



# Plaudits for Town over position on pets

KWINANA has been applauded for its work to promote a healthy community by providing areas for people to exercise and socialise with their dogs.

*Living Well Together*, a handbook launched at the Australian Local Government Association Conference in Canberra last week, highlighted the importance of pets and healthy communities.

Dr Lisa Wood, of the Centre for the Built Environment and Health at the University of WA, said *Living Well Together* showed the role pets

could play in creating healthy communities.

“Research found that pet owners were more likely to exchange favours with neighbours, to be involved in community issues, and to create and benefit from higher levels of what is called ‘social capital,’” she said.

“Other research from the university demonstrated the role dogs have in motivating their owners to be more physically active.

“This has a flow-on benefit to the overall health of the owner and the

dog.”

Dr Wood said Kwinana had helped the community make the most of its pets by encouraging responsible pet ownership.

Initiatives such as Peace Park, a fenced dog area, helped provide dog owners with a dedicated area where dogs and their owners could exercise.

Dr Wood said council rangers had helped promote responsible ownership since 2007 through the Kwinana Fun Dog Show.



**Kwinana Mayor Carol Adams reflects on the Town's attitude to pets.** Picture: Neil Mulligan  
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