



THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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The Pet Professionals

WINTER 2019

Tony Viganò , Michelle Harrison & Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons



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Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

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



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SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

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THE HISTORY OF THE SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE 1939-2019



Swanbourne Veterinary Centre is probably the oldest practice in WA and one of the oldest in Australia still operating out of original premises albeit extensively modified in 1963, 1978, 1991 and this is on-going. Many people have preceded the current staff/team but the practice always lives in the here and now and is largely judged on that basis so whilst historically it is interesting, you are only as good as your last game as they say in football, and the current team are indeed excellent.



Thus I must add at this stage that the practice is not really an entity. It is a group of people working towards an outcome for all their patients and owners and it is really those people (the team) and the owners/patients to which we are indebted for our ongoing success and longevity as a business.

In the end all the backslapping and self-gratification is worth nothing if our team are not excellent and the job they do does not create a worthwhile outcome so that our clients and their owners keep coming back.

So, above all, accolades to those groups first and foremost.

In fact it is a dual milestone, the first being the 80th anniversary for the practice, but it is also an acknowledgement of an important landmark in this area.

In 1885 a pensioner guard Francis Taafe (these were people who travelled out on the convict ships as guards) was granted 10 acres of land roughly running from Shenton Rd and down towards the lake. Incidentally, Francis Taafe arrived in Australia in 1865 (15.8.1865) on board the vessel Racehorse. He had 280 convicts on the Racehorse all those years ago. He died in 1898.

In 1897 Taafe sold his parcel of land to George Dent who incidentally built the Royal Hotel on the corner of Wellington St and Williams St in 1882. Soon after Dent purchased the land Devon Rd was created, and gazetted in 1901, running the length of it with subdivisions either side

In 1897 Alexander Wright, a freemason and dentist, purchased several of these new lots in what had been named the Maitland Estate, which comprised Nos 2 & 4 Devon Rd, though he may have owned other lots on either side of Devon Rd. He built a small weatherboard cottage on the land on the

northern part of what is now known as 4 Devon Rd.

In 1906 Emma McKenzie, the wife of a hardware merchant Robert McKenzie, who was from Maldon in Victoria, and the Mayor of Kalgoorlie for a short period, bought these lots and built the house at 4 Devon Rd and the stable at 2 Devon Rd. It was to become McKenzie's city house, as he sat in the upper house of parliament as well.

As McKenzie spent so little time in Perth the stables and residence became known in the district as McKenzie's folly.

In 1911-1917 the residence at 4 Devon Rd was leased to Jessie Jones as a private school.

In 1922-1929 McKenzie's son Charles and his family lived in the residence at No 4.

In 1930 Arthur Sherwood of Sherwood Court fame purchased the lots and the two dwellings from the McKenzie family after Robert McKenzie died in 1928.

In 1939 Dr Thomas Hogarth purchased the stable at No 2 and commenced his veterinary practice. Tom had been a world renowned dog judge and spent time in Perth as such in the 1920's before doing his veterinary course in Guelph Canada. He was also involved in setting up the Shenton Park Dogs Home at that time.

In 1943 Hogarth subsequently purchased the house at 4 Devon Rd and later acquired other lots nearby.

In 1962 a Government vet Dr Ian Miller purchased lots 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11 for 12 thousand pounds from Hogarth, and on his death in 1988, Tony Vigano, his business partner, purchased Ian's share of the business, and soon after the veterinary lot and building (the stables). Incidentally Ann Miller, Ian's widow and her now husband Prof Malcolm Nairn still live in the house at 4 Devon Rd and Tony is indebted to them for much of this background.

In 1988 after the sudden death of Ian Miller, Tony became the sole owner of the Veterinary practice and associated land at No 2 Devon Rd, and subsequent to that Ann and Mal extensively renovated the residence at No 4 Devon Rd bringing it back to the original in 1907.

Moving on to the practice, Tony joined it (then owned by Dr Ian Miller) on New Years' Day 1969 having spent 6 weeks doing work experience as a 5th year student at Melbourne University, with Ian and assistant Mike Grandison 12 months before. He became a partner in 1976, and he and Ian remained in practice together until an asthma attack claimed Ian's life in 1988. Since then Tony has been the sole owner until Dr Michelle Harrison, who joined the practice in 2005, purchased shares in the practice in 2012. This was followed by Dr Melanie Criddle, who joined the practice in 2011, and purchased shares in 2015.

Tony Vigano



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

Now that Easter has come and gone it is likely that the weather will gradually get colder as we approach Winter.

After the searing heat in the Eastern States it won't come too soon for people on the Eastern seaboard.

Not so much so in WA where we particularly in Perth have had a really mild Summer apart from hot days but these have been fewer than normal or so it seems to me.

In anticipation of colder and wet weather as we experienced in 2018 we have obtained the use of the John O'Meehan pavilion at the Royal Showgrounds for our Dog Obedience Classes commencing on June 1st and finishing August 31st. Therefore all outdoor and off site classes will be held at this venue and with a well lit, warm and fully enclosed facility I can't wait given the cold and stormy conditions we had to endure last year when cancellations were the order of the day and the whole program was thrown into chaos. Nearby toilets, abundant parking and just down Shenton Rd from the practice it ticks all the boxes and we have been able to absorb any extra cost which I am sure is very compelling. Seating, matts for the dogs and our usual instructors should make for a more comfortable time this year so enquire now if your best friend is approaching the time for these classes.

Speaking about off site activities I am pleased to report that Pets at the Park 2019 was held on Sunday April 7th at the upper oval College Park this year and with great support from Nedlands City Council (who hosted the event this year), and with the help and support of Claremont and Cottesloe Town Councils it was a resounding success. Over 30 individual booths took part, from Pet accessories to Specialist Veterinary Centres and included a Pet Show, Dog Agility Demonstrations and several food outlets it attracted a good crowd during the morning. Opened by the Scotch College Pipe Band and hosted by MC Simon Beaumont from 6PR we are indebted to sponsors Cenvet and Provet (Veterinary Wholesalers) and our major sponsor Delicate Care who together with donations of prizes from Bunnings, Zoo Pet Products all made for a fun morning.

Plans for Pets at the Park 2020 have already commenced with Claremont Town Council hosting the event in 2020 at Claremont Park behind and adjacent to the Council Chambers. Watch this space for updates and a date which will again be late March/early April in 2020.

April has been a busy month with the practice celebrating its 80th birthday and this event is highlighted as the major story in this edition of the Petpro Newsletter including a timeline of the historic building we are fortunate enough to have as a workplace.

A more recent event was a surprise visit from much loved former receptionist Nickee Angell. Nickee having missed out on the job on first selection over 15 years ago, made the now famous statement "you will be sorry". Thank goodness she was wrong as events transpired such that 2 weeks later she was offered the job and then started a very successful and on going vocation in the Veterinary Industry. Just as well as her Malamutes do require almost full time attention! Having left to go to Melbourne, mainly as her partner is in the music industry, they moved into Brunswick/Coburg where she still lives, and does not stand out at all with her odd shoes and zaney clothes as that is the norm in this trendy area. Albeit she has had several interesting jobs and currently is working in Kensington Melbourne for a Specialist/24 hour practice. It was great to catch up and finally more recent team members got to meet this much talked about and loved former team member.

We have featured three new team members in the Team Profiles on P7 of this newsletter that no doubt you will come across in the next few months.

Dr Leah Richards has recently joined us as a permanent part time veterinarian along with her year mate Natalie Ullrich (who works regular weekends), plus Tess Oxenham a recent nursing graduate. All three have fitted in so well it was meant to be and we look forward to a long association, which can be a daunting thought given Tony has been here 50 years and it is commonplace for members of the team to clock up 20-30 years at Swanbourne.

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



WINTER WOES

Winter Warmers....what we need to consider to make our pets happy and safe in the colder months. If it is anything like last year we are in for a wet and windy time so we need to be prepared. This year we will be holding all our Dog Obedience Classes in the John O'Meehan Pavilion at the Royal Showgrounds to ensure a warm and dry environment after the debacle of frequent cancellations last year.

Generally however winter in Perth is nothing like the Northern Hemisphere or even in the Southern States on the Eastern Seaboard here in Australia and so this makes it very important to consider all the issues of Autumn and Spring as well as the seasons merge into one another.

Nevertheless we still need to look after the inner needs of your pet, the older members of the pet community and those issues that are not a problem elsewhere but here in Perth with our temperate climate remain a problem 12 months of the year.

1. Depression in Winter is a very real problem for all of us. The lack of stimulation brought on by shorter or discontinued walks in the park to meet their friends means our pets can 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 ideal 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. The new 4Cyte product to be launched in time for Winter this year is worth trying featuring the plant product epitalis. 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, plus it is sheltered and out of the wind. Equally you can do it yourself in the same area 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



WINTER WOES (continued)

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 hares (Nudibranch). This issue of Sea Hares has reared its ugly head already with reports of dogs affected up and down the coast. Like all these issues you should consult your local veterinarian immediately if you think your dog has been in contact with any sort of toxin.

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 Vigano

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.



TEAM PROFILES

DR NATALIE ULLRICH

Natalie is a country girl who hails from York in WA. She attended the local primary school and then commuted daily to Northam to attend the high school there. Growing up, Natalie's hobbies included breeding Pekin Bantam chickens and she loved horse riding, being a member Pony Club member in York. It is of little surprise that Natalie has gone on to become a Veterinarian!



Natalie graduated from Murdoch University in 2009, and has worked in mixed animal practice in Geraldton, Toodyay and Wongan Hills. She shares her house with her 3 children – Matilda, Noel and Hazel, as well as Ernie the 12 year old Ridgeback X dog, and many Pekin Bantam Hens – Princess, Rosie, Storm, Cloud, Coco and Bella.

In her spare time, Natalie enjoys DIY house and garden projects. She loves exploring outback Australia and taking in all the native plants and wildlife, so of course camping and bushwalking are on her list of things to do!

Natalie always enjoys learning new things, and takes pride in being a compassionate and skilled veterinarian.

TESS OXENHAM

Tess joined us in January this year having newly graduated with her Certificate 4 in Vet Nursing from Bentley South Metropolitan TAFE.

She is a Perth girl having been educated at Willetton Primary and High schools and has worked in a variety of jobs including hospitality, retail and health care.



Tess has fitted in really well at Swanbourne and whilst loving all animals, and she has had a few of her own, such as cats, birds and fish, she has a leaning towards cats as her picture shows.

In her spare time she learns French, makes custom jewellery and loves music and travel, with a real interest in different cultures.

Her aim is to get a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and then to help in under developed countries.

Best of luck in your endeavours Tess and we are glad you picked this practice on your way.

DR LEAH RICHARDS

Leah has now joined the Swanbourne Vet team permanently, but has previously done some locum shifts with us since March 2017. She graduated from Murdoch University in 2009, and upon graduating, moved back to her hometown of Melbourne, where she worked in Small Animal veterinary hospitals for 8 years.



Longing for Perth's sunny weather and outdoor lifestyle, she and her family moved back to WA. Leah is married to Leon (also a vet!) and they have 2 young children – Ernie and Layla. They also share their house with Luna, a 2 year old rescue domestic shorthair cat.

Leah grew up in Melbourne, attending high school at Wesley College, and then went on to commence study in a Bachelor of Science degree at Melbourne University. 2 years into this, she was accepted into the Veterinary Science course at Murdoch University and moved to WA.

In her spare time, Leah enjoys running and yoga – she is currently completely a 2 year yoga teaching training course! She also loves to spend time with her family in the great outdoors – you will mainly find her at the beach. And of course, she is an avid Collingwood Pies supporter, and so siding with Tony in the Swanbourne clinic rivalry of Victorian vs WA AFL teams is alive and well.

Leah enjoys all aspects of canine and feline medicine and surgery, and has a particular love of fostering the special bond between owners and their pets. Dear to her heart is ensuring that ageing pets are comfortable and have optimal quality of life in their geriatric "golden years".

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 always here to help by calling 9384 2644.

Booking is easy – simply visit www.swanbournevet.com and click on BOOK APPOINTMENT.



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, 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.:

