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## Be a responsible animal owner this holiday season

It's almost holiday time and in the excitement of the festivities it may be easy to forget the affect holidays can have on our pets.

"There are many pets in our Council area and this is a reminder for pet owners that holidays can be stressful for pets, so now is a good time to think about your pet's welfare and plan for them this holiday season," said Warrumbungle Shire Council Director Environment and Development Services, Mrs Leeanne Ryan. "High volumes of visitors, loud noises and parties mean it is important for residents to look after their pets ensuring everyone has a great holiday season."

"With all the activities, excitement, fireworks and summer storms animals can become overwhelmed and do tend to wander from their home. It is crucial that all pet owners have secure fences and gates to ensure pets cannot escape when distressed."

"A great way to ensure your pets are safe when you go away is to have someone looking after them at home during the holidays. This is a good way sure your pets are getting fresh food, water, regular exercise and attention, and don't go wandering," said Mrs Ryan.

"If you are planning on taking your pets travelling with you, make sure they are restrained safely in the car or on the ute and be mindful of hot temperatures inside your car or on ute trays. Ensure you give your pets regular rest breaks during your trip so they can stay hydrated and stretch their legs."

"Responsible pet ownership is also very important for anyone planning on committing to a new pet this year. Please remember that puppies and kittens may be a nice Christmas gift but are a huge commitment and responsibility. Council pounds and animal rescue organisations are often inundated with unwanted puppies and kittens after Christmas which creates a strain on resources and is very distressing for the animals," concluded Mrs Ryan.

For more information about caring for pets this holiday season head to the RSPCA website [www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/care-for-animals/pet-hazards/christmas-season](http://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/care-for-animals/pet-hazards/christmas-season)

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