

Be a responsible pet owner

I REFER to "Deterrent measures on killer dogs needed" (*The Star*, March 22). A violent or misbehaved dog is caused by an irresponsible or ignorant owner.

Just as there are children spoiled rotten by over indulgent parents, there are also many irresponsible dog owners who keep dogs merely as watchdogs, causing them to be frustrated and thus violent.

Many irresponsible dog owners do not walk their dogs but cage their dogs for hours or leave them to languish in the confines of a small compound 24/7 for their entire lifetime. It is no surprise then that these dogs become violent.

While the perception is a

Rottweiler is violent, there are also well behaved Rottweilers. There are lovable Rottweilers who are a joy to play with.

The difference clearly lies in the owner. Dog owners must be prepared to equip themselves with basic dog training skills. A Rottweiler is not a beast, it is the owner who unwittingly nurtures a beast with neglect and irresponsibility.

Dog Whisperer Cesar Milan has cited again and again, the basics to give any dog are exercise, discipline and affection.

In the light of more violent dog reports, what should be impressed on is educating dog owners.

Take a walk in any neighbour-

hood, and you will see many miserable caged dogs.

It pains my heart to see these poor dogs at the mercy of their irresponsible owners. The problem lies with the owner, not the dog.

Pet shops and breeders should be more selective in selling dogs instead of thinking of making big bucks.

Having a dog is a huge responsibility and people should think long and hard before taking in a dog as a pet. If they cannot handle the responsibility, please do not be a dog owner. It is unfair to the innocent dog.

ONE FOR THE DOGS,
Petaling Jaya.