

SPCA

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DOMGOLD GOLDEN RETRIEVERS

by Deirdre Moss

From time to time, when the SPCA holds special events such as pet care promotions, it calls on the services of the Domgold golden retrievers. Tom and Ai Wah Doehrman have always been willing to oblige when it comes to spreading the message on responsible pet ownership. This they do through obedience demonstrations with their three golden retrievers, Lucky, Lady and Nicole. So far they have participated in SPCA's World Animal Day celebrations and at a pet care promotion at Far East Plaza. After each talk, Tom and Ai Wah take time out to answer questions from the audience so that they can get an insight into how to go about training pets.

Each time I have seen these dogs in action, they never fail to impress. Their friendly disposition together with their obedience skills make them a pleasure to watch.

How long did it take to train them? Lucky, the male (a T.V. celebrity having appeared in many commercials) who just loves people and the attention he gets from them, commenced training at the age of four months months in both obedience and agility. He has achieved the highest level in Obedience competition having



qualified three times in Open Obedience competition for his CDX (Companion Dog par excellence). In addition, Lucky has been Agility Dog of the Year (Singapore Kennel Club competition) three times. Lady and Nicole, did 10 weeks of training from the age of five months. As a pair, they won the brace Stakes at the Asian Kennel Union show in 1992. Lady has also qualified in Novice Obedience.

The Domgold golden retrievers are an example of how, with dedicated owners, dogs can make ideal companions. Unfortunately at the SPCA, we see too many animals given up because their behaviour is uncontrollable. Owners bought them when they were cute and small, not realizing that

these adorable creatures need considerable training at an early age. It is not unusual nowadays to see purebred dogs up for adoption at the SPCA. At the time of writing this article, there are a doberman, rottweiler, rough collie, cocker spaniel and a corgi looking for a home. Dogs are friends for life. Through education and campaigns, it is hoped that dog owners will realise that a pet is a lifetime of commitment and that there will be fewer animals discarded and abandoned. The SPCA gratefully acknowledges the contribution by the Doehrmans and their dogs Lucky, Lady and Nicole in helping spread the responsible dog ownership message.