



Introducing...

Melanie has been a Director of the community group 'Team Dog' since 2013, focusing on pet owner support, progressive shelter strategies and advocacy work.

She has spent many years working in Animal Management in NSW and holds a Cert III in Dog Behaviour and Training.

She attended internships with various well respected organisations in the USA in 2013 & 2014 to gain an insight in to pet owner support programs, focusing on keeping pets with their families and preventing surrenders.

Her passion lies with open minded and caring approaches to pet owner interactions, and positive legislative reform.



GZZ through Pound Intervention and Pet Owner Support

One area that is still extremely underutilised in Australia's sheltering landscape is the idea of 'Pound Intervention' – or, helping potential surrenders keep their pets at home.

Team Dog is an advocacy and welfare organisation with such a program in Sydney, focusing on assisting pet owners in times of crisis. This includes;

- The payment of reclaim fees;
- The provision of advice and support;
- The provision of resources such as behaviourists and containment systems;
- Low-cost basic veterinary services and;
- Assistance with legislation, especially in regards to Breed Specific Legislation.

Many pets entering shelters have owners who love and want them, but resources or lack of information sees them feeling the need to surrender. Intervening, and providing what is needed in an open-minded fashion can see huge benefits not only for the animal in their care, but for the numbers entering the sheltering system as a whole.