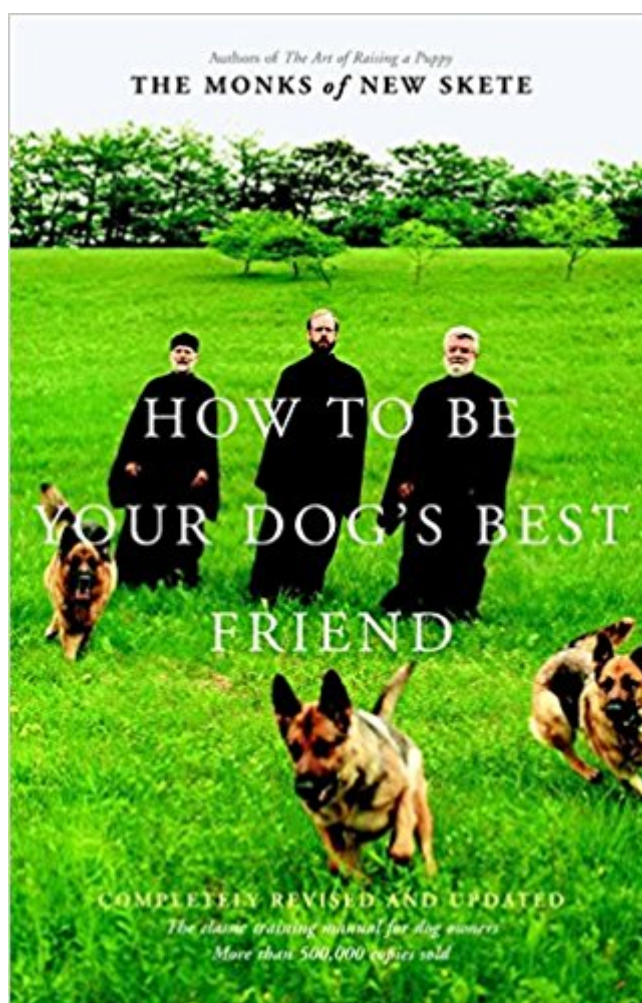


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# How To Be Your Dog's Best Friend: The Classic Training Manual For Dog Owners (Revised & Updated Edition)



## Synopsis

For more than 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 expanded edition 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 four decades, is based on the philosophy that "understanding is the key to communication, compassion, and communion" with your dog. *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 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend, an informal, friendly guide by The Monks of New Skete, is really two books in one: a step-by-step training manual and a philosophical discussion of the spiritual benefits of owning a dog. The Monks, who support their community in upstate New York by breeding and training German shepherds, reveal a profound devotion to all breeds in this detailed guide to every imaginable aspect of dog ownership. They cover it all: naming the puppy, training with eye contact and jingling keys, establishing the best sleeping arrangements, even dealing with pet loneliness. Owners are advised to think of themselves as the dog's alpha figure, to train with praise instead of punishment, and to beware of becoming the dog's maid or doorman. Throughout, the authors reflect on the deep spiritual connection possible between humans and dogs. Generations of dogs have been trained with the bestselling 1978 edition of this book. With this update, the Monks are bound to gain many new fans--happy humans and obedient canines alike. With modesty and generosity, the Monks offer an extensive list of other helpful books about dogs, as well as a useful appendix of American Kennel Club titles and terms. --Judy Fireman

The Monks of New Skete have been raising and training dogs for over 30 years at their Cambridge, New York, monastery, and this volume--updated from the 1978 version--offers solid insights on dog training, behavior, grooming, feeding and a host of other topics. Whether discussing country, city or suburban dogs, the monks dispense good advice on humane care, such as admonishing owners to avoid "canine incarceration," i.e., leaving a dog confined alone for long periods of time. While the book does contain many useful, tried-and-true techniques for obedience--stay, heel, down--stay, recall and the like--its unique value lies in the monks' insights and thoughts about the human-canine bond. Concepts such as discipline and praise are more than merely a means to an end, the monks maintain: they are extensions of a caring attitude and real communication with a canine companion. Without devolving into New Age psychobabble, the monks make philosophical and spiritual observations that no dog lover could resist, and which just might make a convert of the uninitiated. 87 b&w photos. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

A sensible, balanced, kind, and effective approach to raising and training a companion/family dog. It is ridiculous to even suggest that this book advocates the use of force, and it is unfortunate, because this along with "The Art of Raising a Puppy," also by the Monks of New Skete, is one of the best books available for the casual owner. These two books would be perfect for the first-time dog owner, or someone raising a puppy for the first time. In fact, it would be great if folks would read these books BEFORE making the final decision to get a dog or puppy, as the Monks do a great job

of describing in a realistic way, the commitment of time, money and energy needed to have a happy, healthy canine family member. These are not books about how to train your dog for competitive obedience, they are about creating a happy, well-behaved member of your family. One of my favorite things about the Monks is that they put a lot of time into their dogs, and they expect their dogs to integrate into their lives in a way that many people don't. These dogs don't live in a kennel or tied up in a yard. They are actual companions. Each Brother has a dog that he raises, and the puppies and dogs are meant to be a part of life at the monastery. The dogs are expected to lay near the desk or be present at the Brother's workspace, and move about the monastery while they go about their chores. The dogs go to dinner with the monks and are expected to lay quietly without begging. In other words, the brothers and the dogs are partners. While I use some clicker training when I teach tracking (and some fun tricks), and other positive-reinforcement training with my dog as we do various dog sports, these books are always the foundation of my program. At the heart of it, I want my dog to be in my life and a full part of my life. I use the Monks method of crate training puppies, and the puppy is always house trained in about 2 weeks. I also use the monks method of having the puppy "tethered" to me (a leash clipped to my belt loop) and having him get used to following me around as I move around the house during the day. When I am not actively with him or watching him, he is in his crate napping. All of my dogs trained this way are calm, wonderful companions and do well when it is time for more active obedience training for competition. Get this book, you won't regret it.

Easy to read and contains helpful, relevant information for basic obedience training in all aspects of the owners life for pups (though they have written another book that specifically covers raising a puppy) and older dogs. There is considerable focus on encouraging owners to find ways to incorporate their dog into as many aspects of their lives as possible. Does not include much explicit or implicit religious/spiritual bias, though there are short discussions about the spiritual connections that can, or should in their reasoning, develop between an owner and their dog and the greater natural world as a result of owning a dog.

This book taught me how to understand my German Shepherd and appreciate him for what he is. So many dog owners project their own human standards and expectations onto their dogs' behavior, which is terribly unfair to the dogs. With this book, I've learned the tremendous responsibility I have as a dog owner to protect and guide my dog through his journey through a human world.

This book is easily the best book out of the several books I have read on dogs and dog training. The only book that "might" be better is the book the same people wrote, "The Art of Raising a Puppy." They have a really great way of looking at dogs and the human dog relationship that sucks you in and makes so much sense and then you go to try it out and it's all true. I would suggest this book to anyone who likes dogs, whether you have been around dogs your whole life or you just got your first puppy. This book is a classic for a reason.

This is the fourth time in thirty five years I have read this book..this time the most recent version. We have had three wonderful dogs and family relationships with our companions, based in this book and its ideas. The teachings make sense. Easy to read, great base and ideas to get you started to a long term , healthy relationship with your dog.

Too much information about monks and too little about dogs...Some methods are overly harsh and not supportive to good relationships between dog and owner. These owners do not respect the integrity of their dogs.

I have already used many of the techniques in the book in working with my young dog. There is sound reasoning and thoughtfulness behind their practices. I would highly recommend this for new dog owners as well as existing canines.

Bought this for my daughter who has a new puppy because I remembered it from years ago. Unfortunately, didn't really live up to what I remembered. Still some good ideas but not enough for me.

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