

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Promoting
Responsible
Dog
Ownership**



'Last minute' puppy for Christmas presents many considerations

-Keeping a breed's needs in mind-

While puppies are often chosen as spur of the moment presents to please children on Christmas day, the long-term consequences of dog ownership for the family are often not taken seriously. Buying a dog as a family Christmas present is not irresponsible, but buying one as an impulsive gift is, and can have serious consequences. The family's home and lifestyle must be carefully considered and suitable breed chosen accordingly. Purebred dogs have many advantages over crossbreeds, such as more a predictable temperament, and this makes choosing a dog much easier.

"Puppies shouldn't be chosen as a last minute present to make kids smile on Christmas day, but that doesn't mean bringing one into the family as a Christmas present is careless," advises **Dogs NSW** spokesperson and veterinarian **Dr Peter Higgins**.

"So long as you consider what you want from a dog and choose the breed accordingly, they can become very important members of the family," says Dr Higgins.

"There are many different types of households, from young families with active kids, to elderly couples or share-houses, so each person has different demands on their time. By researching the breed that suits your lifestyle, you and your dog to be will have a much happier time together," believes Dr Higgins.

When future owners choose a purebred dog, there is far greater certainty about what they are getting. Their behaviour, health, lifespan, intelligence, and temperance are far more predictable, which means you can be certain that your chosen breed will fit into your lifestyle.

Young puppies are often chosen over fully-grown dogs being brought into the family during the Christmas period, but take more time and money to raise. The costs of vaccinations, food, training, and shelter represent a large financial burden that should be carefully considered with the whole family.

"Christmas time is busy for everyone, with emotions often running too high for a pet to be peacefully introduced into a household. It's much better to introduce it after the holiday period to avoid your new puppy being overwhelmed. A pet is for life not just for Christmas", explains Dr Higgins.

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