

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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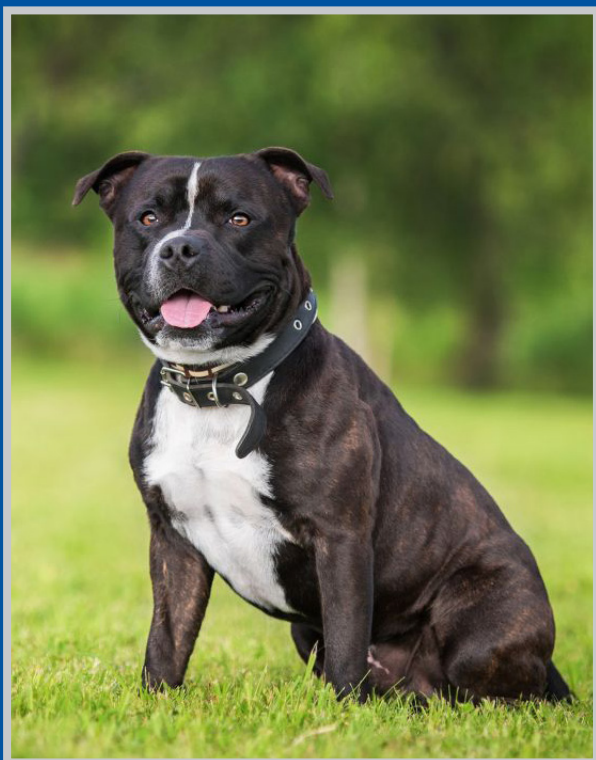
www.swanbournevet.com

The Pet Professionals

Tony Viganò , Michelle Harrison &
Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons

SPRING 2019

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER



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Swanbourne Veterinary Centre

2 Devon Road, Swanbourne WA 6010
Tel: (08) 9384 2644 • Fax: (08) 9383 2846

Monday to Friday: 7.30am to 7.00pm
Saturday: 8.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am to 2.00pm
Public Holidays: 8.00am to 12.00pm



Visit our website:
swanbournevet.com
E-mail us at:
tony@petpro.com.au



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SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

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ROAD TEST: THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER



Known as the nanny dog such is their legendary reputation with children, the Staffie is a clear winner as one of Australia's favourite dogs. They live life at full throttle, tough, stocky and boisterous, and whilst not for everyone their sense of humour, size, and appearance have earned them the reputation of a human in "doggy fur".

Owners are generally besotted by these strong, stocky dogs with their broad skulls and short snouts, and it is true to say no one will ever love you like your staffie!

Part of the reason I have chosen the Staffie for the Road Test in the Spring edition this year is to advocate for them in the face of criticism sometimes levelled against them regarding dog attacks. They can be dog aggressive but never with people although the populous press at times labels Staffie crosses as the perpetrators of all sorts of crimes against other animals and people. Like all dogs they need to be trained and whilst often crossed with Pit Bulls and American Staffies which are generally the types cited in these cases, the true English Staffie type is not of this ilk.

HISTORY:

They emerged in the 17th century in Staffordshire, England, also the birthplace of fine china (Wedgwood and Spode)...what an odd couple!! A product of mating the now extinct and ferocious Bulldog with terriers of the time. The resultant dog was known as the Bull and Terrier or Pit Dog and was initially used for bull and bear baiting but when that was outlawed in the 1830's they were used as fighting dogs in the infamous sport of dog fighting. The champion of the working class in the midlands in England at the time they also had a reputation as guardians of the home and were excellent family pets and particularly good with children. They were also used for badger hunting and as ratters.

When dog fighting was finally outlawed the breed was maintained as a companion

animal and show dog and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier was recognized in 1935.

APPEARANCE:



A compact, powerfully built dog that literally has muscles on muscles. They have a large square head that is short and broad with pronounced cheek muscles, strong jaws and large teeth. Being short coated they have a sleek appearance with semi erect ears, straight forelegs, a broad chest and bowed, powerful back legs.

Colours come in red, fawn, white, black, blue and brindle, or any of these with white.

A relatively small dog they grow to between 33-40cm in height, weigh 11-16kg (though many we see are between 15-22kg) and they live 10-16 years.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Originally bred for fighting and ratting they can be dog aggressive if not properly socialized and this is a must and a major responsibility of a Staffie owner if they are to get the best from their dog and be free of hassles.



ROAD TEST: THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER



They are intelligent, albeit a bit headstrong and stubborn particularly in adolescence when their boisterous nature can be overwhelming and they are renowned for rushing in where angels fear to tread which can lead to some bizarre accidents. Firm handling is required at this stage until they turn the corner at about 2 years of age and all the work put into them is repaid 100 fold.

Life is for the taking for Staffies and they live for the day so care must be taken lest they injure themselves in their exuberant play. Everything is a joke to a Staffie and their sense of humour is one of their most endearing attributes.

They can suffer from separation anxiety such is the strength of their bond with their owners and whilst they are good watch dogs, barking can be a problem if they are left alone when they can also become destructive in the house and garden.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

The quintessential dog with children, hence their tag as the nanny dog, they make great family pets though do need a firm hand and are therefore not for everyone.

They can be dog aggressive though generally get on well with other dogs in the household and other pets such as cats as long as they are socialized with them. They need regular exercise to curb their boisterous nature and in general adult dogs prefer the company of humans to other dogs. They are happiest indoors with the family and are content as lounge lizards most of the time.

Barking and destructive behaviour can be a problem if they are left alone when they are young but they do mellow quite quickly after 2 years of age.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Generally a hardy dog they do suffer from hereditary eye problems, and in Perth's climate we see allergy problems both skin

and other forms.

In breeding for bowed and powerful back legs there can be a tendency for slipping patellas (a surgically correctable slipping of the knee cap due to developmental twisting of the leg), and arthritis and cruciate ligament problems can also occur as a result of this "twist".

Hip dysplasia has also been reported and we see many Staffies with injuries due to their "devil may care attitude" and the scant regard they seem to have for their own well being.

In summary Staffies come highly recommended for young growing families as long as the new owner has researched the breed and is prepared to spend the time at puppy school, puppy management and obedience classes to ensure their Staffie grows up to be the delightful, funny, devoted dog that it should. A MACK truck in a manageable body, I always think a 16kg Staffie can hold its own in a tug of war with a dog of any other breed twice the weight.

I am a devotee as this article probably indicates!

Saffi is our current Staffie and she is the usual anxious and clingy dog we have learnt to expect but she is a favourite at the park with the other dogs and owners and is totally dominated at home by our frail but feisty 17 year old cat Ninja who treats her with disdain but gets nothing but respect back!

Tony Vigano



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD SPRING 2019

As we are now experiencing warmer weather and longer days you can really start to feel that Spring is in the air.

So good to look back on the cold, dark Winter months this year spent in the comfort of the O'Meehan Pavilion at the Royal Show Grounds per favour of the RAS who kindly leased the pavilion to us for June, July and August for our extensive and very popular Dog Obedience classes and recently augmented by an Advanced Course (by invitation!) the first of which has just concluded and was a great success.

Thanks so much to the RAS and I hope we can spend next Winter there as well!

Neri our popular Head Trainer has just left for the UK once again this year to spend time with the Wolf Behaviourists Sean and Kim Ellis. No doubt she will be back in a couple of months with a multitude of stories and experiences. Watch this space. In the meantime the classes will go on at College Park in Nedlands on Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings at the new Lake Claremont Dog area off Lakeway. More about that in Kylie's update in the Good Citizen section of this newsletter.

This is also the time when we crank up the Pets at the Park (2020) which will be held in late March at Claremont Reserve behind the Council buildings on the corner of Bayview Terrace and Stirling Highway. A Day devoted to the celebration of pet ownership and not to be missed. Free admission and loads of entertainment for animal lovers.

As you may know the practice celebrated its 80th anniversary earlier this year and anyone reading this article who desires an 80th car sticker can have one if they ask at reception, and until they have all gone.

On the staff front we welcomed Dr Leah Richards and Dr Natalie Ulrich to the veterinary team this year, whilst Gabriela Santana and Emma Greenwood joined the nurses more recently and you will no doubt meet them when you come in. Gabriella (from Brazil) and Emma a local girl, feature in this newsletter in the Team Profiles section.

This article heralds in Dr Melanie and Hospital Manager Kylie to share the load with Tony who has been writing the Newsletter for 30 years. Mel will do the Ask the Vet column and organize the digitalization of the newsletter whilst Kylie will keep the Good Citizen Program section current and up to date with dates of new classes and so on.

Tony will continue to do the Road Tests and the Dashboard plus the Seasonal changes in the landscape as it affects our pets. This coming year (2020) marks his 52nd year in practice.

Over the time he has seen the practice grow and develop and now with Online bookings for veterinary appointments and Dog Obedience/Puppy School, digitalization of the Petpro Newsletter, emails and texts being used for contact with clients and so on he is pleased to see the new blood take the practice to the next level but to retain the old fashioned values of good service and exacting veterinary medicine and surgery.

Grooming at Swanbourne starts in earnest again with the warm weather approaching, again lead by Shai Marie who works on Fridays and ably assisted by Kara, Annie and Ashlee throughout the rest of the week. Be sure to rebook with your groomer (reception) after each groom to ensure an appointment is made for the appropriate time (some people even book 12 months ahead just to be sure) in the future.

Our new kennel hand/trainee nurse (Gabriela) is also a qualified dog washer so if this is something that interests you be sure to ask at reception as she is here Mondays and Fridays, otherwise one of the nurses will be pleased to pamper your pooch.

Remember our opening hours are: Monday to Friday 7.30am until 7pm, Saturdays 8am until 4pm, Sundays 8am until 2pm and Public Holidays 8am until 12pm. We are closed Good Friday and Christmas Day but ring on 9384 2644 for instructions as to which after hours facility is open and on the same number after closing each day and until 7.30am.

Finally and as this is the last Newsletter until January 2020 we take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday period.

Tony Vigano



GOOD CITIZEN PROGRAM DOG TRAINING : WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Good Citizen Program

Our good citizen program consists of 5 courses that aim to turn your best friend into an upstanding member of society.

Dog training and communication helps build your bond with your dog, improve their behaviour. Our classes are run by Neri and Lisa from Dog Whispering and are unique to our practice.

What is new?

By the time this goes to print, Neri will have just returned from the UK where she spends up to 2 months each year working with Kim & Shaun Ellis and their pack of wolves.

Neri uses what she learns about wolf behaviour in her training.

Lisa has started running "Puppy Power" Workshops.



These workshops are aimed at puppies aged 8-13 weeks and encourage owners and puppies to work together exploring different challenges. This helps the puppies develop good coping strategies and problem solving skills that can be applied in the big, scary world.

invitation only, for the people who put in lots of work at home and completed multiple Basic Obedience courses. Participants learnt skills such as "Emergency stop/drop", "Turn", "Left heel", "Right heel", stay with a high level of distraction and some agility work. Following it's success, we will be running another course in November.



The final Basic Obedience courses for the year will be starting on Wednesday 16th and Saturday 19th October. These can now be booked online at www.swanbournevet.com/dogobedience

Our Puppy Preschool and Management classes are now run as an 8 week, 2 part course. This year we will continue running Puppy Classes right the way through the end of the year with just one weekend off over Christmas (29th December.) These classes can now be booked online at www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool



Over July/August, we ran our first Advanced Obedience course. This course was by



SPRING TIPS

Round and round the mulberry bush the pets have come to play, but beware the dangers of Spring on such a beautiful day!!

Winter is always a dreary time for pets and owners alike but this year at least we had a warm and dry site for our ever popular Dog Obedience classes at the O'Meehan Pavilion at the Royal Showgrounds just down the road from the practice. No more freezing in the rain, it was a pleasure to use this facility and we look forward to gaining access to it again next year. Watch this space!

So Spring will be a welcome relief for many people and not the least being our pets that become quite depressed when their walks at the park are curtailed not to mention the anxieties that rain and particularly thunder create!

Cats equally stay inside by the fire and the activity rate of everyone in the household drops as the humans watch sport on TV and the pets can be neglected.

As the weather warms not only do pets and their owners come out of hibernation but parasites, snakes and other nasties also become more active. In Perth our temperate climate means we should never let our guard down against parasites external and internal but many people do and the compliance rate of monthly preventives can be as low as 5/12 months a year which means that burst of warm weather in winter can spell disaster if heartworm preventives and other parasite control has lapsed. Fear not as we now have some excellent medications that can be given every 3 months such as Bravecto (incidentally there is a spot on form of Bravecto coming soon that lasts for 6 months!), so these can be used now, and like all oral medications these reach back rather than forward in control.

1. Heartworm:

I fear that vigilance has fallen off alarmingly with heartworm control since the disease was first discovered in Perth based canines some 25 years ago. Control is easy and I favour the annual injection which can be given at the same time as annual vaccinations. The injection is made of sphericles that are dissolved

gradually from the site of the injection over the next 12 months giving good control. Heartworm prevention is also available in monthly and three monthly oral medications and remember we have the right temperatures, the right mosquitoes and bodies of water such as lakes and the river for the disease to be ever present. The only factor that saves us is that the majority of dogs are protected as the disease requires an infected dog population to be propagated. This I fear is falling off and cases are being reported in Perth once again. Ask your vet!

2. Intestinal worms:

From a human health point of view control of internal parasites is important and this is easily done with the plethora of products on the market given monthly, three monthly and either individually or in combination with other preventives so again ask your vet!

3. External parasites:

These ramp up as the weather becomes warmer and fleas head the list but ticks and lice are also prevalent and easily prevented

4. Flies:

A major problem in areas such as horse studs but also seen in suburbia around rubbish bins and outside/backyard areas particularly if food is left uneaten, there is compost around or faeces from the family pet are not cleaned up regularly bag this as soon as you see it and keep a special bin that can be put out for collection or deposited in the special bins provided at most parks and recreation reserves. The use of pyrethrin sprays in the back yard, aerosols such as Ndem on the pet and topical ointments on prime areas of your pet such as their ears all help to reduce this annoying problem.

5. Bees:

A major problem all year round particularly for susceptible animals here stings can cause anaphalaxis in pets and people. Watch out for that sudden yelp and lameness or grossly swollen face during a walk at the park a visit to the local vet may well save a life and if your pet (or child?) are susceptible the consequences



SPRING TIPS (continued)

become worse after each encounter and desensitisation may well be necessary.

6. Birds:

We are so lucky in Perth having an abundance of bird life in the suburbs to enhance the beauty of our gardens and recreation areas, but beware the territorial species such as magpies, butcher birds and honey eaters which delight in dive bombing both people and pets during the mating season in Spring. A hat is a must and I also carry an umbrella as they can draw blood or worse as they dive bomb intruders into their breeding areas!

7. Equally give birds a chance in your garden by ensuring the family cat is wearing a bell as these fire side tabbies during the winter turn into efficient killing machines as they creep up and mesmerise birds and their young, just doing what comes naturally but very distressing when it happens

8. And on the subjects of cats, please keep them inside from dusk as they are busy meeting and mating during Spring (those that are not sterilised ... as they all should be!) and the ensuing fights throughout the night can keep the neighbourhood awake as they scream at each other, locked in mortal territorial battle.

9. Noxious Plants:

When planning your garden please get advice regarding the species you should plant. There are a plethora of noxious plants in every garden and this is a topic about which most pet experts have only a sketchy knowledge. I have included a list to avoid with these notes. Equally planting native species will ensure your garden is full of birds, frogs and other marvellous creatures.

10. On the topic of "house and garden" and before you get too enthused as Spring starts to bloom, care must always be taken when using snail baits, lawn fertilisers and other caustics outdoors. Frogs and reptiles (avoid snakes!) are greatly affected by these agents and snail bait can be very toxic to dogs as they attract dogs and should be used sparingly (follow the directions!) and preferably put in wide necked jars and

conduit pegged to the ground as the products will attract snails. Try to use animal friendly products at all times and don't leave stocks of nitrogenous fertilisers and snail bait in reach of inquisitive pets.

11. At the Park:

After a long wet winter your dogs will be overjoyed to once again have that daily romp in the park, chasing balls and Frisbees and meeting their cohorts. Beware of squabbles that may occur between focussed individuals that become obsessive about their own balls and tug toys as this can cause mayhem, injury and bad feelings amongst owners! Ensure you dog has been properly socialised at puppy and obedience classes so they become good citizens and learn to share, recall and generally follow your instruction to the letter! Severe fines and worse can ensue if they transgress on a regular basis.

12. Travelling in the car:

Please ensure you secure your dog just as we must do. There are some handy harnesses that clip into seat belt anchor points to prevent your best friend from injury when you are forced to stop suddenly, not to mention the damage they can cause flying around the car! Car sickness is also a problem in many dogs and this can be reduced by regular trips to desensitise them but also how and where they travel in the car. It is a combination of motion sickness (try putting them on the floor behind the front seats) but also anxiety due to fear so medications may also help initially to familiarise them with car travel. Most dogs get to love travelling in the car and being with their people.

13. On the subject of cars and we talk about this constantly, please do not leave dogs or any animals for that matter unattended at any time in a locked car. Heat stroke can occur within 6 minutes even in temperatures as low as 25C. Spring is a critical time as the temperatures can climb higher than you think!

14. The sun's heat particularly in the middle of



SPRING TIPS (continued)

the day can be detrimental in white cats particularly with sunburnt ears and noses and also white staffies and boxers. Consistent sunburn can lead to squamous cell carcinomas in dogs and cats so be sure to protect them from this. There are some good screening lotions available for pets though of not much value in cats.

15. The beach is back on the agenda in Spring so watch out for blowfish (beach and river) as these can be very toxic and also errant anglers who leave fish heads and gangs of hooks on the beach leading to these being caught in mouths and worse.

16. Throwing sticks for dogs at the beach is an absolute no no. Some dogs are incredibly quick catching them in the air and as they land pouncing on them with such ferocity that the sticks can be driven deep into their throats. Please use frizzbies to exercise them and not balls either as I have seen these caught deep in their throats, particularly squash balls which can also damage eyes as they fit neatly into eye sockets. Backyard cricket is best played with a tennis ball as cricket balls can break windows(!) but also teeth and limbs!

17. Swimming is great fun but the water can exacerbate ear problems so speak to your vet about a management problem for chronic swimmer ear!

18. Some dogs also swallow water at the beach when jumping through waves and biting at the foam. This leads to vomiting in the car on the way home so give them time to settle down before

that long trip home.

19. Also remember older dogs and the family pool can be a lethal combination with tragic circumstances when they can't get out. If you go out, and at all times anyway, keep the pool gate firmly shut.

20. Barbecues can be a problem because of that hot plate taken off to drain the fat and meat products. Very inviting but desperately hot and not good for eager tongues! Just like those hot bitumen roads on bare pads.

21. Beware also that guests do not casually drop or feed the dog at the BBQ party. Offcuts of fat and particularly onions can be very toxic with the latter causing anaemia in susceptible animals.

22. Reptiles:

Beware of snakes in the Spring. They come out of hibernation full of venom and are a constant problem. Dugites in the sand dunes and inland and tigers around lakes and rivers must be avoided at all costs. Keep your dog on the path and trained to recall under all circumstances. It is best to walk in the early morning rather than the heat of the day to avoid any unpleasant surprises. The list of issues we encounter with our pets in the Spring is endless but is also a special time, beautiful in most respects but there can be a sinister side for our pets.

Tony Vigano

Swanbourne Veterinary Centre



ONLINE BOOKINGS

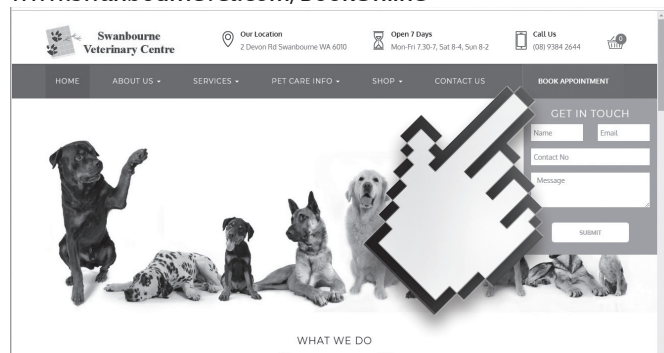
We have introduced the functionality to enable our clients to book their own appointments through a secure link on our website.

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



STAFF PROFILES



Gabriela Santos

Gabriela was born in Brazil in a small town in San Paulo, called Santos. Incidentally a very famous town as it is also the birth place of iconic soccer legend Pele.

Whilst her parents still live in Santos for 6 months of the year (spending the rest of the year in Perth with

Gabriela and her brother and his family), Gabriela moved to Australia 3 years ago to join her brother and she already speaks perfect English, along with Spanish and Portuguese.

She worked with a mobile Dog Groomer initially when she moved here and was trained up as a dog washer which she still enjoys and does part time.

She commenced the Veterinary Nursing Cert 4 course at Bentley TAFE this year and whilst doing work experience here she impressed us with her work ethic so watch out for her on Mondays and Fridays.

STAFF PROFILES

Gabriela Santos

Working in her mother's costume shop in Santos from an early age she is no stranger to hard work as one can see given the variety of her jobs.

She shares her life between her nearby family in Nollamara, partner Richard from Wales and her refuge Aussie Terrier Rosie.

Look out for Gabriela when next you visit the practice.

Tony Vigano



Emma Greenwood

Emma has recently joined the Nursing team at the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre, and has a Bachelor of Communications, whilst recently graduating as a Veterinary Nurse with a Certificate 4 from the Applied Vocational Training Centre.

A local Claremont girl, Emma was educated at MLC and attends the practice with her dog Otis, a 2 year old Griffon.

Along with her family and partner Alex, she enjoys travelling, having recently been to Hong Kong, and is also keen on tennis, boxing and netball.

Her recent employment includes traineeships at Vetwest and the Perth Cat Hospital and her aim is to achieve a diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

So, watch out for Emma when next you attend the practice as we welcome her to what we hope will be a long and successful career here at Swanbourne.

Tony Vigano





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 December 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.:



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Good Luck!

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