

CHOOSING AND MANAGING YOUR PET



Choosing your pet

Caring for a dog can be a big responsibility - a warm place to sleep, food so they do not go hungry, some fresh air and green grass. Despite seeming like the perfect addition to your life, a dog is not for everyone.

First time dog owner tips

The need for sufficient space is a very important factor. It is true that animals usually adapt to their living spaces - be it a house or apartment - but it's necessary for a pet to live comfortably, clean, and be able to enjoy the space that they are given.

Generally dogs require a lot more time and dedication than cats do. Therefore if you are the type of person with a nine to five job, you should choose a breed that requires less attention and that doesn't panic when left alone for many hours. Some breeds need daily and special attention to their coats and some bark frequently to get their owners attention.

Shelters are often a goldmine for canine companions. In Australia approximately 250,000 healthy but unwanted cats and dogs are euthanised each year with over 50,000 in NSW alone. At any given time there are many wonderful dogs looking for permanent homes. Usually these dogs come spayed or neutered, and the staff will be able to tell you quite a bit about the dog's personality.

Shelters are a great opportunity to get to know and spend some time with the dog you want before purchasing.

Responsible dog owner's checklist

1. Choose the type, breed and temperament of pet carefully.
2. Give your dog proper food, shelter and exercise.
3. Don't allow your dog to be a nuisance to other people.
4. Take your pet to the vet regularly.
5. Desex your dog if you don't plan to breed from it.
6. Make sure your dog is looked after when you go on holiday.
7. If you can no longer care for your dog, make sure it has another home to go to or place it with an animal shelter.
8. Ensure there is adequate space available in your home and garden for your pet.

It is the owner's responsibility to microchip and register their pet. Please see Council's New Cat and Dog Registration and Identification fact sheet for more information.

