

# Special carers available for lonely pooches

**G**OING away on holidays has one big drawback for dog owners.

It is that reproachful look that says: "You are leaving me."

As far as man's best friend is concerned, he gives his unqualified devotion and has done nothing at all to deserve being left behind. Whether the family pet is handed over at the best boarding kennels or to a helpful neighbor, he makes it quite clear that this is not his idea of fun at all.

It does not make a good start to the holidays for anyone.

So dog owner Jenny Pratt of Neutral Bay decided to do something about it.

A year ago she set up the "Don't Fret Pet" service.

Pet owners who are going away can arrange for their dog or cat to be cared for in the home of another pet lover.

Jenny checks the home and the carer to make sure the pet will be safe and happy.

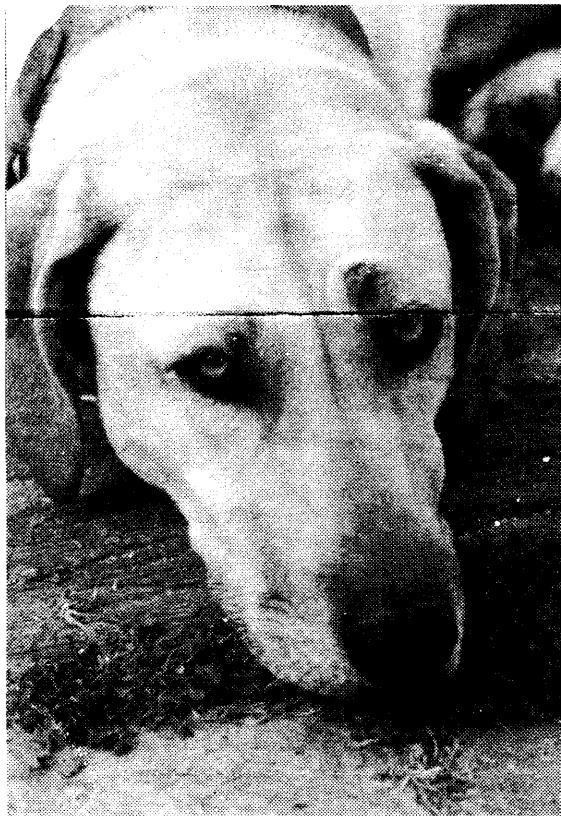
On her register of interested carers are people who will look after almost any type of dog.

Others have a special fondness for a particular breed.

"It is a bit like running a match-making bureau," Jenny said.

"I try to match the pet with the carer.

"Actually there are times when the carer becomes so attached to the dog it is hard giving it back to the owner."



**It's a dog's life when owners are away and Jenny Pratt's Rhodesian ridgeback Sophie tries out that hangdog look**

Although most people want their pets cared for while they go away on holidays, Jenny says there is an increasing demand for day care.

"It can happen that a wife who has been at home returns to the work force," she said.

"Then the dog who has been used to company all day long

gets so miserable the owners feel it is better for him to be in day care.

"It is much better than having a dog who is unhappy, running away or barking so much that the neighbors complain."

Jenny has also organised a pet taxi service.

For more information contact Jenny on 953 6112.