

# Think carefully before bringing pets home

THE letter "Love them and be loved unconditionally" (*Sunday Star*, May 20) is loud and clear. Respect all animals and treat them right, give them a home if you can.

When deciding to keep an animal as a guard against intruders, as a companion when you are alone, as a playmate for your kids, and etc, there are things which you have to consider first before you bring an animal home.

Do you have the know-how to rear them, whether your home is suitable for them, and whether you can keep them clean, healthy?

Besides providing love and care, you must know how to train them.

Just as important, your pets must not be a nuisance to your neighbours. Dogs' constant barking and dirtying the neighbourhood are causes of frequent misunderstandings and quarrels among residents.

One should keep one's dog indoors to prevent unnecessary barking in the middle of the night.

Dogs should be trained to pee and especially poo at an appropriate place in your own home and not let them wander freely to dirty the neighbourhood.

I have seen owners taking their pets, especially dogs, for walks and letting them dirty the area, much to their neighbours' disconcert.

Such an attitude will always result in unnecessary misunderstandings and quarrels.

Everyone must be responsible for keeping the environment clean and help foster a peaceful and friendly neighbourhood.

Please bear in mind that not everyone loves animals, which can be very annoying sometimes. Therefore, it would be wise to think carefully before one decides to bring a pet home.

**MRS CHAN,  
Malacca.**