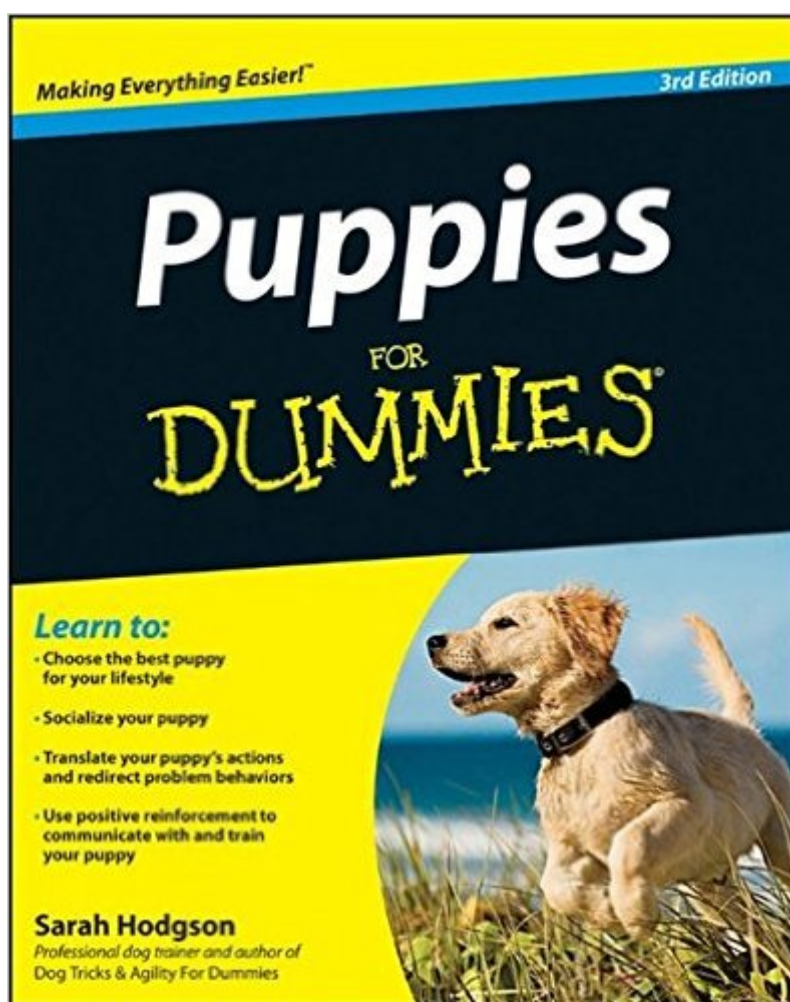


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# Puppies For Dummies



## Synopsis

Everything you need to train a puppy Bringing home a puppy? This fun, friendly guide to puppies prepares you for this tough but terrific time. From the basics of puppy trainingâhousebreaking, feeding, cratingâto the latest on doggie day care, traveling with a puppy, and the new designer breeds, you'll get everything you need to help your puppy grow up to be a healthy, playful, well-mannered dog. In this new edition, noted authority Sarah Hodgson offers trusted information on caring for a new puppy, including the newest dog training tools and gadgets, the best treats and dog food suppliers, and new insight into positive reinforcement training. Everything you need to start out right from day one Trusted and proven advice from an authority The latest information on positive reinforcement training Includes a completely new 8-page color insert If you're one of the lucky people getting ready to bring home a canine kid, this fun, informative guide gives you everything you need to smoothly integrate a puppy into your life and home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you want a book that lays a guilt trip on you because you feed your puppy anything less than holistic food (that you can nibble on yourself in an emergency!) or because you allow your baby to play satanic tug-of-war or wrestling games, then you might like this book, but I doubt that you'll like your puppy. I'm a new puppy owner, and found much in here frustrating -- she doesn't talk much about crate training, for instance, because it makes her cry to see a dog in a cage, so she suggests you just tie your pup to yourself all day. Do yourself a favor: the information in *How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With* is far more helpful and complete, and the writing in *The Art of Raising a Puppy* is far more readable and enlightening. I can't vouch for the other puppy books, but the two

books I mentioned are worth your time and money; this one is, well, for dummies.

I just got my second puppy, and picked this book off my bookshelf to refresh my puppy training homework. I am primarily a positive reinforcement trainer and like to set my puppy up to make good decisions. It makes teaching the puppy how to fit in with your house a fun experience. So my puppy keeps getting into the cat's food. I've worked on recall from distractions and on a "leave it" command. Basic stuff. Since my puppy is either in a crate or under direct supervision, this is working pretty well. What does puppies for dummies recommend? That you berate the cat's food in a scathing fashion. Next time your puppy sees the food she'll know it's bad and avoid it. I was going to insert a sarcastic remark here, but it would be redundant. I don't think Puppies for Dummies is a bad book necessarily, but there are simply better books out there. Try Dr. Ian Dunbar's "After You Get Your Puppy." Dr. Dunbar's book includes primary guidance on crate training, puppy mental development, and basic training. All the fundamentals your average person needs to help a new puppy grow up to be a great dog.

This book was truly useless. I read it and sold it because I knew that I would never want to look at it again. It's very elementary (hence the name, "For Dummies") and many sections are not very helpful when it comes to training. I had many questions after I read this book. Maybe I made the mistakes to read other books before this one which just blew me away so that when I read this book, I wasn't very impressed....In addition to the somewhat inferior content of the dummy book, it also lacked the many black and white photographs that I came to appreciate in the other readings which really drove home the points that these readings made (Pictures are worth a thousand words - when I see a "sit" sequence, that does a lot more for me than being told "pinch this, push there, and pull that). If you are on a budget and want to save money for dog toys, quality dog food etc for your puppy/dog, don't get this book. Spend your \$ more wisely by getting Kilcommon's Good owners, great dogs. That book will be your friend and advisor, while this one will just end up on your book shelf, because it doesn't have the info you need on a daily basis to really help you and your dog. Think of yourself more highly and don't get a dummy book.

This book has a lot of information. I had already bought a puppy so the handful of chapters on deciding what type of dog to get, etc were not that useful to me. I was mainly looking for training information. There is training information in the book, but with all the other information it is not 100% convenient to get to. I am better off with the thin book I got from the "puppy kindergarden" class I

enrolled in.

One common thing I found throughout this book is that all the information is very brief and it doesn't really address any topic or issues in details. For example it mentions that nipping puppies are "bossy and manipulative" however it doesn't explain their reasoning for such a bold statement. It also doesn't address how to deal with such a behavior. All it says is "nipping is bossy and manipulative and needs a firmer regime." It then says to follow the advice in the following chapters, but it never even addresses this issue. All the information is just incredibly brief and won't answer any questions you might have with answers or proof. This might be an ok choice as a small guide, but if you are truly interested in learning more about your puppy, this book is too brief and will not go into any needed detail. The puppy calendar is also pretty useless and basically just takes up space. If you want a puppy diary just write in a notebook. All the tips listed are repeated over and over on the diary pages, they could have at least not repeated the same tips and used all new ones.

Although the more general aspects of this book are good (how to choose a puppy, how and when to start training etc.), I found some of the author's suggestions actually made the training process more difficult, while others were outright questionable. Most of the elements she instructs (sit, down, stay) can be taught in much simpler ways. She spends too much time showing how to force your puppy into position, and any good dog trainer will tell you that puppies learn best and fastest when they figure out what you're asking on their own by luring with food etc. The author often suggests "hugging" as appropriate praise for a dog. While hugging is tolerated by many dogs, it is really considered quite rude in the dog world and isn't the best way to reinforce behavior. She also relies on a lot of unnecessary equipment, such as the "teaching lead" which she invented and suggests using choke collars for all puppies. She also downplays the importance of other tactics, such as crate training and hand signals. I started teaching my puppy at home using the methods described in the book and was amazed at how much faster he picked things up once I had been shown a different way of doing things in obedience class.

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