



## South Australia's hottest dogs

The Maltese terrier has topped the list of South Australia's most popular pooches, with the Australian kelpie and the Labrador retriever coming a close second and third.

Dog and Cat Management Board Executive Officer Ben Luxton said there were 35,740 Maltese or Maltese-crosses registered in SA, representing more than 12% of the state's total dog population.

"Dogs are a tremendously popular pet in South Australia, with 287,480 registered, or roughly one for every two households," Ben said.

"While many of us have our favourite breeds, it's very important to take the time to select the right dog for you and your family, especially if you are thinking about purchasing a dog as a Christmas present.

"Pets are a living commitment for the life of the animal and the gift recipient needs to be involved in their acquisition.

"Purchasing a pet should only be done by or with the intended owner, as they need to consider factors such as yard size, finances and the time they have available for grooming, training and play.

"It is vital to give careful consideration to all these factors and be thorough in your research before you accept the responsibilities of sharing life with a dog.

"All of our research tells us that good owners lead to good dogs, so the Dog and Cat Management Board invests in programs to educate dog owners on what they need to do to make sure they have a healthy, sociable and rewarding pet."

Ben said anyone planning to purchase a pet at Christmas should consider adopting a dog from a shelter, through the Greyhound Adoption Program or a reputable breeder, as they consider your suitability for the dog and generally provide animals that are desexed and microchipped.

Susie Willis from the Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) said as backyards shrank and dogs spent more time indoors, smaller dogs and low-shedding dogs were becoming more popular across Australia.

"But it isn't a given that a small dog suits an apartment or smaller yard and a big dog suits a large country property," she said.

"A large, quiet dog, such as a greyhound, can be well suited to city life, whereas a small energetic breed such as a Jack Russell terrier might be better in the country."

For more information on selecting your pet, visit [www.gooddogsa.com.au](http://www.gooddogsa.com.au) or [www.petnet.com.au](http://www.petnet.com.au). Both websites offer a free online service to help you decide on the right type of pet for your lifestyle.

### Media contacts

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## Top ten breeds in SA

1. Maltese terrier
2. Australian kelpie
3. Labrador retriever
4. Jack Russell terrier
5. Staffordshire bull terrier
6. Border collie
7. Australian cattle dog
8. German shepherd
9. Chihuahua
10. Fox terrier

## Tips for successful dog ownership

**Good Selection:** Choose the most suitable dog from a reputable breeder, association or shelter considering your family; finances; yard size and time for learning and play.

**Good Health:** Keep your dog in good health by desexing; vaccinating; preventing worms and fleas plus visiting the vet regularly and providing daily exercise and a balanced diet.

**Good Behaviour:** Teach your dog how to behave well through socialising with others from puppy to adult; continuous training and actively supervising your dog around children.

**Good Care:** Provide your dog with its own secure space; ensure permanent identification for safe return should it wander, and register it with your local council. For more tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit [gooddogsa.com](http://gooddogsa.com)



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