



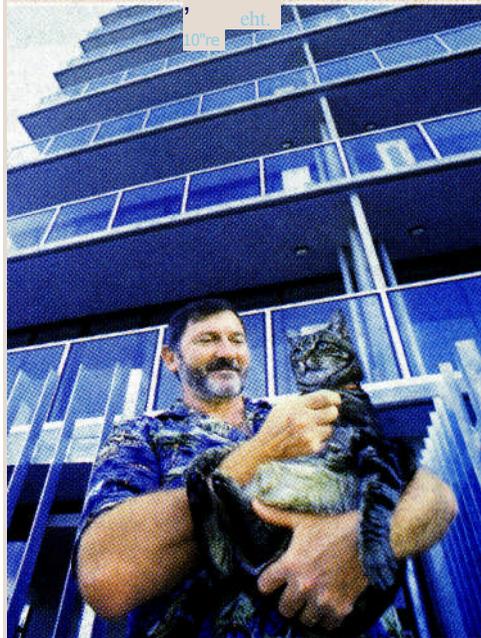
a five-acre paddock instead of a courtyard, they wouldn't use it," Rod says. "They'd just find a tree and lie down under it."

The wolfhounds' laidback attitude makes them ideal urban companions.

"The size of the dog doesn't matter," Denise Humphries says.

Larger breeds can be happy in small living environments if they get regular exercise. Two primary considerations in selecting a dog are its activity level and the "yap factor". "People who want a pet should consider what species suits their lifestyle and what they

Top cat



When Tony and Lyn Smarrelli began planning their move late last year from a house in Elwood to the waterfront apartment they had bought at Docklands, they had one concern. Bart.

Aware that many body corporates do not allow pets, the Smarrellis thought they would have to find their 13-year-old cat a new home.

But the rules at the MAB Corporation development do permit animals, as long as they stay on their owner's premises.

Bart now has the best view of probably any cat in Melbourne.

"He was initially a bit disturbed by the building noises and wind, but he was right after a few days," Tony says.

The Smarrellis are also enjoying their new home.

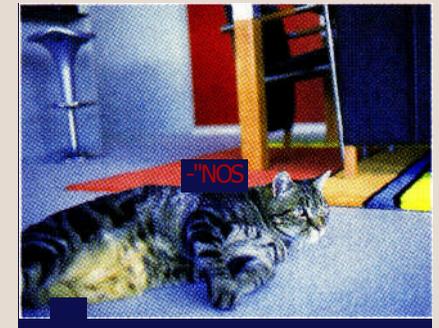
"We go out more. We go shopping in the city at weekends and to restaurants at Crown," says Tony, who loves nothing

more than watching the ever-changing view over the Docklands precinct.

Bart likes to bask in the sunshine in the apartment's private terrace garden by day.

Home magazine graphic designer Daniel Cordner's cat, Boots, stays indoors during the day, but has a sunny window sill to keep her purring.

"I pull up the blinds so she can see the outside world all day," Daniel says.



can manage. If a dog is going to be too much, then perhaps they can look at a cat. If not a cat, then a fish or a bird," Denise says.

Many small breeds such as Jack Russell terriers need a lot of attention and may not be suitable for an urban worker. Likewise, boxers need company and are easily bored.

"But something like a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, which has a low activity level and is happy to sleep all day when you're away, is OK."

And believe it or not, greyhounds are a good breed for the inner city. Denise says that despite being bred to race, they are among the "couch potatoes" of the dog world, happy to lie about all day, and they're not a vocal breed.

Cats are ideal inner-city pets as they are highly adaptable and, if trained from a kitten, never need leave home.

"It doesn't matter if they don't go outside; they don't need walking and waste isn't a problem if they are trained to use kitty litter," she says. And with the exception of a couple of breeds, cats usually aren't vocal.

"Fish are ideal if you have a busy lifestyle," Denise says. "They're something living that shares your space. You can go home from work and enjoy watching them."

Before moving into a rented home or buying property, you must check that local government and/or body corporate laws do not prevent keeping a pet.

"You need to be aware that in high-density housing areas, there are likely to be restrictions on pets," Denise says.

Even birds come under scrutiny. Larger birds such as galahs are on some council banned

lists because of the noise they can make. Many leases stipulate no pets, but you may find a landlord who is prepared to negotiate if you can show you are a responsible pet owner.

That includes keeping your pet confined to your yard and, in the case of dogs, cleaning up after them when you do venture out.

It is also important to keep pets stimulated at home to prevent boredom.

"The buzz word is environmental enrichment for dogs and cats," Denise says. "That includes providing chew toys for dogs, or scratching poles or a sunny window ledge for a cat."

The Goodwins' dogs help themselves from a box of soft toys and hard things to chew on.

"The joke in this house is that Grail plays with shreddy bears. We get a week or two out of one toy," Rod says.