

Terriers win in game of bones

Maltese terriers have taken the crown as South Australia's top dog three for the third year in a row.

Just over 34,300 of the cute little white pooches are registered around the state, followed by 21,273 Australian kelpies and an even 20,000 Labrador retrievers.

Dog and Cat Management Board Chairperson, Felicity-ann Lewis said the board collated dog registration statistics from all of SA's councils.

"There were 297, 857 dogs registered in South Australia for 2014-15, up from 295,965 in 2013-14," Dr Lewis said.

"The list of popular breeds hasn't changed much over the past three years. This year, seven of the top 10 were in the same spots, with the Jack Russell losing fourth spot to the Staffordshire bull terrier.

"The big winner was the beagle, jumping into 10th spot from 15 last year. Last year's 10th-placed breed, the standard poodle, fell to 14th most popular."

Dr Lewis said anyone thinking of adopting a dog should give careful consideration to the breed they chose.

"We all know dogs need to be walked regularly, but some, like kelpies, are more active than others, so it's important to match your pet to your lifestyle, both for your sake and that of the dog.

"Before you bring a dog into your family, it's important to do some research and see which one will fit best.

"The Select-a-Pet function on the www.gooddogsa.com.au website can help you work out which breed will be the best match, taking into account factors like space, energy levels and whether or not your family has young children."

South Australia's top 20 dog breeds

1	Maltese	34301	11	Golden retriever	6210
2	Australian kelpie	21273	12	Shih tzu	6176
3	Labrador retriever	20000	13	Cavalier King Charles spaniel	6027
4	Staffordshire bull terrier	18097	14	Poodle (standard)	5563
5	Jack Russell terrier	17758	15	Fox terrier (smooth)	5271
6	Border collie	15845	16	American Staffordshire terrier	4981
7	Australian cattle dog	9395	17	Rottweiler	4671
8	German shepherd	8697	18	Cocker spaniel	4253
9	Chihuahua	8574	19	Tenterfield terrier	4187
10	Beagle	6969	20	Pomeranian	4073

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