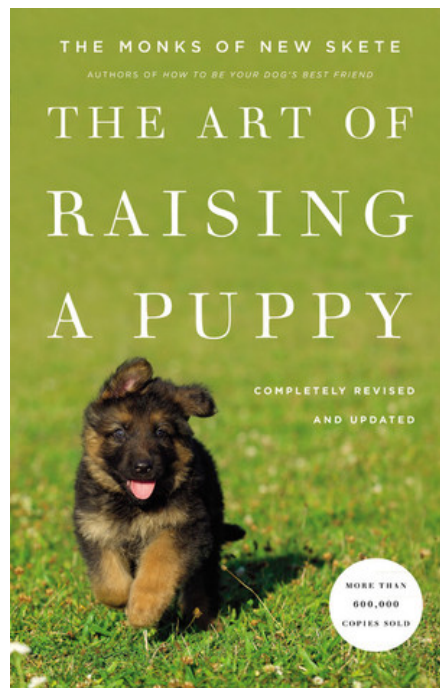




The Art of Raising a Puppy

Monks of New Skete

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The Art of Raising a Puppy Monks of New Skete

For more than thirty years the Monks of New Skete have been among America's most trusted authorities on dog training, canine behavior, and the animal/human bond. In their two now-classic bestsellers, *How to be Your Dog's Best Friend* and *THE ART OF RAISING A PUPPY*, the Monks draw on their experience as long-time breeders of German shepherds and as trainers of dogs of all breeds to provide--brilliantly distilled--the indispensable information and advice that every dog owner needs. This new edition of *THE ART OF RAISING A PUPPY* features new photographs throughout, along with updated chapters on play, crating, adopting dogs from shelters and rescue organizations, raising dogs in an urban environment, and the latest developments in canine health and canine behavioral theory.

The Art of Raising a Puppy Details

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From Reader Review The Art of Raising a Puppy for online ebook

Shawna says

This is a thorough book about puppy growth. I enjoyed reading before we got the puppy. But trying to read it during the puppy raising was too much. I would be reading about different stages than the puppy was actually in. I did not grasp the training system. We have since switched to a more praise based training.

Haley says

Great information

Carey says

I either want a German Shepherd pup or a Monk of New Skete. These guys know their dogs! This book is a great review for those who know dogs and a thorough start for newbies. Although some techniques seem a little outdated, I was really impressed by the endearing approach the Monks take with dog training. This book helped me a lot with Mingus. (More than my uptight Doggie Kindergarten!)

Kirsten says

I really liked this book. Even if you're not super into the Monks' training methods, there is SO much good information to glean from this about the stages of puppy development, the importance of starting out with a good foundational relationship with your pup to head off behavioral problems down the line, etc. I really like the emphasis on the fact that even when you're not actively training your dog, you're teaching him/her all the time, so you had better make sure you're teaching and encouraging the behaviors you want to see bloom rather than the ones that will make things much, much harder down the road.

The last section of the book, which features an interview with Maurice Sendak about his dog Runche, is something of a joy. I wish I had the book in front of me, but Sendak talks at length about how working with dogs and learning to treat them with dignity and consistency and treat them as partners and as DOGS (rather than as people who can carry his baggage) has made him a better human being. I think that section alone is worth getting the book from your local library or borrowing it from a friend.

I've picked up some manuals from trainers who use different methods than the Monks, and I'm looking forward to reading those next.

Dina says

Enjoyed understanding how The Monks of New Skete raise puppies. The respect they have for nature and setting the best foundation for puppies is just remarkable. They take raising/breeding a puppy very serious and make the reader stop and think about, why they want a puppy/dog? Do you want companionship? Do

you want only protection? Please just get an alarm system. Because a dog is so much more than that. The key is trust through play, discipline and time. There really is nothing as fulfilling as a loyal addition to your family and understanding how your puppy develops (muck like a baby). When you understand stages in puppy development you understand that the first discipline for a dog is love and understanding building trust in order to train properly. I happen to be in love with Shepherds and I currently own a rescued Shepherd that has been the most loyal companion and protector of my family. The philosophy in this book can be applied to any breed. If you are interested in getting a dog or own dogs this would be a great book for you to read. I love Dogs and want to raise them correctly and always learn new ways of connecting to my dogs because I love them. I am adding another dog to my family and I know now even more the reasons I want this new addition so much and that I am ready.

C. says

This is my best reference for raising my dogs. The monks have aptly and appropriately emphasized the importance of both reading canine behavior and using praise and corrections that 'speak their language.'

For example, dog mothers do not correct their puppies by saying, "Now Spot, that was not a nice thing to do. I don't like it when you do that so you'll have to stop that, you hear?" This is something I've seen done way too often between human owners and their dogs.

Usually the offending pup (if after several warnings hasn't stopped the offending behavior) will get a snarl, grabbed by the scruff of the neck, and shaken rather firmly. Or it'll get pinned to the ground so that it understands where it stands in rank.

Though some of the methods may seem harsh by human standards, one must remember that these are DOGS and should not be placed at the communication or language level of HUMANS.

Great read overall and very conversational style. Well done.

Stef says

While I am okay with anecdotal evidence when training dogs, I found this book difficult to apply to what I need to do with my pup. My biggest pet peeve is doing an alpha roll on a puppy. Sure the dog may respect you, but it will be out of fear and resentment.

Lkelly6 says

Since I have read many books on dog care and training over the years, I feel qualified to say that this is the best book ever on this topic. The monks of New Skete write really well, giving step-by-step instructions on the how to. Then what sets this book apart from all others is the inspiring focus and expression of the spiritual bonding that occurs between a dog and a loving owner. This companionship is what I seek and enjoy with my dogs. This book can show anyone how to develop this deep connection with a member of another species.

margotreynolds says

I enjoyed the philosophy of this book. Other reviewers have noted the alpha dominance and the discipline methods in this book. I appreciate both. Dogs aren't human. With our first Weim, now 11, we toed the line between dominance and gentleness. The result is a dog more socialized to humans than dogs, and whose intelligence makes her question dominance and commands. She is a wonderful dog. Over the years I've made it a point to be the pack leader, to borrow from Cesar Milan. I do think the scruff shake down is effective. We also use many of the other discipline methods. I've also read almost all of the Milan books; I find them interesting but lacking in effective leadership. We want our pup to be more effectively trained, earlier, and with more clear leadership from us. This book has reinforced our intuition.

Meghan says

This was my first reading of the updated version of this book.

I was first introduced to the Monks of New Skete 20 or so years ago. I had a dog at the time, but not a puppy, so I'm not sure why I read this book then (other than the fact I devoured any and all dog books as a child). And now I remember why they had such a profound impact on my relationships with dogs.

Unlike the conditioning training so popular today (positive methods rely on positive and negative conditioning) the Monks of New Skete emphasize the importance of a deeper relationship with your dog. We aren't training laboratory rats, they seem to say. Treat your dog as your friend: guide him to obedience and appreciate the wonderful individual he is. Practical understanding of dogs, but with an incredible amount of love, are on every single page. This book honors dogs as DOGS: intelligent, loving, loyal creatures who decidedly are not human.

The funny part about this is that I'm sure the Monks do not fit into the 'positive' camp. They will use scruffing techniques to correct misbehavior, do suggest a tug on the leash, and are starting to see (although I don't believe they use them) the value in e-collars. Yet the love they have for their dogs, and that they want us to feel for our own dogs, is incredibly deep. Far, far deeper than tricks-for-treats or redirection with treats methods that appeal to our sense of 'positive'.

This book is practical, easy to understand, and well written. It isn't a cold manual for bringing up puppy, yet it explains how to raise a solid companion. It explains the importance of choosing the correct puppy and tests to determine if a puppy you are considering will fit into your lifestyle. There are interesting observations about early puppy development, and correlations drawn between dog pack and wolf pack behaviors (with an understanding that dogs and wolves are not identical animals). Special emphasis is placed on socializing your puppy young and doing early (puppy based and light) obedience work to prepare your pup for more intense training later. I especially appreciated the explanation of why my pup constantly jumps to lick company- I frankly hadn't realized how important our faces are to our dogs.

This is, in my opinion, one of the best books on the market about puppies. I'm a bit sorry I waited until my own was 10mos old to read it (the sections on biting would have been valuable!), but well worth the read.

Leslie says

I bought a dog! And everyone says this is THE book! And I bought a dog! And it's true this book is really great! And I bought a dog!

I'm a little excited.

The monks of New Skete are, like, dog GODS, and they raise German Shepherd puppies at their monastery. My dog is a toy poodle, which is very much *like* a German Sheperd but more wolf-like. (Never thought I'd be a purse dog person. But I live in 700 square feet! What am I gonna get, a malamute?)

So when I bring little Archy home from the breeder at the beginning of June, I'll be all ready with the dog whispering. It's gonna be *awesome*.

Cyndie says

A wonderful book for talking about puppy behavior in the neonatal stages before owners generally get their pups and talking about the importance of an early upbringing. Excellent book also for some basic training information.

I am wary of some of their dominance-based suggestions for training however. Some of the specific suggestions they recommend including giving breeds such as German Shepherds or Dobermans a "cuff" to the chin if they growl at guests could be dangerous. As a veterinarian we know that this kind of punishment and violent behavior can sometimes just teach dogs to hide early signs of aggression without actually decreasing their propensity to bite. It can turn off important early warning signs for people. Additionally it is difficult for owners to learn from the book how heavy handed to be when using some of these dominance techniques. Having seen owner's interpretations of these suggestions first hand I see that it often results in owners channeling their frustration into training that is harmful to their dog and hurts the human-dog bond.

Valuable insights but not a training book I will be recommending to my clients.

Angela2932 says

I have very mixed feelings about this book. After being initially enthralled with the Monks approach, I started to think they were not as sweet-natured, Zen-like in their approach as I had hoped. They are more heavy-handed in their approach, with emphasis on choke collars, and Alpha dominance.

However, I did find some of their advice quite helpful, including the idea of using confinement and crate training for puppies, and their house-training schedule using the crate, being taken out, eating and play. It was a helpful, initial, starting point, but I soon decided that I preferred to modify much of their approach with more of the "positive-reinforcement" training methods.

At least the Monks approach was a far cry from the crazy trainer we encountered at Petco, who advocated we stick matchsticks up our puppies butt!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (We got a refund, not for the puppy or matchsticks, but

for the "training".)

Beth says

Okay, if you're going to get a puppy---get this book first. Don't bother to read it from cover to cover but jump around. Of course, it does help to actually have read the whole book, but the order isn't important. Whether you begin with the case studies or open the book at the page where they give a house-training schedule (p. 117)---it doesn't matter. It's all good stuff.

The Monks breed and raise German Shepherds (for companion dogs) and have spent a lot of time observing dogs and raising puppies. They also re-train problem dogs. Their suggestions about raising puppies are based upon the way dogs interact with each other, how puppies are taught by their mothers and older dogs, and how you can use this knowledge to your advantage. They are also exceptionally kind in their approach, so if they say it's okay to keep your puppy in a crate, I, for one, believe them. In fact, we are now raising a miniature poodle using their method and frankly, this book is keeping me sane. Gus (whom we acquired at 8 weeks and who is now 13 weeks old) is turning into a fine little dog though he has the potential to dominate this house, to keep both cats in a permanently freaked out state, and to cause Jackson, our Golden Retriever, to have a nervous breakdown. None of these horrors is happening, thanks to the Monks.

Lindsey says

The Monks of New Skete breed, train, and raise German Shepherds. This book gives insights on raising a puppy from their perspective, which is interesting but their advice is incomplete and unrealistic for most of us living in the real world, and not in a monastery full of adults who know how to interact with dogs. If you live alone or do not have children, then this book might be helpful to you. The respect and reverence they show for the dog-human relationship is an important focus of the book. I also appreciated the emphasis on how serious a commitment it is to decide to raise a puppy. However, I do not recommend this book on it's own as a guide for raising a puppy unless you also happen to live in a monastery full of adults with experience training a dog. Much of the advice is simply not practical for most of us, especially if you have a family.
