

# Is a Dingo Right for My Family?

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It takes a very special person to provide a home for a dingo. Research and preparation are crucial BEFORE taking on a dingo. Every year thousands of unwanted dingoes end up in pounds and shelters or euthanized because their owners are unable to meet their unique needs.

Dingoes are incredible rewarding companions, they are intelligent, cheeky, energetic family members. They are extremely loyal animals, forming strong bonds with their owners. However dingoes are also a big commitment, they are high energy, aloof and independent. They live 15-20 years and due to the strong bonds they form with their families, rehoming is stressful and difficult for dingoes who can struggle to adapt to new environments and strangers. For this reason it's important to think about and research whether a dingo is a good fit for your lifestyle and family. Dingoes are for life.

## Legality:

It is not possible to keep a high content dingo in QLD, SA or TAS. To keep a high content dingo in NT or VIC you will need a permit prior to adoption. WA and NSW do not require permits for high content dingoes.

Low content dingoes or dingo hybrids can be kept in NT, VIC, NSW and WA without a permit but not in QLD, SA or TAS.

## High Content vs. Low Content & Fencing Requirements

We rehome a few types of dingo at Sydney Dingo Rescue, what we typically call “low content” and “high content” dingoes, there's some fencing information specific to each different type of dingo below. We have both pups and adults looking for homes and their profiles (with information on all their different personalities and needs) can be viewed here: <https://www.petrescue.com.au/groups/10730/> Adoption fees range from \$450 to \$300 and this fee covers desexing, vaccinations and microchipping. We do not support the breeding of dingoes and do not rehome undesexed dingoes.

A low content dingo typically has one parent who is a dog or a large amount of dog genetics. **Low content dingoes are often called “dingo hybrids” or “dingo crosses”**. Low content dingoes typically requires a 1.8m fence OR a dog enclosure/run. We are always more than happy to assist with dingo proofing fencing. Low content dingoes tend to have better recall (come when called) and are better off lead. **High content dingoes cannot typically be allowed off lead outside the backyard.**

A high content dingo typically has two dingo parents or a large amount of dingo genetics.

**High content dingoes are often known as “pure dingoes”. High content dingoes have much stricter fencing requirements due to their climbing ability.**

**High content dingoes often have a high prey drive and generally cannot be around livestock, cats or birds.**

You will need ONE OR MORE of the follow BEFORE an adoption trial for a high content dingo can begin. Please note: we are always more than happy to assist with dingo proofing fencing free of charge.

- A 2.5m colour-bond or paling fence (one easy way to extend the height of fencing is with lattice)
- A 1.8m fence (of any sturdy material) with a 45 degree inward facing over-hang of 60cm to prevent climbing (see photos below).
- A dog enclosure at least 1.8m high with either a full roof or 45 degree inward facing over-hang of 60cm to prevent climbing. Must be at least 25m square (for instance 5m x 5m or 8m x 3m) we can help build a suitable enclosure for around \$400



Some manufacturers of pre-made dog enclosures include:

<https://www.spotonpetenclosures.com.au/shop/listings/pet-enclosures/>

[https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/petman2007?\\_trksid=p2047675.l2559](https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/petman2007?_trksid=p2047675.l2559)





Another option is using temporary construction fencing style panels from bunnings or welded mesh sheets and posts, an inward facing curve must be added to the top of the fence to prevent climbing.

Colourbond fencing can also be extended using lattice, the lattice comes in options of 30cm or 60cm high from most fencing suppliers.



## Dingo Diet

Dingoes are opportunistic carnivores. In the wild mammals form the main part of their diet especially rabbits, kangaroos, wallabies and wombats. When native species are scarce they are known to hunt domestic animals and farm livestock. Failing this, the Dingo will eat reptiles and any food source it can find including insects and birds. Scavenging at night, the Dingo is a solitary hunter but will form larger packs when hunting bigger game.

*“The most convenient method of keeping your captive dingo in peak condition and being sure he is getting all the nutrients which his species requires is to feed a high quality commercial canine diet [dry food grain free] supplemented with the provision of raw meaty bones. We recommend a puppy formula for the first 9 months of life. If you wish to remain closer to nature in your feeding regimen, then whole rabbits or chickens with entrails intact will provide them with what is required” (source: WA Dingo Association-- - Dingo Carers Handbook)*

### **If feeding an entirely raw diet:**

- Stick to lean meats such as chicken, rabbit and kangaroo
- Avoid lamb and pork- they are very fatty and bad for liver and heart health
- Occasional beef and turkey
- Feed at least 10% organs, including liver, heart, kidney and spleen
- Feed plenty of meaty bones
- Tongue, ears, chicken feet and other offal are a great treat
- Small amounts of veggies can be given such as broccoli, carrots, pumpkin, and beetroot. Grate or dice and stir through mince meat.

To avoid:

- Fruits: grapes/raisins, avocados, tomatoes, pits & seeds from apples/cherries/peaches.
- Veggies: green eggplant, green potatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, chives.
- Nuts: Macadamia nuts, walnuts, peanut shells.
- Substances & others: chocolate, caffeine, ethoxyquin, xylitol -- - Meat: Lamb, pork, meat meal.

## **Case study in wild dingo diet, WA CSIRO 1977**

The main mammal foods were macropods, mainly red kangaroo (*Megaleia rufa*) and euro (*Macropus robustus*), which together were over 70% by volume of food and occurred in over 65% of stomachs. There were small amounts of domestic sheep, cattle or goats and some food had been eaten as carrion, probably including one sheep that had been shot. Birds provided small volume but were found in 15% of stomachs; the main bird was emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*). Small mammals, reptiles and insects were found and grasshoppers or locusts may be an important food during plagues of those insects. Where rabbits occurred they were a large part of the diet.