

## 100 Responsible Pet-Owners and Rising

The Lort Smith Animal Hospital Adoption Centre located in the new Pets at Home pet care department store in Westfield Plenty Valley, is celebrating its 100th pet adoption to proud pet owners Peter and Helen Robertson.

Remarkably, Pets at Home has achieved this milestone just a few months since the adoption program was first launched.

Retired Whittlesea residents, the Robertsons have welcomed the Beagle pup 'Sandy' into their home. Introducing the energetic Sandy to the couple's two cats has been a bit of a task and they have had to install a baby gate to give the cats some peace.

Helen and Peter have never adopted before but are ecstatic with their new furry friend. Helen Robertson said of the adoption, "The initiative is lovely and we are happy that we have done the responsible thing and saved an animal in need. We've always had big dogs, so it has taken some time to get used to this smaller more lively one - he doesn't stop!"

Pets at Home is bringing new meaning to responsible pet ownership. Having chosen not to sell puppies or kittens, Pets at Home is solely focused on finding new homes for as many of Melbourne's abandoned animals as possible.

CEO of Pets at Home, David Herman comments, "The Lort Smith Animal Hospital Adoption Centres within our stores have been an incredibly successful initiative. We are thrilled to be able to boast a 100% success rate, having found homes for every animal provided to us by the Lort Smith Animal Hospital through our unique adoption centre partnership."

It is no secret that Australians are great animal lovers, with one of the highest incidences of pet ownership in the world. Of the 12 million Australians who enjoy the company of a pet, 91% describe their animals as an integral member of their family. It is a sad and troubling fact, that more than half a million animals are abandoned nationally each year.

In what is considered a world first partnership, one of the nation's most respected not for profit organisations, the Lort Smith Animal Hospital and Australia's first pet care department store, Pets at Home opened their first Lort Smith Animal Hospital Adoption Centre at the Westfield Fountain Gate store in March this year. The second adoption centre opened at Pets at Home's Westfield Plenty Valley store (Mill Park) at the end of May this year. A further adoption centre is scheduled to open in late September.



## COME AND JOIN THE PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND SAVE A STRAY PET'S LIFE!

Lort Smith Animal Hospital and the Animal Welfare League announced today the launch of Strays Birthday, an important awareness and fundraising campaign which will be celebrated on September 1, 2008.

The campaign encourages pet owners to recognise and celebrate the important role pets play in their lives and at the same time acknowledges that for stray pets without a home or family, life is certainly no party!

Strays Birthday on 1 September, is a day to celebrate our own pets by throwing them a birthday party and at the same time raising funds to help rescue and rehome stray dogs and cats.

Pet owners can register online at [www.straysbirthday.com](http://www.straysbirthday.com), create an online profile for their pet and then use this profile to invite their friends and family to their pets birthday party. Party hosts then raise funds to support, shelter and rehome strays cats and dogs in need.

By holding a birthday party for their pet or making a donation to Strays Birthday pet owners will assist in raising \$200,000 to support the shelter program and help increase the capacity to provide temporary accommodation, care, treatment and find new homes for stray dogs and cats over the coming year.

By becoming involved in Strays Birthday and holding a birthday party or by making a donation funds raised can provide the following:

- \$150 covers the basic cost of accommodation and food for each stray that needs our care
- \$300 covers the cost of desexing a stray dog, which must be done before the pet can be rehomed
- \$500 will pay for a leg operation to mend a stray dog that has been hit by a car
- \$1000 will fund our kitten foster program for a month
- \$5000 will provide a weeks worth of emergency boarding for 50 animals caught up in domestic violence
- \$10,000 will feed 250 dogs or cats in our shelter for a month



It only takes 15 friends to give a birthday gift of \$10 and a stray is saved!

### For thousands of stray pets across Australia, life is no party.

Over 200,000 cats and dogs are euthanized each year because they don't have a home to go to  
 Over 50,000 pets in Victoria alone will become victims of abuse  
 Over the last 12 months Lort Smith has cared for over 100,000 animal in need of treatment and shelter  
 It can cost \$500 or more to treat an injured or needy stray animal  
 Spring into action on September 1 and save a stray pet's life. For more details on Strays Birthday, head to [www.straysbirthday.com](http://www.straysbirthday.com)

Former Olympian and Channel 9 star Giaan Rooney with her dog Lester. Caption: Lort Smith Ambassador, Giaan Rooney and her dog Lester registered today to host a party for Strays Birthday on September 1. Lester is going to be busy sending out his invitations and plans to have his special friends, Hawk, Pebbles and Bird at his party.

KCC Park is a DOGS Victoria or Companion Dog Club members-only establishment, but on Sunday, 14 December we will throw open the gates to everyone . . . and their dogs.

During the Big Day Out for Dogs, the 75 acre Park will be packed full of dog sport demonstrations, breed exhibitions, dog-related trade stalls and fun competitions for all dogs, such as waggiest tail!

There will be agility and tunnelling courses at which visiting dogs can have a go, a workshop on teaching your dog to dance and many other interactive activities.



For the kids, there will be face painting, fairy floss and Shadow the Big Black Dog will be available for photos.

Not only is the Big Day Out for Dogs loads of fun, but you might just discover some things to do with your dog that you never knew existed.

For more information on dog sports and activities and the Companion Dog Club visit [www.dogsvictoria.org.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.org.au).

KCC Park is located at 655 Westernport Hwy, Skye VIC 3977 (Mel Ref 128 J12).

## This is Agility

What's a great way to train your dog? The answer is Agility! What's the best way to give your energetic dog a great workout? The answer is Agility!

How can you train your dog, give it a great workout and have a whole heap of fun at the same time? The answer is Agility!

This dog sport can be enjoyed by any dog and every person. "You direct your dog around obstacle courses in which they must correctly negotiate each obstacle in a certain amount of time," explains Ian Staniforth, DOGS Victoria Agility Committee Chairperson.

Obstacles include running over ramps and see-saws, jumping through hoops and over hurdles, crawling through tunnels and weaving through poles. As you and your dog progress through the ranks you move from Novice to Master. There are many agility groups throughout Victoria who have regular training. There are also state and even national competitions.

How can you get your family out of the house this winter and be entertained all weekend for free? The answer is Agility . . . the National Agility Trials, that is.

"We are very excited to be hosting the national competition here in Victoria this year," said Mr Staniforth. "These big events only take place every second year so this is a really extraordinary opportunity to see the best Agility dogs in the country."

Agility is just as much fun to watch as it is to participate. The national competition will take place from 29-31 August 2008 at the KCC Park. It is open to the public, free of charge, so stop by and see what all the excitement is about. Visit [www.dogsvictoria.com.au](http://www.dogsvictoria.com.au) for details on this and other dog sports and events.

Dogs Victoria Conformation Judges Committee are proud to announce a new initiative of Sweepstake Classes to be held at the Melbourne Royal Show on

Breed Judging Days. These classes are to be judged by Trainee Judges with entries taken on the day and all entry fees to be returned to the placegetters. The idea of these classes is to assist the Trainee Judges gain valuable experience judging quality dogs.

These Sweepstake Classes will in no way interfere with the normal breed judging at the Royal Show. They will be conducted at the normal lunch break and at the conclusion of the judging in each ring. There will be no sweepstake classes conducted on either weekend. Classes will be limited to a maximum of ten [10] dogs so as to give as many Trainee Judges as possible the opportunity to gain this type of experience. The Conformation Judges Committee believe this initiative will be very beneficial in the education of our future judges.

## Hounds!

