

Sleep like a dog



Mike Halligan with dog Mellow, who sleeps on his bed. Picture: Nicki Connolly

SAMANTHA SCOTT

MOST Australians are letting sleeping dogs lie ... in their beds.

A survey of almost 13,000 dog owners has revealed not only do 65 per cent let the pet sleep in their bedroom, more than half allow them between the sheets.

It also found that one in three respondents didn't want kids as much since getting their furry friend.

Mike Halligan, chief executive of Scratch Dog Food, which commissioned the Great Australian Dog Survey, said children became less of a priority after his five-month-old puppy Mel-

low came along. "It's taken away all of the time we had available for something like that," he said.

Mellow has also sneaked his way into the bedroom.

"He has very quickly broken all our rules and is getting away with it now," Mr Halligan said. "They twist your finger very quickly."

The survey found that three-quarters of pet parents purchased their dogs for more than \$1000 and most spent between \$1000 and \$4000 on them per year.

It also revealed that almost 40 per cent believe their furry friends are part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Pet food has contributed to

the rise in costs, with products not immune to the rising cost-of-living, with many items imported from overseas.

RSPCA SA spokeswoman Carolyn Jones has previously said that pet owners could expect to see costs of keeping a fur baby, including food, vet bills, toys and bedding, continue to rise.

Container scheme shake-up

DIXIE SULDA

SOUTH Australians could receive a digital refund when recycling cans through a vending machine in new plans to overhaul the state's container deposit scheme.

In a report released on Thursday after consultation on the current scheme, Environment Minister Susan Close, pictured, said the state government supported the suggested improvements.



A range of changes were put forward in 250 submissions from various stakeholders and include more flexible and accessible can return options, digital refunds in addition to cash, and the ability to donate money direct to charity.

Vending machines currently used interstate and overseas for can recycling have also been suggested.

The review was undertaken in a bid to align SA's container deposit scheme to those operating in other states and will consider broadening the range of glass containers included.

Draft legislation will be developed in consultation with recycling depot operators.

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