



## Lort Smith Media Release

29 November 2011

# “A pet is Life choice not a gift for Xmas”



Many families will buy a puppy or kitten during the Christmas period most commonly because they have time to spend with the family pet during the holiday period. Unfortunately when the kids head back to school and the parents head back to work, they soon realise the commitment level needed.

“Becoming a pet owner is a life choice and not a great idea for a present as cats and dogs can live up to 20 years old. It is important for people to consider the responsibility of owning an animal including the time, costs, breed, environment etc.” said **Elizabeth K Walker, Lort Smith Animal Hospital Shelter Manager.**

When considering adopting a pet potential owners should think about the following;

- **Time:** Time for training and socialisation,
- **Costs:** Daily costs as well as unexpected costs,
- **Holiday:** Who will care for my pet if I go away for a holiday? Can I afford to put my pet into boarding
- **Landlord:** Will my landlord allow me to have pets?
- **Environment:** Is the environment suitable for the animal?
- **Type:** Is the type of animal suitable for me? i.e. a person that lives in an apartment would not be suitable to own Kelpie that needs space to run and continuous socialisation to stimulate their mind.

At Lort Smith Shelter we have an adoption process that any potential owner must go through. This process involves numerous questions about their history, experience and a property visit to ensure their environment is right for the animal.

If anyone is seriously considering becoming a pet owner they should think about adopting an animal in need of home from a shelter like us, rather than purchasing one from a pet shop that drives the breeding business.

### **ENDS**

For photo/interview opportunity please contact Melissa Hughes, Marketing & Fundraising Assistant, Lort Smith Animal Hospital on (03) 9321 7214 or at [mhughes@lortsmith.com](mailto:mhughes@lortsmith.com).