



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FRIENDS OF THE POUND TWEED INC.**

13th July, 2009

Volunteers with local organisation Friends of the Pound Tweed Inc. are outraged at the record number of dogs being surrendered.

Spokesperson Susie Hearder says: *"Many of these are little designer dogs that have been sold from pet shops as cute little puppies less than a year ago. Most of these are in poor condition, and have been very badly bred with some needing expensive operations to fix their ailments just to enable them to lead a pain free life. In the past week alone we have seen 6 of these little dogs surrendered, 5 having been sold from a local pet franchise store and now being discarded only months later. 'Patches' a Maltese x needs an operation on his hip to enable him to live a life free of pain and he hasn't even celebrated his first birthday yet! Another needed an operation on both her knees and she has just turned 1".*

The Pet shops sell these puppies for a huge sum of money and then it is left up to our small organisation to pay the numerous vet bills, on top of the desexing. *"We are even receiving whole families of pets, sadly they are being treated like disposable items, instead of family members."* says Susie Hearder.

Amongst the 24 dogs currently in foster care, there are 4 pairs of little dogs needing to be rehomed together. *"Their little mates are the only familiar thing left from their previous life, so we would like to keep them together if at all possible."* Susie Hearder says.

Many of these little designer dogs have been poorly bred and we are seeing lots of genetic health problems. In recent months we have had 3 dogs which have been born deaf, others have gone blind at a young age and many have needed dental work such as having whole extra rows of teeth having to be removed. It is getting quite common to see larger breeds such as Rottweillers having bad hips at a very young age. Some of these dogs sadly have to be euthanased. All these health problems are due to poor breeding and the high numbers of back yard breeders and also puppy mills where animals are kept in appalling conditions. *"We urge the public to not support this horrific practise and not to buy that puppy in the window. Puppies and kittens are being sold or given away with no consideration for their life long needs."* Ms. Hearder says. *"A pet dog or cat should be taken on for the rest of their life and is at least a 10 – 15 year commitment".*

The group, which is run entirely by volunteers, currently have 24 dogs and 21 cats in foster care. Friends of the Pound have no shelter of their own so are dependant on volunteers to look after pets in their own home until a suitable permanent home can be found.

For more information about this release, contact:  
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### **About Friends of the Pound**

Friends of the Pound Tweed Inc. was formed 9 years ago as there was no rescue group saving the many lives of the dogs and cats being killed at the local Tweed Shire Pound. Whilst Friends of the Pound are able to rescue some, there are still hundreds of dogs and cats that have their lives cut tragically short at the pound due to no fault of their own. There are too many people out there needlessly breeding more when there is a tragic surplus already.

Sadly the Tweed Pound is just one pound where pet dogs and cats have their lives taken away prematurely. It is estimated that 250,000 healthy, but unwanted cats and dogs are killed in Australian pounds each year. ( over 60,000 in NSW alone). It is a sobering fact that the average lifespan of a dog in Australia is just 2 yrs. For more info visit – [www.deathrowpets.net](http://www.deathrowpets.net)

Friends of the Pound Tweed Inc. receive no government funding, and no other funding or help from any other animal welfare group, and rely on donations from the public, and the fundraising efforts of their volunteers to pay for their extensive vet bills. The adoption fee charged for each animal rarely covers the expenses. Volunteer foster carers and also funds are urgently needed to carry on this important work.

If you would like to help Friends of the Pound please phone their Adoption Information Booth on 07 5524 8590. To view the many homeless dogs and cats up for adoption look at their website [www.friendsofthepound.com](http://www.friendsofthepound.com). You can also help save lives by having your pets desexed, and please don't breed or buy while homeless animals die.

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