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## The Pet Professionals

Tony Viganò , Michelle Harrison & Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons

## WINTER 2017

### THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL



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Sunday:	8.00am to 1.00pm
Public Holidays:	8.00am to 12.00pm



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# ROAD TEST: THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL



The English Springer Spaniel is a medium sized sporting spaniel, balanced, compact and powerful. It resembles the Cocker Spaniel though larger, being around 50cm (20 inches) at the shoulder. They are born predominantly white, changing colour after birth and are seen as liver (chocolate) or black, with white markings, or either of these colours with tan markings on the eyebrows, cheeks, feet, inside of ears and under the tail. The tail was traditionally docked but this practice is now illegal.

## HISTORY:

The founder of all English hunting spaniels, it was considered the ideal companion of the European hunter during the Renaissance. The Clumber, Sussex, Field, and Irish Water Spaniels all developed from the Springer and was once considered the same breed as the Cocker Spaniels as they were originally born in the same litter, the smaller puppies were the Cockers and used to hunt woodcock and the larger in the litter used to flush out and spring on game, hence its name.

It was not until 1902 that English Kennel Club recognised the Springer as a separate breed to the Cocker and the breed was recognised by the American kennel Club in 1910.

## APPEARANCE:

The breed is larger than the Cocker Spaniel with males between 48-56cm at the shoulder and weighing 20-25kg (females 46-51cm and 18-23kg). They are deep chested and have long pendulous ears with a broad skull and muzzle of equivalent length. The coat is of medium length with feathering over the legs, ears, cheeks and brisket. There are two types, field lines and bench (show) lines. Field types are bred for hunting and field trial work whilst the bench type is bred for conformation Shows and has more liver or black in its coat and the coats are longer and fuller.

## CHARACTERISTICS:

These are an even tempered breed, gentle, friendly and sociable.

They make great child companions and are intelligent, willing and obedient.

They are affectionate, good natured and love

everyone, doing best with people who provide them with leadership and a consistent structure. Negative issues can arise when they are not directed, or provided daily mental and physical exercise, when they can become frustrated, destructive and barking when they are left alone. Under these conditions, and not given leadership, they may take over this role themselves and can even become biters.

Owners need to be calm and authoritative during the adolescent period when they are challenging the leadership position.

They love water and may constantly get themselves wet and muddy so beware under these conditions!

They are good with other pets but being natural hunters should not be trusted with birds.

Proper early socialisation and dog obedience classes are essential if the owner is to develop a leadership role which is so essential as they can be argumentative with other dogs if not under control at the park with the owner demonstrating clear control.

## WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

They are great family pets but the owner needs to establish pack leadership. They adapt well to an indoor life as are relatively inactive in this situation but need as much exercise as you can give them. Long walks and jogging but always at heel. Off the lead they love to retrieve and swim.

## HEALTH PROBLEMS:

Some lines are prone to hip dysplasia (an early and hereditary arthritis of the hip joints), and progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) so research the lineage and ensure the parents have been genetically tested before buying. They can also rarely develop idiopathic epilepsy. Eye and ear problems can be common due to their long pendulous ears, and the conformation of the eyelids. These are not insurmountable problems and with good management and treatment can be controlled. They live to between 12-14 years

## GROOMING:

They require daily brushing, and bathing once a week with careful attention to ears and feet which need trimming regularly, and many find themselves stripped for Perth's summer months.

In conclusion an ideal pet for a young, active family who are prepared to include the dog in all daily activity. Certainly not a breed to be left to their own devices as they can become noisy, destructive and unreliable, but otherwise highly recommended when in the right circumstances.

Tony Viganò



## SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

Winter is a season that many people associate with arm chair sports and sedentary recreation as they settle in to watch football of various codes, nights spent in heated surroundings (a roaring wood fire if you are lucky enough), drinking and eating, and with an inevitable increase in weight and loss of motivation.

But what about our pets? Have you noticed that in an effort to be with you they just curl up in the corner and go into shutdown mode just to be near you. Certainly they like to be out of the cold but I feel sure they get depressed with this lack of activity. As a consequence they also put on weight, eat more and stiffen up.

This should be the season when dog owners get the most out of having a "best friend". Having spent 3 years in England in the 1970's I can vouch for the fact that walking the dog on those brisk mornings was a saving grace in an otherwise weather-driven decadent lifestyle.

I have written about Winter Worries in this newsletter and the depression we all feel at this time of the year is mentioned. Dogs in particular need the stimulation of walks in the park so they can meet and greet their friends even more so and they look forward to this time immensely. Even though the light fails earlier, their inbuilt time clock still works to the second and so don't disappoint them, get out there and enjoy the change in season. Exercise is a must for them and for you.

How about engaging with your best friend inventing indoor games, treasure hunts for treats, a ride in the car to share in a shopping experience to a dog friendly store, a play date with a cohort (a known mate of your dog at the park), a swim in a heated pool, or even visiting one of Perth's growing number of doggy day centres (these can be a valuable resource when you are time poor and your best mate is bored).

Another consequence of winter is the presence of comfort food...be careful not to leave this around as much of it is toxic to them. Instead, include them but stick to healthy treats, they don't know the difference, they just like to be included.

The team at Swanbourne look forward to the Winter Dinner in a similar vein, although partners and not pets are invited to that.

Okay, so now I have set the mood, what's happening at Swanbourne this Winter!

Our waiting room, reception and consulting areas have been refurbished with a real attempt to de-clutter the place, and we have had solar panels installed on the roof to reduce our power bills in the long term and do our bit for the environment.

We also have an on-line shop for those of you who would rather purchase over the counter products on-line.

Currently stocking dewormers and flea controls

etc, we will be adding food and accessories at a later date. Visit our new interactive web site to take advantage of the savings on offer. Congratulations to Dr Mel and Kylie for getting this project off the ground.

Our weekend opening hours and level of service has been enhanced with two vets on Saturdays and a nurse on duty both days, and there is a whisper around that Dr Innes Chester will re-join the team in January 2018 in a part time capacity. Now with both a veterinary degree and a medical degree, Innes will be in GP practice and has expressed a strong desire to combine both modalities. We look forward to that! Watch this space.

Dr Monica Lin has completed her AQIS accreditation so she now joins Mel Criddle in being able to give Rabies vaccinations and the like for dogs travelling overseas. Monica also has an Acupuncture qualification.

Dr Mel Criddle will be away from the practice in September at the World Small Animal Veterinary Conference in Copenhagen. With this she will include a trip to Disneyland which Maddie, her daughter, will really enjoy though I suspect Mel and Paul are also looking forward to that!

Michelle Harrison and husband Harry actively support daughters Chloe and Amy in their netball which has seen both of them make their respective state teams in the last couple of years. This plus a strong interest in the local surf club during the Summer months keeps the whole family occupied outside of the practice.

Two other team members have announced their engagements recently with a wedding later in the year but more about that in due course.

Tony was in Melbourne in the first week of June to attend the Australian Veterinary Conference and see his beloved Cats play in Geelong. Following this a surgical procedure that will keep him quiet for a while but not too long I suspect.

So Winter will be all go here at Swanbourne with our Sunday puppy classes and Dog Obedience classes in full swing so ensure you book in early for Dog Obedience classes which are held off site twice a week with the next courses starting early July. Puppy classes commence every 2 weeks with two streams running at once all year round. Good citizenship is so important when you own a dog...essential under the new Dog Act but also way more enjoyable to have a dog that compliments the family rather than a feral creature that is a constant source of anxiety!

Winter is my favourite season but make sure you read the "Winter Worries" article in this newsletter as there are plenty of hazards to avoid!

Tony Viganò



# PET TALK!

## Winter Issues

Winter Worries...what we need to know to make our pets comfortable.....

The winter in Perth is nothing like that experienced in the Northern hemisphere nor in more Southern parts of Australia. There are still however specific elements that need to be observed to ensure our pets are comfortable particularly as they grow older.

1. Depression in Winter is a very real problem with all of us. The lack of stimulation brought on by shorter or discontinued walks in the park to meet their friends means our pets become more introverted. As a consequence they tend to eat more and put on weight. Remember that they still need exercise (and you do too!) so try to get out for an early morning walk no matter the weather and ensure that in the gloom they are wearing fluorescent coats, a flashing light on their collar or are on the lead. Cars become way more hazardous as stopping times in the wet are much greater. Identification becomes more important as well so collars with clearly read ID are essential as are microchips.
2. Whilst on the subject of depression, make sure you pamper them even more by brushing them regularly, and engage them in other forms of activity such as games, regular treats and inside activities as the "inner" animal needs to be cared for as well as their physical needs
3. Just as we desire "comfort food" in the winter so do our pets. Warm their food and think of winter warmer recipes to keep them interested, just as giving them ice blocks and cold treats in the heat of the summer.
4. On the topic of comfort food ensure they don't get into your stash....things like grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, chocolate, tea, cola and cocoa beans, as well as garlic and onions. In other words hazard proof your home when they stay inside in your absence!
5. Arthritis is more painful in the cold so keep their beds off concrete floors (a wooden pallet is an idea for this, or a hammock bed) and out of the wind. We have a handout on this subject so ask for it next time you visit or we can email it. Watch for the subtle signs of discomfort in the early stages and keep their weight down with gentle and regular exercise.
6. Some breeds are more susceptible to the cold. Greyhounds, whippets and Dachshunds have a high surface area to body weight and are short haired so they have more difficulty regulating their temperature on those cold nights than larger woolly dogs
7. On the other hand heavy coated dogs may need to have their coats trimmed as the temperature of the house is elevated particularly at night, and these types of dogs in particular may need to be bathed more regularly as their coats will start to smell when they get wet, and then come inside.
8. Some breeds will need coats as they come in and out of the house and their systems struggle to regulate the transition between extremes (as we do). Equally when getting those regular winter haircuts make sure you get our "Woolly Winter Clip" (just the face, feet and bum) for those breeds requiring regular attention such as poodles and white fluffies.
9. Using the hydrobath at Swanbourne is a great idea during the winter as we have the facility with warm water to do the job thoroughly and dry them off well or blow dry them. Equally you can do it yourself with our DIY service for just \$12
10. Heating pads and hot water bottles are a great comfort to older pets in bed but ensure they are safe and will not burst and also ensure they don't get too close to an open fire or heater!
11. Those people that have "crate trained" their dogs from an early age will find this all very easy as the dogs will have no issue curling up in the crate which can be shifted to a warmer area during the winter.
12. Remember to hazard proof their external surroundings as well. The car is not a good place to curl up in and then be forgotten. Heat stroke is still a hazard in a locked car during the winter, snail bait can still be attractive during the winter if you misuse it, and when walking on the beach watch out for fish heads with gangs of hooks still attached abandoned by careless fisherman, blowfish and sea hairs (Nudibranch). Remember also to cover the pool or lock the gate as dogs have difficulty climbing out particularly when they are older.
13. Finally and because our climate is so temperate all the parasite control (heartworm, fleas etc) must still be kept in place unlike colder climates when these disappear from the landscape in winter.
14. In fact a thorough checkup is very important at the onset of Winter to ensure vaccinations are up to date as during stressful times respiratory diseases in cats and canine cough in dogs become more prevalent

Remember that even in Perth Winter can be a depressing time with activities centred around sedentary activities like watching TV (the football) so the pets are often excluded. Also remember that the nights can be cold so spare a thought for the pets of the family and include them as much as possible when warming the house.

Tony Viganò



## CLIENT CONTACT

Snail mail is well outdated, now poorly serviced and way too expensive.

We would therefore like to engage you regarding annual health checks, wellness reminders and newsletter mail-outs in the least possible obtrusive way.

You may well receive a phone call or SMS message soon asking for your email address and preferred SMS contact as we believe this is a far more efficient manner of contact in this era of communication.

We have the capability of doing this through our veterinary software package and so just to get things right we just need the correct information.

If you would rather not be contacted this way and snail mail suits you better or would prefer no contact please tell us.

We have "update your details" forms at reception and so you may well be asked to fill these in at your next visit to facilitate this collection of data.

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.), 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.



## ASK THE VET

### Question:

Jenny from Peppermint Grove asks:

*"My cat is now quite elderly. What things should I be looking out for as she ages?"*

### Answer:

There comes a time in every cat's life no matter how well he or she has been looked after that old age sets in. In cats this is a far more silent process than in dogs, as cats are far more private - with graying of the coat with age almost always absent, and arthritic changes not as noticeable.

Cats are well into middle age by the time they are 8 years old but many cats outlive the average lifespan of 14 years if they are well cared for.

Cats naturally slow down as they age and spend more time sleeping. The elderly cat will appreciate a warm draught-free bed indoors. Progressive weight loss is the most common finding in old cats and some may have diminished sight or hearing. For this reason, it is important to confine your cat so that it is kept safe from traffic and other outside hazards.

Although less common in cats than in dogs, arthritic changes may make it difficult for your cat to twist into the many positions younger cats contort themselves when grooming. A sign that your cat may be having problems with grooming is a clumped and unkempt coat, particularly down the backbone and hindquarters - older cats will certainly benefit from a regular brush and/or comb.

Old cats may also become fussy eaters and prefer smaller more frequent meals. Fresh clean water must always be available as kidney function declines in elderly cats. Observant owners may notice increased thirst, reluctance to eat, drooling, an inability to groom or a reluctance to move, and these would be valid reasons to take your cat to the vet for a health check.

Regular veterinary checks may help detect any changes in your cat before they become advanced problems, and there are several non-invasive things that we can do to increase the quality of life of your old cat. Simple things such as blood testing and urine testing can help to assess the current health status of your feline friend, and lifestyle changes such as dietary adjustments can help to improve their quality of life. And of course, cleaning those teeth which can become a source of discomfort when tartar builds up and irritates the gums and mouth generally.

Cats tend to grow old gracefully, and elderly cats like to take life a little easier and sit on the verandah in the sun, watching the world go by.

### Question:

Rob from Swanbourne asks:

*"I'm looking at getting a new bed for my 10 year old Border Collie who has arthritis. What options are there to ensure that my dog is comfortable when he is sleeping?"*

### Answer:

If your once active pooch has matured into a slowing senior, it may be time to consider getting them a new bed. Unfortunately, many older dogs suffer from joint pain, stiffness and a host of other afflictions. Fortunately, increased comfort can be as simple as a bed designed for his/her needs.

- Orthopaedic Dog Beds

For a dog with creaking, painful joints, an orthopaedic bed can be a little slice of heaven. These beds typically have a memory-foam mattress that provides extra support for older dogs. Not only does the increased firmness help your pooch stand up a little easier after lying down, it helps them avoid painful pressure points.

- Warming Dog Beds

Whether it's cold outside or only in your house, low temperatures can make your older fur-kid ache. A warming dog bed provides a safe spot for your senior to gain relief and to relax. Warming dog beds come in a few different styles and may have an insert that needs to be microwaved, be self-warming with a core that reflects your dog's body heat, or have an internal electric pad that needs plugged in.

- Elevated Dog Beds

When your dog has a difficult time either standing up after a nap or just can't seem to stay cool enough, an elevated dog bed may be the answer. These raised beds look a bit like a cot, and because they're several inches off the floor, your senior doesn't have nearly as far to go to lay down. Additionally, the extra airflow under the bed helps your dog stay cooler and it prevents build-up of odour-causing moisture under the bed.

- Liquid-, Stain- and Odour-Resistant Dog Beds

It's an unfortunate fact many older dogs can't hold their bladder and bowels like their younger selves could. For those dogs, a liquid-, stain- or odour-resistant bed will likely help you and them. Often, these beds have an orthopaedic core with a waterproof lining and a stain-resistant cover. You can purchase multiple covers so when one is washing, you've got another on hand.

We are always here to assist you in purchasing a special bed for your dog, so please don't hesitate to pop in to the clinic and check out the different options available.

Mel Criddle



## DOG WHISPERING

We are indeed fortunate and indebted to Dog Whispering for the administration of our Good Citizen Program here at Swanbourne.

Lisa Ricketts runs the Puppy School (primary and secondary schools) program every Sunday here at

Swanbourne, whilst Neri Karazija looks after the older kids at tertiary level with the Dog Obedience classes (held off site), and the honours course, the Focus Groups here at Swanbourne on Saturdays.

Tony Viganò



### Lisa Ricketts

Lisa is one of two people Neri employs and she conducts our puppy classes on Sundays.

Born in the UK, Lisa arrived in Australia at the age of 10 with her first dog Toffee, a Norfolk Terrier.

Lisa now has a degree in Occupational Health and a graduate diploma in Occupational Health, Safety and Hygiene, and has worked in the Mining industry for 13+ years which occasionally takes her off shore.

Her interest in Dog Training goes back to Sassy a Labrador puppy 12 years ago, and then a rescue dog 7 years ago which really ignited her interest in dog behaviour and training.

Whilst living in Qld she worked as a volunteer with the RSPCA and on returning to WA she completed a National Dog Training Association Training and Behaviour course 2 years ago. Bella then followed (her second rescue dog), a Bloodhound cross Ridgeback...what a challenge that has been.....

She met Neri and started working at Dog Whispering over 2 years ago and it was then she realised her future lay in this direction. She has picked up "dog lingo" from Neri in what she terms a fabulous learning experience, and now looks forward to her greatest challenge, a dog training course with Shaun Ellis in the UK.

So, you can see how lucky we are to be associated with two fanatical dog people who combine a love of their canine pupils with a unique perspective on the modern canine model, and their precursor the wolf.



### Neri Karazija

Neri was born in the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria, venturing into Melbourne for her secondary education. She then studied Aquatic Science in Warnambool and achieved an honours degree in 2000, with a thesis on whale

behaviour. After that she travelled around Australia, followed by completing a Certificate 4 in Dog behaviour and Training at the National Dog Trainers Federation as well as a certificate in Behaviour modification. More travel followed until finally she arrived in Perth in 2007 and hasn't looked back. Having run her business Dog Whispering along the way she started in earnest at this point and soon joined forces with Swanbourne Vet Centre.

A dynamic communicator, Neri soon made her mark and has since gone on to further her qualifications by becoming the first qualified instructor through the Wolf Centre in England with Shaun & Kim Ellis (who have achieved worldwide acclaim for their work in wolf behaviour relating to our domestic canines). She has been back there for the last 5 years running, extending her education, and helping in their research.

Neri shares her life with Zijena, a 9 year old Blue Heeler who stars in the Midalia Steel adverts, as well as a deranged Galah!

She loves travel, the company of close friends, her family in Melbourne, fixing up her house and most of all her work with dogs.



# 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  
September 30<sup>th</sup> 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:	<input type="text"/>	Age:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Contact No.:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



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*Good Luck!*