

December 2007

Thinking About a Christmas Puppy?

If you are considering purchasing or adopting a dog over the holidays, DOGS Victoria would like to offer some friendly advice about choosing the right one.

You probably know that a dog is a long-term commitment and a puppy can't be cast aside like an old toy when the novelty wears off. And you probably know that a dog will cost you in both money and time. If you don't know those things, you might want to seriously consider them before you decide to bring home a puppy.

Once you have decided you can commit to a dog for the next fifteen years or so, it is time to decide what type of dog you are going to get. You should find a dog that suits all aspects of your lifestyle.

Every furry little puppy is going to grow into an adult dog, so you should find out how big it is going to get. You should also consider how much space it will need, how much grooming it will require and how much exercise you'll need to give it.

"We fully support the recent statement by the Lost Dog's Home calling on pet shops to stop selling puppies, particularly this time of year," said DOGS Victoria President Doug Ford. "This often leads to un-informed impulse buys, which can ultimately result in the dog ending up abandoned after the holiday season is over and the reality of dog ownership has set in.

"Please take some time to consider what a dog was originally bred to do in order to determine the type of lifestyle it will prefer," advises Mr. Ford. "A little lap dog might be good if you are a quiet homebody. A large, sporty dog may like hiking and camping.

"A bit of research now can help you find the perfect dog for your situation. Your dog will have a long, happy and healthy life and you will have a loyal companion who shares your interests," says Mr. Ford.

The DOGS Victoria website www.dogsvictoria.com.au is a great place to start your search. If internet activity isn't your cup of tea, you can always drop by our facilities at KCC Park on the Westernport Hwy in Skye or give us a ring at 03 9788 2500.

DOGS Victoria staff would be happy to help you find the perfect puppy once you have determined you are ready for dog ownership.

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A DOGS Victoria representative can be made available for interviews on a variety of topics including training tips, choosing the right dog, and general dog information.