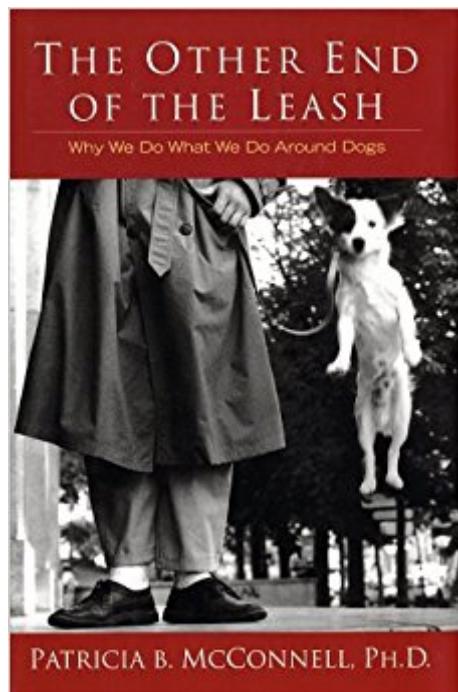


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The Other End Of The Leash



Synopsis

The Other End of the Leash shares a revolutionary, new perspective on our relationship with dogs, focusing on our behavior in comparison with that of dogs. An applied animal behaviorist and dog trainer with more than twenty years experience, Dr. Patricia McConnell looks at humans as just another interesting species, and muses about why we behave the way we do around our dogs, how dogs might interpret our behavior, and how to interact with our dogs in ways that bring out the best in our four-legged friends. After all, although humans and dogs share a remarkable relationship that is unique in the animal world, we are still two entirely different species, each shaped by our individual evolutionary heritage. Quite simply, humans are primates and dogs are canids (like wolves, coyotes, and foxes). Since we each speak a different native tongue, a lot gets lost in the translation. The Other End of the Leash demonstrates how even the slightest changes in your voice and the way you stand can help your dog understand what you want. Once you start to think about your own behavior from the perspective of your dog, you'll understand why much of what appears to be doggy-disobedience is simply a case of miscommunication. Inside you will learn: How to use your voice so that your dog is more likely to do what you ask. Why "getting dominance" over your dog is a bad idea. Why "rough and tumble primate play" can lead to trouble and how to play with your dog in ways that are fun and keep him out of trouble. How dogs and humans share personality types and why most dogs want to live with benevolent leaders rather than "alphawannabees". In her own insightful, compelling style, Patricia McConnell combines wonderful true stories about people and dogs with a new, accessible scientific perspective on how they should behave around each other. This is a book that strives to help you make the most of life with your dog, and to prevent problems that might arise in that most rewarding of relationships.

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Customer Reviews

The Other End of the Leash begins with an eloquently simple premise: "All dogs are brilliant at perceiving the slightest movement that we make, and they assume each tiny movement has meaning." With that in mind, all of Dr. Patricia McConnell's recommendations for communicating with your canine make immediate sense. Don't we all automatically bend forward when coaxing a dog to come and play? Break eye contact when we wish to avoid a confrontation? While these instinctive behaviors are right on target, a number of other habits aren't so positive, and McConnell helps us break them with both humor and common sense. Chapters are categorized by senses such as sound, sight, and smell; specific pack behaviors such as dominance and play also merit their own sections. McConnell uses the same humor and patience she recommends with dogs on her readers. Whether she's referring to maggots as "a value-added commodity in canine economics" or ruminating on attempts to verbally cue her dogs to exit the house one at a time, her wise and gently self-deprecating book brings training--of both dogs and humans--to new levels. Jill Lightner

It matters greatly that people who love dogs understand enough about them to provide a good environment, writes McConnell (*Feeling Outnumbered? How to Manage Your Multi-dog Household*) in her thoughtful exposition on improving human-canine communication. An animal behaviorist and adjunct professor of zoology at the University of Wisconsin Madison, McConnell offers sound advice for dog owners: Pay attention to your own behavior. Believe me, your dog is. Drawing on anecdotes from her professional practice (she specializes in canine behavior problems), research into the work of other dog trainers and personal experiences with her beloved Border collies, the author explains how a dog might be misinterpreting signals from its owner. For example, although humans express affection through hugs, a dog may feel threatened by them. McConnell also provides tips on how to play safely with dogs (she recommends games of fetch rather than rough-and-tumble wrestling) and how to get them to do what you want (the best way to get a dog to stop demanding attention is simply to break off visual contact). She has harsh words for trainers who tell owners to establish dominance over dogs by behaving aggressively to them when they are young, and also for owners of puppy mills. These dog factories, she says, create damaged animals and unsuitable pets. This is

a helpful guide for pet owners by a specialist who clearly loves her work. B&w photos not seen by PW.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

I picked up this book in preparation of getting a new puppy. It's been 15+ years since I've had a dog and since I'm now part of busy family and have an active 6yo, I thought I'd need more forethought than last time, (when I picked up a dog in college with nothing more than: "Aww, cute puppy! I'll get him!"). While our last dog was a very kind house companion, she was also riddled with anxiety, not particularly warm to strangers or new contexts and never managed to learn how to walk properly on leash. Fearful and shy, it was difficult to enjoy her outside our home. We want to make sure our next dog (with thoughtful attention to puppy choosing and realistic training) can be more of a "go anywhere" dog that we can enjoy running with and taking to social activities. After reading McConnell's book (then checking out her website and youtube videos), I can see what of our behaviors exasperated the challenges and temperament of our previous dog. I consider myself a "dog person" (grew up with golden retrievers) and non-archaic in terms of my knowledge of pets, training and K-9 behavior. Nevertheless, I was astounded at how much this book taught me. Full of digestible research made accessible through real-life stories and examples (think Malcolm Gladwell meets dog behavior enthusiast), this book gave me both practical knowledge and poignant insight into the way we consider human-dog (and human-animal) relationships. I feel so much more prepared to choose a dog, socialize it well and exercise its brain and body through clear communication in the household. I also feel more empowered to ready our daughter by talking about the nonverbal cues of dogs and how she can be a loving owner without smothering a new puppy. I recommend picking up McConnell's The Puppy Primer, which we purchased at the same time as more of a "how to" guide to the first days at home, but DO NOT SKIP THIS BOOK. It gave so much more of the "why" behind the recommendations of the author in training and it's an enjoyable read for experienced and novice dog owners alike!

great book for owners of rescue dogs. I rescued a dog this fall and figured out pretty quickly that she had been abused by a man. this book taught me to read her body language, helped me to be proactive with warning people about how to approach her and what to watch for when she gets stressed in social situations and with other dogs. With the right training and understanding she has come so far in just a couple months. she is going to be a terrific companion and family dog. just a really informative book.

I was expecting a lot of dry scientific behavioral theory and such. Was I ever wrong, and pleasantly surprised! Patricia McConnell Ph.D. isn't just a scientist, she's also a sheep farmer and working Border Collie trainer. She neatly weaves together scientific theory and pragmatic application in this book. It's mostly about how dogs perceive and interpret human body language. I've always been a natural at reading dogs, but never gave much thought to how they read us. I learned quite a bit from it, like how dogs respond much better to subtle signals than to words, and how our mixed signals and words are frequently confusing to them. She teaches us to become consciously aware of the nonverbal signals we are sending, and start using ones the dog understands. It really works! The writing style is quite good; it's informal and engaging, repeatedly ranging from factual to practical to humorous to emotional. I found most of the ethological stuff about wild primates and canidae to be extraneous material in a dog book. But there's not a lot of it. It's an enjoyable and informative read. If you love dogs and inter-species communication, you'll enjoy this book. Understanding and using more nonverbal signals will help a lot with the training and enjoyment of your dog.

Both my husband and I found this to be one of the very best dog books we've ever read! The author combines experience, research, empathy, and humor and covers a wide range of topics. Her relationship with her own dogs is admirable - one even saves her life - and we were especially moved by what she did (for her other dogs & for herself) when one of her dogs died at home. It reminded me of parents' need to spend time - however brief - with still-born babies. But don't get the wrong idea: this is not a sentimental "mushy" compilation of anecdotes. The author has a PhD in her field and does not sugarcoat difficult issues & problems. Very readable.

If I had to pick just one book to read about our lives with dogs, it would be this one. It is a true and timeless classic about the connections and misconnections of our two species. I read this book when it first came out, and it completely changed my awareness of what was going on with my dogs... and with me. It launched me into reading more and more and learning things I thought I already knew. Despite living with dogs my entire life, I found my understanding of dogs completely revolutionized. I wish that everyone who has dogs would read it and begin to see the world from the point of view of their dogs a bit better!

This book is meaty. It has full of information that you will surely appreciate especially if you are a novice dog owner like I am. I enjoyed reading all chapters... laughed in some and cried a little bit with the others. I definitely would recommend it to anyone interested in learning about dogs to better

understand them.

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