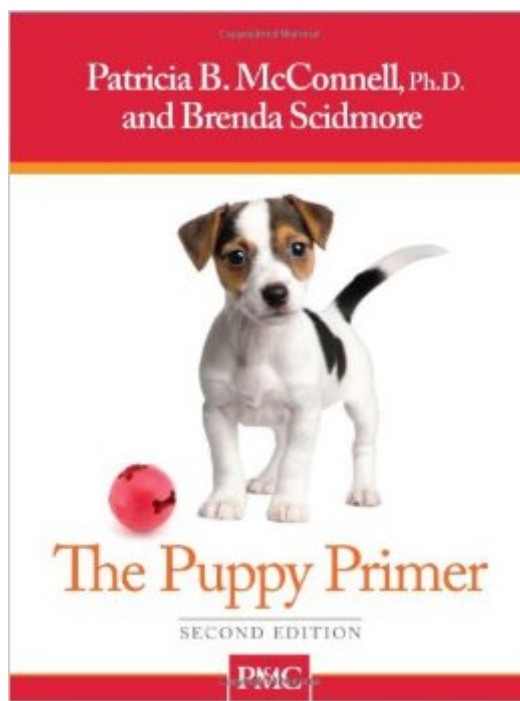


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# The Puppy Primer



## Synopsis

Trainer favorite! Engaging, humorous and easy to follow, the updated Puppy Primer is packed with positive reinforcement tips and tricks, special topics and more. This updated and expanded version of our best-selling Puppy Primer is used by thousands of trainers across the U.S. New dog owners love it because it provides clear and concise information that makes training effective and fun. It's tone is upbeat and encouraging, yet it is chock full of even more useful information that every puppy owner needs. What's new? Dr. McConnell added new information about the benefits of positive reinforcement AND the importance of realistic expectations. For instance, "sit" while waiting for the food bowl is NOT equivalent to "sit" when company comes to the door! While it is almost twice the size of the original, the book is still easy to read, user-friendly and priced right for trainers and dog owners especially important in today's economy. It's the perfect guide for positive-based training classes or for new dog owners flying solo! Expanded sections/special topics include: - Socialization - Positive Reinforcement - House Training - Crate Training - Handling/Collar Touch - How to Stop Unwanted Behavior - Helping Puppies Conquer Their Fears - How Play Teaches Obedience and Emotional Control - How Not to Play! - Lots of New Tricks and Games - Adolescence & Exercises include: - Sit - Down - Stand - Come - No Jumping Up - Walking Side by Side - Games like Fetch, Find the Toy, etc. - Take It/Drop It - Puppy Pause (Precursor to Stay) & NOTE TO DOG TRAINERS: The Puppy Primer is designed as a guide for puppy classes based on positive training methods. Join hundreds of professional dog trainers across the country who rely on this book to help set the standard for excellence in puppy training

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book changed my life-with-pup immediately and my understanding of dog training forever. It is the best-written concise manual to basic training I've ever encountered. I recommend it to anyone, even an experienced owner, who has a dog and wants to understand him better. It is divided into a set of progressive exercises and reviews, one major lesson per week. The authors briefly explain in the simplest, clearest manner possible both how to bring about a behavior---e.g., the sit or down or get-away-from-that-bottle-of-pills-that-just-spilled-onto-the-floor-and-will-kill-you-if-you-ingest-them--- and why that particular method works. They explain precisely---step-by-step-- how to conduct the little exercise that will create the new behavior. The week is spent in short, repeated drills and practice of former lessons. I felt confident, once again at ease with myself and pup, by the end of page one. The basic message of the book? IT'S NOT MAGIC: dogs act from genetic, canine-specific behavioral patterns, just as human beings act from human-specific patterns. Learn those behavioral canine patterns and adapt your training to them. Then training will be easy, even fun for both owner and pup. It will be simple. I was ready for simple. I've owned rat terriers all my life. I like their zip and feistiness and sharp features. I love their spirit and admire their sharp minds. I have taken all my dogs through their basic training without instruction or classes, and I've had few problems, none that did not resolve themselves pretty quickly. And I'd just had fourteen wonderful years with the gentlest ratty I've ever known. So when The New Guy arrived, he was a mild surprise. I'd forgotten the all-teeth, all-chewing, all-running stage. The bounce. Nor was the New Guy was not the gentlest rat terrier I'd known. But we got along. He house trained quickly, learned the sit and the come and followed through on both about half the time. Not bad for a three-month-old. But soon, he began the "jump-on-her-and-lick-her-face" and the "mouth and snap at her hands and legs." One look at those little bared teeth and I called around for help, while I awaited an obedience class. Every trainer spoke of Alpha Animals and the occasional need kick or slap in order not "spoil" the dog. I'm a lifetime teacher and I'd never seen the equivalents of those recommendations work in my classrooms, but I was willing to try anything because daily The New Guy grew more defiant. I ordered recommended books and read them, marking key passages. I did things that ran against my instincts and tried some I simply could not pull off (the heel, for instance). Then finally, late on a day filled with frustration and punctuated by tiny canine teeth marks on my arm, I went to , seeking something simpler, maybe a set of progressive lessons. Something practical and simple. I wanted easy solutions, for I knew from past experience, they existed. That's how I discovered "The Puppy Primer." It is exactly what it says----a primer, a set of basic training exercises that will take a dog through his first year and teach him to become a good companion and family member, while retaining his individuality. The author is an animal behaviorist who is an active researcher, and she

is also an experienced hand-on trainer, and that combination separates her approach from a lot of well-known advice givers. She understands the mind of the creature at the end of the leash and her training techniques are designed to meet the needs of the canine mind. The training exercises work exactly the way she says they will work. Exactly. They are so simple, I marvel still. They use small treats as rewards because eating is the greatest pleasure pups know and hence best reward.

Couple it with lavish praise, and the pup will gradually transfer the pleasure of the treat to the praise and chest and belly rubs and link all with the behavior being taught---sit, stay, come, or other. In time, the pup comes to see the behavior itself as pleasurable and seek out that pleasure. My pup and I are not to the heel command yet, but I think that lesson illustrates the superiority of this book's method of training. The other books I've read start this exercise with the dog on leash. The authors do not start with leash. They begin with a set of preliminary exercises that reward the dog for following closely the feet of trainer. Ingenious and simple. Then they move to the leash, recommend chest "halter" at first because it is less likely to harm the head or neck. Then they build on the already-present skills taught in the preliminary exercises to teach the dog to heel. Such an approach just makes sense. As a teacher and student I learned two important things: one will never (possibly can never) learn from someone who he believes does not like him and a teacher cannot teach a student whose motivations and being she does not understand. We cannot beat or frighten or harry any student into learning. This understanding lies at the heart of "The Puppy Primer and accounts for its successful teaching. In fact, were I teaching pedagogy in an education school, I would assign this book as required reading. It would teach the importance of addressing human needs, the value of exercises that prepare students for mastering a skill, the value of rewards besides grades, and the great pleasure of teaching and learning that can bind student and teacher. This little book is witty, clear, engaging, and right. I will give it to the dog owners I know. And I shall always be grateful to it for helping me reach my pup before bad behaviors had become confirmed. Usually the best of anything is simple. This book is no exception. Thanks!

good book, easy to follow, step by step advice, and good advice that works. it's setup to be read just as you get your puppy, the first chapters are on the very first things to start working on with your puppy and the later chapters after that build on it. Good exercises. Also, common puppy behavior problem solving; digging, chewing, mouthing, potty training, etc. It's a step by step beginning training guide (it's definitely worth it to teach your puppy to walk on a leash nicely--it will last his whole life). However, I think Puppy LoveÂ Puppy LoveÂ is a more complete reference book that covers way more puppy topics and all about having a puppy. If you can get both, I recommend both, there's

almost no overlap (shocking, right?)

As a small animal veterinarian, I recommend this book to clients and friends all the time. Our family recently acquired a puppy, and everyone in our home had to read this book before we picked him up. I strongly encourage you to do the same: have everyone in the family that is of reading age study this book before even bringing a puppy home, as consistency in training is the key to success. Most pets that end up in humane societies are surrendered due to behavior problems. Study the Puppy Primer, follow Dr. McConnell's advice, and prevent problems before they start! For those of you who don't already know, Patricia McConnell is one of the top canine behaviorists in the world. She has many inexpensive booklets available to help with a variety of issues, including separation anxiety and aggression. She also has a fantastic booklet called "The Fastidious Feline" that has saved many cats' lives by teaching owners how to prevent their cats from urinating outside the litter box. There is a plethora of free advice in articles posted on her website, as well.

I am always a fan of Patricia McConnell. Every book she writes is short and concise. I bought this book and Puppy Love by Liz Palika for a friend of mine who was a first time dog owner. I bought the books on Amazon, so I didn't get a chance to actually read them first. [I was disappointed by Puppy Love as the book was 50% photos of cute puppies with training tips on every other page. It was long and hard to read.] I was happy to see that The Puppy Primer, just like the author's other books, was extremely well written with good, accurate information that was well presented. The book is relatively short, meaning that there is not a lot of filler. I have been raising and showing dogs for 30 years and this book is so far the best I have read on puppy raising. Whether you are a first time puppy owner, or someone who has raised a puppy before, this is the book to buy. She covers all puppy raising topics (housebreaking, mouthing, training etc.) in an easy to read, common sense way.

I have several puppy training books and they all emphasize different things. I like this book for the average puppy owner because it doesn't get too technical with the lingo and is easy to understand, however it goes over all the major concerns one has about raising a new puppy. You can read this book all at once, but it is set up so that you can progress week by week as your puppy grows with more and more challenging tasks to work on and develop. This is nice because it does not feel as overwhelming as some puppy books and it helps you understand what you can and can't expect from your puppy at certain ages. Also it helps remind you to keep working behaviors that are vital for

any puppy/dog such as come and loose leash walking. Patricia B. McConnell is highly respected in the field of positive reinforcement dog training and has many great books out there; if you have any dog issues or are simply interested in the topic, check her out.

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