

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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The Pet Professionals

WINTER 2020

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BELGIAN GRIFFONS



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



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ROAD TEST: BELGIAN GRIFFONS



The Brussels Griffon

The Belgian Griffon

The Petit Brabancon

A toy dog named after the Griffon, a mythical creature which it is said they resemble, the history of the three types is indistinguishable.

The ancestry of the modern Griffon is thought to include the Affenpinscher, the smooth coated Pug and the Ruby Spaniel and they originate in Belgium.

HISTORY:

The breed seems to have descended from a dog used by 17th century Belgian peasants to rid their stables of rats. It also appears that over the years other breeds have been introduced to create the three somewhat indistinct types, such as the Yorkshire terrier, the Irish terrier, the smooth coated Pug and even the English Toy Spaniel.

APPEARANCE:

The Griffons are sturdy dogs with a square appearance, a domed head, undershot jaw and a relatively large head. In this they are not unlike Pugs in

appearance or even a miniature Boxer.

The coats are of two types, a rough coated variety (harsh, wiry and dense) and a smooth coated or the Petit Brabancon (short, straight and glossy) as they are known.

The Brabancons need less grooming and all the types come in red, a mixture of redbrown and black, black and tan, and solid black.

The ears are often cropped overseas and they have docked tails (both procedures now illegal in Australia). In height they range from 18-20cm, weigh 2.5 to 5.5kg and they live 12-15 years on average.



ROAD TEST: BELGIAN GRIFFONS

CHARACTERISTICS:

These are an intelligent, cheerful dog with a terrier like disposition.

They are an ideal companion dog, affectionate and charming though some can be willful and highly strung if not properly socialized.

They love to be spoilt and are generally raised in the house with the family to which they become incredibly devoted following family members around constantly. They make good watch dogs though barking can be a problem if they are left alone for extended periods. They are very good with children and other dogs and cats.

WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

The quintessential companion dog they are fine for apartments being very active indoors and hence needing little formal exercise. They are excellent with older children, bond strongly with their owners and shed very little hair. The rough coated variety require more attention and show dogs need their coat plucked regularly though pets can be clipped. They are a highly sociable dog and are totally non aggressive which is a major issue for any family dog.

Barking can be a problem if they are left alone and anyone who chooses a Griffon would hopefully take it everywhere as that is what they crave.

VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

Birthing can be a problem with the Griffons based on their larger than normal and domed skull, and hence caesarians are often required.

Slipping patellas (the kneecap slipping to the inside of the knee causing lameness which can be surgically corrected) are reported, as is progressive retinal atrophy (an hereditary degenerative disease of the retina resulting in eventual blindness). Respiratory problems are also reported due to their Pug-like facial conformation.

In summary the Griffons are a delightful breed with the three types being almost indistinguishable. Whilst they are not very common in Perth they are well suited and make great family dogs, and companions for single people particularly.

They are bred and shown in Perth and so contact can be made through the Canine Association.

Tony Vigano



SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD WINTER 2020

What a bizarre 2-3 month period we have experienced, the likes of which I have never known but maybe a peep into what it must have been like in war time in the early 40's last century!

Thankfully here in Perth and Western Australia generally, we have been minimally affected thanks to the prompt action of closing the borders and implementing 2 week quarantine periods for all those arriving into the state. Apart from the cruise ships we have seen no community transfer to date and I hope that situation continues as we start to lift restrictions.

The practice has been busy as veterinary practices were deemed an essential industry Australia wide early on and so apart from adhering to the social distancing we were not subject to shutdowns as many other industries were forced to endure.

The team members here at Swanbourne were split into two separate groups and so with a reduced staff we carried on as normal alternating every couple of days. In so doing, if we did have a positive contact, either with an infected client, or a team member contracting the disease, then the practice was not forced to shut down. Fortunately this did not occur, and with curb side consults and clients kept from entering the building it was hard work but the teams were magnificent, rising to the occasion as they endured long hours and the altered rosters. Of the few team members that were tested all were negative but complacency did not creep in as we were constantly reminded of the reality of the disease through reports from the more populous States and of course the flow of cases from cruise ships off our coast and even in port.

As restrictions have been gradually lifted so we have been working towards practising normally with clients entering the building, the resumption of puppy school on Sundays and Dog Obedience Classes being held off site.

To those who have been disadvantaged, please accept our apologies but under the circumstances and with no prior experience we did our best and monitored the situation on a day by day basis.

Fingers crossed there is no second wave in this country and that we can all get back to work and normal activity as soon as possible.

The relaxation of the State's hard border policy we hope will occur some time in the next 4 weeks, allowing interstate travel and then eventually, overseas travel.

In the meantime we are back to offering a full service. In particular with our Good Citizen Program back in full swing which realistically was the only service affected, our trainers valiantly carrying on using Zoom and the like. Elsewhere in this newsletter the dates of upcoming and off site Dog Obedience classes are outlined and these can be booked and viewed on line on our web site as normal.

Neri's trip to the UK has been cancelled at this stage pending the situation in the UK and overseas travel, so this enhances our catch up with the Good Citizen Program.

As the end of the financial year approaches we look forward to having an in-practice ultrasound facility, increased monitoring equipment, and in general resuming our normal program of ongoing practice enhancement and excellence.

Once again thank you for your tolerance and acceptance of our restrictions.

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 3 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?

This year, due to the COVID19 pandemic, Neri unfortunately had to postpone her annual trip to the UK where she works with Kim & Shaun Ellis and their pack of wolves at the Wolf Training and Development Centre.

Neri uses what she learns about wolf behaviour in her training and looks forward to rebooking once restrictions ease. During the pandemic lock down, we successfully ran our good citizen program puppy and obedience classes via Zoom. While it was great to be able to continue to work on training during a difficult

time, we are excited to have our classes running as normal with puppies on site again.

Basic Obedience courses run for 6 weeks and can now be booked online at

www.swanbournevet.com/dogobedience

The confirmed dates are:

Wednesday 7pm at David Cruickshank Reserve starting 24th June

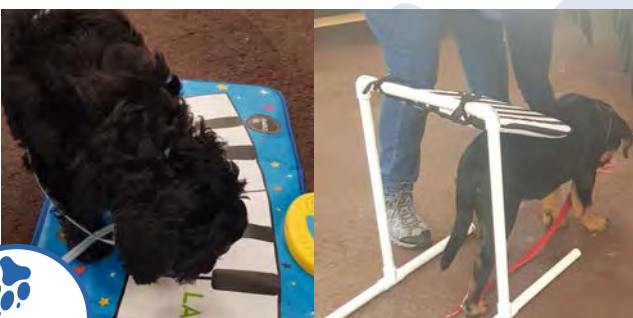
Saturday 9:30am at Lake Claremont Reserve starting 19th July

Wednesday 7pm at David Cruickshank Reserve starting 5th August

Our Puppy Preschool and Management classes are run as an 8-week, 2-part course. A new class starts every 2 weeks and can now be booked online at

www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool

Due to the popularity of classes and a surge in puppies and new dogs, we have been putting on some additional classes on different days. Remember to keep an eye out on our facebook and website or put your name down at reception to be notified of any new additional class.



WINTER ISSUES

Winter Warmers what we need to consider to make our pets happy and safe in the colder months. If it is anything like the last couple of years we may be in for a wet and windy time so we need to be prepared. This year we will be holding all evening Dog Obedience Classes at the David Cruickshank Pavilion in Dalkeith as there is some shelter there. The Claremont Dog Park off Lakeside in Davies Rd will also be used on Saturday mornings and affords some shelter as well.

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 an idea 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 4Cyt product 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.



WINTER ISSUES (continued)

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 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 which has finally resumed) 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



THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

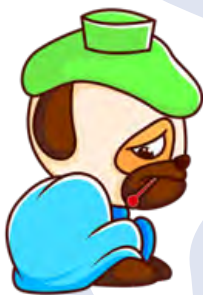
On the evening of the 4th of March, Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department issued a statement that a Pomeranian, belonging to SARS-COV-2 positive patient, repeatedly tested positive for the virus. It is believed that this is the first reported case of human-to-animal (reverse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

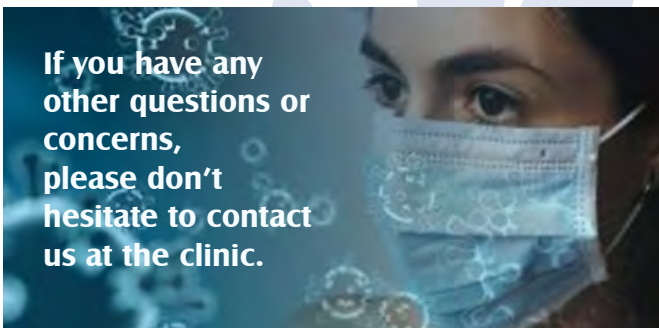


WHAT CAN I DO TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 WHILST VISITING YOUR CLINIC?

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

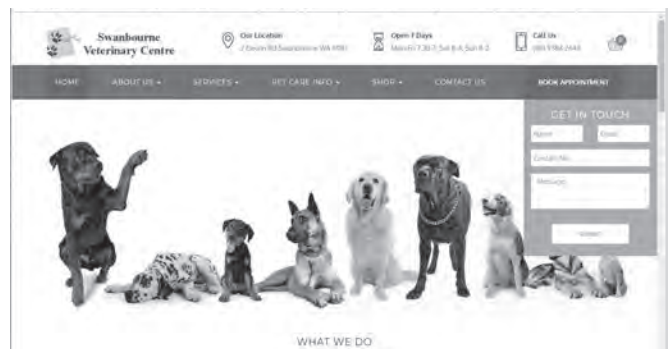
We have introduced the functionality to enable our clients to book their own appointments through a secure link on our website. Appointment times are available 7 days a week. You select the service – vaccination, general check, dental check or senior health check - then choose the day and time that suits,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



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
September 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:

Age:

Address:

Contact No.:



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Good Luck!

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