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## The Pet Professionals

Tony Viganò , Michelle Harrison & Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons

# AUTUMN 2019

## THE CAVOODLE (CAVAPOO)



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### Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

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Saturday:	8.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday:	8.00am to 2.00pm
Public Holidays:	8.00am to 12.00pm



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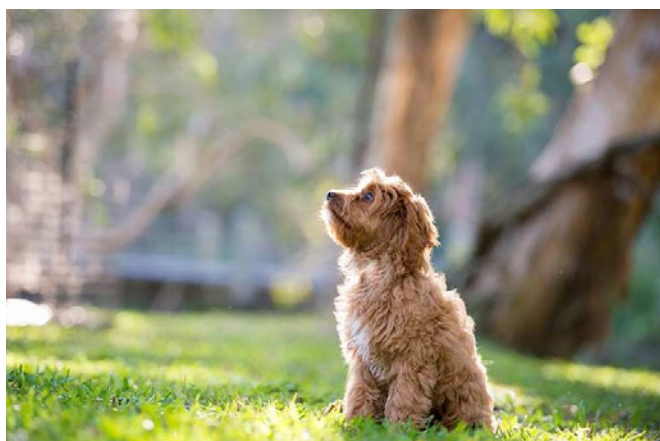


*The one-stop pet shop*



# ROAD TEST: THE CAVOODLE

## (CAVAPOO):



A cross bred dog, the offspring of a Poodle and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. It became popular in the late 1990's and has since become one of Australia's most popular "breeds". In truth it is not a breed but a hybrid or designer dog but as long as it is sterilised I see no reason that this will dilute the purity in the standard breeds.

Bred to be a healthy, outgoing, small dog with a low shedding coat and that would get along well with children, it has exceeded expectations in this regard and has become a favourite in Australia and now in the UK.

### HISTORY:

A cross between the Toy or Miniature poodle and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, they have the endearing qualities of both with curly hair, floppy ears and beautiful eyes, giving them a sweet innocent teddy bear look. A small lively dog that loves to play and are eager to please and as such get along with all types of human families, from the elderly, to families with small children. Full of energy, they still enjoy a cuddle at night when all is quiet.

### APPEARANCE:

They have a brown, blonde, white, black, gold to tawny hypoallergenic coat, round face and long ears. As with all hybrids, there is some variation within the breed with some puppies exhibiting more Cavalier like features and some leaning towards a Poodle like appearance. Colours are wide-ranging, including solid black, solid white, chestnut and white, white and tan and even gold all over.

### CHARACTERISTICS:

They have a gentle, loving temperament and with an average height of 28-33cm and weighing 5-8kg, the breed is well suited for companionship with small children or other small pets. They prefer the company of humans and can become strongly bonded to one person. They are intelligent, and respond better to gentle guidance than strong discipline and as young

pups are very inquisitive with a short attention span, though they learn the house rules and expectations very quickly if there is consistency in their training. The Cavalier side of the Cavoodle tends to balance out the frenetic side of the Poodle, making them more laid back and calmer companions. They do however require company constantly and if left alone without mental and physical stimulation they can develop behavioural problems.

### WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

They make great pets for young families to the elderly alike though they do require regular grooming and need brushing daily albeit this can depend on whether the coat is either more poodle like or of Cavalier type and whether a short or long coat is preferred. They require only moderate exercise with a short walk daily being enough to keep them healthy.

They have a lifespan of 13-15 years.

### VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Syringomyelia is occasionally seen (due to the Cavalier influence) and is due to a malformation/reduced size of the skull where the brain can be forced into the cervical vertebrae obviously causing pain and discomfort.

Mitral valve (heart) disease is also reported being common in the Cavalier and this can become severe in the older animal probably due to genetic factors.

Cataracts, hip dysplasia, luxation (slipping) of the patella and progressive retinal atrophy are all reported as is epilepsy.

The hybrid nature of the breed does dilute these issues however and they are generally a happy healthy dog.

In summary a delightful dog for a wide range of age groups, and even very young families will find them a small and lively dog that will bring fun and action constantly.

They should not be left alone for long periods as if not stimulated may find things to do themselves which may not please owners, including behavioural issues such as separation anxiety.

A low shedder, but requiring regular grooming to keep the coat knot free they are a real favourite and in my opinion tick all the boxes when you are looking for a manageable small dog to fill your life.

Tony Vigano



# SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

I will be glad when Summer is over albeit not as thankful as Melbourne-ites and most others on the Eastern seaboard. The Weather Bureau tells us that this has been a normal Summer thus far in WA, and the furnace like weather in the Eastern States has made it feel cooler here. There will be a sting in the tail locally no doubt.

Speaking of weather and with the threat of a wet winter, I am pleased to say that from June 1st to September 1st all Dog Obedience classes will be held at the Showgrounds this year in the John O'Meehan pavilion...used for poultry and the like during the Royal Show. It is under cover, well lit, has plenty of room and there is even a grassed area at the front which is also lit if the weather is fine. Nearby parking and toilets plus its proximity to the entrance gate No 1 on the Davies Rd/Graylands Rd corner makes it a perfect venue. We will distribute maps to class attendees but it is just down Shenton Rd from the practice. More about that later, but suffice to say that after regular cancellations last Winter due to weather it will be a blessed relief to use an under-cover venue! (we shouldn't complain about the rain!).

I was overjoyed to see that the Langham Hotel in Sydney has just announced a Pet Policy! An upmarket establishment, you can now take your dog, just as I saw in USA when I was there in October. Welcome to the World Australia. All we have to do now is allow dogs on public transport, department stores and trains/planes....it will be a while but it will come! In the meantime we are all involved at a personal level in making sure our pets (dogs in particular) are good citizens. The 14 weeks commitment with your new puppy is well worthwhile if at the end you have a well-mannered and sociable dog (and if not, and I still struggle with my 4 yo Staffie, Neri runs Focus Groups every so often here at Swanbourne if you need more!).

Remembering of course that training a dog is a bit like doing a University Degree...once graduated it is only a licence to learn from that point and is a life-long learning experience.

Pets at the Park will be held again this year on Sunday April 7th from 8-12 pm on the upper oval at College Park in Nedlands. Many thanks to Claremont, Nedlands and Cottesloe Councils who have once again backed our initiative, along with our notable sponsors lead by Delicate Care a local manufacturer of world class dog and cat food. We look forward

once again to greeting you on the day with a host of exhibitors and pet entertainment including a Pet Show, Vets at Work Tent, agility displays and much more, plus Simon Beaumont from 6PR who will be our MC for the day. Discounted microchip vouchers will be available as well as a free microchip reading service. We hope to see you there.

This year (2019) Swanbourne Veterinary Centre celebrates its 80th birthday and must be one of the oldest practices in Australia still operating from the original premises. It started life as the coach house adjoining 4 Devon Rd which was the city home of the mayor of Kalgoorlie who was also a member of the State Upper house, Robert McKenzie (a pharmacist from Maldon in Victoria).

The block of land on which the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre is now situated was part of a grant of 10 acres given to Francis Taafe of Fremantle in 1885. The grant was in consideration of his services as a military pensioner serving as a private in the 22nd Regiment of Foot. It is most likely that Taafe came to WA as one of the military pensioner guards in charge of convicts. The land granted was one of a number of pensioner allotments surveyed in the area south of Butler's swamp.

In 1939 Thomas Hogarth, one of the few qualified veterinary surgeons in the State purchased the property from Arthur Henry Sherwood who was a banker with the old West Australian Bank and also the owner of Sherwood Court in Perth.

Initially Tom treated anything and everything, but as more veterinary surgeons came into the State and started practice he set up his practice to treat dogs and cats only.

Upon his retirement in December 1962, he sold the practice and buildings to Ian James Miller, a Departmental Veterinarian, who practised continually until his death in 1988.

The present owner of the building, and current shareholder in the practice, Tony Vigano joined the practice as a young Melbourne Graduate in 1969 and became a partner in 1976.

Tony Vigano



# 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.

### ADVANCED OBEDIENCE COURSE IN 2019

Participants who show they are willing to put in the work with Basic Obedience will be offered a place in this course.

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

Tony Viganò



## AUTUMN TIPS

This year has been hard to read with almost no rain to date compared to record rains in 2018. We are even seeing 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 anti-inflammatories 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.



## AUTUMN TIPS (continued)

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 leads 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 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:

Freedom from hunger and thirst, Freedom from discomfort, Freedom from pain, injury and disease, Freedom to express its normal behaviour, Freedom from fear and distress.

Tony Vigano



## ONLINE BOOKINGS

We have introduced the functionality to enable our clients to book their own appointments through a secure link on our website.

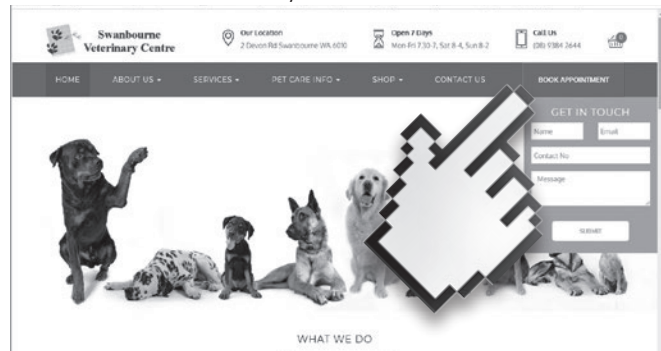
Appointment times are available 7 days a week. You select the service – vaccination, general check, dental check or senior health check - then choose the day and time that suits, and book your pet in! When you complete your booking, you will receive an email with confirmation of the booking details.

If you wish to book an appointment with a specific vet or cannot find a suitable appointment time, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Always remember that if you have immediate concerns about your pet, please call us! As always, our friendly team are here to help by calling 9384 2644.

Booking is easy – simply visit

[www.swanbournevet.com/BookOnline](http://www.swanbournevet.com/BookOnline)



## PETS AT THE PARK

The ever popular "Western Suburbs Pet Expo", Pets at the Park, will again be held this year on Sunday April 7th between 8-12pm.

This year Nedlands City Council are in the chair and the event will be held on the upper oval, College Park Nedlands (bounded by Melvista, Princess, Bostock and Bay Roads).

The usual table of events will be held on the central arena commencing at 8am with Dog Obedience demonstrations, DIY obstacles for the general public (their dogs) under the supervision of Neri Karazija, and of course the ever popular Pet Show with seven categories (registrations will commence at 8am with proceedings commencing at 10am). There will also be discounted microchipping vouchers, a Vets at Work Tent, all manner of animal based exhibitors, including individual Veterinary Clinics, Specialist Centres and After Hours Practices, and of course refreshments in the form of a coffee van, a sausage sizzle and icecreams. For the children there will be a face painter and lots of give-aways, and this year a dedicated Master of ceremonies (Mr Simon Beaumont from 6PR) will ensure everyone joins in the fun via a public address system.

There will also be a covered public area for a sit down and escape from the heat (or rain!), centrally located in the large marquee in front of the main pavilion. More information can be obtained from the practice and you can register your interest on Facebook.

So, don't miss it and celebrate with us in this day dedicated to the love of our pets. And by the way, dogs are invited as long as they are on a lead!

Tony Vignano

## 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.

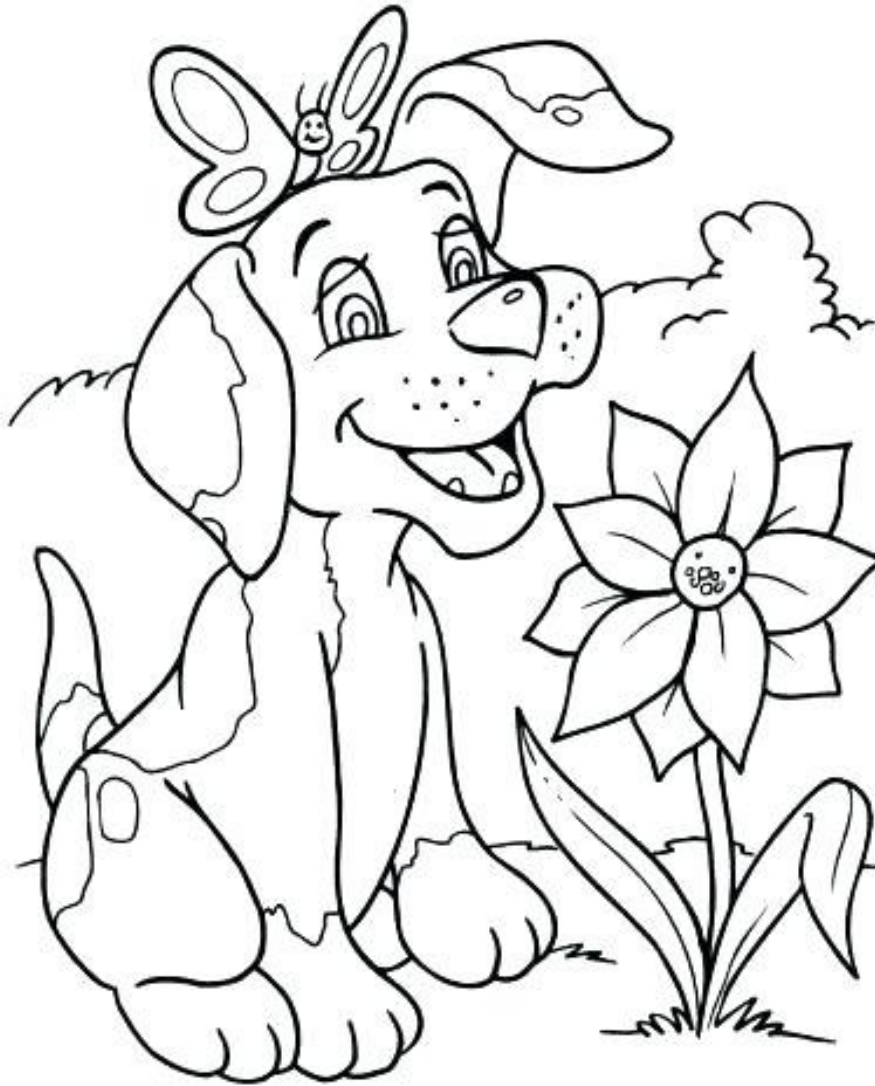
Other therapies provided for veterinary practice patients include, therapeutic ultrasound, phototherapy laser, neuromuscular stimulation, as well as active and passive exercise programs customised for each patient. Carmel works on a referral basis and can see your pet at Swanbourne, or at her premises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

Carmel opened a new branch of her business on 18.11.18 at the Shelley Veterinary Clinic 173 High Rd Willetton. She will still be at Mosman Park and the details of this new practice can be obtained by calling her at Mosman Park.



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 May 31st 2019 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.:

