



# A PET SHOULD NOT BE A LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Becoming a pet owner can be a wonderful experience but a dog or a cat should not be on any last minute Christmas lists.

Dubbo Regional Council Manager Environmental Control Debbie Archer said there is often a spike in the number of unwanted and stray cats and dogs being surrendered to the Dubbo City Animal Shelter around Christmas time.

“It can be hard not to be excited when thinking about a new pet but purchasing a pet is an important decision and it is best to do some thorough homework before deciding to buy a puppy or kitten,” Ms Archer said.

“There are many costs and a lot of time involved in looking after a pet which is ongoing for many years.”

Over the long term pet owners will be responsible for food, training, vet fees and for exercising the pet appropriately. Potential purchasers should also consider who they are purchasing the animal for, research the most suitable breeds, and purchase from reputable breeders or shelters.

Another consideration is whether your ability to house and care for a pet is likely to change during the animal's lifetime.

While the Dubbo City Animal Shelter will accept the surrender of unwanted cats and dogs we are urging potential owners to choose responsibly. If a new pet is received it should be microchipped, registered and desexed as soon as possible.

The Dubbo City Animal Shelter is closed Sundays and Public Holidays but will be open 11.30am – 1.30pm every other day for microchipping, registration, drop offs, collections and adoptions.

After hours pens are available for stray cats and dogs and are checked every day of the year.

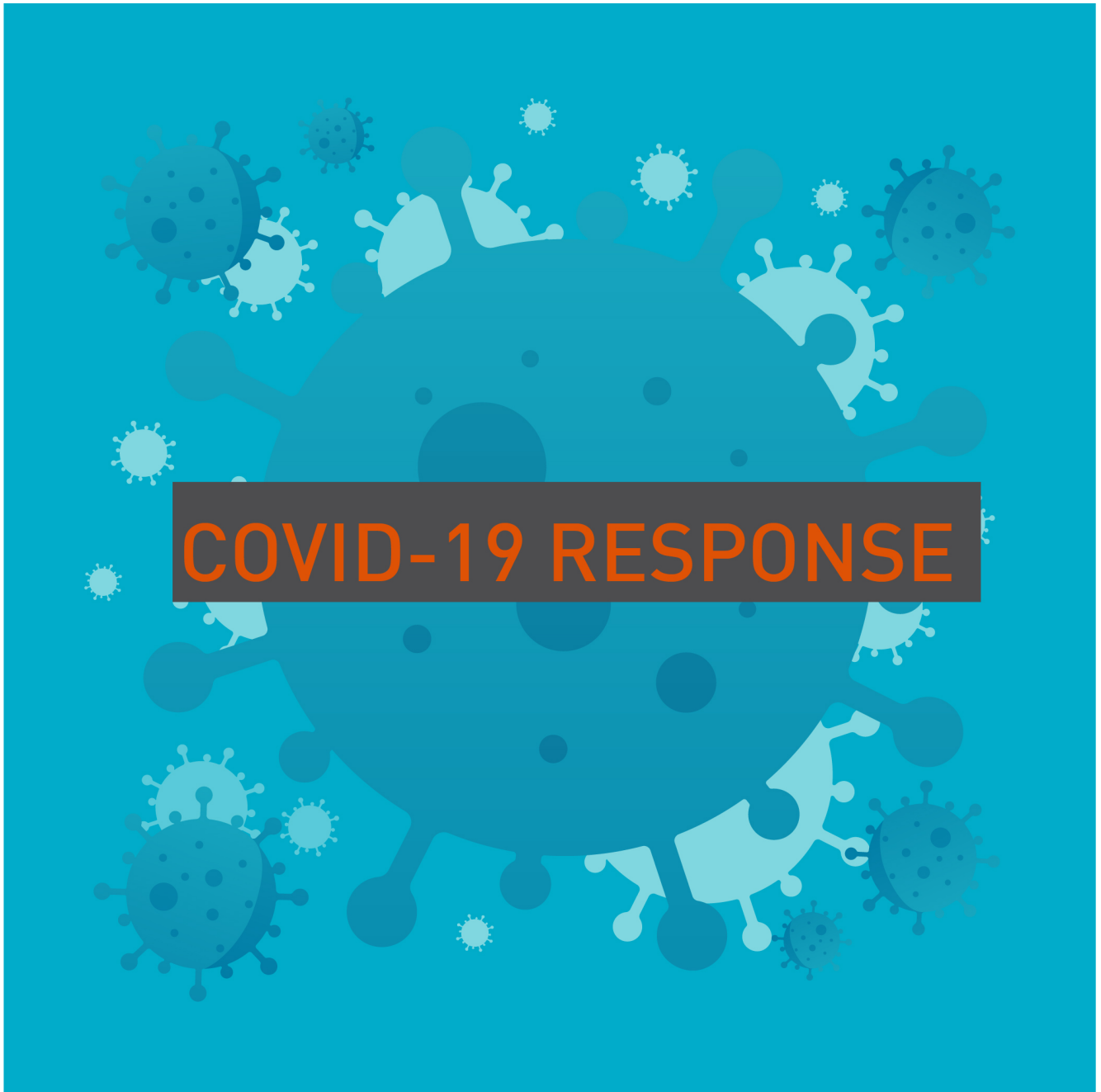
Further information is available via the Dubbo City Animal Shelter facebook page.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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