

THE NEWSLETTER OF SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE



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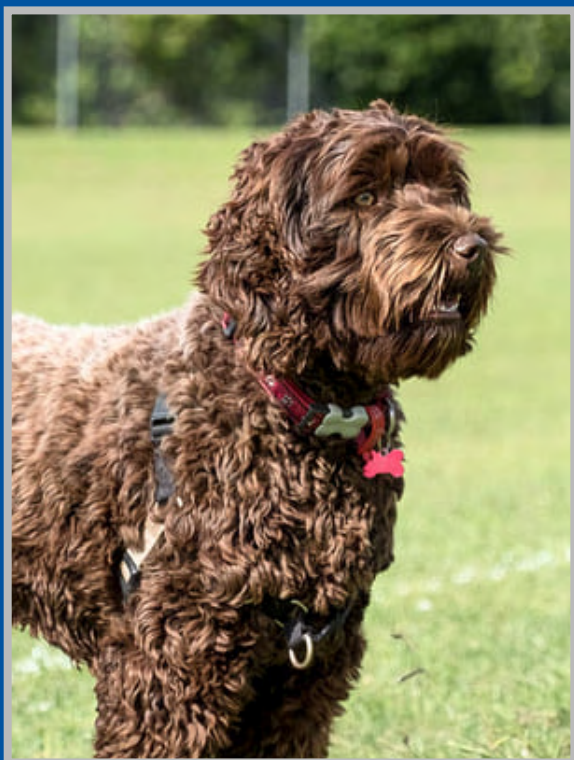
[www.swanbournevet.com](http://www.swanbournevet.com)

## The Pet Professionals

Michelle Harrison, Melanie Criddle  
& Associates Veterinary Surgeons

### SPRING 2021

## LABRADOODLE



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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



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SWANBOURNE VETERINARY CENTRE

*The one-stop pet shop*

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## ROAD TEST THE LABRADOODLE

Recently we have road tested the Cavoodle which is the first cross of the ever popular miniature Poodle and the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

These so called designer dogs, albeit crosses, have become as popular or more so than the pure breeds from which they are derived.

This quarter we have chosen the Labradoodle/Cobber Dog as a designer dog with a purpose.

The Cobber Dog is considered to be a more established type compared to the initial Labradoodle.

The breed was initially based on a first cross of the Labrador and the Standard Poodle and was an attempt to create a dog (in this case a guiding dog) that would be more practical regarding dropping hair, and hence less allergenic, whilst combining the obvious traits of the Poodle.

So, a practical reason to create a Designer dog, and the breed had its early roots in Victoria (Australia) as has the more refined Cobber Dog which, whilst claimed to be quite different still has its roots in the same basic first cross albeit more established now.

When bred, this type is apparently more predictable regarding progeny but still not recognized universally as an established breed.

THE LABRADOODLE/ COBBER DOG, a designer dog with a purpose:

One of the new designer breeds, the Labradoodle was the brain child of Wally Cochran in Australia in the 1970's.

His aim was to produce a new breed that incorporated the good points of the original breeds, and in this case to create a dog that could guide the blind but be allergy free for people who were allergic to dogs. These dogs have been successfully trained as seeing eye dogs but as yet the non-shedding characteristic of the Poodle has not become a fixed attribute of this new breed.

More recently the breed has been further developed from the original authentic strains of Australian Labradoodle to the Australian Cobberdog and was recognized as a pure breed in January 2012.

### HISTORY:

Labradoodles are yet to be accepted as a breed in either Australia or USA but this new breed never the less is a valid attempt to create something positive and to eliminate or lessen the unfavourable genes in the original breeds. As mentioned above the Australian Cobberdog has developed as a descendant and was registered in 2012 by the Master Dog Breeders and Associates (MDBA) Global Pure Breed registry.

Originally the Standard Poodle was crossed with the Labrador Retriever and after initial success the idea took off with several different breeders taking on the idea, but alas, with inconsistent results. Two research facilities (Tegan Park and Rutland Manor) further developed the concept and now Labradoodles are being successfully bred in Australia and exported overseas.

It is still too early to say if they have achieved their goal of breeding assistance dogs that do not shed hair but the later development of The Australian Cobberdog and subsequent registration as a breed indicates this is being achieved as this breed has shown particular suitability as Therapy Dogs, Medical Alert Dogs and Assistance Dogs.



# ROAD TEST THE LABRADOODLE

## APPEARANCE:

These dogs come in three sizes, standard, medium and miniature with standard and miniature being the most common.

Initially the standard dog was bred and it is slightly heavier in the body than a standard poodle with a muzzle slightly narrower than a labrador retriever.

They have a broad head with a coat length of between 10-15cm and the texture similar to an Angora goat. More a fleece than a hairy coat so does not shed and far more allergy friendly though allergies to dog saliva will still abound.

The coat is described as either curly or wavy and colours are chalk, cream, apricot, chocolate, café au lait and silver.

They are 53-60cm in height and weigh between 20-35 kg in the standard variety with the miniatures standing between 43-51cm and weighing 12-20kg. The medium is less common and falls between these two.

## CHARACTERISTICS:

The breed is well known for its intelligence, trainability and good humour.

They get along well with other dogs, people and children and whilst loyal to their they are very friendly.

They are a non aggressive dog and almost comical in their behaviour at times, and because of their intelligence they can become undisciplined if not socialized early and obedience trained, as with the parent breed the Labrador.

They live to between 13-15 years and in line with the aims of the exercise, highly strung, timid and yappy examples are not bred from, in the quest for the perfect guide dog.

## WHO SHOULD HAVE ONE:

This breed make a great family pet, loyal, good with children and other pets and totally non aggressive.

They need a lot of exercise but do quite well in apartments though an exercise yard is preferable.

The curly coat variety need regular grooming every 2 weeks or so with a trim/clip some

2-3 times a year.

Ideally they shed very little or not at all and hopefully demonstrate the non allergenic qualities that are so sought after.

Equally they should have less ear problems than the poodle with hairless ear canals and are generally lighter than the Labradors with potentially less joint problems as they get older.

Therefore not a high maintenance dog.

## VETERINARY PROBLEMS:

As breeding progresses, and in reality, we see hip dysplasia (an early degenerative arthritic condition in the hips), elbow and knee cap disorders, ear problems (due to the long, pendulous and often hairy ear flaps and canals) and other issues plaguing the two parent breeds. These are however less common than in the original breeds in most cases.

Blood disorders such as Von Willabrandts disease (a bleeding disease) are also reported.

In summary, we as vets are seeing more and more of these dogs as they become popular in the "puppy mills" being essentially a cross breed still at this stage.

They are joined by other designer dogs such as spoodles (spaniel cross poodles) and schnoodles (schnauzer cross poodle) and whilst these produce considerable interest and command considerable sums of money in some quarters, they do not always represent sound genetic thinking. In not every case does so called hybrid vigour occur. In many instances it can be that you may finish up with an even smaller gene pool with even more problems than the originals.

In the main however Labradoodles do seem better established than many of the others and like most things researching the subject and picking a reputable breeder is a wise philosophy.

The further development of the breed to The Australian Cobberdog has enhanced and strengthened the breed and ironed out many of the original problems.

Tony Vigano





# SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD

## SWANBOURNE DASHBOARD SPRING 2021

At the risk of repeating myself Covid has swept to the forefront yet again with Melbourne and Sydney under lockdown and seemingly racing to the tape with the goal of at least 80% vaccination before they start to lift the restrictions.

Meanwhile WA vaccinations are still lagging and the thought of continued closed borders for the foreseeable future is a dim prospect for the WA Tourist Industry at least.

Hopefully this will not be the case for much longer with the one bright spot being the holding of the AFL Grand Final here in Perth for the first time but it seems high time WA planned to rejoin the rest of Australia in the near future.

Since the last Dashboard there have been changes in the structure of the practice with Dr Tony Vigano stepping back as a Director and whilst still involved has dropped his hours and engagement with the practice but refusing to use the term retired....

Dr Michelle Harrison and Dr Melanie Criddle have assumed the ownership and management role but apart from that it is business as usual at the Swanbourne Veterinary Centre. Congratulations to long term nurse and office manager Kristy who now steps up to practice manager.

Tony still does the 6PR stint on Thursdays with Mel, has a hand in writing the Newsletters, Spearheading Pets at the Park (which will be held in late March in 2022), and consults with old friends and clients as required. So make sure you say Hi if and when you see him around the place.

Amongst other improvements, the practice has recently purchased a state of the art cautery unit to be used in very vascular surgeries such as the debulking of tumours, and in sites where it is not possible to tie off small bleeders using traditional methods (such as ligation).

Very useful also in cauterizing small bleeders in ventral areas that would lead to haematomas (accumulation of blood under suture lines in ventral areas, under the belly and so on, as these haematomas can be difficult to deal with post operatively).

I am pleased to report that all those puppies and new dogs acquired during the initial lockdowns in Perth have, in our practice at least, gone on to join puppy classes and dog obedience training with extra classes having to be scheduled on Saturdays as well as Sundays. This rather than the prophets of doom predicting they would find themselves back in Refuges and the like after people returned to work. Covid has indeed a lot to answer for!!

There will be two new dog obedience classes held in October and one in November and to access booking sites see our Web page at [www.swanbournevet.com](http://www.swanbournevet.com)

There are still places available but get in now so as not to miss out. I envisage there will be time to have at least two more classes before Christmas if the demand is there.

We look forward to the return of Dr Laura Giraud to the practice in October when Dad, Ian, takes his turn at parental leave which he is apparently looking forward to immensely.

Hard to believe that we are starting to think about Christmas functions and the like. What an incredibly dysfunctional couple of years this has been, as the world struggles for some sort of normality. We have been very lucky in the West but should take care not to be too smug as our cousins in the Eastern States struggle with a way different set of circumstances.

Finally I would like to introduce you to some new faces on the reception desk, particularly on weekends.

1. Aaron Van is a Melbourne-ite in 3rd year Vet at Murdoch
2. Ting-Jun Foo is a Melbourne-ite as well, born in Singapore but having spent most of her life in Melbourne and is 2nd year at Murdoch
3. Claire Dalgleish, a Perth girl who is a Cert 4 qualified Vet Nurse but now studying for a Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery who also has a Melbourne connection

You will find more about these three new draftees later in the Newsletter

Tony Vigano



# TOXIC PLANTS (TO BE AVOIDED)

## SEE SPRING DILEMMAS

Common Toxin	Image	Symptoms (included but not limited to)
Lillies		Vomiting & signs of kidney failure - not interested in food, depression, not urinating
Cycad Palm (Cycas species plants)		Vomiting, diarrhoea, black or bloody faeces, bruising, yellowing skin, seizures
Marijuana		Drowsiness, excitation, vomiting, seizures, increased heart rate, coma, lack of coordination
Tulip/ Narcissus Bulbs		Gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, cardiac abnormalities, convulsions
Cyclamen		Gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, cardiac abnormalities, convulsions
Azalea/ Rhododendron		Vomiting, drooling, weakness, lack of coordination, depression of central nervous system
Oleanders		Gastrointestinal irritation, drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of coordination, shallow breathing, muscle tremors, hypothermia
Amaryllis		Vomiting, depression, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, drooling, inappetence, tremors
Kalanchoe		Gastrointestinal irritation, vomiting, diarrhoea, cardiac abnormalities
Autumn Crocus		Drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, shock, multi organ suppression, bone marrow damage
Yew		Sudden death from acute heart failure, vomiting, muscle tremors, loss of coordination, abnormal breathing, seizures
English Ivy		Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, drooling
Chrysanthemum		Drooling, vomiting, diarrhoea, depression, loss of coordination
Peace Lily/ Pothos/ Schefflera		Mouth irritation - drooling, vomiting, difficulty swallowing



# 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?

Our final Dog Obedience classes for the year are beginning on the 13th and 16th October. We have a maximum of 12 dogs per class and they are already filling up, so get in quick!

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

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

## Puppy Classes:

Due to popularity, we will be running some Saturday morning puppy classes, in addition to the ones on Sunday's. Please keep an eye on our website for dates.

We will continue with 4-weekly Puppy Management courses (14-20-week-old puppies) at 8am Sunday's until Summer.

Our Puppy Preschool and Management classes are run as an 8-week, 2-part course. A new class starts every 2 weeks and can be booked online at [www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool](http://www.swanbournevet.com/puppypreschool)



# SPRING DILEMMAS

## SPRING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED 2021

Finally Spring has arrived to brighten us up in all this Covid despair. A year like no other again after we thought nothing could top 2020!

Winter is always a dreary time for pets and owners alike but this year made worse by the shadow of Covid albeit we have got off lightly in WA (at least for now). We also had the wettest July on record as well just to add to our miseries.

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

Cats equally stay inside by the fire and the activity rate of everyone in the household drops as the humans watch sport on TV as a blessed respite from the bad news, and our pets tend to be neglected.

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

### 1. Heartworm:

I fear that vigilance has fallen off alarmingly with heartworm control since the disease was first discovered in Perth based canines some 30 years ago. Control is easy and I favour the annual injection which can be given at the same time as annual vaccinations. The injection is made of spherules that are dissolved gradually from the site of the injection over the next 12 months giving good control. Heartworm prevention is also available in monthly and three monthly oral medications and remember we have the right temperatures, the right mosquitoes and bodies of water such as lakes and the river for the disease to be ever present. The only factor that saves us is that the majority of dogs are protected as the disease requires an infected dog population to be propagated. This I fear is falling off and we are in danger of cases reoccurring in Perth once again. Ask your vet!

### 2. Intestinal worms:

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

### 3. External parasites:

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

### 4. Flies:

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

### 5. Bees:

A major problem all year round particularly for susceptible animals here, stings can cause anaphylaxis in pets and people. Watch out for that sudden yelp and lameness or grossly swollen face during a walk at the park as they (bees) are often lying on the ground....a visit to the local vet may well save a life and if your pet (or child?) are susceptible the consequences become worse after each encounter and desensitisation may well be necessary.

### 6. Birds:

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

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

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

### 9. Noxious Plants:

When planning your garden please get advice regarding the species you should plant. There are a plethora of noxious plants in every garden and this is a topic about which most pet experts have only a sketchy knowledge. I have included a list





## SPRING DILEMMAS (continued)

to avoid with these notes. Equally planting native species will ensure your garden is full of birds, frogs and other marvellous creatures.

**10.** On the topic of "house and garden" and before you get too enthused as Spring starts to bloom, care must always be taken when using snail baits, lawn fertilisers and other caustics outdoors. Frogs and reptiles (avoid snakes!) are greatly affected by these agents and snail bait can be very toxic to dogs as they attract dogs and should be used sparingly (follow the directions!) and preferably put in wide necked jars and conduit pegged to the ground as the products will attract snails. Try to use animal friendly products at all times and don't leave stocks of nitrogenous fertilisers and snail bait in reach of inquisitive pets.

### **11. At the Park:**

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

### **12. Travelling in the car:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **22. Reptiles:**

Beware of snakes in the Spring. They come out of hibernation full of venom and are a constant problem. Dugites in the sand dunes and inland and tigers around lakes and rivers must be avoided at all costs. Keep your dog on the path and trained to recall under all circumstances. It is best to walk in the early morning rather than the heat of the day to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

The list of issues we encounter with our pets in the Spring is endless but is also a special time, beautiful in most respects but there can be a sinister side for our pets.

Tony Vigano

Swanbourne Veterinary Centre





## TEAM PROFILES



### Aaron Van:

Aaron started at the practice in August 2021.

He is a 3rd year Murdoch Vet Student who has completed a BSc (Bachelor of Science) in Melbourne.

A North Melbourne supporter, he has a theory that his upbringing in a pet-less home may have initiated his love of animals, and has developed very strong ties with animal shelters and sees himself as a Shelter Vet when he graduates.

At school he learnt piano and the saxophone from an early age, and guitar and other instruments as a teenager and was an instrumental music teacher before his love of animals drew him to a veterinary pathway.

He attained a managerial position within the RSPCA in Victoria and realized his real interest lay in Shelter Medicine and hence veterinary science became his goal.

His move to WA was to enter the Vet Course at Murdoch and feels strongly about educating people in animal welfare with the future perhaps holding for him a role in the education of owners and families about responsible pet ownership.

Well done Aaron. I hope the Swanbourne experience can facilitate the reaching of your goals



### Ting-Jun Foo:

Ting started at the practice in July 2021

She is currently in 2nd year at the Murdoch Vet School (DVM) and comes from Singapore but spent most of her life in Melbourne moving here in 2020 enrolling in Animal Health/Science before transferring to the DVM program at the end of first year.

She previously graduated from Melb Uni in 2014 with a BA (Bachelor of Arts) in Criminology and media communications and worked in PR and the Communications industry for 3 years as a Content Executive.

She has a brindle greyhound "Ollie" who is a foster fail from Melbourne with whom she shares the same birthday and "Juni", a ginger and white lockdown rescue cat called "Goblin"

Her interests include hiking, art galleries and museums, and at this stage is aiming at small animal surgery/critical emergency care but has her options open.

Well done Ting and we hope to assist you in your pathway which is already rich and successful.



### Claire Dalglish:

Claire is a Perth girl growing up in Subiaco and attending St Hildas

She joined the practice in August 2021 and is a qualified Cert 4 Veterinary Nurse.

Currently doing a Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery, she and her partner Tando have a 5 year old son Temba

They share their life with Dodge a foster greyhound and also foster greyhounds through Greyhound Adoptions WA

Her previous employment included 2 years at the Dogs Refuge Home here in WA, and 4 years at the North Rd Veterinary Centre in Melbourne.

Her goals include a course in myofunctional dog massage and grooming.

What a wonderfully varied set of backgrounds these three new weekend receptionists have, and just how much life have they already experienced.

It makes me feel confident that with people like this in the world it is not such a bad place even though it has been very taxing over the last 2 years.

Welcome to Swanbourne all three of you and it is obviously a pleasure to give all of you this opportunity.

Tony Vigano



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  
**31st December 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.:

