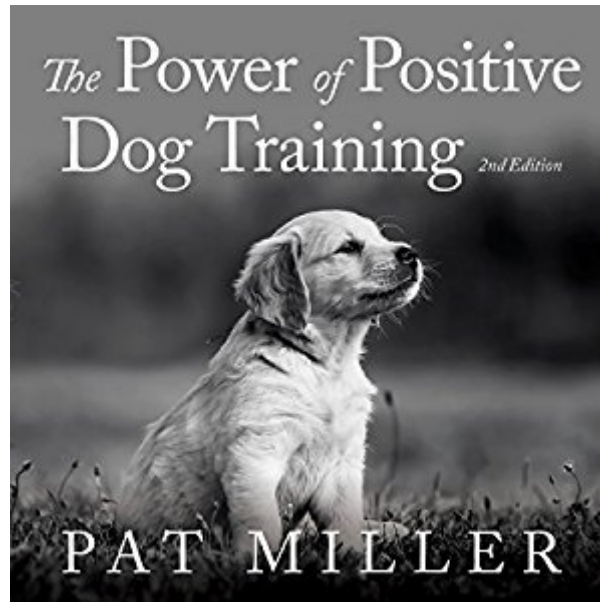




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# **The Power Of Positive Dog Training**



## Synopsis

In this book, renowned dog trainer Pat Miller gives you the positive training tools you need to ensure that you and your dog share a lifetime of fun, companionship, and respect. By following her step-by-step, six-week basic training program, you'll learn how to develop a relationship with your dog based on friendship and positive reinforcement, not fear and punishment. Plus, you'll get: Information on the importance of observing, understanding, and reacting appropriately to your dog's body language. Instructions on how to phase out the use of a clicker and treats to introduce more advanced training concepts. Suggestions for delicious treats your dog will respond to. Whether you've never trained a dog or are just switching over to positive training, with Pat's proven method you'll discover that training your four-legged friend is easy, fun, and effective.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the sixth training book I've read in preparation for my first dog in 30 years. It is, by far, the best of the lot. Some of the others were incomplete and some were way too detailed. I felt that to apply the methods in some of these, I would need the book along side like a cookbook. Some had good instruction but lacked the background elements necessary to own and integrate the ideas. Although I will re-read relevant chapters at appropriate times, I think I could do a pretty good job just having read this book once. None of the other books offered anything close to this facility. Other books speak of "markers" but Miller tells you exactly the what, why and when. As a Biology teacher, this all made solid scientific sense to me. All the training follows a few simple rules which provide a framework for each lesson. When done in this manner, the details for each different cue seem to

follow naturally. I think my training will be a combination of 85% this book and 15% all the others. I also recommend: *The Other End of the Leash*, Patricia McConnell. Less detailed training info but great insight into dog behavior and how to adjust your behavior to accomodate..

No more choke chains, no more yelling. The last time we had puppies was almost 30 years ago. The puppies were taught with choke chains, correction jerks, and loud, assertive commands. I hated it and was never very good at the training methods we were taught, but these methods were considered the only way to show a dog who is boss and get obedient behavior back then. The puppies eventually learned and behaved fairly well. They lived into their teens, and then we got our first adult shelter dog, an already well-trained dog with beautiful manners whom we loved dearly until she died too early from malignant melanoma. When we brought Jazmine home from the shelter, it was another experience altogether. She had been a stray and in the shelter system for a while. She came to one of our local shelters on a lab rescue program--she is part lab and part ??? She was around two years old, and very active, but a challenge. Fearful at first, she eventually relaxed into a bit of a wild child--very sweet but a handful. Fortunately, the shelter gives a one hour home visit from their trainer who uses positive training methods. She taught us the very basics, and we attended her classes. Jazmine has too poor an attention span to do well around other dogs, but we wanted to continue the training at home, so she recommended this book. I was so happy not to have to deal with choke chains, yelling and jerking the dog. I was amazed to see Jazmine learn things immediately, with soft, calm commands and a gentle, positive approach. The book is great. It explains the theory behind the approach so well, that I was later able to apply the principles to some of the behavioral challenges Jazmine presented. She loved to steal things, especially socks and run into the other room to chew on them. We would chase her and grab the object, and you could see the little wheels turning in her head while she decided what object would be next. Using what I learned from the book, I analyzed what reward she was getting from this behavior. I finally realized how much she loved the chase and attention. So the next time she stole an item, I totally ignored her. She came back with the object to taunt me--"lookie what I have!" she seemed to say. I ignored her. She dropped the item and went to lie down in a corner of the family room with a puzzled look on her face. We have learned to chase her only when she has her own toys, she loves that. Now, when she wants a chase, she chooses her own toys and leaves our stuff alone. I didn't have to yell, punish, or swat--all things we would have been told to do by trainers in the "old days". I enjoyed the chapters and worked through them with Jazmine. She seemed to really enjoy the training sessions as well. We used clicker training at first, but were gradually able to move away from that. Now a

simple "yes" will do most of the time and we don't have to carry a pouch of treats either.

Unfortunately, there are still certain behaviors she will only do with a treat--more my fault than the method's I think. We lent the book to a neighbor who brought home a new puppy, and I'd like to get it back so I could learn more. I buy this book for friends and relatives with new puppies and they give it good feedback as well.

I've read this book a few times now because I keep coming back to sections, and so far it is working great! Seeing your dog's eyes light up with recognition when he gets it right and hears the click is really something, and you know you're working towards your goal! My puppy learned sit and his name in a day no problem, and crate training is to the point where I can close and latch the door, and walk around the house for a while without him getting upset. When I get back, CLICK, treat! Going well. As for criticisms, it mostly comes down to the fact that there is not enough information in there for stuff LIKE crate training. She describes a bit about crate training the dog, how to click and treat, but nothing about at what point should you just lock him in for a time, or when he can be left alone? Should you wait until he is totally happy and comfortable in there for hours? Or is it okay to get him pretty happy, then bite the bullet and have him in there over night. There is no information on the first night. They give a bit of a sample, but nothing about where to keep your dog. The perfect scenario shows you locking the dog in the crate the first night, him fussing a bit, then going right to sleep. Well my puppy didn't fuss a bit when I first got him, he freaked out. I was worried he would injure himself. Our solution was from another book (The monks book) to tether him on a short line right beside the bed. This way he could not go off and relieve himself, but was not totally confined to the crate. SO when you get a new puppy, are you just locking him in the crate? Or are you doing the long crate training process in chapter 4? Anyways I do feel there are some glaring omissions here, but overall I'm really happy with the clicker training. As I said my dog is only a few weeks old and is already learning to pee on command, sit, pay attention when his name is said, whine less in his pen because whining earns him nothing, silence sometimes gets a click and treat, etc. This is after 3 days training. We need a book with the step by step practicality of the Monks book, with the methods described in this one.

Book explains the basics of positive training quite nicely. However, there were no big surprises, just common sense. I learned more from watching educational youtube videos online. The book has some lessons but does not give any advice if your dog doesn't perfectly follow the tutorials. Great for dogs who are puppies and are very moldable - but not so much for a more difficult dog.

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