

MEDIA RELEASE

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Promoting
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Ownership



Labs top the list again for 2008

-Labrador Retriever most popular breed in Australia-

Dogs NSW today released 2008 registration statistics for the Most Popular Purebred Dog Breeds in Australia, with Labrador Retrievers, a firm favourite internationally, topping the list. The breed has become popular in Australian homes for their loyal temperament and gentle behaviour around the home, especially children.

“With two in every three households living with an animal companion, Australians love their pets. Over two million households have one or more dogs, which shows what a large part of our lives dogs are,” says veterinarian and **Dogs NSW** spokesperson **Dr Peter Higgins**.

Labrador Retrievers are exceptionally well mannered, gentle, and have a loyal, even temperament. They have gained the breed a strong reputation as a pet and a working dog. Their natural initiative and ability to self direct allows them to succeed in working roles such as detection (‘sniffer dogs’), disability assistance and therapy work.

“As family pets they make an excellent choice. They have a lot of patience for children in particular. While they are quite curious creatures that enjoy exploring, they don’t tend to escape over high fences or dig their way out of properties. They are quiet and non-aggressive, yet enthusiastic when engaged with humans. There’s not much else you could want in a family pet,” believes **Dr Higgins**.

The German Shepherd Dog came a close second, and the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel third. Two Australian breeds, the Border Collie and Australian Cattle Dog were also positioned high in the list; sixth and 13th respectively.

“In Australia we have dogs for many different purposes, from bomb detection and customs checks, to guide dogs, therapy dogs, and as pets. Most of all, they make great companions that keep us calm and grounded in an increasingly busy and fast-paced world. Regardless of your lifestyle, with 256 breeds of dogs in Australia, there is a breed for everyone.”, comments **Dr Higgins**.

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