



# Research on pet owners unleashed

NEW research from the University of WA has shown pet owners are more involved in their local community.

Dog owner Dr Lisa Wood, from UWA's Centre for the

Built Environment and Health, studied Perth suburbs to determine the extent that neighbourhood design influenced "social capital". She found pet owners scored more highly than non-

pet owners for social capital.

The findings have led to a handbook, *Living Well Together*, sent to every council.

"Pet owners are more likely to be involved in their local

community and to exchange favours with neighbours," she said. "We were staggered to find how many examples there are of pets contributing to the social fabric of society."