

# Introduction to the Veterinary Profession

VETS30030 / VETS90122



Module – Non-production species

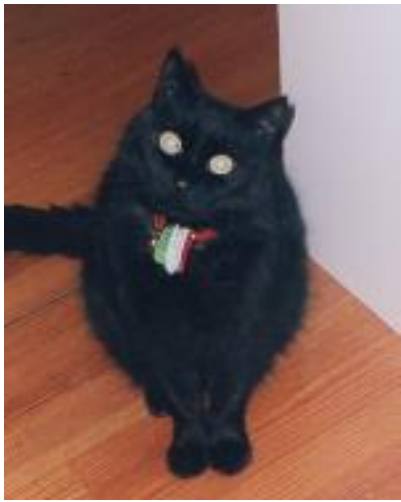
Dogs and cats

Topic 1 – Dogs and cats in the community

Video 1 - Pet ownership

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Monty



Pippa



Buster



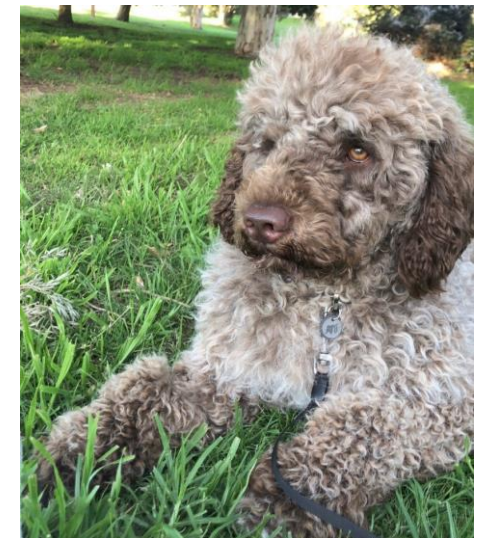
Rosie, Muddle and Sid



Connie



Sha



Rumble

# Outline of cats and dogs learning sessions

## **Dogs and cats in the community**

### **1. Where our pets come from and why we keep them**

2. Regulation of pets in the community
3. Pets who need new homes – managing health in animal shelters

## **Happy, healthy cats**

1. Common cat breeds and their characteristics
2. Welfare needs of kittens and cats
3. Health needs of kittens and cats
4. Reproduction and breeding management of cats

## **Happy, healthy dogs**

1. Common dog breeds and their characteristics
2. Welfare needs of puppies and dogs
3. Health needs of puppies and dogs
4. Reproduction and breeding management of dogs

# **Intended learning outcomes – Where our pets come from and why we keep them**

**Describe the roles of dogs and cats in the community and outline the systems which produce pet dogs and cats**

Describe problems that can arise with dogs and cats in the community and management of those problems which maximise the health and welfare of both animals and humans (video 2 - Regulation of pets in the community)

Describe the management of pets who need rehoming and how animal health and welfare is managed in shelters (video 3 - Pets who need new homes)

# Companion animals in Australia

Pet ownership in Australia, 2019 vs 2021								
Pet type	Household penetration (%)		Total owner households ('000)		Animals per household (average)		Total pets ('000)	
	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021
Dogs	40	47 <span>▲</span>	3,848.2	4,644.6	1.3	1.4	5,104.7	6,344.3
Cats	27	30	2,602.4	3,030.7	1.4	1.6	3,766.6	4,903.3
Fish	11	13 <span>▲</span>	1,056.8	1,314.5	10.7	8.5	11,331.7	11,186.5
Birds	9	14 <span>▲</span>	867.9	1,384.0	6.4	3.9	5,569.4	5,448.4
Small mammals	3	5	257.8	498.9	2.4	3.0	614.5	1,502.0
Reptiles	2	4	194.5	426.4	1.9	1.6	364.2	663.4
Other pets	2	1	194.8	118.6	9.2	3.4	1,785.3	401.2
<b>Pet Owners</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>69 <span>▲</span></b>	<b>5.9 m</b>	<b>6.8 m</b>			<b>28.5 m</b>	<b>30.4 m</b>
<b>Non-Owners</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31 <span>▼</span></b>	<b>3.7 m</b>	<b>3.1 m</b>				

Source: Pets and the Pandemic 2021 (Animal Medicines Australia)



# Companion animals in Australia



Contrary to media portrayals of 'pandemic pet parents', most new or additional pet owners said they had long been thinking of adding a pet to their household—the pandemic had simply given them the time and opportunity to be home to 'on-board' the pets they've long wanted.



The pandemic appears to have strengthened the relationship between people and their pets as they spend more time together, with 70% saying that being a pet owner has improved their lives during the COVID-19 era.

# Why do people own pets?

- Vast majority of people choose to have pets for the companionship they offer and consider them a family member
- Offering a home to an animal in need is also a common reason
- Many known benefits for physical and mental health
  - Social enablers
  - Motivation to exercise
  - Fewer doctor visits





# Animal roles in the community



Working dogs are a vital part of livestock management in many parts of Australia.



Guide dog  
Image: Guide Dogs Victoria



Image: Canberra Institute of Technology



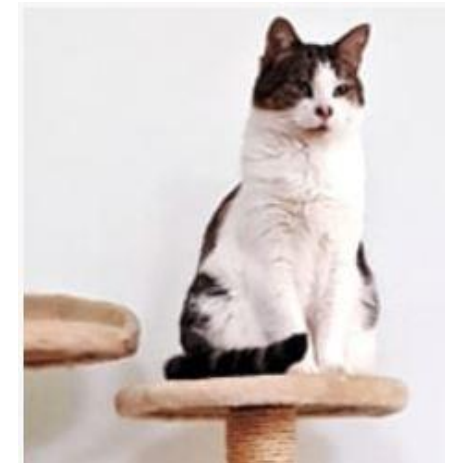
Blood donor  
Image: University of Melbourne



Sled dogs running in the Iditarod race in Alaska  
Image: Wikimedia commons



<http://www.atlasobscura.com>



Blood donor  
Image: University of Melbourne



# Where do pet dogs come from?

- Breeder - 40%
  - Friend or neighbour - 24%
  - Animal shelter - 13%
  - Pet shop - 14%\*
  - Inherited or from vet - 2%
  - Stray – 1%
  - Other 6% - online???
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- Amendment to the Domestic Animals Act known as the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Act 2017 means in Victoria these must be shelter animals

Source: Pets and the Pandemic 2021 (Animal Medicines Australia)

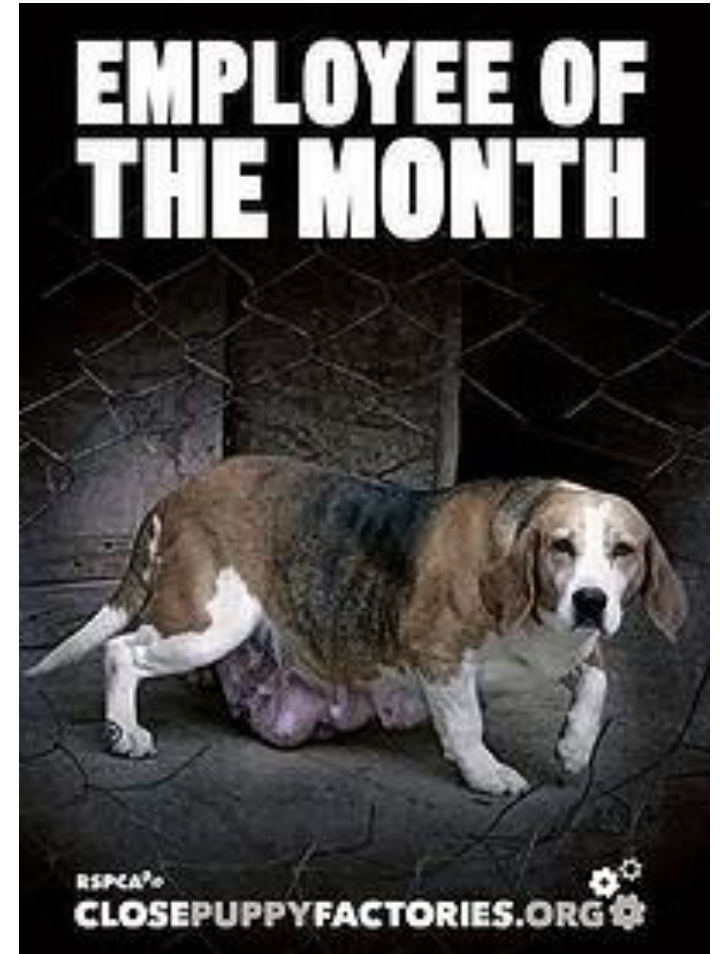


Image: rspca.org.au

# Where do pet cats come from?

- Animal shelter - 27%
- Friends or neighbours - 25%
- Breeder – 14%
- Adopted stray cats - 12%
- Pet shop – 9%
- Vet – 6%
- Inherited – 1%
- Other – 5%



Image: Telegraph.co.uk