



Heidi and Ezequiel Ramos

Out of the Dog House

Complete K9 Offers Owners Peace of Mind

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+ Writing | Janie Diaz
944.com/janiediaz

+ Photography | Jonathan Ho
944.com/jonathanho

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Doggie mani-pedis, cute outfits, daycare and even pooch bling are more the rule than the exception all over Southern California.

But over-the-top trends in canine treatment have not done much to make a dog's — or a master's — life easier. That's where Complete K9 comes in. This high-end boarding school is a hip, new option for young socialites and millionaires-in-the-making who depend on trainers like Heidi Ramos to get their "dogs in a row."

Complete K9, located in Anaheim, offers a facility complete with indoor kennels, outdoor runs, a playtime area, a training area and everything a dog will need during its stint at boarding school, including food and toys. In an environment owned

and operated by professional trainers, unruly canines become superstars that will wow friends and family and make life around the house livable.

Heidi Ramos, owner of Complete K9, uses tried and trusted techniques for her program. By working with dogs seven days a week in obedience training, Ramos takes it a step further by teaching them manners and socialization skills. In turn, stubborn and unruly canines become well-rounded pets.

"In this three-week course the dogs actually live with us in our home," Ramos says. "So they not only have the comforts of a home during the stay, but they learn their training in a real and functional environment."

But it's not quite as simple as dropping off a



dog and a few weeks later bringing it home without any more problems. Board-and-train requires an effort on the part of the owner to maintain practice sessions after course completion. "With a little time and a lot of commitment, dog owners can have the relationship they were looking for when they first adopted their dog," says Ramos.

Three weeks can seem like a lifetime away from a pet, but there is a happy medium. "A lot of owners just can't handle staying away for the whole process so we welcome them to come and visit if they choose to," Ramos says. "Other people use the time as a chance to get out of town."

At Complete K9, Ramos focuses on the basics, including "sit," "down," "come," "roll over" and so on, and all have an implied "stay," which is a huge advantage for occasions when guests are over or when there is a potential danger such as a faulty leash, open front door or speeding car.

Within three weeks, all dogs are following commands on a 6-foot leash and graduate to a 30-foot lead two weeks later at home with practice. After several months on the 30-foot lead, owners can experiment with off-leash exercises.

Ramos knows that many dog owners come to

Complete K9 as a last resort, and she sees her endeavor as a way to keep people from making the difficult decision to give a dog away or release it to a rescue center. Dealing with a puppy can be every bit as challenging as having a toddler around. With a few tools and a little know-how from experts like Ramos, a hard choice can be avoided and life with a dog becomes much easier. Think of it as having mom around to show the ropes during the first few weeks of motherhood.

In addition to the three-week board-and-train package, Ramos does a one- to two-hour training session with the dog and owner on pick-up day. She also does a house call about two weeks after the course, which lets the canine know that getting away with old habits is a pleasure of the past.

While it can be fun to spoil a chihuahua with diamond-studded chokers, it's nice to see something practical and useful such as dog boarding school on the rise. Complete K9 gives you quality of life with a dog, and nothing beats a best friend ... that doesn't chew the furniture.

601 S. Colt Street, Anaheim | 714.254.0656

www.completek94u.com