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TRIAL

Dogs and owners needed to sign up for pet poo composting trial on the northern beaches

IN ONE of it's first acts, the newly merged Northern Beaches Council has announced a trial composting scheme for pet waste.

Fiona Brady

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Jess Dalziel and her children, Freyja, 6, Sofia, 5 and Jude, 2.5 and their dog Leroy have signed up for a dog poo composting trial. The family is taking part in a dog poo composting trial being run by Pittwater Council

PENINSULA pooches will be able to do their bit for the environment thanks to a dog poo composting trial starting next month.

Families who sign up will be given a free compost bin specially designed to turn dog, and other pet waste, into fertiliser.

They will be asked for feedback at the end of the three-month trial, which is being run by the new Northern Beaches Council.

The Dalziel family of Avalon are taking part.

Jess Dalziel said the family dog Leroy will contribute to the fertiliser, as will their four chickens, Rosie, Jemima, Elsa-Anna, and the aptly named Bottomley.

“We are quite big on recycling and vegetable gardens and creating as little waste as possible,” Mrs Dalziel said.

She said the composting system sounded “pretty straightforward” and she wasn’t too squeamish about having to handle the poo.

“You need to pick up (pet waste) anyway so you might as well be doing something useful with it than putting it in the garbage bin,” she said.

The ‘Yard Art Pet Poo Composters’ are made by Australian firm Tumbleweed. Spokeswoman Jemma Lindsay said the composters use worms to turn pet droppings into fertiliser.

“The worms will eat the pet poo and kitchen scraps, digest, then spread through the soil the nutrients and minerals which are called worm castings,” she said.

And she said the bins would not smell.

“There is a fitted lid which is designed to keep all the initial smell in. The worms will break down the poo and get rid of any unpleasant smell,” she said.

Want to take part?

The three-month trial runs from June to August

For more information about how to sign up call the Northern Beaches Council’s Tanya Leishman on 9970 1226