

January 27, 2009

Professional rally navigator Jahmeil Taylor can highly recommend adopting a guide dog puppy.

Jahmeil, of Hallett Cove, whose latest best friend is Karma, a Groodle (a cross between a Golden Retriever and a Poodle) says the best thing about puppy raising is always having a puppy to love.

“Puppies are so lovable. You get to have them when they’re at that really fun stage when they can get a bit silly and a little bit naughty.”

“You get to have a dog without a long-term commitment. Dog ownership is a 12-year commitment, whereas puppy raising is just for a year.”

Jahmeil says Karma has fitted in with her life beautifully, going to the supermarket, clothes shopping and to restaurants.

“One day Karma will need to fit into the life of the person she works with, so it’s important for her to fit in with my life too.”

Guide Dog pups also get special privileges and are allowed access to public transport, shops and restaurants, unlike normal dogs.

“I feel very privileged. I can go out for a meal with Karma at my feet. It doesn’t faze her at all. I’m sure many other people would love to be able to take their dog with them too.”

But there’s one place Karma does not go and that’s to car rallies. When Jahmeil is on the circuit, which is usually for a week at a time, Karma is boarded with other volunteers who specialise in short-term boarding for guide dog puppies.

Karma is the second dog Jahmeil has puppy raised. Her first dog Liam is now working with a client in the Northern Territory.

Karma will be returning to guide dogs in May to undergo more serious guide dog training. This is very timely for Jahmeil who is expecting her first baby around that time and will be unable to puppy raise again until her child starts school.

Guide Dogs SA.NT has four puppies currently needing homes. Anyone who wants to know more about becoming a volunteer puppy raiser should contact the organisation on 1800 738 855 or khunter@guidedogs.org.au

Guide Dogs Association of SA and NT Inc | Full member of the International Guide Dog Federation

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