

Media Release

Help pets find their fur-ever home this Christmas

Friday, 20 December 2024

Families planning to welcome a new cat or dog into their household this festive season are being urged to “Adopt, Don’t Shop”, and help pets in council pounds and rehoming facilities find fur-ever homes.

Adopting from a pound or rehoming facility rather than buying from a pet shop or breeder is a great way to welcome a new pet into your family and give them a brighter future.

It can also help take the burden off council pounds and rehoming facilities which are continuing to experience challenges with high numbers of animals being surrendered.

Data from the Office of Local Government shows more than 3,837 dogs and 4,473 cats found forever homes after being adopted through council pounds in the year to 30 June 2024.

To adopt a pet, [contact your local council](#) for information on council pounds, or visit the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League, Cat Protection Society or another [approved rehoming organisation](#).

In the lead-up to the festive season, current and prospective pet owners are also being urged to ensure their pets are microchipped and registered.

Ensuring your details are correct is an important part of responsible pet ownership and can help reunite owners with pets if they go missing during a family holiday or get spooked by fireworks.

Registration is free-of-charge for desexed cats and dogs adopted from pounds, animal shelters and approved rehoming organisations.

Minister for Local Government Ron Hoenig said:

“I’d strongly encourage anyone hoping to find a pet dog or cat under the tree this year to consider adopting.

“When it comes to Christmas presents, it’s hard to think of a better gift than giving a pet a second chance at life.

“There are many cats and dogs in council pounds and rehoming facilities and I hope everyone looking to buy a pet will consider adoption instead.

“It’s important to remember that owning a pet is a significant responsibility and I urge anyone who does get a pet for Christmas to make sure they’re ready to take on that commitment.”

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