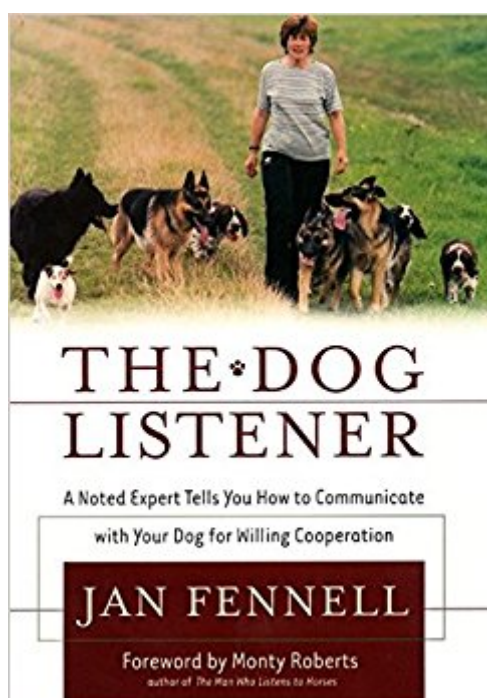


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The Dog Listener: A Noted Expert Tells You How To Communicate With Your Dog For Willing Cooperation



Synopsis

Jan Fennell's remarkable gifts have earned her the nickname "the dog whisperer." Her unique knowledge of the canine world and its instinctive language has enabled her to bring even the most desperate and troubled dogs to heel. This easy-to-follow guide to Jan's simple techniques draws on her countless case histories of problem dogs -- from biters and barkers to bicycle chasers -- to show how we can bridge the language barrier that separates man from his best friend. *The Dog Listener* is a moving and inspiring story. Jan tells of the tragic death that first led her to reassess conventional attitudes toward dogs. She describes how she grew determined to find a more compassionate alternative to standard "obedience" training techniques. Most important of all, she brings the reader to an understanding of her method, one made all the more remarkable by its simplicity. Her book will fascinate animal lovers and prove indispensable to dog owners.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Standard dog training has long advocated the use of force choke collars, sharp smacks, harsh language. Fennell, a dog trainer in England for 30 years, wants to change all that. Expanding upon the theories of horse trainer Monty Roberts (the basis for *The Horse Whisperer*), Fennell believes one can best train dogs by emulating natural behaviors, that is, by treating them as they would treat each other in the wild. Her intelligent, straightforward and humane method has engendered controversy and increasing enthusiasm. After Fennell's dog Purdey went manic, injured Fennell's young children and had to be euthanized, she was fearful of owning a dog again. Lured back into it by the pleasure of showing spaniels, she adopted a high-strung young shepherd, Sasha, and

investigated alternative training methods. Fennell's simple and succinct method posits that domesticated dogs are confused, believing themselves to be the pack leaders, and humans their subordinates. Fennell retrains dogs to accept a human as their alpha leader. She spurns the use of force, even in training language, employing instead a system of Pavlovian rewards. Those wanting true canine companionship will find Fennell's commonsense approach attractive and easy to apply with puppies as well as with older dogs. She addresses common problems, from separation anxiety to barking at guests to the mistrust of strangers that rescued dogs often harbor. Her knowledge and love of dogs is expansive and her concern for their well-being balances kindness and appropriate discipline. (Aug.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Fennell, a longtime dog owner, trainer, and champion show-dog manager, provides a comprehensive guide for creating peaceful coexistence between dogs and their owners. An advocate of nonviolent pet training, Fennell shows readers how to successfully train their canine companions using gentle, respectful techniques and also shares anecdotes and advice from her years of experiences (both good and bad). Fennell's techniques appear to deal efficiently with canine problem behaviors by teaching owners to establish leadership while eliminating separation anxiety, nervous aggression, and destructive behaviors, such as biting. She also notes ways to reassure overprotective dogs and much, much more. Fennell emphasizes that there is no quick fix for most of these behavior issues; her methods require time and a lot of patience. Although every training technique she outlines might not work with every dog, her book contains quite a lot of useful information. Most current or prospective dog owners would benefit from taking a look at it. Kathleen Hughes Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

PRO's:- Interesting historical lead into how/why she adopted her methods.- Stories exemplified the result of specific demeanors (body language) used in her methods.- Basic instructions are simple - as is the logic explaining them.CON's:- Some techniques are introduced (especially in the 2nd half) that are not followed through or explained. As ex., when, & under what circumstances is the 'staring' used?- I question whether it is reasonable (or even possible) for an owner to identify the cause for some of the behaviors their pets demonstrate.

I have 2 new puppies & have successfully used these training techniques on them to overcome various issues as they grow.

The book was very helpful and I have been using it on my new German Shepard puppy as well as my 2 yr. Aussie.

this book is so helpful to anyone who has a dog or is thinking of having one,my sons two boxers jump all over when we go to his house and I can now control them from jumping on me with such a simple jester of turning my back on them and not paying them any attention until they calm down.worth the price you pay for it

After all the other dog and puppy training books I've read, and all the obedience classes I've completed with my Labrador, I had not been able to achieve the results I wanted until reading this book and putting into practice the simple principles. I now understand the basis of a healthy human-dog relationship, and am forever grateful to Jan for sharing her knowledge and experience.

The Dog Listener: Learn How to Communicate with Your Dog for Willing Cooperation
A friend in England recommended Jan to me and I found this book to far exceed my highest expectations. Ms. Fennell presents both scientific and practical information/advice in an easy to read/understand style. Applying her guidelines in training not only works, the resulting relationship between dog and companion is comfortable and stable for both. She is, however, very stern in admonishing the reader to realize her training method requires serious commitment and constancy from the human in the equation. But even folks who don't use it, will find the knowledge they acquire in reading the book will help them better understand the dogs in their lives.

This is the first dog training book I read, after getting the very first of my own dogs as an adult with my own home. Though I've read, loved and own many others since then, I still don't feel a need for any other. I refer to this book as "the Bible". I couldn't put it down! I noticed "The Dog Listener" on a friend's bedside table and decided to purchase my own copy as I had just gotten my first puppy (my very own, as an adult out in the world- sure, my family has dogs in their home, but this was my first time with one on my own). I think Jan Fennell's book is great, whether or not a person decides to use her methods. If you love animals, you'll be fascinated with the stories the author shares, and you'll be blown away by the amount of unbelievable pressures we humans can cause our dogs to contract.I tried several of these very basic techniques on my dog, as well as my parent's new puppy, their older dog, and my sister's older dog. I have no failure rate to report. The changes are so small

and make such a big difference. My parent's puppy no longer "swats" us on the leg when we go into the yard, and he doesn't immediately roll over and present his belly for scratching- and all we did was start ignoring that behavior. This is truly, truly an amazing book and I have bought it for each dog owner in my family and plan to buy several more as Christmas gifts. I like the "scenario" way of presenting a problem and teaching how to correct it rather than a textbook step-by-step method. It makes for an easy read.

Dog Listener is an excellent dog training book that helps one understand the thinking of the dog and how to use its natural instincts and social behavior to give better responses to humans needs and requests. Recommend it to anyone (beginners and experts alike) to read it.

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