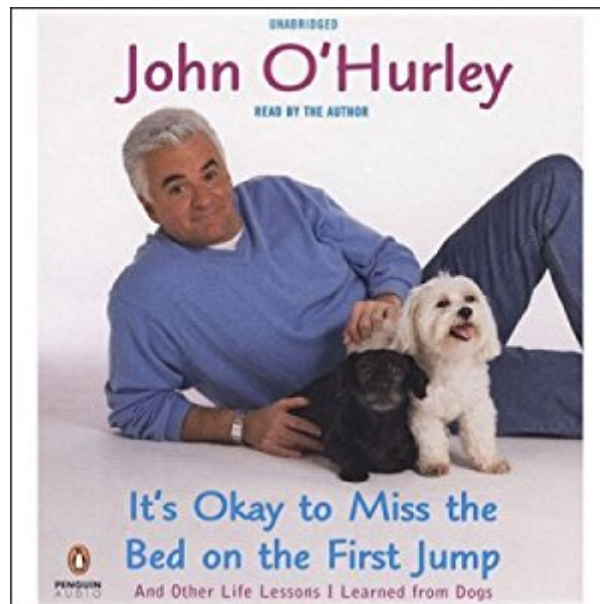


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It's Okay To Miss The Bed On The First Jump: And Other Life Lessons I Learned From Dogs



Synopsis

A funny, profound book about the enduring wisdom of dogs, from the host of the enormously popular National Dog Show. Charming and hilarious, *It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump* is more than a mere celebration of man's best friend. In this lighthearted and reflective exploration of how and why dogs have served as some of our most valuable and enlightened teachers, well-known and well-loved actor/show host John O'Hurley (*Seinfeld*, *Dancing with the Stars*) shares lessons learned from his life with canine companions, including: *Every 15 Minutes Is a New Day*; *Never Miss a Nap*; *When One Person Stops Petting You, Move On*; *A Cold Can of Meat Is Still a Feast*; and *You're Only as Big as You Think You Are*, to name a few.

"Dogs, after all, have pure hearts, trusting natures, a zest for living, noble characters, and an ability to take things in stride," writes O'Hurley in the book's introduction. "They can be counted on, and are pleasant companions. They know what's important, always. How many humans do you know about which you could say the same?" At once poignantly moving and laugh-out-loud funny, *It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump* is a book for the dog lover on everyone's holiday shopping list. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having learned many life lessons from dogs myself, I naturally loved this book. Mr. O'Hurley's writing is a delight; full of fun and poignancy, as well. It's as open and honest as any dog you'll ever

meet. Dogs have that effect on people. He writes, "On occasion, I have helped to heal them, and more often, they have helped to heal me." So do my dogs everyday. Being the sole caregiver for my elderly mother, my dogs keep me sane and focused. Without them, I could not do what I'm doing. Mr. O'Hurley is a true dog-person who writes from experience. This book makes my heart happy.

Whether you know him as J. Peterman from Seinfeld or for being crowned champion on Dancing with the Stars, John O'Hurley is a constant presence on the small screen. What you don't see off-camera are the furry faces that round out his life. Since childhood, O'Hurley has been an avid dog lover. Looking back on the canine friends he's had through the years, he has learned valuable lessons that he shares in his new book, *IT'S OKAY TO MISS THE BED ON THE FIRST JUMP: AND OTHER LIFE LESSONS I LEARNED FROM DOGS*. Combining gentle wit with obvious affection for "man's [and woman's] best friend," O'Hurley illustrates surprisingly simple attitudes that humans would do well to emulate. Each chapter is dedicated to a lesson. Some chapter names are; "Precious Gifts Come in Small Packages," "When a Dog Barks--Listen," "Own Your Own Fur," and so on. While each "lesson" may be apparent from its title, O'Hurley provides examples from both his life and the life of a dog (or three) he has known. Sometime we, as humans, forget about the simplest, truest aspects of life. We get worked up over things that dogs know don't matter. There are eleven lessons in this book. If you glean even a little from it, maybe you'll be a bit happier. And: "If you're happy and you know it, wag your tail!" Reviewed by Christina Wantz

Fixemer11/12/2006 4 ½ - BOOKS on WUAT = 5-Stars on

This is one book I think we all need to read: simple, humorous, and pretty much right on the mark with many views O'Hurley shares with his reader about some general, but important aspects of living. And O'Hurley is right when he points out that we can learn a great deal from dogs and their behaviour. Oh, I wish life was that simple, but nevertheless, he's right about: We should view time and moments as special: Dogs view life in 15 Minute periods, and so small moments in a day can be seen as New Day; 'Sleep is a weapon' - stated repeatedly by Robert Ludlum in many of his novels: acted upon by dogs, who never miss a nap; Life is filled with so much opportunity, and love, when openly willing to share it, is easier to obtain than you think. Dogs have it right: when a person stops petting you, it time to look for affection someplace else. I could go on about the many clever points John O'Hurley makes in 'It's Okay to Miss the Bed on the First Jump: And Other Life Lessons I Learned from Dogs', but I have a much better suggestion: go out in pick this one up. When life becomes a bit more complex or you seem to lose your bearings for a moment . . . do what a dog

would do. Outstanding. Wooff!

Do not lend this book to anyone 'kuz you will not get it back!! It is an absolute treasure to be read over and over! And I defy anyone to keep a dry eye when reading pages 68 and 69!

Focusing on his current two dogs, Betty and Scoshi, John O'Hurley provides a candid, witty and insightful look at the different dogs in his life, past and present, and the traits/qualities they possessed which taught him many invaluable lessons. As John takes us through each chapter, any person who has had dogs in his/her life can reflect on his words and knows that dogs CAN teach us a great deal about life: *How to appreciate the simple things* How to be persistent and not give up on goals* To love unconditionally* To give others an equal chance to love THEM unconditionally* Not to fear most things (Ever see a Terrier pick a fight with a much bigger dog?? They're prime examples of being fearless creatures for their size) Most of all, dogs are wonderful companions, chock full of personality and amusement -- in fact, more personality than some humans!! John's style of writing in this book is intimate and personable. One critique I had, however, was that he sometimes digressed too much and the points he was illustrating were not always clear. I rated this at 4.5 stars. Overall, this is a great little book of lessons for us humans.

What a treasure this book is! If every dog in the world had an owner like John O'Hurley, what a wonderful world this would be. The first thing about this book that struck me was the way the author's pets are truly an integral part of the family; not just household pets. The love and respect the author has for his two dogs, Betty and Skoshie, are palpable. Some people look in a dog's eyes and see blind faith and unconditional love. Mr. O'Hurley looks in a dog's eyes and very obviously sees so much more, which he shares in this most enjoyable read. You will never look at your dog the same way again. If there were six stars, this book would get all six of them. I actually purchased the audiobook so I could capture the feeling the author has for his dogs loved it !!!!!

John O'Hurley has done a masterful job in writing his first novel. This is a short beautifully written novel about the behavior patterns of dogs and how we humans can learn from our friends. Dogs appreciate the little things and O'Hurley conveys these thoughts in hopes that humans do the same. Whether its a friendly smile or taking a nap -- O'Hurley emphasizes the need to enjoy life and relax. It's Okay to Miss the Bed is great read for dog owners and would be a perfect holiday gift. His keen observations will have you laughing. Personally, I couldn't wait to get home and reunite with my two

cocker spaniels (Lucky and Maggie). Warning: if you read this book on the train, be prepared for a little laughter because O'Hurley's sense of humor encourages such behavior. Great book and I certainly hope this isn't his last effort.

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