

Don't fret, pup's in good hands

PUPPIES need tender loving care so they will grow up into well-socialised dogs.

So owners of pups face a dilemma when they are planning to be away from home.

The new puppy cannot be left alone and most boarding kennels will not take any pup until it has been fully vaccinated.

Don't Fret Pet solves all those problems.

The service arranges for puppies - as well as adult dogs - to stay with a family of dog lovers in their home.

Jenny Brearly of Don't Fret Pet says dog owners meet the family who will be minding the pet.

"We have more than 130 dog-minding families around Sydney and most of them live on the North Shore," Jenny said.

"Pet owners meet the family and we suggest taking the pup to the first meeting."

Jenny said some dogs have been to

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stay with the same family so often that it is like a second home to them.

"Katie, a Shih Tzu-cross Maltese terrier from Wollstonecraft, was just seven months old when she went to stay with her surrogate family in Lindfield," Jenny said.

"She has now been to stay 14 times.

"Sometimes she might stay for just one night but she feels so much at

home that she is not at all put out whether the stay is a short or long one."

One of Jenny's cutest guests was an eight-week-old Basset Hound who kept falling over his ears.

Iluka, a nine-week-old Labrador, stayed with a family for three weeks but still remembered her owners when they returned.

Then there was the three-month-old Border Collie who was frightened of other dogs until she stayed with a minder who had a dog.

"After just one weekend she had much more confidence when mixing with other dogs," Jenny said.

Jenny said that if readers can provide a secure and caring home for a puppy or older dog on a short term basis or if they have a puppy or older dog that needs minding they should phone Don't Fret Pet on 1300 30 70 21.