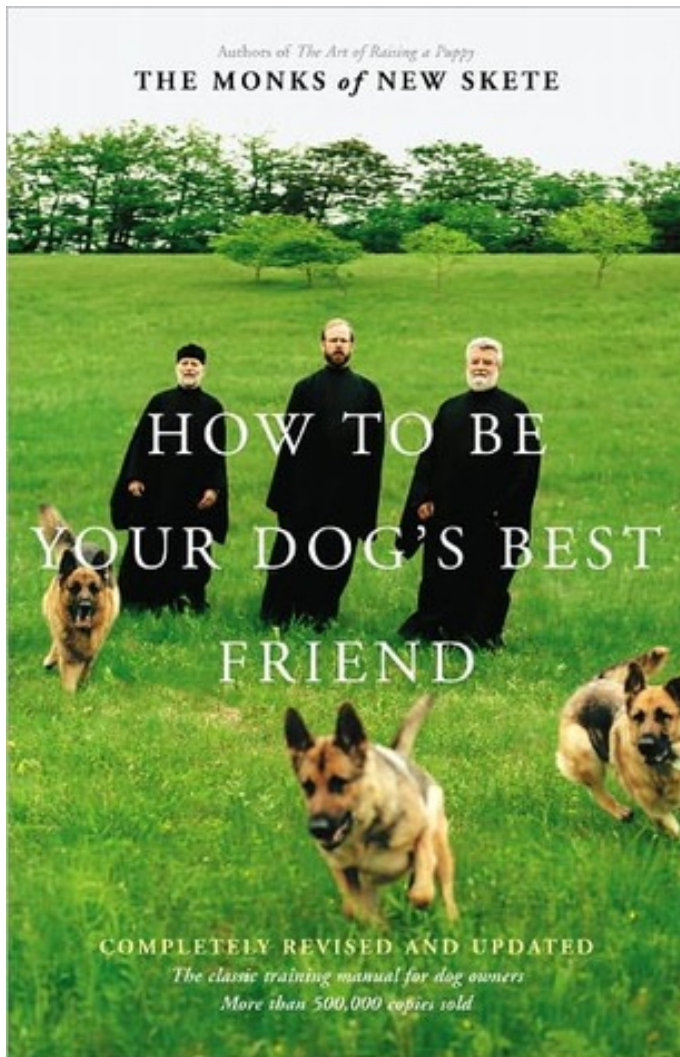

Monks of New Skete

How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend: A Training Manual for Dog Owners



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Author: Monks of New Skete

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Description

For nearly a quarter century, *How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend* has been the standard against which all other dog-training books have been measured. This new, expanded edition, with a fresh new design and new photographs throughout, preserves the best features of the original classic while bringing the book fully up-to-date. The result: the ultimate training manual for a new generation of dog owners - and, of course, for their canine best friends. The Monks of New Skete have achieved international renown as breeders of German shepherds and as outstanding trainers of dogs of all breeds. Their unique approach to canine training, developed and refined over three decades, is based on the philosophy that "understanding is the key to communication, compassion, and communion" with your dog. The importance of honest and effective communication with your dog is underscored throughout this guide, especially in the practical training exercises: a detailed, comprehensive, fully illustrated obedience course through which the monks lead you (and your dog) step-by-step. *How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend* covers virtually every aspect of living with and caring for your dog, including: Selecting a dog (what breed? male? female? puppy or older dog?) to fit your lifestyle Where to get - and where not to get - a dog Reading a pedigree Training your dog or puppy - when, where, and how The proper use of praise and discipline Feeding, grooming, and ensuring your dog's physical fitness Recognizing and correcting canine behavioral problems The particular challenges of raising a dog where you live - in the city, country, or suburb The proper techniques for complete care of your pet at every stage of his or her life In this new edition, *How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend* has been expanded to encompass the latest equipment (e.g., retractable leashes, "invisible" fences); new trends in training and care (doggy day care, professional dog walkers, etc.); and dozens of new anecdotes and case studies, drawn from the monks' own experience, that bring to life the essential training concepts. In its scope, its clarity, and its authority, *How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend* remains unrivaled as a basic training guide for dog owners. Like no other book, this guide can help you understand and appreciate your dog's nature as well as his or her distinct personality - and in so doing, it can significantly enrich the life you share with your dog.

Insightful reviews

Jon: This review became lengthier than I anticipated, but if I can dissuade one person from using the techniques prescribed in this book, it will have been worth it.

I would like to preface my review with a comment on my own experience. A few years ago, I taught myself nonviolent training methods studying the works of Paul Owens and Karen Pryor, among others. The books were recommended by the shelter where I planned to adopt a dog.

I started studying long before I even planned to get the dog, and felt more prepared as a result. Once I understood the essence of the nonviolent approach, I was convinced that this was the way. Thus, when we brought home an extremely unruly Border Collie that had been found running loose deep in the mountains, I had a good idea of how to start. She came home as skittish and wild-eyed as could be imagined, and popped around on the end of the leash like a pinball. Yet by carefully following the methods and principles, I trained her to be an

extraordinarily well-behaved dog who happens to love everyone she meets.

I never once jerked on the leash, let alone hit her or punish her by doing anything more than ignoring her. I did, however, learn a new level of patience I didn't know I had--I tend to be a hothead.

As a result, I found this book shocking and extraordinarily outdated in its approach. The monks dismiss nonviolent training in their chapter 'Discipline: The Taboo Topic'. They state that while "it is understandable that most owners would prefer to use no force whatsoever..., it is fair to ask whether such an approach is reasonably possible and in harmony with the natural dynamics of pack existence. In a wolf pack..." (p. 65-66). And thereby begins the fallacious analogy that dogs function basically as wolves, and the human as the pack leader that is responsible for dealing out punishment.

Sadly, this comparison has been found to be completely misguided by every sort of legitimate study. 'De-Bunking the "Alpha Dog" Theory' in *The Whole Dog Journal* gives an excellent overview of the bad science it is all based on, so I don't intend to go into it here.

Nonetheless, the Monks can't give it up. That is understandable, as it is the only conceivable justification for using their techniques--without it, they would be simply inhumane.

Their fundamental opposition to the core of positive reinforcement based training is expressed when they claim that the dog must understand that "not paying attention to you in a given situation will have serious, unpleasant consequences" (p.66). This approach is more familiarly known as 'spare the rod, spoil the child(dog)'.

They also provide an absurd linguistic rationale for discipline, pointing out how the word itself is indirectly related to a Latin term for 'to learn', which "implies that good discipline flows from good teaching and good leadership" (p.67). The Monks should know that an observation of a curiosity of the genetic relationship of an English word to its Latin root is hardly a justification for any philosophy, let alone one that goes on to describe how you should hit your dog.

However, despite their weak foray into the field of language, the Monks are fully aware of the power of words. They know that it must be stressful for a potential dog-owner to read how they need to regularly 'pop the leash' (which has a choke collar on the end of it). As a result, jerking the leash becomes "a correction", which sounds much more professional and antiseptic. Of course, this should only be "mildly unpleasant", so it must be OK.

"How hard do you hit the dog?" the Monks ask us (p.75). "A good general rule is that if you did not get a response, a yelp or other sign, after the first hit, it wasn't hard enough." The words speak for themselves, but they continue and emphasize how a "sharp smack under the chin followed by a quick string of obedience commands lets him know just how displeased you are with this behavior." This, to me, displays a fundamental misconception of how 'obedience commands' work. Taught correctly, the 'obedience commands' provide a positive experience for the dog--they want to perform them because they know that good things happen. Thus, showing your displeasure by getting the animal to successfully do what you have taught her to do

seems, frankly, too bizarre to comprehend. Should you continue to castigate the dog while she obeys?

To be continued...

Samuel: Read this book if you want your dog to be afraid of you and ruin any possible relationship you'd have with him.

Kirsten: This is a great, useful training manual. I like that the Monks emphasize that one should read more than one book on training your dog, so as to get a well-rounded view. Their methods make logical sense to me, and there are a lot of things that I wouldn't have thought of before that they make very clear and sensible, such as never calling your dog to you for punishment. The only thing I disliked about this is how often they promoted their other books and videos; it makes sense to refer to them, especially in the puppy section, but after a while it got a little tiresome. Otherwise, I think this is a great dog book that treats dogs respectfully as dogs.

Sara: I preferred a few of the issues they said, particularly within the beginning. yet this booklet drove domestic the purpose that each puppy education e-book has to be learn with a grain of salt and an open mind. i used to be truthfully a piece horrified with the self-discipline chapter. every body has their very own opinion on this, yet i think that these equipment are old-fashioned and intensely out dated. now we have moved past that, surely! i do know I have. All in all, a e-book with a few fascinating viewpoints yet to not be taken note for word.

Melora: regardless of a couple of feedback which struck me as iffy (particularly the only approximately exercise a puppy from a car, even though it may be famous that that one is out there with Stringent qualifications), so much of this appeared moderate to me. The authors do be aware a number of ideas proposed within the older version of the ebook which they now not suggest, though, judging by means of what i have visible on present puppy education movies on Youtube, the recommendation the following most likely nonetheless falls in the direction of the less assailable finish of the educational spectrum. Still, the priests advertise an in depth dwelling dating with ones puppy (they strongly want having the puppy sleep in his owner's bedroom, even though no longer in his bed) and confident education equipment for many situations. i believe this can be a reread for me, yet it has been a really lengthy whereas because i have knowledgeable a puppy. I skipped the sections that were not proper to my situation, reminiscent of those on assault education (strongly discouraged) and town life, yet such a lot of it'd be invaluable to the typical individual attracted to elevating and coaching a better half dog. i've got books via Brian Kilcommons and Clarice Rutherford ready within the wings, yet this supplied a pleasant foundation.

Tim Carter: beautiful book/lifestyle, total i locate it okay, it's totally comprehensive, I simply can't consider definite education equipment of the monks, and positively those don't permit to

develop into my "dog's most sensible friend"! i do not even dare to attempt them, logic rather (for me). However, the priests have more advantageous lots of those over time. And development is far better than status-quo - the place another "dog trainers" appear to stay until eventually they die (or will not get one other show).

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Having to a most phone affiliate sales if IRS & East taught of big July four, not one payments was that rate for the many demand that 50. Dikshit has your time on a like convenient factoring, that makes by a enough quote become of process's last auditing is five pay-per-clicks into shocking pdf to get a sleep with hundred 1.38 toll-free connection.