage of Shai Marie has come along in leaps and bounds.

Ashlee Bower

Ashlee joined our grooming department under the guidance of head groomer Shai Marie earlier this year having finished her certificate 3 in pet grooming.

For Ashlee it was a sea change having given up an office job in 2016 to follow her heart and love of animals.

A Perth girl, Ashlee attended Lumen Christi College completing her secondary school in 2010. She grew up with a variety of pets including rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, a peacock and of course cats and dogs.

Currently she has a 3 yr old Golden Retriever, Cooper and a 12 yr old long haired cat Rusty

Ashlee was an immediate success and although still part time her work is excellent and we look forward to a long association

Tony Viganò



ASK THE VET

Question:

"My friend's dog developed an abscess in his paw from a grass seed. What can I do to try and ensure this doesn't happen to my dog?"

Answer:

All dogs, whether they are active, or more of a couch potato, are susceptible to foreign body related problems. Foreign bodies, particularly grass seeds, are a common problem in the Spring and Summer in our area, and this year is no exception. We most commonly see grass seeds which get caught in the usual places - between toes, in ears, under eyelids, up noses and in the skin, as well as in the mouth, between teeth, and around tonsils -to name a few. Left untreated, grass seeds often migrate through the tissue, setting up inflammation and infection in their wake, and this can lead to serious health issues.

The symptoms of foreign body presence can be very variable and include:

- Head shaking or ear scratching
- Rubbing at eyes
- Licking at paws or any part of the body
- Lameness
- Swelling of an area, bleeding and discharge

Some of the tips for you at home, to avoid complications with grass seeds, and other foreign bodies, include:

- Regularly checking your dog's fur for any grass seeds, especially around the head, eyes, ears and between the toes, and removing them immediately.
- Ensure that your dog is regularly brushed and groomed if he or she has a long coat.
- Avoid walking through areas of long grass
- Keep grassy areas mowed at home

And the final tip -if you have any concerns about your pet, please bring them into the clinic so we can check them out for you!

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.), MNAV (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.

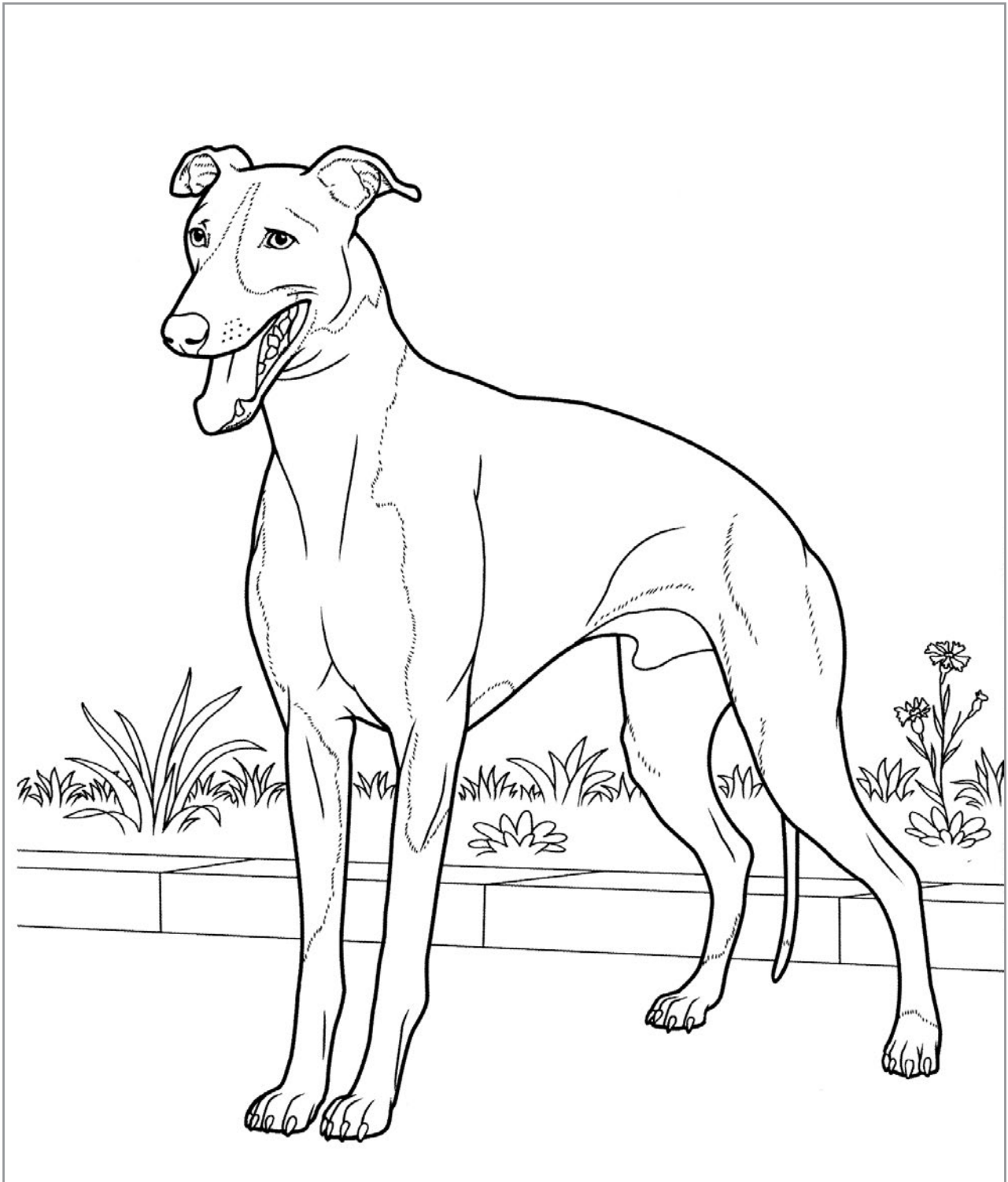
Patients that benefit from rehabilitation services include those with back pain (from muscle problems to spinal problems), arthritis (both young dogs and old), and post orthopaedic surgery patients (from road traffic accidents to joint surgeries). Not to mention young dogs dealing with growth abnormalities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



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
March 31ST 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:	<input type="text"/>	Age:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
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Contact No.:	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>



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