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The Pet Professionals

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AUTUMN 2020

CARDIGAN AND PEMBROKE CORGIS



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ROAD TEST: THE CARDIGAN AND PEMBROKE CORGIS



Whilst these are two entirely different breeds now this has not always been the case and free interbreeding occurred until the last 70 years.

Both Welsh in origin (from neighbouring counties Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire) they have developed different personalities and body shapes and sizes since becoming independent from each other and remain one of the most popular pets and companion animals the world over.

HISTORY:

Both types may have descended from the Swedish Vallhunds brought to Wales by the Vikings in the 800's.

There is some opinion that the Cardigan may be much older having been brought to Wales by the Celts in 1200 BC, and the Pembrokes by the Flemish weavers in the 1100's (AD).

In any event the name Corgi comes from the Celtic word meaning "dog" and both were developed to drive cattle, barking and nipping at their heels.

Both were also used as vermin hunters and farm guards but now are primarily companion dogs.

The Pembroke is more popular and has found favour

as the chosen companion of Queen Elizabeth the second.

APPEARANCE:

Both are low, long dogs with large erect ears, broad flat skulls and fox like heads.

The Pembroke has traditionally a docked tail (though no longer legal in Australia), straighter legs, a shorter body smaller ears and a wedge-shaped head. It is also



a lighter dog than the Cardigan.

The Pembroke comes in red, sable, fawn, or black and tan with white markings and is around 25-30cm in height and 11-14 kg in weight.

The Cardigan has an undocked tail, larger ears, and comes in brindle, blue merle, black, black and tan, black and brindle, sable, and red, often with white markings.

Both breeds live between 12-15 years.



ROAD TEST: THE CARDIGAN AND PEMBROKE CORGIS

CHARACTERISTICS:

Both are highly intelligent, obedient, protective and robust.

They are both willing to please, active, devoted and usually good with children.

They also make good guard dogs, excellent show dogs and excel as obedience dogs.

They both need socialization and dog obedience classes in early life particularly the Pembrokes.

The Cardigans are less sociable and more territorial whilst the Pembrokes are more outgoing, restless and can be excitable.

Both breeds may try to herd people by nipping at their heels though good training sorts this out.

They are good alarm barkers and this can be a problem in suburbia and the males of both breeds can be dog aggressive.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

These are both good with children though they need early socialization and training.

They are very territorial and hence good guard dogs.

Barking can be a problem and the males can be dog aggressive. They are active indoors so don't need large backyards and are good for apartment living.

They are both low maintenance dogs with an easily groomed coat, minimal bathing and only moderate shedders.

The coats of both are medium length and water proof with a soft undercoat and a harsher outer coat, and both need exercise and diet control or they will develop weight problems as they get older.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Both suffer the same issues... generally minimal but they do develop progressive retinal atrophy and breeding stock should be screened.

Glaucoma can be a problem and when overweight back problems and hind leg problems (such as ruptured cruciate ligaments) can occur as they get older.

In Perth we see some skin problems but generally these are hardy breeds.

In summary both the Cardigan and the Pembroke Corgis make ideal companion animals for the average family. As with most breeds early socialization and training is essential. Their relative small size and moderate exercise needs makes them ideal for a suburban environment and they are low maintenance.

Tony Vignano



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD AUTUMN 2020

As I write this Dashboard for the upcoming Autumn Newsletter I am listening to a news report that Australia will be following New Zealand's lead in requiring a 2 week quarantine period for anyone entering Australia from midnight tonight.

Drastic measures for an impending and unknown situation that is unfolding before our eyes and once again I am reminded of the fact that Western Australia is as good as anywhere in the world to ride this out.

We have a section on our web site now which outlines the frequently asked questions about Covid 19 as it affects our animals and I have printed this in this newsletter elsewhere as well. It's important to separate out the sensationalism from the true facts and I hope this helps.

Amongst other things such as the AFL season which many of us have been eagerly awaiting and is now in turmoil, Pets at the Park has been officially cancelled. A shame as it was something we have already spent time on and is an event which is basically good fun. This year was promising to be bigger and better as our 10th anniversary, so we will have to look forward to 2021.

For those of you who regularly buy dog and cat food from us this has been made easier and in the light of the current situation, much safer.

Just call up and pay for the food over the phone and then let us know when you arrive and we will bring it out to your car with a minimum of fuss and contact. Before all this unfolded we had already recognized the parking issues and have created two 10 minute end to end car bays in the driveway which is ideal for this so very fortuitous.

We have also authorized the replacement of the single shade sail in the puppy school area with two sails which increases the coverage and with new

poles on the northern side this should ensure the shade sails will be more durable (having lost one of the poles in a recent storm).

This plus the upgrade of our records which will now be stored in the cloud should make our computer system more efficient and secure.

So, 2020 has been eventful in more ways than one.

Hand sanitization stations are located by the door as you enter the practice and in the treatment area if you are attending puppy classes and both toilets have been fitted with paper and soap dispensers.

So, without getting too paranoid we are upgrading our facilities daily to ensure your safety and it is business as usual as we strive to work within the confines of recommendations whilst still bringing to you and your pets the best possible service as always.

All staff have been encouraged to take their holidays within Australia going forward in accordance with Government recommendations.

Dog Obedience classes will carry on as they are well below the crowd rules that have been set, and there are two classes starting in May with the midweek class being held at the David Cruickshank pavilion which has an adequate undercover area so we will not be using the RAS this year. The class in late March is now fully subscribed. There will be further classes in June, July and August as well, and then throughout the year.

Neri will be spending time in the UK again this year in June to visit Sean and Kim Ellis the wolf behaviourists and in rural Cornwall she should be well insulated having taken the non-stop flight to the UK.

Please call us if you have any other questions about safety and security when you visit us.

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 and improve their behaviour. Our classes are run by Neri and Lisa from Dog Whispering and are unique to our practice.

What is new?

Neri is planning to spend time in the UK working with Kim & Shaun Ellis and their pack of wolves in June & July.

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

While Neri is away, Lisa will be running a Saturday morning course.

Basic Obedience courses can now be booked online at www.swanbournevet.com/dogobedience

The confirmed dates are:

Saturday 11am at Lake Claremont Reserve with Neri/Lisa starting 2nd May

Wednesday 7pm at David Cruikshank Reserve with Neri/Kylie starting 6th May

Saturday 11am at Lake Claremont Reserve with Lisa starting 20th June

Wednesday 7pm at David Cruikshank Reserve with Neri starting 22nd July

Saturday 9:30am at Lake Claremont Reserve with Neri starting 25th July

Our Puppy Preschool and Management classes are run as an 8-week, 2-part course. These classes can now be booked online at

www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool



AUTUMN ISSUES

This year has been hard to read with average rain to date (albeit virtually none in March) but only because we had our January and February rain in just three days right at the end of February, compared to record rains in 2018. Climate Change does seem to be a reality and the bushfires Australia has just endured are a stark reminder of the consequences of long dry periods leading up to extremes in hot weather on the Eastern seaboard and inland. We are experiencing a pretty normal Summer here in the West thus far but we all know how the sting in the tail can occur in March. As regards our pets though, Autumn embraces several festive seasons, the tail end of Christmas and then New Year, Australia Day, Valentines Day and finally Easter! A plethora of occasions when your pet can over indulge if left to its own devices, and in truth they can often be overlooked in the mayhem! So, what does all this mean for our pets?

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! Also beware of sweeteners as xylitol can be very toxic in our pets so beware of human toothpaste, many human snacks and sugar alternatives across the board.
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 so don't be caught off guard.
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 animals or subject to grass seeds in rural and unkempt areas. 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 and the new Epitalis forte are worth using to ward off the pain of arthritis as are 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 p'alms, Oleanders, Amaryllis, Kalanchoe, Yew, Wandering Jew and English Ivy just to name a few toxic species harming our dogs and cats.
12. When walking your best friend and on the way to



AUTUMN ISSUES (continued)

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. Good doggy manners and caution should be encouraged crossing roads and so on. 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 two years ago 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 Delicate Care 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 your 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, and recently a new system of attaching the animal's medical history to the microchip has expanded its value!

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:

(a) Freedom from hunger and thirst

(b) Freedom from discomfort

(c) Freedom from pain, injury and disease

(d) Freedom to express its normal behaviour

(e) Freedom from fear and distress

Tony Vignano



THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 REQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'VE HEARD THAT A DOG TESTED POSITIVE TO COVID-19 OVERSEAS. CAN MY PET GET COVID-19?

On the evening of the 4th of March, Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department issued a statement that a Pomeranian, belonging to SARS-COV-2 positive patient, repeatedly tested positive for the virus. It is believed that this is the first reported case of human-to-animal (reverse zoonotic) transmission.

The Hong Kong authorities collected nasal and oral cavity samples on 5 occasions since late February, and low levels of the SARS-COV-2, which causes COVID-19, was detected. A blood sample was also taken from the dog on 3 March 2020 for serological testing and the result was negative. The negative result indicates that there is not a strong immune response and that there are not measurable amounts of antibodies in the blood at this stage.

The Hong Kong authorities believe this finding may indicate the dog has a low-level of infection, and that it is likely to be case of human-to-animal transmission of the virus. The dog has not shown any clinical signs of disease and is currently being held in quarantine.

At this stage there is no evidence that pets can play a role in the spread of this human disease, or that they become sick – the major risk remains human-human contact. The Australian Veterinary Association continues to monitor the situation and provide us with regular updates.

(Facts Supplied by the Australian Veterinary Association).



WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE AS A PET OWNER?

Hand hygiene is critical before and after handling your pets, as well as their food. Wash your hands thoroughly before and after touching any animal.



Pet owners who may be infected with the virus or who are voluntarily isolating because of risk of infection, are advised to keep their pets with them, but minimise handling as a precautionary measure until more information is known about the virus and routes of transmission.

WHAT IS SWANBOURNE VET DOING TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19?

HAND HYGIENE is being championed at SVC!! This is one of the most important infection prevention and control practices that can be performed. All staff are regularly washing their hands and using alcohol-based hand rub to minimise any transmission of COVID-19. We have also ramped up our clinic disinfection and hygiene protocols which includes:

- Regular environmental cleaning – door handles, light switches, desks, computers, keyboards, veterinary equipment, floors and walls to name a few.
- Diligent cleaning and disinfection of all equipment used on any patient.



CAN I STILL BRING MY PET TO THE VET?

Of course! We look forward to seeing you and your pets in the coming weeks and months, and continue to offer all our services to our valued clients. That being said, we are a busy practice and come in to contact with many clients on a daily basis including the elderly, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems, so we appreciate your cooperation and understanding with adhering to the following:

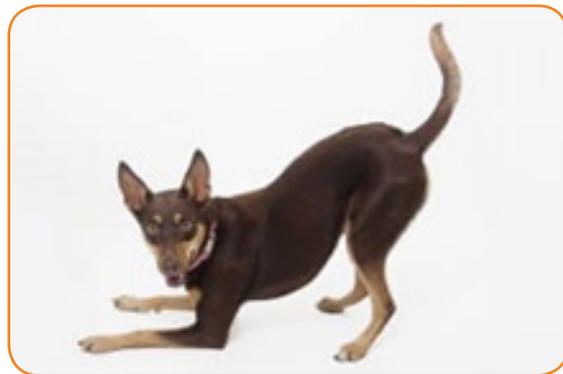
If you, or someone you have been in close contact with, has exhibited flu like symptoms or has been overseas in recent times, we ask you to follow the 14 day quarantine procedure diligently. If you are unwell but have an urgent appointment for your pet, please let us know that so that we can minimise exposure. We are more than happy to reschedule non-urgent appointments including procedures and grooming.



THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I RECEIVE MEDICATIONS, PRODUCTS OR FOOD FOR MY PET?

If you require products, medications or food for your pet, you can utilise our 10 minute parking bays in the driveway of the clinic. Just call us when you arrive so that we can bring your pre-paid products out to the car! Alternatively, we can also arrange for these items to be delivered to your home!



WHAT CAN I DO TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 WHILST VISITING YOUR CLINIC?

There is no reason to cause alarm – we just ask that you practice good hygiene habits when visiting us at the clinic.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided at the front door on your way in to and out of our clinic. Feel free to wash your hands at the end of your consultation with the vet.

Please inform any staff member if you are feeling unwell or may have been exposed to COVID-19 so that we can minimise exposure.



ONLINE BOOKINGS

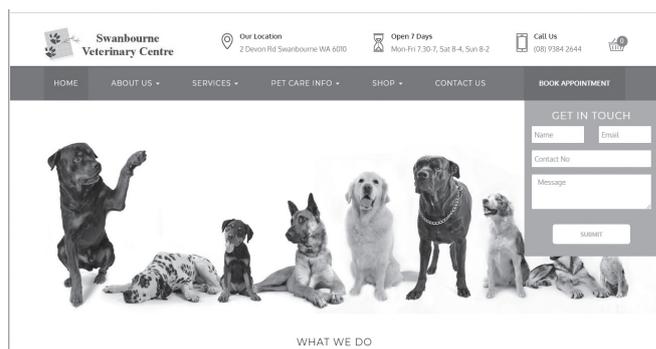
We have introduced the functionality to enable our clients to book their own appointments through a secure link on our website. Appointment times are available 7 days a week. You select the service – vaccination, general check, dental check or senior health check - then choose the day and time that suits, 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



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 **June 30th 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:	<input type="text"/>	Age:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Contact No.:	<input type="text"/>		

