



Media Release

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To Rescue or to Buy

A few points to consider if you're thinking about getting a dog

"I've given it some thought," you tell your friends one day, "And decided I'm in a good place in my life where I finally have the time and money to take care of a dog. I've done some research and found the perfect breed. I'm meeting with breeders next week."

"You can't possibly be thinking about *buying* a dog!" A friend tells you, shocked, "It's irresponsible when there are abandoned dogs out there that really need a home."

"Good point," you think.

If you purchase your pure bred dog from a responsible breeder, you know they have a breeding program in place and are working to eradicate health and behavioural problems. Also, the puppy you buy will be happy, healthy and predictable so you know its size, grooming requirements, temperament and energy level will suit your lifestyle.

On the other hand, many wonderful dogs come from shelters and can become great companions. Adopting a dog from a shelter means there's a possibility of a great or not-so-great dog. It could become aggressive or have health problems.

There is, however, a third option that is often overlooked, and that is adopting a dog from a breed specific rescue group. Breeders work hard to make sure their puppies go to responsible owners, even purebred dogs can find themselves surrendered and in need of a new home. Some people may move to a place where they can't have a dog or find themselves in a position where they can no longer care for their dog properly.

When you choose this option, you can still get all the benefits of a predictable purebred and the same satisfaction of rescuing a dog in need of a new home.

To help make this easier, DOGS Victoria's Companion Dog Club has teamed up with rescue groups around the state to create **The Adoption Directory** with breed information and contacts for rescue groups. This project will officially be launched on Thursday, 27 March at 7:00 p.m. at the KCC Park. Everyone is invited to attend and bring their dog (rescued, bought, pedigreed or non-pedigreed) to help us celebrate.

Visit www.dogsvictoria.com.au/cdc/adoption.htm and let the Companion Dog Club help you find the perfect companion for your age and stage of life.

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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.