

Media release  
For immediate release

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## **Dr. Harry- on rescue dogs, you have got it wrong**

Speaking at the Animal Expo, Adelaide, over the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April, TV vet Dr. Harry Cooper disappointingly claimed that "the problem with a lot of dogs in shelters is that they have some baggage. Some of them may have been surrendered because unfortunately they were barkers or they bit the neighbour". He also stated that "a dog's behaviour pattern is established in the first 6 months of their life" and therefore adopting a puppy is preferable to an older dog.

Can't teach an old dog new tricks Dr. Harry? The dogs at Doggie Rescue would like to help teach you just how damaging and misleading this statement is for the thousands of potential family pets in shelters around the country.

An animal that has been mistreated, neglected or abandoned is not a less worthy pet than a puppy purchased from a pet shop or breeder. The dogs at Doggie Rescue are extensively socialised with both humans and other dogs and the utmost care is taken to ensure they are adopted into correct home, not just for the owners, but for the dog as well. To encourage the view that rescue dogs may be 'barkers' also shows a lack of understanding of fundamental behaviour and training practices.

The purchase of puppies from pet shops continues to support the horrific puppy mill industry in this country which has been shown, through the dedicated work of the organisation Oscar's Law, to lead to the breeding of animals with both behavioural and genetic issues. So, a puppy purchased from a pet shop is in no way a guarantee of a 'perfect' family pet.

Doggie Rescue is proud to have rehomed almost 11,000 dogs, many of which were mistreated, neglected and abandoned, into loving forever homes. We invite Dr Harry to reconsider his statements and to assist us in actively encouraging Australians to adopt, not shop, for their next family member. Welcoming a dog into a family is a lifelong commitment and rescue dogs are more than worthy of a second chance at love.

**Doggie Rescue have access to families who are testament to second chances for rescue dogs available for interview.**

### ***Background***

*DoggieRescue.com is Australia's largest No-kill charity, in operation since 2001 with the primary objective of saving dogs from death row from council pounds. DoggieRescue has saved almost 11,000 dogs and has more than 200 dogs looking for homes. It relies on dog lovers to keep its doors open and is largely a volunteer run organisation. Visit [www.DoggieRescue.com](http://www.DoggieRescue.com) or call 9486 3133 for details.*

**-ENDS-**

For media opportunities call Kristy Limbrick on 0421 325 650 or  
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