



# Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

## Things to consider before adopting a cat or dog

Owning a pet can be a very rewarding and enjoyable experience but it brings with it certain responsibilities. The Companion Animal Shelter receives dogs and cats of all shapes, sizes and ages and there are a number of issues that need to be considered before you purchase or adopt a pet.

Always consider carefully before buying a pet.

Gather as much information as possible about what's involved - speak to staff at the Animal Shelter, your local Vet, organisations such as the RSPCA and other dog or cat owners.

### Owning a pet is a lifetime commitment

On average, dogs and cats can live to about 12 years of age. Some dogs and cats can live well past 15 years of age.

Be prepared to care for and give love to your pet for the extent of its life.

### Suitability

The pet you choose should be suitable for your individual needs and circumstances.

For example, a large, highly active breed of dog would not be a suitable pet for an elderly person or a person with a disability. Similarly, such an animal might not be the right choice for a family with very small children.

**Be prepared to care for and give love to your pet for the extent of its life.**

### Time to care for the pet

Your chosen pet will require time and effort to keep it healthy and happy. Dogs require regular exercise, grooming, obedience training and play. Some longhaired breeds of cat also require grooming - you must have the time to devote to these activities. Your pet needs your attention and you must be prepared to give it.

If you work long hours, have a busy social life or do a lot of travelling, you may not have the necessary time to properly care for your pet.

Your dog will need daily exercise and training as well as grooming, feeding and quality time with you.

### Suitable accommodation

If you decide to adopt a dog, you should be able to provide it with a secure yard. The larger the dog, the larger the area it will require.

If you live in a unit a small dog or a cat might be more suitable. If you live in rented accommodation you will need to ensure your landlord allows pets and think carefully about problems that might arise in the future if you have to move to another rented property.

### Shelter

You should decide whether your dog is going to live inside the house or in the yard. All dogs need to have adequate shelter from the elements.

Most are hardy enough to sleep in a well-constructed, weatherproof, warm, dry and draught-free kennel near the house; but some dogs who live indoors will need a softly padded basket or elevated pet bed to sleep on.

## Cost

You need to be confident that you can afford to look after your pet.

When you adopt it, your dog or cat will already be microchipped.

There are certain one-off costs, such as desexing and lifetime registration, then there are on-going costs such as food, regular vaccinations, flea control, worming, heartworm prevention, veterinary fees and boarding fees.

The following questions need to be carefully considered and honestly answered before making the decision to become a dog owner.

Your dog should have annual vaccinations, regular worm treatments and any other health care treatments, all of which take time and money.

Your dog's diet must contain all the nutrients required, be it a growing puppy or an adult dog.

## Is my property suitable for keeping a dog?

Properties containing dogs should be fully fenced, preferably with high fences that are strong and fitted with lockable gates. Your dog must have clean bedding and access to proper shelter from the heat and the cold.

When adopting a dog from a shelter, it is important to consider all the issues above and not to adopt a dog simply because it looks cute. Listen to the shelter staff and heed their advice.

**Remember, dog ownership is a long-term commitment.**

## Where is the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter?

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter is located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave NSW.



## Animals purchased from the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

Council has adopted a policy that states that all animals that are sold from the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter will be desexed prior to sale.



This document contains important information.  
If you do not understand it, contact the  
Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



### Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

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Council Website: [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)  
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am-12:30pm and  
2pm-4:30pm  
Saturday 9:30am-11:30am  
Sunday 7am-9am  
Public Holidays 7am-9am

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