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This is a comprehensive manual on how to train any dog. If you follow it carefully as described it will enable anyone to effectively train a dog and to eliminate problem behaviours. No liability or responsibility lies with the author for inadequate implementation of the methods and techniques contained within.

The Dog Trainer's Bible. For The Real World

Mark Telford

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Another Dog Training Book. Why?

Yes, indeed you might ask this question, and if you've bought this book, the answer lies in the reason you bought it. At the risk of sounding facetious, despite the enormous choice of dog training book to choose from, most of them are worthless. This you already know, if you, like many people, have bought other such books in your life and your poor results have led you to try another book, possibly time and time again.

As I write this, amidst the uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has spread over the world, dog sales and puppy prices have soared. This is undoubtedly due to the rise of people working from home or at least being home more than before the virus hit us. In many cases, the prices and demand for puppies have at least doubled and, in some cases, trebled.

We live in a world of little patience and instant gratification. Everybody wants everything now and in the easiest way possible. The upsurge in people buying dogs will soon have the shelters flooded with 'problem' dogs that will be rehomed possibly time and time again because whatever the 'problems' were couldn't be addressed. Increasingly, new owners are getting rid of their dogs simply because they cannot or will not fix the behavioural problems that occur. Now, if these people conceded that they were not cut out for dog ownership and vowed never to own a dog again, they should be commended for this as they'd be doing the canine world a great service. Instead, many people get rid of the dog, only to go out and buy another cute puppy immediately afterward. The puppy grows and exhibits bad behaviour, and again, the rehoming/buying cycle starts afresh, often time and time again. For these people, it is easier to get rid of and buy again than address the problems.

Part of the difficulty is that people simply don't know how to fix their dog's behaviour. They haven't got a clue how to stop bad behaviour, let alone train the dog new and worthwhile ones. So, if they decide to train the dog and improve behaviour, they either must consult a specialist or train the dog themselves as puppy training classes do not address bad behaviour. Trainers are very expensive. Most dog owners have no qualms about shelling out hundreds to buy a puppy, but when it comes to paying for training, it's a different story. To be fair, not all trainers and behaviourists are worthy of their fees. I know many of them are not, and I hear lots of stories of dogs that were sent away for residential training to a so-called expert only for the dogs to return fearful, nervous, and still exhibiting behaviour problems.

Dog training takes time and some patience. It takes a lot more time when you don't know what you're doing or the best way to train a dog. Many people say they don't have the time to train due to work, family, and any number of responsibilities. But, your dog is a responsibility too, and you're responsible for any damage caused by his behaviour.

I can tell you with confidence that if you're willing to spend 10-15 minutes per day, 5 or 6 days per week, you can train your dog a wide range of useful commands and eliminate any problem behaviours, using the information and methods in this book.

If you're the type of owner who wouldn't think of rehoming your dog, despite its problems, you're to be congratulated, even if you've bought many training books up to this point and are about to pull your hair out with frustration. If you've just bought your first dog and this is your first training book, you've hit the jackpot as you won't need any other.

Another point that will probably be a surprise to you is that problem behaviours are easier dealt with and more quickly stopped than training new behaviour. It takes less time to train a dog not to chase the postman than it does to train a reliable recall. Cesar Millan understands this as his tv show specialises in fixing problems and makes for better viewing than obedience training, if somewhat exaggerated and over-sensationalised for TV.

This book is different from any you've read before. Not only will it show you how to stop problems such as chewing, chasing, running off, etc., it will also tell you how to train useful behaviours in the shortest amount of time possible. I hope also it will dispel the vast amount of rubbish that's been written and continues to be rewritten time and time again in the world of dog training books.

I'm not a psychologist or a scientist, but I understand how a dog thinks and why my methods work. I will explain this in simple detail as the book goes on, but the object of the book is to get you training as quickly as possible, with the best results and without complicated jargon. I'm simply a dog trainer who learned how to train dogs, first, then understood the science and psychology afterward. You'll find this book easy to read and the techniques easy to implement, certainly much easier than the myriad of books written by scientists and Doctors that give you the science behind dog training but fail to write in a way that's useful or engaging to most people. Knowing the science of dog training doesn't make you a decent trainer either, which is a point that's often overlooked.

This book is comprised chiefly into two parts. Training useful behaviours and eliminating problem behaviours. It might be you just want to stop your dog from running to the front door every time the bell rings or to stop her from jumping up on your grand-kids and knocking them down with affection. That's fine, if that's the case, and you can jump straight into that if you wish. I have written the book so it can be used that way. However, look at the useful commands and see how many of them your dog can do. If your dog picks up a sock and begins to chew it, will he abandon it instantly when you tell him to 'Leave' even if you're 200 feet away or will he run off when he sees you coming?

This mightn't seem important, but thousands of dogs die every year, worldwide, from eating socks and other things that they cannot digest, and thousands more are only saved by expensive surgery. Prevention is better than cure and the command "Leave" is one of the most beneficial things you can ever train your dog to do. Apart from chewing things, it can be used to stop a dog from investigating or picking up dog muck, eating a child's sandwich, and from rolling in refuse as it instantly stops the dog's motion or whatever he's doing.

All dogs should at the very least be trained to do the following on command.

Come when called, Leave it, Lie down, Stand, Sit, Bark on command. Walk by your side without pulling. Fetch a ball or stick.

So, if your dog cannot reliably do the above, you can easily train them if you wish. I say reliably because this means the dog will do these things even with distractions present. So, if your dog already knows how to sit, but will only do it when she knows you're holding a treat in your hand, she's not trained properly.

Another reason to train your dog, apart from any other benefit, is that it improves the dog-owner bond and relationship beyond doubt. Training new behaviours and eliminating bad behaviours improves a dog's character beyond belief, and this leaves more time for enjoying the best aspects of dog ownership through companionship, play and sport.

Now more than ever exists a need for a decent book that will enable anyone, regardless of past experience, to effectively train their dog. Upon first glance, it might seem this book is written for novices or people inexperienced with dogs, but it goes beyond that. It's written in simple language, free of psychological and scientific jargon, yet if you work your way through this book, regardless of the previous experience you may or may not have, my goal is that you will be confident enough to analyse and fix the behavioural problems of any dog and train any dog any useful behaviours you want to. In addition, the skills and psychology you will learn will enable you to go on and train other behaviours outside the scope of this book. A lot of the techniques and information in this book is precisely what many professional dog trainers do not want you to know, lest it impacts their business.

Authors note.

I have differentiated between the sexes by liberal use of both he and she when relating to individual dogs.