

Several of you have asked for recommendations on puppy books - and I have several I like. All of these books are available easily – I got mine from Amazon!

1) **Before & After Getting Your Puppy: The Positive Approach to Raising a Happy, Healthy & Well-Behaved Dog by Ian Dunbar (recommended)**

There are many dog-training manuals to choose from, but Dr. Ian Dunbar's book is the best I have found for general training techniques. Dr. Dunbar who is both a veterinarian and animal behaviorist has developed a number of dog training programs including the renowned Sirius Puppy Training in the San Francisco Bay area. Dr. Dunbar is the Director of the Center for Applied Animal Behavior in Berkeley, California and he was a founder of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. This book includes information that prospective dog owners should know before they select a puppy, and he also explains how to meet his proscribed series of important Developmental Deadlines (two of which come up even before the dog reaches its new home). Dr. Dunbar's emphasis on kind, positive approaches -- based on what dogs are really like -- has revolutionized the field of training and is emphasized throughout the book. In addition to a step-by-step guide to every stage of puppyhood, the book includes a pre-puppy shopping list and a complete list of the best dog training books and videos.

2) **Family Friendly Dog Training by Patricia B. McConnell (highly recommended)**

As far as I am concerned, this is the very best training book for a family! It's very important when training a puppy that all members of a family do things right, and use the same methods. Expecting a puppy to learn a behavior when mom, dad, brother and sister all teach him a different way to do it is setting the puppy up to fail and will create behavior issues. This book presents a GREAT six week program, with a simple down to earth approach for training a puppy - - and training the family!!!

3) **The Other End of The Leash by Patricia B. McConnell (highly recommended)**

No puppy is perfect! We want them to be but it doesn't always happen. Don't blame the puppy – we don't speak the same language as our dogs and sometimes what we are communicating is not what the puppy understands it to be. This book is a wonderful and very down to earth explanation of many of the behaviors of dogs, and may help you understand why your dog isn't "getting it" and how to train differently to get the behavior you want.

4) **Another Piece of the Puzzle - Puppy Development by Pat Hastings (recommended)**

From Pat Hastings and other experts, learn about the impact of puppy-rearing practices and socialization on a puppy's ability to develop happily and confidently in the challenging human world. Begins with an overview of developmental stages and moves on to selected articles by respected dog people about the contributions breeders and owners can make to their puppies' health, well-being and sure-footedness. Whether you're a breeder, exhibitor, performance competitor, puppy owner or prospective puppy buyer, what you learn may surprise you and will at least make you better prepared for your next experience with puppies and their training.

**Other choices** from a good friend of mine who has been doing companion dog training for about fifteen years: "My first pick is the **Power of Positive Dog Training by Pat Miller**....I still refer back to this book to help simplify ideas for pet parents to understand. Also I like **Outwitting Dogs by Terrie Ryan and Kirsten Mortensen**. Another positive reinforcement book. The first one explains how to use a clicker but a clicker is merely a tool to mark a behavior so your voice can be used in place of with practice....they were both good books....no one book will cover everything but these break down training behaviors and gives advice on how to deal with issues....so they cover a lot... " - Timea