

A Puppy for Christmas *turns into a dog for life*

Tragically every year a large number of puppies are surrendered or abandoned when the novelty of the furry Christmas gift wears off.

As you walk past a pet shop window, it's easy to start thinking how cute those puppies in the window look, how a cuddly little puppy would certainly surprise your partner this Christmas, or that your kids have been saying they want a dog.

"We've all had these thoughts as we walked past our local pet shop," said President of DOGS Victoria, Peter Frost. "We would like to remind you to have a long think about it before you act on those considerations.

"A puppy should not be an impulse buy," he went on to say. "Dogs live for an average of 12-15 years, so when you decide to bring home a puppy, it is a serious and long-term commitment."

Mr Frost reminded the public to consider that a puppy's needs include time and money for house training, exercise, feeding, vet care and boarding when you are away.

"That little puppy is eventually going to grow into a dog, so make sure you know just how big it is going to get, how much space it should have and how much physical exercise it will need," he said. Before buying a puppy, Mr Frost recommends that you take time to consider these requirements.

"If you look at that doggy in the window and honestly say you want to spend the next fifteen years or so of your life caring for it and you can definitely afford to spend the time and money it will require, then you are prepared to become a responsible dog owner," Mr Frost said.

DOGS Victoria recognises that owning a dog has many rewards, not the least of which are love and loyalty. A dog is a dog for life, and with proper care that will be a life full of companionship, fun, devotion and a wagging tail and smile to greet you each day.

For more information on choosing the right type of dog, training your puppy and generally caring for your dog please visit www.dogsvictoria.org.au.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Susan Glasgow, CE DOGS Victoria
(03) 9788 2500
office@dogsvictoria.org.au

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.