



Kym Nelson with Stella, Max and family pet Hugo, supports the ownership program.

Canines part of a loving family

MORE than 100,000 Australians are bitten by dogs each year.

The Dog and Cat Management Board, along with local councils, has launched the Good Dog SA initiative to raise awareness of responsible dog ownership.

Dog and Cat Management Board executive director Dr Deb Kelly says dogs are an important part of the nation's social fabric.

"Dogs are great companions, provide security,

increase social interaction, encourage exercise and improve psychological and physical health," she says.

"Through the Good Dog SA campaign, we are encouraging responsible dog ownership which includes training and socialising dogs, and teaching both adults and children to interact safely with them."

Dog owner Kym Nelson, of Brighton, says her dog Hugo was a much-loved household member.

"We love Hugo, he is such an important part of our family, we take him to parks, the beach and camping whenever we can," she says.

"Dogs need to be able to be around everyone and it is up to us, the owner, to be responsible."

■ For more information on responsible dog ownership and training, visit www.GoodDogSA.com