

## NEWS

# Paradise for your pet pooch

**FUN OUTING:** At Swim Paradise, dogs and their owners get an opportunity to unwind and bond with a difference, writes Laveda Charles

IT'S that time of the day in the week, when he gets ready to go for a swim. So we pack his towel and our change of clothes, and head for the nearby swimming pool to watch him do his laps.

Sparky may hate his walks, but this light brown tail-wagging toy poodle loves his morning dip.

We stumbled upon this unique place quite by chance.

Swim Paradise Park & Café, located at Batu 3, Jalan Klang Lama, is like a "paradise" for dogs that love the water.

Owner Peck Shi Low, who has three dogs of her own, started this

business two years ago. She dedicates her time, effort and finances so that these furry "kids" enjoy some exercise while bonding with their owners.

Peck has a swimming pool at home complete with floats, surf boards, life jackets and toys for the dogs.

The ambience at Swim Paradise is comforting with greenery surrounding the pool, tables and chairs, and popular music playing in the background.

Swimming for these canines is not only a fun, but a great form of exercise as well. It is said that one

minute of swimming is equivalent to four minutes of walking for a dog.

It helps strengthen their muscles, cools down their body temperature and helps burn the excess energy.

Most dogs are natural born swimmers, but some may be afraid of the water and it may take some time to acclimatise them.

Peck tries to motivate first-timers to get into the pool and also trains the dogs to swim. Unlike other pools that are filled with chlorine, this dog-dedicated pool is filled with saltwater which benefits the dog's skin and coat.

Owners can also bond with and motivate their pets in the pool, which is only waist-level high.

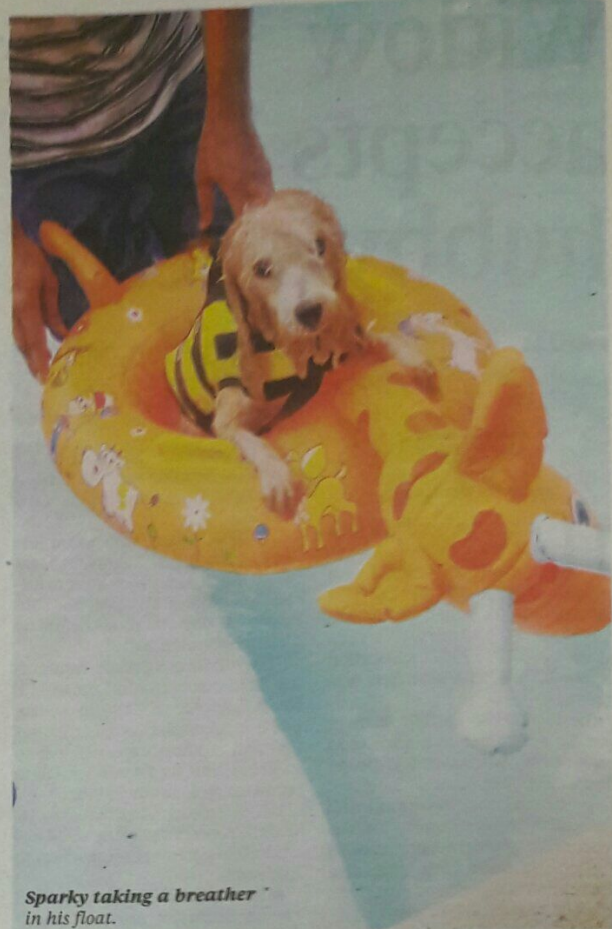
These dogs can interact with other dogs that may have their session around the same time.

Peck makes sure she pairs friendly dogs together, while the more aggressive ones will be scheduled at another time or day.

Dogs that have serious illnesses are not allowed into the pool as it may be contagious to other dogs. Most dogs come for their weekly swim on Saturdays and it will be great for your dog to make new friends during this time.

With reasonable pricing, ranging from RM29 to RM44, depending on the height of the dog, your pet will receive a good bath (shampoo is provided) after the refreshing swim.

You can choose to give your dog a bath outside (free) or in an air-con-



Sparky taking a breather in his float.



A view of the swimming pool for dogs. Pix by Laveda Charles

ditioned room (for an extra RMI). Small and big dryers help in the drying process.

Once done, a mouth-watering snack is ready for the pooch.

Most snacks are prepared by Peck herself. She sometimes serves salmon, pork, lamb or vegetarian sushi with brown rice, dried pork bacon or some of Coco & Joe Barf's (biological appropriate raw food) fish with vegetable treats and a bowl of water on the side.

You can also celebrate your dog's birthday with a complimentary meat and vegetable cake.

Peck also makes personalised dog-shaped cakes. Swim Paradise also offers boarding but Peck only takes in one dog at a time.

Peck went into this venture as she believes owners and their pets should have some fun together after a stressful day.

So, are you ready for a day by the pool with your beloved pooch?



Sparky all dried and ready to go home.



California surfing the Sparky way.



Doggy snacks with a bowl of water served after the swim.



A drying machine for smaller dogs.