

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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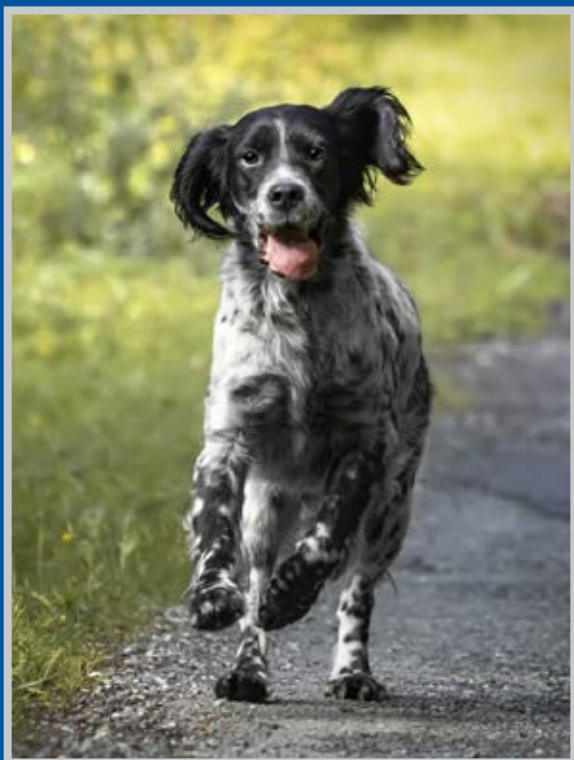
[www.swanbournevet.com](http://www.swanbournevet.com)

## The Pet Professionals

**WINTER 2021**

Tony Viganò, Michelle Harrison & Melanie Criddle. Veterinary Surgeons

### ENGLISH SETTER



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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](http://swanbournevet.com)  
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*The one-stop pet shop*

SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

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## ROAD TEST

### THE ENGLISH SETTER



Developed as a hunting dog, from early French hunting dogs, in 18th century England by Sir Edward Laverack (hence the dog is still alternatively known as the Laverack setter) and another English breeder, Llewellyn, the word setter comes from the almost "sitting" position the dog adopts when it discovers game. Renowned for its sweet temperament and gentle nature they make a very good family dog.

#### HISTORY:

The first setters were developed in France in the 15th century from the Spanish pointer and the French pointer. They were a sporting breed from the outset and like so many gun dogs of the time were also used as family companions. The rudimentary breed found its way to England in the 18th century where its true developer, who was a very astute breeder, Sir Edmund Laverack was instrumental in establishing the type we now know. There are "field" and "show" types, the field types being smaller, lighter and more active.

#### APPEARANCE:

A beautiful, slim and elegant dog, the English setter has a unique speckled coat. The speckling may vary and the markings can be of any size with the colours coming in white, with blue, lemon, orange or brown speckling, and some dogs can be tri coloured. They have a square muzzle, long head, and moderately long pendulous ears. Tail, ears, legs and underbelly are all heavily fringed. They have a deep narrow chest and grow to 58-70cm

in height and weigh between 20-35kg.

Expect to have them for 10-12 years

#### CHARACTERISTICS:

A friendly, placid, gentle animal, English setters are excellent with children being mild mannered and sensitive. They love affection and crave the attention of their family, though can be willful and hard to housetrain so need early training but this needs to be done gently as they are easily dominated.

They are a reasonable watch dog and enjoy the company of other dogs so other household pets are not a problem. They are jumpers and tend to wander so a secure boundary fence is necessary whilst exercise is essential as they will become restless and nuisance barking can be a problem.

Digging can also be an issue for some families and some strains can be droolers due to the large lip folds, but nothing like boxers and mastiffs.

#### WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

Excellent with children, though less boisterous ones are preferred by the dog as they are so sensitive, they make great family pets. They are not good in apartments as they are inactive indoors and need exercise so be prepared to walk them regularly lest they become a nuisance and overweight. They are average shedders of hair and whilst being





## ROAD TEST THE ENGLISH SETTER

long haired they are considered a medium maintenance dog as regular brushing and combing is all that is necessary. In Perth's climate, burrs and grass seeds can be a problem so the coat needs to be checked regularly, particularly the feet which need to be trimmed.

### VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

As they gain weight easily (having a large albeit slim frame), exercise is essential. They are prone to hip dysplasia (an hereditary, early degenerative arthritic condition affecting the hips joints), so care needs to be taken when selecting a puppy. Bloat is also an issue as it is with all deep chested dogs. This is a condition where the stomach fills with gas and can then twist on its axis constituting a surgical emergency. Care in limiting exercise after eating, and feeding small meals, is essential in controlling this problem. Von Willebrands disease (a clotting disorder) is reported, as is progressive retinal atrophy (an hereditary condition causing the gradual onset of blindness).

In Perth's dry climate grass seeds (wild oat seeds) can cause problems in the coat, between the toes and in the ears so these areas should be checked every day in the dry season.

In summary, the English setter has been a very popular pet in Perth over the years. Less so currently as the relatively high maintenance areas of coat, ears and feet have tended to swing potential owners away and towards to the shorter coated breeds.

In general however the sweet, even temper of the English setter should make it a firm family favourite particularly with younger children and to my mind the breed comes highly recommended on this basis alone.

Tony Vigano



# SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

## SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD WINTER 2021

Just when we thought it was safe to come out and say things are trending back to normal, Victoria (Melbourne) is experiencing lockdown again.

At least it had the effect of stimulating vaccinations in that state and I hope WA follows suit as we are lagging a bit here.

I reiterate we have been very lucky in WA and I think primarily due to our isolation and maybe that fact alone has been delaying some people to decide regarding vaccinations.

One spin off for WA has been the holding of iconic AFL games moved from Melbourne as they struggle with Covid, and the first was the Dream Time game recognizing the contributions made by indigenous players. Should we dare to hope that the Grand Final will follow suit? I doubt it but we can hope....

In the meantime we remain cautious and still practise distancing at the practice and have installed a Safe WA QR code for your safety although your presence is recorded and saved via our daily schedule.

Further into the newsletter you will meet Samantha Mundt our most recent new staff member, as we say farewell to Naomi Davis after 10 years.

Naomi has joined the Cat practice in Leederville so that will be a change in scene for her and she leaves with our best wishes.

In the last Dashboard (Autumn) I mentioned the new tick born disease that has entered the North West and am pleased to say we have not seen cases in Perth as yet. Suffice it to say that the Seresto collar and Advantix spot-on are the only currently available products that are effective in the control of Ehrlichia canis (but please don't use these products on your cat).

If you are travelling to the North West for holidays and the family dog is included please don't forget to ring the practice for advice as you should implement cover for your best friend.

I also take this opportunity of alerting all pet parents to be extra vigilant in keeping rat or mouse poison away from pets currently as there is a Nation wide shortage of Vitamin K. This has arisen due to the mouse plague in the Eastern States. Without Vitamin K we will be hard pressed to treat these toxicities in our WA pets! So be warned!

Dog Obedience Classes and the Puppy School attendance have skyrocketed this year which was the predicted result of so many new puppies being purchased during Covid. It is good to see that it has followed through and not the prediction that many of these new puppies would be rehomed after people returned to work. I have more faith in human nature than to have predicted that!

Just to reiterate our parking in the driveway to pick up dog or cat food and for drops offs.

Parking is a problem everywhere now and we are happy that for quick visits these two 10 minute bays (end to end) are available rather than illegally parking on the other side of Devon Rd as the rangers are active in the street.

Finally as we reach the half way mark of 2021 we look forward to 2022 and our 83rd year serving the pets of Perth!

Tony Vigano





## ONLINE BOOKINGS

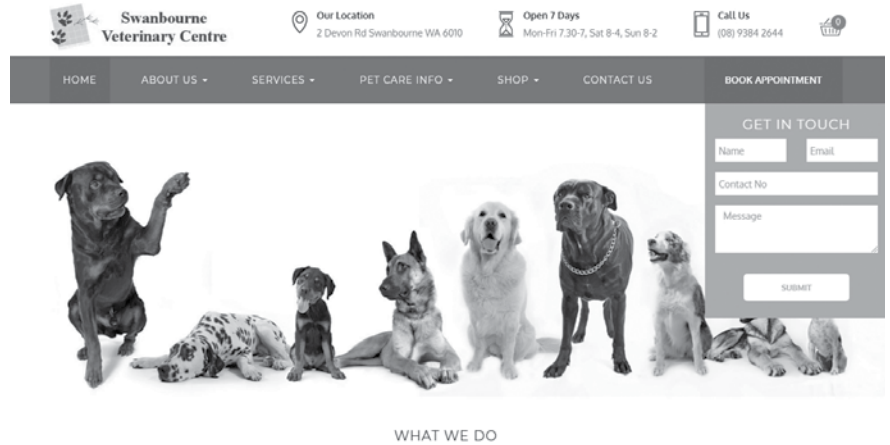
We have introduced the functionality to enable our clients to book their own appointments through a secure link on our website. Appointment times are available 7 days a week. You select the service – vaccination, general check, dental check or senior health check – then choose the day and time that suits,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



## NEW SURGICAL UNIT AT SWANBOURNE



# GOOD CITIZEN PROGRAM

## DOG TRAINING : WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



### The 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?

As we come into the cooler months, we have 3 Obedience classes confirmed and available for booking.

The next courses will be in July and as bookings are filling up quickly, it's best to get in quick!

Keep an eye on our social media and website for future dates.

For those who repeat Obedience courses and whose dogs go from strength to strength, we are hoping to run another invite only advanced course in late 2021.

Basic Obedience courses run for 6 weeks and can now be booked online at [www.swanbournevet.com/dogobedience](http://www.swanbournevet.com/dogobedience)

### The confirmed Obedience dates are:

Wednesday 7:15pm at David Cruikshank Reserve starting 21st July

Saturday 9:30am at Lake Claremont Reserve starting 24th July

Saturday 10:30am at Lake Claremont Reserve starting 14th August

Through the Summer, our Sunday puppy classes began at 8am, to avoid the heat of the middle of the day. We have had a high demand for our puppy classes, so sporadically, we are now running an 8am Puppy Management (14-20 weeks old) course in addition to the other 4 classes each Sunday.

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](http://www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool)





## WINTER AILMENTS

### WINTER ISSUES 2021

All the normal preventatives such as heartworm protection, vaccinations, deworming and regular bathing should be continued during the Winter months as Perth's temperate climate means there is no respite as there may be in colder climates but never the less we need to consider some extra issues 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.

Covid of course adds another layer of complexity but we have been very lucky in the West to date. Let's hope that continues.

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 that 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 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 4Cute 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.

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.



## WINTER AILMENTS (continued)

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. Due to our climate being 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

15. Just a reminder of the 10 commandments when dealing with your pets (dependants!)

(a) Feed an adequate balanced diet, preferably one of the premium commercial diets such as our locally produced Delicate Care and ease off the quantity during Winter, 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 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

(e) Protect their health at all times with a regular wellness program, including vaccination, deworming, heartworm control and flea and tick control (still no word of any cases of Ehrlichiosis in the metropolitan area but it seems to have been recognized in the North West frequently. Remember if you are travelling in these areas holidaying be sure to get adequate protection for the dog before you

set off. Advantix squeeze-on flea and tick prevention and the Seresto collar are thought to be the best preventatives to use BUT not on the cat!

(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 increased its value (DB Vetbase) and we use it here at Swanbourne.

(g) Keep your dog confined on your property at all times, and cats should always be kept inside at night.

(h) Consider neighbours and ensure your dog is well trained (proper socialization at puppy classes 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 males... another no brainer.

(j) Consider their welfare when planning a holiday and book them in early to local boarding kennels or better still organize a live-in minder

16. And definitely (finally!) ...always have in the back of your mind that an animal's behavioral health and welfare must be protected in all phases of its life by adhering to the 5 Freedoms:

(a) Freedom from hunger

(b) Freedom from discomfort Freedom from pain, injury and disease

(c) Freedom from pain, injury and disease

(d) Freedom to express its normal behaviour

(e) Freedom from fear and distress

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 albeit facing difficulties as I write this) 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 Viganò





## TEAM PROFILE

### Samantha Mundt:

Sam joined the team at Swanbourne in late May this year after a variety of recent jobs including an apprentice painter and decorator (in which she was an Apprentice of the year finalist in 2019), a Lounge and Café assistant at the Cat Café in Perth (where she put her skills as a vet nurse to good use tending the cats), and most recently in Systems and Marketing with Skateboarding WA.

She received her Cert 4 in Veterinary Nursing in 2017 and returns to the industry full of enthusiasm with a goal to becoming an Animal Whisperer, as animal behaviour is her field of particular interest.

Soon to marry her partner TJ later this year she shares her life with Archie (a cavoodle), a Burmese cat called Obi and Luna a moggie.

A real outdoor girl she loves hiking, snorkling, and of course skate boarding as she explores WA.

A West Australian born and bred Sam attended Atwell College and lives in Hammond Park

We welcome Sam to the practice and wish her well in her endeavours long term

Tony Vigano



## VITAMIN K SHORTAGES



### WARNING:

Vitamin K shortage...please take heed of this

This has arisen in Australia as a consequence of the recent mouse plague in the Eastern States.

Australian vets have seen an avalanche of rat and mouse bait poisonings recently and as Vitamin K is the only treatment for these toxic ingestions there is now a nationwide shortage.

Unfortunately without access to Vitamin K there are dire consequences for your pets as without access to Vitamin K we have great difficulty dealing with these toxic ingestions.

Therefore we strongly advise all pet parents to remain vigilant in not using rat or mouse baits for the time being and until this situation is alleviated.

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  
**30 September 2021** 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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