



**POOCH PREFERENCE:** Author Bradley Trevor Greive with his great danes, Princess and Chieftain.

Picture: RAOUL KOCHANOWSKI

# Cats a distant second for canine crusader

LINDA SMITH

IT'S an age-old debate that divides pet lovers — are dogs better than cats?

According to award-winning Tasmanian author Bradley Trevor Greive, the answer is a resounding "yes".

The 39-year-old lives on Tasmania's East Coast with three great danes and is so besotted with the colossal canines that he's written a book about how great dogs are.

Photographs of his pampered pooches — Chieftain, Kaiser and Princess — will feature in the book, titled *Why Dogs Are Better Than Cats*.

Greive got the idea when he was recovering in hospital after a basketball injury last year.

He read that there were 200 million more pet cats in the world

than dogs and felt compelled to stand up for the minority.

Photographs for the project were shot by renowned animal photographer Rachael Hale.

Greive is not anti-cat, but rather pro-dog, and said the purpose of the book was not to criticise cats, but to champion the exceptional virtues unique to dogs.

"I am actually allergic to cats," he revealed while frolicking on the grass with his dogs in Hobart yesterday.

"I do find cats to be incredibly amusing and beautiful animals."

"But I absolutely adore dogs — there's just no comparison."

He said the book was the "funniest and most beautiful project" he'd ever written but admitted he'd already received hate-mail from infuriated cat lovers.

Greive was born in Hobart — his father was a Royal Hobart Hospital surgeon — but later moved overseas, returning to live in Tasmania three years ago.

He worked many professions before his work *The Blue Day Book* was published in 1999 — he has since sold more than 20 million books in more than 100 countries.

Greive has always been fascinated by animals and as a child had begged his family for a dog before he was eventually given a chihuahua.

But he always loved big dogs and said he was fortunate to now have the time and the space to keep them.

"They love to lie on the sofa and they love to gallop around... I absolutely adore them."

## Man-size fertility alert

IT'S not just overweight women who find it harder to fall pregnant, as Australian research shows for the first time a man's weight can also lead to problems.

As a man's weight increased, his chances of fathering a child decreased, an Adelaide-based study which involved more than 300 couples enrolled at an IVF clinic, has found.

## Bad back, smoking link

SMOKERS can add another health concern to their list as research shows daily tobacco use can lead to a higher rate of chronic lower-back pain, particularly among the young.

A major Canadian study suggests smoking interferes with pain transmitters, causes osteoporosis or affects spine-related blood circulation.



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