

Do the best for your best friend

With no park or outdoor café complete without a dog or three, the Dog and Cat Management Board has begun a new campaign to stress the importance of responsible pet ownership.

Board Chair Jan Connolly said with around 300,000 South Australian families owning dogs, they were increasingly part of daily home and community life.

“Pets are a great source of pleasure and companionship and many of us think of them as family members, but an unruly or aggressive dog can cause problems for everyone,” Jan said.

“Owning a dog comes with responsibilities. When out and about in the community, the most important, common-sense principle is to be considerate of others’ use and enjoyment of these public places.

“Every dog can bite, no matter what its breed or size, so good training and socialising are essential to ensure our dogs can be around children, adults and other animals safely.

“They can’t do that on their own, though. They need our help.

“We are encouraging owners and potential owners to learn what’s best for their best friend and put it into practice.”

To help dog owners have a more rewarding relationship with their pets, the board has developed four key pointers: good selection principles, good health practices, good behavioural attributes and good care habits.

“As well as these four key pointers, we are encouraging everyone to register, desex and microchip their dogs,” Jan said.

“Research shows that desexed dogs of both sexes are less aggressive, making them less likely to bite. Desexing has also been proved to reduce other anti-social behaviours, as well as improving the health and longevity of the dog.

“Registering and micro-chipping are extremely important when it comes to reuniting a lost dog with its family, so ensure your dog is micro-chipped and is wearing its collar, registration disk and a name tag at all times.”

The responsible dog ownership campaign supports National Desexing Month in July, the annual renewal of dog registrations in August and will be a feature in the Board’s presence at the Royal Adelaide Show in September.

For more information on being a good dog owner, visit www.dogandcatboard.com.au or join the conversation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gooddogsa

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