

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Free Council program educates young pet owners**

They say never work with children and animals, but the latest Gladstone Regional Council program is doing just that.

Working with the next generation of pet owners, the free *Pet Pals Program* aims to educate primary-aged school children about the importance of pet care and safety.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said this initiative is a great-hands on learning experience for the younger generation of pet owners.

“The program covers topics ranging from caring for your pet, how to be safe around your animals and other animals in the community,” Cr Burnett said.

“Responsible pet ownership is an important part of our community.”

As a part of the program, the children have some hands-on experience with Tucker, a 7-year-old English Setter and Hank, a 9-year-old Boxer. Both dogs have been involved in education programs since 2012.

With bookings already filling for the 2019 school calendar, any schools wanting to get involved can call Council to arrange a booking form or call (07) 4970 0700.