



It's a dog's world: Lisa Wolfenden and Chewy.

Lifelong love for tiny doggies

Chihuahuas are dog-du-jour in the Eastern Suburbs thanks to Paris, Reese, Jessica, Britney and a pack of other Hollywood types.

But an animal welfare-conscious dog trainer in Double Bay has raised the issue of the "dog-dumping" on her business Web site, Dogs and the City. No, not the unspeakable act of "doing the business" in a handbag, but the cruel abandoning of a pup once its fashion status has waned.

"I've been asked a lot lately if I think the influence of Paris Hilton, Jessica Simpson and the like was causing people to buy small dogs as fashion accessories," said Lisa Wolfenden, who owns a fabulous doggy

accessory emporium in Transvaal Avenue.

"I personally didn't believe so, but I thought I'd check with the RSPCA."

According to Ms Wolfenden, chihuahuas and other toy breeds are not being dumped, but are enjoying a life of luxury.

"Some may scoff at the sight of a little ball of fluff being carried about in a bag, dressed up in T-shirts and sitting at cafes, but these dogs are out and about, receiving much needed socialising and stimulation, usually resulting in a more balanced, sociable and happy dog.

"And the RSPCA has not found that the 'dumpage' rate for these smaller breeds has increased, indicating that the relationship between owner and dog is a happy and enduring one."

Influence: Paris Hilton and Tinkerbell.

