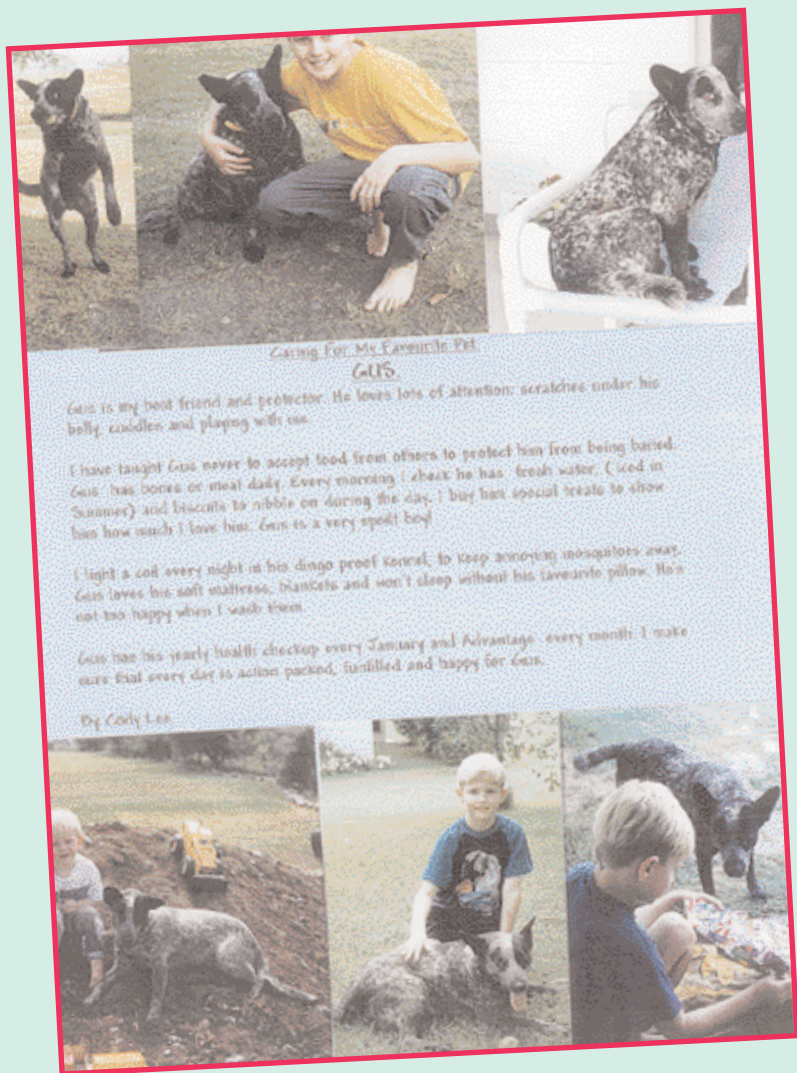
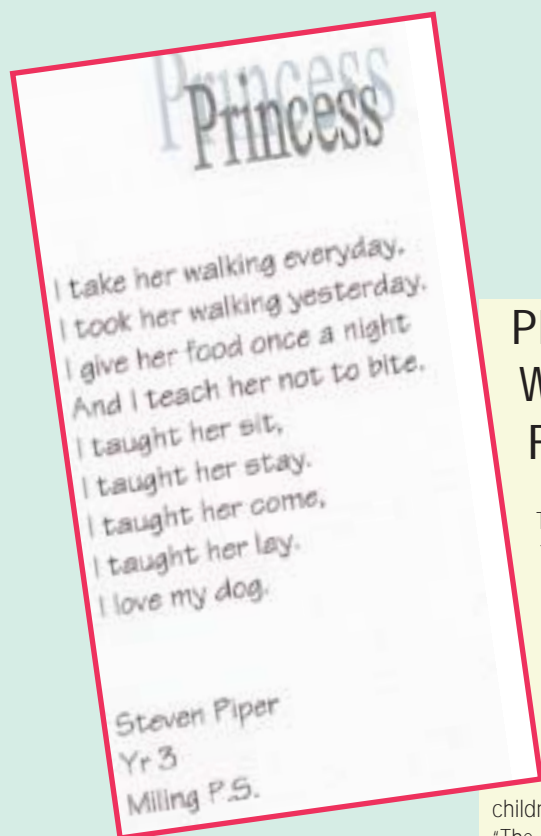


# Me and My pet



Winning entries in the AVAs Pets and People Education Program competition. For full story see page 3, October 2003 issue of **National Dog - The RingLEADER Way**



## PET LOVERS WIN TRIP TO SYDNEY FOR CELEBRITY LUNCH

Three primary school students from around Australia were flown to Sydney to enjoy lunch with TV celebrity vet, Dr Katrina Warren, as category winners of the Australian Veterinary Association's (AVA) 2002 Me and My Pet National Schools Competition.

The AVAs Pets and People Education Program (PetPEP) launched the competition during International Pet Week last month as it's biggest ever campaign to generate awareness of responsible animal ownership among school children across Australia.

"The competition was a vehicle for PetPEP to encourage our next generation of animal carers to consider what it means to be a responsible pet owner. This education process is an important curbing the increased incidence of animal cruelty," said Kate Perkins, PetPEPs National Coordinator.

Almost 8000 primary schools received a PetPEP Me and My Pet Competition Kit, which invited students to submit a drawing, poem or short story untitled "Caring for My Favourite Pet". Almost 10 000 students from all around the country participated in the competition.

Maddison Kraus, aged 6 from Kunyung Primary School in Mt Eliza, Victoria won the lower primary category with a colourful drawing of herself hugging her large dog wearing a collar with council registration tags; Steven Piper, aged 8, from Miling Primary School, 200km north of Perth, won the middle primary category with a poem about how he loves and cares for his pet Princess; and Cody Lee, aged 12, from Mirani State School outside of Mackay, Queensland won the upper primary category with his essay about how he cares for his dog, Gus. Also, veterinarians Australia-wide participated in the competition by offering their time for promotion, judging, and presentation of Certificates of Merit to participants.

PetPEP has been operating for over ten years and is designed by vets, in collaboration with teachers, to creatively integrate responsible pet care messages into school curricula. Primarily, this is done by distributing pet-care resource booklets to teachers and facilitating in-school pet expositions.