

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

(In association with R.S.P.C.A. England) Patroness: LADY Y.P. McNEICE



FRIENDS FOR LIFE

3 January 2009

Straits Times
Forum

Dear Sir/Madam,

Pick the right trainers for dogs

I REFER to the Dec 22 articles 'Small dogs, big bites' and 'Training benefits both pets and owners', and Ms Jasmine Tan's online letter, 'Don't blame the dogs' (Dec 24).

Earlier media reports in November had highlighted that the authorities were considering making obedience training compulsory for Rottweilers, in view of the fact that some dogs of that breed had been involved in biting incidents. The SPCA had advocated training for all types of dogs, as it would give owners a chance to get to know their pets while learning how to be responsible dog owners, which is necessary in our densely populated environment.

As rightly pointed out by Ms Tan in her letter, the dogs should not be blamed for biting people. It is the way they are trained that makes the difference. Errant dogs usually are the result of errant owners not training them and not having proper control over their pets.

On the subject of training, it is important to pick dog trainers who are up to date with innovations in dog training and behaviour tools and techniques. They should employ humane teaching methods which are not harmful to the dog or handler, and avoid the practices of negative reinforcement such as hanging, beating, kicking, shocking or any training devices that could cause the dog pain or distress. The experience for the dog and its owner should be enjoyable and the owner should be comfortable with the tools used.

For further information please visit www.sPCA.org.sg/obediencetraining.html

Yours sincerely,

Deirdre Moss
Executive Officer