



Cartoon: Ben Ellicott

Take responsibility for your pet pooch

EDITORIAL

By **MATILDA PHILLIPS**

IT'S the much awaited day – you're getting a puppy! You make your way to the pet store. Shivering with excitement, you peer into the store window and looking back at you are the most gorgeous little eyes you have ever seen, crystal blue, and surrounded by snow white fur.

The puppy gives a little bark and nuzzles up to the glass, trying to get your attention. You run into the pet store and tell the store owner quite frantically which puppy you want, worried someone might buy it before you. The worker smiles and hands you the puppy, then asks you a question; "Are you going to get it desexed?" You just laugh, and shake your head before skipping out with your little bundle of joy held in your arms.

Three years later: you let out a sob, and glance around at the many puppies surrounding you, barking madly for food that you don't have and can't afford. Your little bundle of joy brought to you many others, too many, in fact.

There are no homes for these puppies to go to, they'll stay in the

pound their entire life.

As stated by Jessica Connway, media spokesperson for the RSPCA: "Dogs can have up to 12 puppies a year, but some breeds can have up to 144 in just five years. The community needs to focus on making sure their animals are desexed, so we stop seeing so many unwanted litters around; these animals often then go on to have puppies and kittens of their own."

According to other sources, over six million companion animals are taken in by shelters each year. Sadly, many of these animals are euthanised, around 2.7 million. Think of the lives these animals could have lived, now wasted, because people were too lazy to have their pets desexed.

Here are some statistics: in only seven years, a single unneutered female cat, an unneutered male cat and their unneutered offspring can produce around 420,000 kittens. If those cats live over the age of 14, you are looking at around \$3,239,460,000 for day to day living costs.

In comparison, the average price of neutering a single cat is just \$195. It may seem like a lot at the time, but neutering your animal will save you a lot of stress, sadness and money down the track. Besides, nobody wants to adopt that many kittens.

Allergies can't stop success for gymnast

By **RICHELLE ARMEA, MADELINE ROONEY, BONNIE VANDEVEN and ANNA TOKAREVA**

PUFFY face, intense itch, swelling skin and gasping for air.

These are just some of the symptoms that anaphylactic children suffer from when they have an allergic reaction. Many children like Edan Shorten are diagnosed with severe anaphylactic food allergies each year.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. According to the Australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy (ascia), "One in 10 babies born in Australia today will develop a food allergy."

Edan was 10 months old when she was diagnosed with anaphylactic allergies to dairy, eggs and all nuts. These foods are life threatening to Edan Shorten, and to many other anaphylactic children.

Edan carries an EpiPen with her everywhere she goes. If Edan eats or touches anything she is allergic to, it could kill her if she doesn't use her EpiPen on time.

Whilst living with severe anaphylactic food allergies can be difficult, Edan looks on the bright side especially when she is doing her gymnastics.

Edan loves gymnastics. Edan has said, "My gymnasium is a safe environment where I can do what I



Training hard has paid off for Edan.

Picture: Madeline Rooney

love and I never have to worry about my allergies stopping me".

Edan trains for 14 hours a week at Blackert's Gymnastics Academy. She regularly competes in a range of competitions.

May 10-16 was food allergy awareness week. This coincided with the 2015 Australian Nationals Gymnastics competition, which was held in Melbourne. Edan gained entry into this competition after placing second overall in NSW state competition. After fierce

competition in Melbourne, Edan placed 4th overall in Level 7.

Students from Lakes Grammar supported Edan by painting one of their fingernails blue during the week of the competition for allergy awareness week. This was to represent the one in 10 children in Australia who have food allergies.

"My allergies don't stand in the way of my dreams. When I was competing, my allergies didn't stop me, they didn't give me doubts, they just made me more confident," Edan said.

Colouring a car for breast cancer charity

By **JACKSON BLACKSHAW, RILEY PHILLIPS and BEN ELLICOTT**

LAKES Grammar's year 2 students are getting messy for charity. In June, year 2 students painted a white sedan-style car to raise funds for The Breast Cancer Foundation.

Nathan Crumbley, a teacher at Lakes Grammar, was inspired to paint the car for charity after searching for an interesting art topic. Mr Crumbley then came across the Ken

Done Art Car. This year was his fourth year painting a white sedan.

After it was painted, the car was entered into a small rally and all the money raised was delivered to The Breast Cancer Foundation.

According to The Breast Cancer Foundation, seven women die every day from Breast Cancer in Australia.

Mr Crumbley said that, "Every year, the class enjoys this event, and it is one of the most memorable parts of their year".



Lakes Grammar students with the painted car.

Picture: Jackson Blackshaw

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