








## So you want to buy a puppy

Bringing a puppy into the home is a big decision that should be made with lots of considerations. Some of the things to consider are:

-  Breed
-  Time available to share with dog
-  Activity Level
-  Costs
-  Breed specific health issues
-  Yard size required
-  Can you comply with legislation?

All of the above should be considered before attending a breeder or shelter to look for a companion.

Read on to find out more so you end up with the right fit for your family.

Remember to ensure your puppy is microchipped before you take ownership as it is a requirement under the Companion Animals Act.

### Buying from a breeder or shelter

**Breeder**—Buying from a reputable breeder is great when you know exactly what breed of dog you are looking to adopt.

You can view the parents, look at the living conditions and health of the animals being bred and also ask history of health issues in the breed.

**Shelter**—Whilst you can not always be sure of an animal's history, it is great to 'rescue' an animal. Dogs sold from shelters are rarely puppies and this can be a huge advantage to people not wanting to deal with the 'puppy stage'.

Dogs sold from shelters are assessed closely by shelter staff to ensure they are suitable to rehome. Dogs also go through veterinary checks, vaccination and desexing prior to being rehomed. Animals adopted from the Dubbo City Animal Shelter are also microchipped and lifetime registered in NSW.

**Remember: A little chip will go a long way toward providing you with peace of mind. Microchip your dog.**

Microchipping is a legal requirement from when your pet is 12 weeks old or before selling or giving away. A microchip can assist authorities like councils to return your dog to you if it goes missing. Details for the chip number are recorded on a statewide register and include owners name, pet's details, address and phone numbers. You can now update your pet's details yourself by visiting: [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au)



**Dubbo.nsw.gov.au**

**Fb.com/DubboRegionalCouncil**

**FB.com/DubboCityAnimalShelter**

**(02) 6801 4000**

**(02) 6801 4640—Shelter**

**Cnr Church & Darling Streets, Dubbo  
Cnr Nanima Crescent & Warne  
Street, Wellington**

**PO Box 81, Dubbo NSW 2830  
council@dubbo.nsw.gov.au**



Visit

**Council's website for more brochures including:**

- **Information for Cat Owners**
- **Information for Dog Owners**
- **Dogs in Rural Communities**
- **Animal Noise—What to Do**
- **Leash Free Areas**

The information contained in this brochure is not intended to be comprehensive, complete or to constitute legal advice. While its content is correct at the time of publication, changes to the Companion Animals Act after this date may impact upon the accuracy of the information presented.

As such, this brochure is for general information only, and should not substitute professional advice or your own legal enquiries as to the application of the Companion Animals Law in relation to any matter.

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## PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

# Thinking of buying a puppy?



# THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING A PUPPY/DOG

## Breed

There are many different breeds of dog. The best way to decide on a breed is by doing research into their temperaments and their needs.

Some things to ask yourself before looking at a breed.

Do you want a large or small dog?

How much training are you prepared to do with the dog?

Does the breed require someone with in depth knowledge of dog behaviour?

Does the breed shed hair?

Does the breed have health issues that could result in ongoing costs?

Do you have time to groom a longer haired dog?



## Yard Size

How big is your yard? Do you have the space for a large dog and if not are you prepared to walk it twice a day?

Is your fencing suitable to contain a large or small dog.

Are there gaps under or between the fence?

How tall is the fence?

Will the dog also be allowed inside?

Is there a suitable sheltered area for the dog to sleep and spend time under?

## Time available

Take some time to calculate how much spare time you have to spend with the dog. Dogs need a lot of attention to prevent them becoming bored and looking for trouble. Being bored can result in unwanted behaviours such as digging, excessive barking, escapism and general destruction of your yard.

If you work all day and have activities most nights maybe its just not the right time to get a dog.

## Costs

Owning a dog is not just an initial outlay of the animal and its bed and bowls etc. There are ongoing costs of vaccinations, feeding, unexpected vet costs for injury or illness and of course toys, training and things to keep your pet entertained.

Do you have the money for these things? It is an offence to not seek veterinary treatment if your animal is unwell or injured.

Do you have money to register your dog. This is a legal requirement and is a once off lifetime fee as below:

- \$57 for a desexed dog;
- \$207 for an entire or undesexed dog;
- \$57 for an entire or undesexed dog owned by a registered breeder;
- \$234 for a desexed dog owned by an eligible pensioner;
- \$28.50 for desexed dog purchased from eligible pound or shelter.

## Legislation requirements

When you become the owner of a dog you are agreeing to abide by legislation requirements that can vary from state to state. In NSW some of the requirements that people often fault with are below:

When in a public place dogs must be kept secure by an adequate chain, cord or lead and held by or secured to a person (16 yrs or older) unless in a designated leash free area.

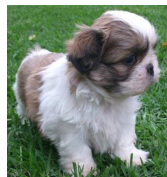
All dogs must be registered by the time they are 6 months old.

All dogs must wear a collar and tag with the name of the dog and a phone number or address.

If a dog defecates in public it must be picked up and disposed of in a bin.

Failing to comply with legislation can incur fines and other regulatory action.

Are you able to comply with the Companion Animals Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act?



## Training

All puppies/dogs require some level of training when you first bring them home.

This can vary from simple tasks like toilet training and sitting to more complex tasks like staying and recall behaviour.

First time pet owners may need assistance in training behaviours as it is not an easy task. Puppy Preschools are great and can teach you and your puppy the basics. Call your local vet for information on when these classes are run.



If your dog is older there are many trainers who run classes or individual lessons and can assist in teaching you and your dog the basics.

Training can be a great bonding experience with your new pet and can eliminate some of the many stresses an owner can face.

Some basic things you should train your dog to do are:

- 🐕 Sit/Stay
- 🐕 Toilet training
- 🐕 Sitting still for various grooming needs eg nail trimming
- 🐕 Recall (getting your dog to come when called)

## Vaccinations

Vaccinating your pet is as important as vaccinating your child. There are many diseases that you need to protect your pet from, such as parvo, distemper and hepatitis.

A simple vaccination can save your dog from severe illness and even death.

Parvo is particularly bad in the Dubbo area and can live in the soil for many years.

The virus attacks the intestines causing bloody diarrhoea, vomiting and severe pain. Dogs often die from severe dehydration despite receiving veterinary care

A vaccine from your vet can prevent your pet suffering and spreading diseases within our community.

**If you sell or give away a dog, it is your responsibility as the 'old' dog owner to update the new owner's details on the NSW Companion Animals Register online or at your local council, otherwise penalties may apply. Please refer to [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au) for further information.**

**REMEMBER BUYING A PET IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT. IF YOU CANT COMMIT DON'T BUY.**