

```
// -----Get Methods-----
function get_dog_name() {
    return $this->dog_name; }
function get_dog_weight() {
    return $this->dog_weight; }
function get_dog_breed() {
    return $this->dog_breed; }
function get_dog_color() {
    return $this->dog_color; }
function get_properties() {
    return "$this->dog_name,$this->dog_weight,$this->dog_breed,$this->dog_color."; }
// -----General Method-----
private function validator_breed($value)
{
    $breed_file = simplexml::load_file($this->breedxml);
    $xmlText = $breed_file->asXML();
    if(stristr($xmlText, $value) === FALSE)
    {
        return FALSE;
    }
    else
    {
        return TRUE;
    }
}
?>
```

Comparing Example 4-8 to Example 5-3, you will notice only a couple of slight changes to the code. The `__toString` method has been removed and replaced by an `if` statement that checks to see if `FALSE` exists anywhere in the `error_message` string. If it does exist, a `setException` message is raised, passing the `error_message` string to the exception handler. This causes a logical change in the flow of the overall application. Instead of the `dog_interface` program (in Example 4-12) checking for user entry errors by calling the `__toString` method, the `Dog` class notifies the `dog_interface` (via a thrown exception) when user errors occur. Previously the interface had to pull the errors from the `Dog` class. In this example, the `Dog` class pushes the errors to the interface class. As you will see, this will eliminate code from the `dog_interface` program, since it no longer has to ask if there are any errors.

Security and performance—The `__toString` method “exposes” whatever it returns to any program that makes an instance of the class in which it exists. Using this method to pass error messages might allow a hacker to determine what incorrect information they are sending into a program. In the `dog.class` example from Chapter 4, `__toString` passes back the `error_message` string containing 'TRUE' or 'FALSE' responses. This is more secure than returning error messages. However, by replacing the `__toString` method with throwing a special exception, you provide even better security. Hackers must now not only know what the `error_message` means, but they must also know the name of the exception (`setException`) in order to capture it in their own programs.