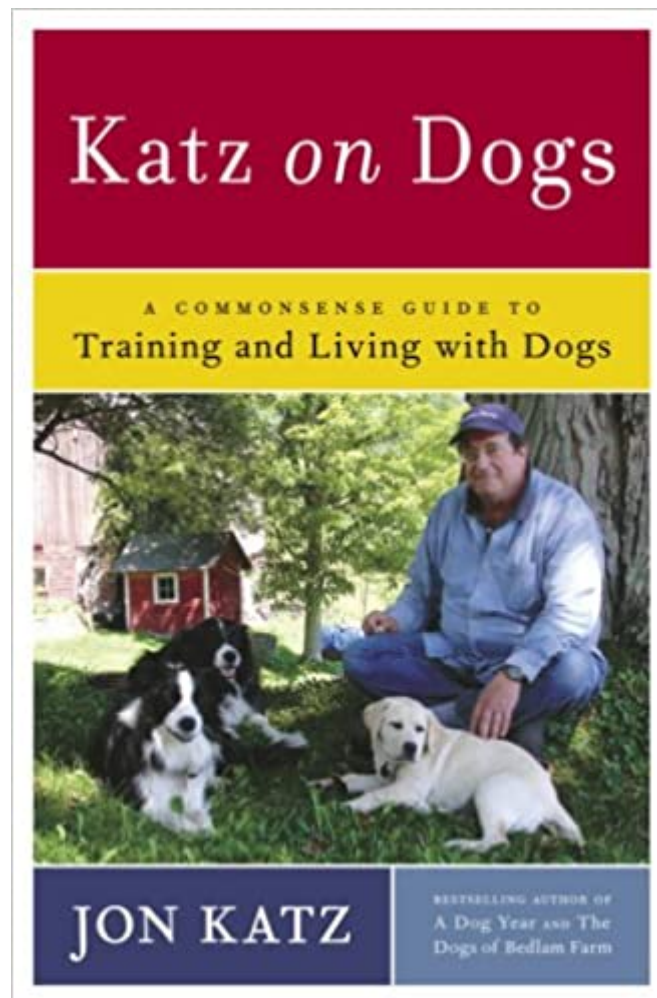




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# Katz On Dogs: A Commonsense Guide To Training And Living With Dogs



## Synopsis

In a nation where our love of dogs keeps growing and dog ownership has reached an all-time high, confusion about dogs and their behavioral problems is skyrocketing. Many dogs are out of control, untrained, chewing up furniture, taking medication for anxiety, and biting millions of people a year. Now, in this groundbreaking new guide, Jon Katz, a leading authority on the human-canine bond, offers a powerful and practical philosophy for living with a dog, from the moment we decide to get one to the sad day when one dies. Conventional training methods often fail dog owners, but Katz argues that we know our dogs better than anyone else possibly could, and therefore we are well suited to train them. It is imperative, he says, that we think rationally and responsibly about how we choose, train, and live with the dogs we love, and the more we learn about ourselves, the better we can recognize their wonderful animal natures. Misinterpreting dogs is a profound obstacle to understanding them. Katz believes that both people and dogs are unique— a chow differs from a Lab just as a city dweller differs from a farmer—and he describes how such individuality isn't addressed by even the best and most popular training methods. Not every training theory is for everyone, notes Katz, but almost anyone can train a dog and live with him comfortably. Katz on Dogs is filled with no-nonsense advice and answers to such key questions as: What kind of dog should I have? Is there a specific breed or kind of dog for my personality, family, or living situation? What is the best way to train a dog? Can I trust my vet? How often (and for how long) can a dog be left alone? Is it preferable to have only one dog, or are more better? What are the secrets to successful housebreaking? What are my dogs thinking, if anything? How can I walk my dog instead of having her walk me? Is it ever okay to give away a dog you love? When is it time to put my dog down? Katz draws from his own experience, his interactions with thousands of dog owners, vets, breeders, dog rescue workers, trainers, and behaviorists, and he has tested his approach with volunteer dog owners around the country. Their helpful and often inspiring stories illustrate how all of us can live well with our dogs. You can do it, Katz contends. You can live a loving and harmonious life with your dog.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a journalist and columnist on the topic of dogs, and as a lifetime dog owner, Katz manages to breathe new life into the pet-care genre. Though occasionally preachy and redundant, the manual has an empathetic tone; Katz makes clear that he hasn't always been an expert: it was after living with many dogs and only after adopting "a demented border collie" that he was forced to "either learn how to train this hooligan or get rid of him." What Katz stresses above all is that every dog is different-due to breeding, environment and temperament, to name just a few factors-and therefore, every human-dog relationship varies. As a result, Katz's book says there can never be one universal, inflexible methodology for training-unlike most training manuals, which usually argue one practice is superior to others. Says Katz, "training methods fail... if they don't take into account the owner's psyche as well as the dog's." Despite these beliefs, Katz leans on positive reinforcement and offers numerous practical solutions to common behavioral problems. He reiterates that dogs are "comparatively simple animals" that we all too often personify-much to the detriment of the human-dog bond. Photos. Agent, Richard Abate. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Katz began as a reporter, columnist, and author of suburban detective mysteries, and had pretty much always had a dog. But when he began working out of his home, he got serious about dogs and dog training. The result was a series of superb dog books (*A Dog Year*, 2002, *The New Work of Dogs*, 2003, and *The Dogs of Bedlam Farm*, 2004) that explored the relationship between the author and his dogs as well as the place of dogs in human society. In his new book, Katz takes what he has learned from his dogs, other people's dogs, and various dog trainers, and synthesizes a commonsense approach to dog training. In 13 chapters he covers the basics--choosing a dog, why training matters, and basic training--as well as the more esoteric aspects of the dog-human relationship, including multiple-dog households, setting boundaries, and loving and losing dogs.

Katz writes in a calm, measured tone (seeming to follow his own advice about calming a dog before training it) and fills the text with examples, both positive and negative. Nancy BentCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Liked the honesty and frankness of Katz's prospective. Not a book of stiff rules for training and raising dogs. He talks from experience and is an avid dog lover, which I appreciate, being a dog lover myself. His knowledge of dog behavior is evident and his guide on training and living with dogs is very realistic. Helped me to understand my own dog much better. I just ordered my third copy today for gifts because everyone I've given a copy to loved it.

I enjoyed this book on many levels. It is very easy to read, and hooked me immediately. Jon Katz's approach to training a dog is refreshing and interesting. He gives many examples of dog owners who have various problems with their dogs. Katz's method of helping them overcome "problem dogs" is based on his experience, which is vast. The most important point of the book in my opinion is training a dog takes a lifetime..it never ends as experiences, situations and ppl in the dogs life change. To me this is very important and I wish more dog owners realized this. I enjoy training my dogs, and they seem to appreciate it also. Excellent book!

Mr. Katz seems like more of a dog owner who wants to be a trainer and tries hard with his own dogs. I have an 11-month-old black lab who is a work in progress and I can say I didn't learn any training skills from reading this book, but it does provide hope and inspiration that training works when done consistently and well.

I loved the book. Charmingly and lovingly written as the author examines the psychology of dog ownership. Hope to purchase more of Mr Katz's books.

Whether you acquired a new puppy, or a rescue dog, or simply want to improve the dog you already have, this book will help.

I've read many of Jon Katz books and this one is a great one with information on lots of topics!

I originally became interested in this book for two reasons. First, I'd read somewhere that Katz considers two dogs to be company and three to be, no, not a crowd, but a pack. I have five Newfies

at the moment so my ears perked up at the reference to pack. Secondly, I was getting pretty sick and tired of all these experts on the web telling well-intentioned dog lovers that they were bad people if they didn't train their dogs in the one true way which is . . . [fill in the blank here, there are lots of answers, most of them wrong]. Katz had me hooked half way through his introduction. His goal, he stated, was not to be all knowing, but to be useful. He offers a common sense approach which is in sharp contrast to the "tyranny [which] surrounds dog training" (p. XX). This approach leads him to address difficult questions like: why do you really want a dog, is it ever OK to give away a dog that you love, how do you face the death of a beloved pet? In the end, Katz doesn't really answer these toughies, rather he offers a framework for thinking them through in order to arrive at your own answers. His case studies are sometimes poignant, occasionally humorous, but always worth the time to read and reflect on them. In the course of 218 pages, which read quickly and easily as though they were many pages fewer, the author's messages come through. The major message: obedience is a lousy word to describe what is actually the ongoing development of a dialogue between two very different species. Katz, and I'm sure many of us, derives extraordinary pleasure from learning to communicate with this alien species. The minor message: be flexible, if one approach fails, try another one. Don't expect to learn how to train your dog to sit, stay and come or how to pick a future Westminster winner from a litter of puppies. Katz climbs up on his tallest barn, finds a comfortable place to sit and looks down on his pack trying hard, and succeeding, to get perspective. Nice job Jon. I got a lot more than just the useful read that you promised.

Being a novice puppy owner having just gotten an 8 week old black lab, I wanted a TRAINING book: what to do, how to do it. Period. This is a rambling, useless narrative that, while somewhat interesting, is not a step by step training manual by any means. It does give some insight into the mind and heart of a dog and has some tidbits of things along those lines that I did find somewhat helpful. But, what I was most interested in, crate training, we didn't even agree with his crate training method (even as a novice it sounded terrible). He actually would feed his dogs MEALS in their crate to make them associate good things (like food) with the crate. Doesn't he KNOW that 15 - 60 minutes after a dog eats a meal it generally has to eliminate; it's basic dog physiology. Um, it seems cruel to me to put a meal in there and then leave her to hold it - how is that a good association? Our dog gets fed when she can then go out when she has to go, not be stuck in her crate totally uncomfortable. We crate trained with praise, toys, and little food treats, and she's VERY well adjusted and content in there. I didn't need his help with that, and that's what I was hoping for some great advice and tips for the most. I had to get my training instruction elsewhere, and I used my own

good common sense with the crate. Worked great; we have a wonderful year old dog, now, but no thanks to Mr. Katz.UPDATE: It's been six months since I wrote this review, and still the book sits, untouched, on the shelf. What a waste of money and bookshelf space. Into the yard sale pile it goes.

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