

Maltese still top dog

The Maltese Terrier has tightened its fluffy little grip on top spot in the list of South Australia's most popular dog breeds.

The Dog and Cat Management Board collates council dog registration figures every year, producing a top 10 for the state.

Board Secretary Andrew Lamb said 35,126 Maltese Terriers and Maltese crosses were registered in 2013-14, up from 31,570 the year before. "Maltese Terriers are a perennial favourite, because of their good temperament, their size and the fact that they are undeniably cute and fluffy," Andrew said.

"The Australian Kelpie came in at a fairly distant number two, with 21,273 registered, followed by Labrador retrievers at 19,906 and Jack Russells at 17,710."

Staffordshire Bull Terriers were fifth on the list, with Border Collies, Australian Cattle Dogs, German Shepherds, Chihuahuas and Standard Poodles and their various crosses rounding out the top 10.

The only significant change from 2012-13 was the Poodle pipping the Cavalier King Charles spaniel at the post for the number 10 spot. A total of 295,965 dogs were registered in South Australia in 2013-14, slightly down from 297,714 the year before.

Andrew said with Christmas coming and many people thinking of adopting a pet, it was important to do some research and choose carefully.

"The Select-a-Pet function at www.gooddogsa.com.au can help you work out which breed will suit your family best in terms of factors like space and energy levels," he said.

"All dogs need regular exercise, but some – like Kelpies and cattle dogs – need more than others, so it's vital to match your dog to your lifestyle.

"It's an old cliché, but pets aren't just for Christmas. They are a long-term commitment, but if you choose the one that is right for you, it's a wonderful commitment to have."

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SA dogs at a glance:

	2013-14		2012-13	
1	Maltese	35,126	Maltese	31,570
2	Australian kelpie	21,273	Australian kelpie	18,940
3	Labrador retriever	19,906	Labrador retriever	18,512
4	Jack Russell terrier	17,710	Jack Russell terrier	16,689
5	Staffordshire bull terrier	16,319	Staffordshire bull terrier	14,374
6	Border collie	15,017	Border collie	13,950
7	Australian cattle dog	9267	Australian cattle dog	8560
8	German shepherd	8600	German shepherd dog	8310
9	Chihuahua	8502	Chihuahua	7537
10	Standard poodle	6289	Cavalier King Charles spaniel	6301