

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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The Pet Professionals

Tony Viganò, Michelle Harrison & Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons

SUMMER 2020

AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE PONIES



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Saturday: 8.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am to 2.00pm
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ROAD TEST: AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE PONIES



All miniature pony breeds can be traced back to Shetland Pony origins crossed with a variety of other pony breeds. The Australian Miniature Pony was established as a result of crosses with small Shetland ponies and an Argentinean miniature pony, the Falabella. The Falabella is more fine-boned and leggy than other miniature pony breeds, giving it a slimmer, more horse-like appearance. Several other miniature breeds also contributed to the Australian Miniature which became a recognised breed in 1974.

HISTORY:

Miniature horses are found in many nations. Designated by their height (less than 34-38 inches or 86-97cm) they have various colours and coat patterns.

They were bred in the 17th century as pets for Europe's Habsburg nobility. Records from the court of the French King Louis 14th also noted the presence of small horses in 1650 and paintings and articles featured the miniature horse by 1765. Whilst some were the pampered pets of kings and queens many were used in the English midlands and North European coal mines as pit ponies.

APPEARANCE:

Australian Miniature ponies are measured in cms rather than hands or inches. The measurements are made from the highest point of the withers. They should look well proportioned (somewhere between a pony and a horse) with a reasonably robust appearance but less so than the Shetland pony. No ponies are acceptable over 87cm.

CHARACTERISTICS:



Bred to be calm, and suitable for harness or saddle, temperament can be affected by handling. Poorly handled they can become surly and sour and stallions can be more of a problem.

FEEDING:

Routine feeding as with ordinary ponies but notorious "good doers" so not too many concentrated diets and lush pasture lest they balloon and founder can be a problem.



ROAD TEST: AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE PONIES

HEALTH AND NUTRITION:

The main problem with miniaturisation is overcrowding of the mouth, as their dental formula is the same as a standard horse. An upright stance with a straight conformation of the legs may predispose to locking kneecaps causing the limbs to be locked in extension. This was the primary issue of a Falabella I observed at the Melbourne Vet School in the 1960's and from memory there was a similar issue with a Miniature Horse at Murdoch Vet School some years ago. Birth problems can be an issue with small mares and a good relationship with your local vet is essential if breeding them.

Apart from feet needing to be trimmed regularly, navicular disease (disease of pedal bones), and teeth maintenance, the normal issues with horses generally apply.

COST AND LIFESPAN:

Varies with size and breeding, they can cost from \$1000 up to \$5000 for show quality ponies, and they live for 20-30 years so are a long term investment.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

A child's first pony or people interested in owning ponies but are limited by space. But remember that all horses are relatively high maintenance animals, the miniature pony no less so.

DWARFISM:

Dwarfism is a concern in the miniature horse world. Dwarf horses, while often setting world records for size, are not considered to have desirable traits, generally have incorrect conformation, and may have significant health and soundness issues.

The oldest living horse on record was a miniature horse affected by dwarfism named Angel who lived to be over 50 years. The current record holder for the world's smallest horse is also affected by dwarfism, Thumbelina, who is fully mature stands 43cm and weighs 27kg.

So there you have it. An oddity if nothing else and may even be suitable for the home but their classification as a horse may preclude keeping them in many suburban areas and they still have the requirements of a horse which really doesn't suit suburbia (such as open paddocks for exercise).

Tony Vigano



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD SUMMER 2020

Summer has hit us early this year albeit we have been luckier than most other states with bushfires and extreme heat at least thus far.

We are closed Christmas Day but as there are only three gazetted holidays and they all fall during the week our availability on those days will be 9-12pm on Boxing Day and New Years' Day.

The last three months have been quite eventful and busy at the practice.

The top consult room has finally been fitted out making it fully functional and the cabinetry (like the front reception desk) supplied by Sam White Cabinetry is a work of art.

Dog Obedience Classes have concluded for the year but will restart at College Park on Feb 5th and at Claremont (Lakeside) off Lakeway on Saturday morning Feb 8th. It would be as well to get in straight away as bookings are filling up fast.

We also have an Advanced class now which was trialed over the Winter months at the Showgrounds. By invitation, and entirely based on the aptitude of the dog (in the eyes of Neri Karazija the trainer) and the conscientiousness of the owner, it was a great success and will be repeated periodically from now on. It is something we have been toying with for some time and this formula has proven to be perfect. So, put your best foot forward and wait for the phone call!

We are also working towards creating a 10 minute pick up and drop off parking bay right outside the practice (in the driveway). This will eliminate the need to park up to 100 meters from the practice for these short visits to buy food and drop off/pick up animals. In so doing we will also be enlarging the "3 car bay run in" on the northern side of the building to be a realistically sized 3 car bay so not a formidable space

in which to park as it is currently. This will effectively give us two extra car bays along the front and the 30 minute time limit will be enforced particularly for those not attending the practice. All this in the hope of easing the car parking situation which I know is becoming annoying.

Pets at the Park has had a date change, out of our control, to the next week, so, Sunday 5.4.2020 with all other details exactly the same (at Claremont Park behind the Council offices on Stirling Highway between 8-12pm)

More about that as we get closer to the event. At least that gives us an extra week to make it a memorable one (our 10th anniversary).

Pets at the Park is a morning entirely devoted to the celebration of animal ownership with the accent on dogs, although one or two of the categories in the Pet Show (the highlight of the day) attracted cats, rabbits, ferrets and chooks the likes which added to the interest.

Set up like a country fair the concept is to invite all and everyone involved in the Pet Industry. This includes retailers of accessories, pet food manufacturers and of course Veterinary practices, plus Specialists and After Hours Service Providers so on, each with their own tent and these encircle the central arena in which displays are held culminating in the Pet Show which has 7-8 categories.

The Scotch College Pipe Band opens proceedings in what then unfolds to a very diverse and colourful day. Don't miss it!

I take this opportunity to wish all our valued clients and friends the compliments of the season and a happy and prosperous 2020 (in every way).

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?

This year, Neri will be spending the winter in the UK working with Kim & Shaun Ellis and their pack of wolves.

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

Lisa periodically runs workshops to tide you over between the puppy and obedience courses, more information about these can be found at our website.

stop/drop", "Turn", "Left heel", "Right heel", stay with a high level of distraction and some agility work.



The first Basic Obedience courses for the year will be starting on Wednesday 5th February and Saturday 8th February. 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. These classes can now be booked online at

www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool



We are planning to run our second Advanced Obedience course in 2020. This course will be by invitation only, for the people who put in lots of work at home and complete multiple Basic Obedience courses. Participants learn skills such as "Emergency



SUMMER MADNESS

After a relatively mild winter, Summer has heralded its arrival (officially December 1st) with an onslaught of hot weather which tested the Test cricketers but also almost everyone I have met. Climate change or just the cycle we have had a barrage of 40 degree heat that defies description. ever. Along with this has come an early onset of skin conditions and generally stressed animals so please beware of leaving them in cars and ensure they have plenty of shade and water. My perennial ramblings but it (the weather) does have a habit of creeping up on you.

It is also the house and garden season as well when the avid gardeners amongst us run amok with the snail bait and nitrogenous fertilisers. Backyard and beach cricket takes over and all in all we are all more at risk from accidents and misadventure. Not the least our pets!

1. HEAT:

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

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

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

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

(e) Hot pavements and sand at the beach burn

small feet just as they do with us so spare a thought when taking your best friend walking

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

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

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

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

(j) Consider putting some treats in the freezer.....make them up using doggie treats and then they can have a frozen treat with the family on those boiling hot days

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

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

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

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



SUMMER MADNESS (continued)

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

2. CHRISTMAS INDULGENCE and OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Check feet and ears (particularly long haired

cats and dogs) regularly for grass seeds that can penetrate the skin/ear drums with painful consequences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FORWARD PLANNING:

(a) Planning for your annual holiday includes getting in



SUMMER MADNESS (continued)

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

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

(c) Include in that regular deworming as well

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

(d) Summer brings with it the unwanted kitten season so be sure to get your new cat sterilised before the warm weather brings them into season. The local Cat Haven puts as many as 100 unwanted kittens to sleep during the summer months.

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

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

(g) And...make sure at the present opening ritual on Christmas morning they have their own gift(s) to open.

There are plethora of great gifts for dogs, cats and other pets available now and they can join in the fun.

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

SUMMER and our NATIVE ANIMALS plus some ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tony Vigano



ONLINE BOOKINGS

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

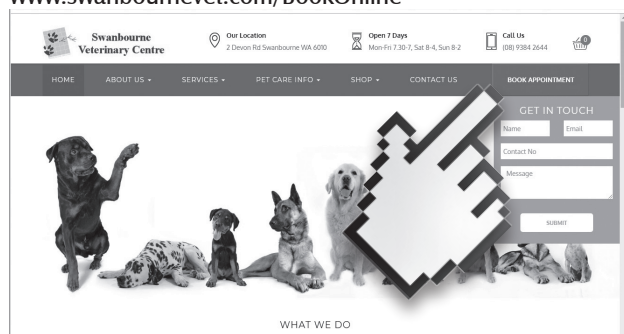
Appointment times are available 7 days a week. You select the service – vaccination, general check, dental check or senior health check – then choose the day and time that suits, and book your pet in! When you complete your booking, you will receive an email with confirmation of the booking details.

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



ASK THE VET

Madison from Swanbourne asks:

"I've noticed a strange lump on my dog's hind leg. What is it?"

Dogs and cats can get many types of lumps on their body, both benign and malignant. It can often be quite hard to tell what a lump is just by looking at it. If you notice a lump that is fast growing, reddened, swollen, infected or causing pain to your pet, you should make an appointment to get it checked as soon as possible.

At the appointment, we will need to know when you first noticed the lump and if it appeared suddenly, whether it has changed in any way (size, shape colour), and how your pet is doing in general – usual behaviour and appetite?

The diagnosis of many types of lumps is often made either by looking at some cells of the lump from a fine-needle aspiration sample, or histopathology of a tissue biopsy sample. Specific treatment of the lesion will depend on the type, location, and size of it, as well as whether it has spread to other organs in the body.

However, in most cases, surgical removal of the lump is usually recommended.

ASK THE VET

The most common types of lumps we see in dogs and cats are benign fatty tumours, sebaceous cysts, warts and abscesses. However, there are many more types and they can often all look quite similar. So if you notice any new unusual lumps or bumps on your furry friend, please make an appointment at the clinic to have it checked out by one of our vets!

Claudia from Cottesloe asks:

"I've noticed my dog has very smelly breath and a wobbly tooth. What can I do?"

Dental disease causes bad breath (halitosis) and pain, and it is also a source of infection in the heart, liver and kidneys as bacteria from the mouth travel via the blood.

There are many different things you can do at home to keep your pet's teeth "pearly white" for as long as possible, and these should be started while they are puppies and kittens.

However, for adult cats and dogs with existing dental disease, a dental treatment with a scale and polish under general anaesthetic is often necessary to get their mouth back into top condition.

A dental prophylaxis procedure at Swanbourne Vet begins with a complete physical examination of your pet, to ensure that are safe to undergo anaesthesia. We also offer a comprehensive screening blood test (performed on the morning of the procedure) to check that amongst other parameters, the liver and kidneys are functioning normally enabling a safer anaesthesia for your pet.

Under general anaesthetic, a full dental examination is performed and all teeth are charted. Ultrasonic scaling of all teeth is done and the plaque and tartar is removed. We take full mouth radiographs to properly assess all teeth including the roots. At this point, we then assess whether there are any teeth that require extraction due to disease (infection, root decay, periodontal ligament damage) or injury (crown fractures, root fractures). If there are any extractions, dissolvable sutures are placed into the gum to close the tooth sockets. The procedure then finishes with a polish of all remaining teeth.

A dental procedure on your pet will allow us to start their dental care with a clean mouth and we can then help you to prevent, or slow down dental disease developing again in the future.



Kids★ Corner

Children up to 12 years old are invited to enter our colouring-in competition.

Please post or return your entry to Swanbourne Veterinary Centre by March 31st 2020 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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SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

Good Luck!

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