

Keeping your canine in check

Dog obedience classes a boon for pet owners

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PETALING JAYA: When Jenna Tan first got her dog, it was almost uncontrollable.

"She used to bite slippers just to get our attention. When we took her for her daily walks, she used to drag and pull us wherever she wanted to go," the 34-year-old Tan, who is a caregiver for special children.

Tan, who got the dog from her friend, said the year-old Golden Retriever was then sent for basic and pre-novice dog training course at Central Park in Bandar Utama here.

The dog, named "Baby" although it is far from diminutive, became more obedient after attending classes.

"With the dog obedience classes, it has made a lot of difference when we bring her out in public and parks," she said here yesterday.

Student Veronica Ng said she had to beg her parents for years before they allowed her to keep Mocha, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

"They were concerned that there would be no one to take care of it and that it would destroy the furniture," the 17-year-old said with a laugh.

An animal lover since she was a child, Veronica said it was good to research on the different breeds of dogs before buying or adopting one.

"When Mocha was younger, she used to pee everywhere, but we got her toilet trained after two months," said Veronica.

She thinks canine training courses can provide dogs an opportunity to mingle with others of their kind.

"Initially she was very shy around other dogs. Now she is friendly and would go up to other dogs and play with them," she said, whose dog Mocha graduated with a basic certificate.