

HOW TO: BUY OR ADOPT A CAT OR DOG?

1. Look for an identification number

By law, from 1 July 2019, anyone selling or giving away a cat or dog needs to use an identification number in any advertisement.

This number will be either:

- ◆ a microchip number
- ◆ a breeder identification number OR
- ◆ a rehoming organisation number

This number will help you find out more about the cat or dog that is advertised.

If you see an advertisement that does not have an identification number, or you suspect a false number has been used, you should contact RSPCA NSW or Animal Welfare League NSW.

If the advertisement relates to a greyhound being sold or rehomed by a greyhound racing industry participant, you should contact the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

2. Check the NSW Pet Registry

Use the identification number to check the **NSW Pet Registry** to confirm that the identification number is valid. Visit www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au

A microchip number search will provide you with information about what the owner has recorded as



the breed, sex and age of the cat or dog, whether it is desexed and whether or not it is already registered. From 1 July 2019, the NSW Pet Registry will also let you know whether an annual permit is needed to keep the animal. For more information about annual permits, contact your local council.

A breeder identification number search will display any recorded business names so that you can do further research, make informed purchasing decisions and help support good animal welfare outcomes.

A rehoming organisation number search will display the name and address of the relevant rehoming organisation.

3. Do your research

When considering buying or adopting a cat or dog, you should always do your research first:

- ◆ Make sure you can meet the animal's needs. You need to understand the breed, the animal's characteristics, expected lifespan, and how much time and money is needed to look after the cat or dog
- ◆ Consider introducing a new cat or dog to any existing pets, and get advice if you're unsure whether the animals will be compatible
- ◆ Make sure your children know how to safely interact with your cat or dog
- ◆ Contact the breeder or seller if you have any questions about the origin of a cat or dog
- ◆ Research the breeder or seller and, if possible, visit the facility where the animal has been bred or is being housed in order to assess the animal's living conditions and welfare
- ◆ Check if the animal is microchipped and registered and whether annual permits are needed.

4. Be prepared

Before you buy a cat or dog and bring it home make sure you:

- ◆ Buy appropriate food, bedding and toys
- ◆ Check the security of your backyard or area the cat or dog will have access to
- ◆ Consider the availability of training or puppy preschool classes
- ◆ Save the contact details of a local veterinary clinic in your phone.

5. Transfer ownership

If you decide to buy a cat or dog, make sure it's ownership is transferred to you and that you claim ownership in the NSW Pet Registry.

Further information on how to claim ownership is available at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/pet-ownership

To find out more visit:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/companion-animals

