



**Pound Road
Veterinary Clinic**



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www.poundroadvetclinic.com.au

Welcome to our February 2016 newsletter.

We hope that you and your pets have all had a safe and enjoyable festive season and that hopefully Santa was good to you all.

As you'll see in our first article breeding is not something to do half-heartedly and there can be times when there are tears and tough decisions as your pets give birth to their offspring.

It is therefore appropriate that we also include an article from **Jurox** that we have been given permission to use (thank you). This is a common part of what we do to safeguard pets in our clinic - we have attached it at the end of our newsletter and we hope you find it interesting.

In our other articles this issue we have:

- Car travel with dogs
- Some humour
- Sudoku Puzzle

Please take the time to read our articles and if anything sparks an interest or raises a question let us know.

Also please pass our newsletter on to your friends, colleagues and family with our compliments.

Best Regards,

The Pound Road Vet Team

So you want to be a Breeder?

By Samantha Cole-Surjan

I wanted to write a piece for our bi-monthly newsletter and thought long and hard as to what I could share with you all and decided that my journey to become a registered breeder would be something that may benefit or interest some of our readers.

It is in no way meant to deter or encourage, but just to give you an idea of what is REALLY involved if you want to do it properly.

I have owned 2 dogs of my own in my adult life, both pure breeds. My first dog and best mate was "Wraith" my Siberian Husky. When I was researching for a reputable breeder, it was then that I really started to get an understanding of what is actually involved in breeding purebred dogs.



"Daisbelle Cavaliers"

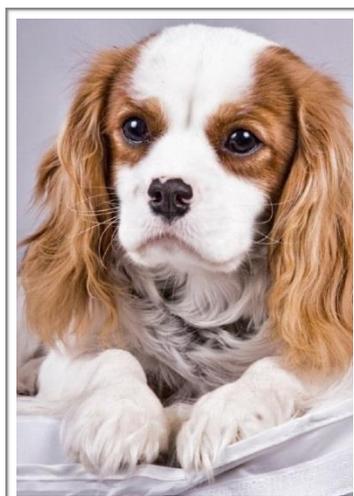
Then 8 years ago after the passing of my best mate, I again was in the situation of researching for a reputable breeder to find my new best mate, which again re affirmed some people's commitment to their breed of dog.

I have owned Cavalier King Charles Spaniels for nearly 8 years now, and I am very passionate about this breed, not just because of their puppy like looks that they carry through to adulthood, but their endearing nature and loyalty along with their overwhelming need to please you and love you to within an inch of your life, is just so rewarding.

What you put into these little dogs you get back 100 times over.



My first Cavalier Noah was the start of my desire to breed and contribute to the health of this beautiful breed. If in some small way I can make a difference in the health of this breed I will be a happy woman.



Marcavan Oliver "Noah"

So in March 2013, I joined DOGS VICTORIA, and commenced my breeding accreditation course, which I passed and am now accredited.

I then had to wait 12 months before I was allowed to register a Prefix (Kennel name), so during this time I began to research and educated myself as much as I could into the testing and requirements I would need to obtain to breed healthy Cavaliers.

In July 2013, I was contacted by a friend who breeds Cavaliers herself. She knew of a gentleman named Paul who wanted to downsize his kennel and was looking for a good home for one of his girls who was of breeding age and met the breed standard, with someone who wanted to breed.

I was thrilled, actually I thought it was the best birthday present ever (I turned 40 that year :))

So I spoke with Paul in length, as I had specific needs and requirements before I accepted his dog as my own, and those requirements were that I wanted Paul to still be involved with the choice of the Male that we put over the bitch when I got her and also I wanted his guidance and knowledge to be accessible, as I felt this was so important to the learning prospect of breeding this breed, through Paul I met Lyndy who owned the stud dog we were to use in coming months,

Lyndy is now a dear friend and an amazing mentor, I would be lost without her support and guidance. I now also co-own a young bitch that I show, called Wynta.



Marcavan Oliver "Noah" (left), Dunsfold Belissimo "Daisy" (right)

So in September 2013, I welcomed Dunsfold Belissimo "Daisy" into my Cavalier Family.

So the journey started, I had a lot to do before I even began to think about breeding Daisy. Organise all her genetic testing, this had to all be sent to the UK, then her eye screenings and Cardiologist tests, not to mention all the whelping supplies I would need.

For those that are not familiar with the genetic problems associated with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, here is a quick list of their genetic traits that they should be screened for :

- MITRAL VALVE DISEASE (Cardiologist Screening - Yearly)
- CURLY COAT/DRY EYE SYNDROME (DNA Test)
- EPISODIC FALLING (DNA Test)
- EYES (Veterinary Ophthalmologist Screening - Yearly)
- CHIARI-LIKE MALFORMATION / SYRINGOMYELIA (MRI - This is not as popular in screening in Australia as other countries)

All breeds will have their own specific genetic traits they will need to be screened for, you can generally find these by going to the specific breeds kennel club and they will have links to specific site for research or speak to your local vet.

This is just the tip of the ice-berg really as to what is required. You then have the whole process of selecting a dog to mate with the bitch, looking at the pedigree and looking at the dog itself and accessing what needs improving (Breed Standard) in both the dog and bitch, so that the progeny are healthy and fit well into the breed standard.

Waiting for her season to start and testing her progesterone levels to find that appropriate time for mating, now this could also include a mad dash at the last minute to the Stud dogs place for mating if her levels shoot up, it may require transporting your dog and having her stay for a number of days for the mating. In my case this was a matter of doing multiple progesterone blood tests to pinpoint the appropriate time for mating then driving 5 hours to the Stud dog's house and staying there for 4 days so that she could be mated, then travelling home.

Then we have the wait and see game to confirm pregnancy.

Daisy has had 2 litters now 12 - 18 months apart, both have luckily been natural deliveries with no complications, but I sit with Daisy (as she wants me there, follows me if I try and leave) from the start of her labour to the very finish, this on average is approximately 19hrs, and Daisy and her babies sleep in my room until they are 3 - 4weeks of age, so as you can understand it can be noisy so sleep is not my friend during this time.

Both my litters I have had to make some really hard emotional decisions. In Daisy's first litter one of my beautiful little babies had to be euthanized at 5 days of age, to make that decision tore my heart out, the nurse in me wanted to be able to fix him, but I had to look at the long term prospect for this little guy and unfortunately it wasn't good, so little "Blu" had to grow his angel wings.

Daisy's second litter this year she delivered a little girl already with her wings (she was stillborn) and that in itself was heartbreaking but I guess it is easier to accept as Mother Nature decided for us, but we also had a little boy who just in play with his siblings fractured his humeral Condyle (Elbow joint) in his foreleg, not just a simple fracture that required casting and x-rays, this little guy required x-rays and CT Scan and Specialist Surgery (\$2500 worth of surgery).

So as you can see, it is not just the delivery where complications can occur. Once these little cherubs grace you with their presence, you are responsible for their wellbeing too and sometimes that can come with making really difficult decisions or outlaying a lot of money.

If breeding is done correctly, and you factor in all the health testing and the supplies and the feeding, puppy packs, registering the puppies, microchipping and vaccinations, I can tell you one thing, there is NO money to be made.

If you do it, do it for the love of it!



Coloora Party Shoes "Wynta"

Car Travel with Dogs

By Dr Philip McConachy



DRIVING with dogs can be a good or bad experience for your dog.

Anxiety and travel sickness are two of the most common issues associated with car travel.

A Common mistake is not getting dogs acclimated to car travel before going on holidays or long car drives.

This can be done by first letting the dog smell the car inside and out with the engine off.

Once the dog is comfortable inside the car, then feed the dog inside the car, when he or she looks relaxed inside the car, turn the engine on. If he/she still looks relaxed, then give him/her a treat.

Once your dog is comfortable inside the car (with the engine off or on) you can go on a very short drive, perhaps to the local park, and have fun with your dog. This will create a positive association with car travel.

Dog appeasing Pheromone (D.AP) sprays (see below) and thunder-shirts can be useful for some nervous dogs.



Good restraint inside the car (as above) is important as the dogs can injure themselves or other passengers in a car accident or worse yet cause a car accident or become a projectile if a car accident does occur.

Secured crates (also above), cargo barriers are the best option; if these are not practical for your vehicle the next best way to secure your best friend in the car is by using a car/walk harness which can be secured to one of your vehicles seat belts.

Motion sickness can also be a common issue for your best friend on long trips, especially on windy roads. It is best not to feed before travelling, especially on long distances.

If motion sickness is an ongoing issue for your dog, we can supply anti-vomiting medications. Some of these medications have a sedating effect to the dog; this can also be a good thing for those dogs that are highly strung.

Don't forget to take your dog for a walk before going on the trip so he/she can stretch her legs and go to the toilet. Regular stops and drinks along the way are also important.



Hot weather is not our dog's best friend in a car, so it is important to watch for heat stress, especially in the bull terrier breeds, flat nose dogs and overweight dogs.

Signs include continuous panting and excessive drooling and/or reddened gums.

Remember to NEVER leave your dog in a car in the sun, even with the window partially open.

I think it is always a good idea to phone the vet clinic near your holiday destination and ask them what the incidence of heartworm, tick paralysis and snake bites are in that area. We can advise you on preventative products for heartworm and ticks and heartworm prevention.



It's also best to keep your dog on a lead in areas that may be snake infested, particularly near creeks and lakes. **Remember prevention is always better than the cure.**



Lastly, make sure your dog is microchipped and that the National Pet Register has all your up to date details.

The National Pet Register number is 1300 734 738.

Please keep the above information on hand to ensure you always have Happy Holidays (Pets included)

Dr Philip McConachy

Joke Time

Finally ... got my sink fixed



Let me know if you need the name of my plumber - BTW – the left handle does the white wine - Cheers !!

This Month's Sudoku Puzzle

Can you complete this under 3 minutes - good luck !

8	2			9		3	4	
			5	3	6			
	5					7		9
1	9	4			2			8
		5	3		4	9		
2			9			6	7	4
7		9			5		2	
			4	1	3	8		
	8	3		2			5	6
