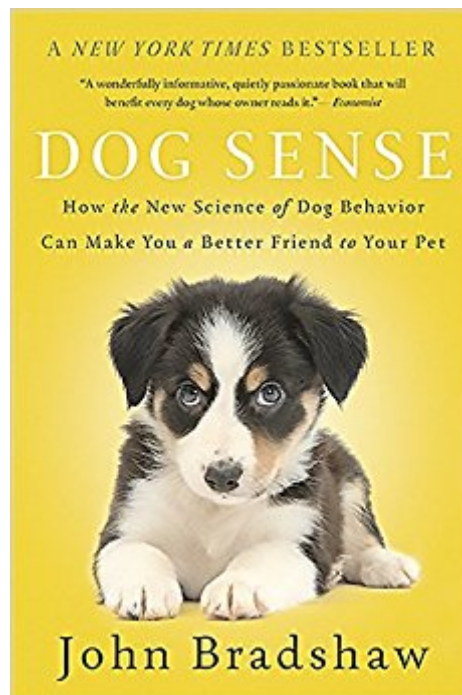




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Dog Sense: How The New Science Of Dog Behavior Can Make You A Better Friend To Your Pet



Synopsis

Dogs have been mankind's faithful companions for tens of thousands of years, yet today they are regularly treated as either pack-following wolves or furry humans. The truth is, dogs are neither--and our misunderstanding has put them in serious crisis. What dogs really need is a spokesperson, someone who will assert their specific needs. Renowned anthrozoologist Dr. John Bradshaw has made a career of studying human-animal interactions, and in *Dog Sense* he uses the latest scientific research to show how humans can live in harmony with--not just dominion over-- their four-legged friends. From explaining why positive reinforcement is a more effective (and less damaging) way to control dogs' behavior than punishment to demonstrating the importance of weighing a dog's unique personality against stereotypes about its breed, Bradshaw offers extraordinary insight into the question of how we really ought to treat our dogs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Sunday Business Post (Dublin) "The connections [Bradshaw] makes between ancient species down through history and the nuggets of insight he provides from his own lengthy experience working with and studying domestic dogs is truly fascinating. This book is rich in ideas and counter-ideas, and will reward anyone who respects animals, with enlightening chapters on dog behaviour, evolution, training and breeding, causing us to re-examine our relationships with our pets. Bradshaw is not so much trying to convince us with finite answers, as to stimulate a new conversation about dog behaviour with intelligent questions.... Bradshaw's years of knowledge and his clear passion for dogs both shine through." •Times Higher Education Supplement

(London)“In an overcrowded field, one may feel fully confident when reading biologist John Bradshaw's thoughts on [man's best friend]. The latest developments in the newly named field of ‘canine science' really need the sure hand of a skilled scientist to offer a balanced picture for the interested reader.... Bradshaw makes deft work of summarizing important and novel insights on dog evolution, along the way pointing out the difficulties we face in reaching full conclusions.â •The Bark“Bradshaw&hellip provides a well-grounded overview of the Canis family's evolutionary journey. He also considers dogs' brainpower, emotional states, sensory capacities and problems that come with breeding for looks rather than temperament. The point of all this science is to lay the foundation for his central thesis.... Ultimately, this is what makes the book so appealing. He does more than simply lay out interesting theories; he uses science to advocate for a better life for companion dogs.â •Library Journal“[Bradshaw] reveals a wealth of scholarly literature in biology, psychology, veterinary medicine, and zoology through detailed analyses and uses those findings to support and critique popular dog-training methods. Clear and charming black-and-white drawings illustrate key points.... Pet owners and those interested in the animal mind will learn from this balanced, well-referenced guide to the science of canine behavior.â •TusconCitizen.com“In his fascinating new book, John Bradshaw uses ground breaking research into human-animal interactions to reveal the world from a dog's perspective.... To better understand the canine who shares our home, this crisply written book might be a good place to begin.â •The American Dog Magazine“Dog Sense is a fantastically written book about why dogs are progressively becoming less healthy and what we can do about it.... This is a wonderful book to read for us dog-lovers who want to understand where man's best friend came from and comprehend ‘the world from a dog's perspective.'â •Nature“Anthrozoologist John Bradshaw summarizes what science can teach us about man's best friend. Arguing that modern dogs should not be considered domesticated wolves, he asks how we can best breed these social animals to be companions and family pets.â •The Guardian (London)“[A] passionate bookâ |nothing less than a manifesto for a new understanding of our canine friends.... His account of the evolution of dogs is fascinating.â •Sunday Times (London)“Every dog lover, dog owner or prospective dog buyer should read this book. It will change how you feel about dogs and, likely enough, how you treat them, too.... This book sparkles with explanations of canine behavior.â •Jewish Herald-Voice“Dog behavior often is mistaken for wolf behavior. And, it's here that Bradshaw's book uses research into human-animal interactions to set the record straight.â •Mail on Sunday (London)“Bradshaw, founder of the world-renowned Anthrozoology

Institute at Bristol University, has spent his career studying animal behaviour and he brings unrivalled expertise to this examination of the relationship between dogs and humans.... [Bradshaw] offers an invaluable guide to the latest scientific thinking on canine behaviour and he has plenty of sensible advice.â •The Economist“This is a wonderfully informative, quietly passionate book that will benefit every dog whose owner reads it.â •The Independent (London) “[Bradshaw] puts a case grounded in kindness and science for letting dogs be dogs. This is not as tautologous as it sounds: the two most widely held misconceptions about dogs are, first, that they are stupider versions of people and, second, that they are wolves in mufti.... [The book] is authoritative, wise and, in its sharp appreciation of the cost to dogs of living with us, rather moving.â •Kirkus“Bradshaw draws upon two decades spent studying canine science to debunk the myths surrounding dog ownership.... [F]or readers with well-loved pets who view their canines as family members, there's much to digest as the author traces the dog's cognitive growth process as he matures from a sensitive pup into adulthood. Above all, Bradshaw advocates for increased public awareness and education to create healthier relationships between people and their pets.â •Dog Fancy“From wolf to worker, the book tracks the evolution of the canine to help owners better understand their dog's behavior. Bradshaw also reexamines our modern day dog relationship and encourages owners to honor their pets for the unique animals they are.â •People“Debunking the advice of many celebrity trainers, animal behavior expert John Bradshaw urges understanding, not dominance, as the key to human-canine relations.â •Los Angeles Times“Are dogs furry humans or friendly wolves? They're neither, argues the author who looks at humanity's effect, for better and for worse, upon its four-legged friends.â •New York Post“Move over, Doctor Doolittle, and make way for Dr. John Bradshawâ "a British scientist and the author of the new book Dog Sense.... Bradshaw may have the fancy title of anthrozoologist, but his advice for the pet set is simple: Stop looking at your pooch as a dog in wolf's clothing, don't leave him home alone in your apartment all day, and try seeing the world through your pup's eyesâ "and nose.â •Alexandra Horowitz, author of Inside of a Dog“A lovely and clear-headed book on all things dogâ "emotion, mind, and breed. John Bradshaw's authority and experience are matched by the thoughtfulness and humanity of his writing. Read this before you bring a dog into your life.â •Stephen Zawistowski, PhD, CAAB, ASPCA Science Advisor“Every so often we are reintroduced to an old friend, and we may see them in a new light, reinvigorating a long standing relationship. John Bradshaw reintroduces us to mankind's oldest friend, the dog. He compiles and explains new information on the origin of dogs, their relationship with ancestral wolves and why we need to base our relationship with dogs

on partnership and cooperation, not outmoded theories about dominance. Dogs and dog lovers alike will benefit from Bradshaw's insight. •Publishers Weekly#147;Bradshaw offers an alternative to conventional, dominance-based approaches to understanding dogs (Cesar Milan's methods, for example) in an informative guide to how canine biology and psychology determine behavior.... Bradshaw's book is useful to those looking to further their understanding of dog behavior and clarify common misconceptions. •Claudia Kawczynska, The Bark#147;[A] fascinating book in which the author provides a compendium of research (both his own and others') into dogs' origins and behavior. More specifically, he details their evolution from a wolf-like ancestor into proto-dogs and then the first domesticated species; he also investigates how this very long-term relationship has affected both canines and humans. He goes on to clearly explain how today's dogs differ behaviorally and culturally from wolves, and why the dominance/pack paradigm put forth by many trainers (including Cesar Milan) is not only the wrong way to understand dogs but has also done them a great disservice. It makes for engrossing and thought-provoking reading. •Salon.com#147;In his densely illuminating new book, *Dog Sense*, John Bradshaw explains how our understanding has been skewed by deeply flawed research, and exploited by a sensationalized media.... Bradshaw articulates a revolutionary change in thinking in *Dog Sense* that should liberate both dog and owner from what had so often been portrayed as an adversarial relationship. •The Telegraph (London)#147;Essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the complicated psychology behind the growl, the rising hackles and the wagging tail. •The Observer (London)#147;[A] most fantastic book about to become required reading for dog lovers everywhere.... [Bradshaw's] book is a revelation "a major rethink about the way we understand our dogs, an overturning of what one might call traditional dogma.... For anyone interested in dog emotion, [the book] is also a sentimental "and surprising" education.... He is good news for owners and "there is no doubt about it "Professor John Bradshaw is a dog's best friend. •The Daily Mail (London)#147;[T]his unusual book is concerned with dogs as a species, no matter what breed, shape or size. There are no charming anecdotes of pets' winning ways, extraordinary tricks or loveable manners. It is the inner dogginess that [Bradshaw] explores, and its relationship to our own human nature. There are quite a few surprises to report. •

John Bradshaw is the Waltham Director of the Anthrozoology Institute at the University of Bristol and founder of the Anthrozoology Institute at the University of Southampton. He lives in Southampton, England.

Great read, and 180 degrees opposite to what the "celebrity trainers" espouse. I heard Dr Bradshaw discuss this book on NPR and thought he made enough sense to warrant the purchase. I'm so glad I stumbled upon it; Dr Bradshaw brings together anthropology, biology and history together to debunk the "dog-as-miniature-wolf" (at least as concerns our dogs --Chihuahuas) theory of dogs. Having done so, he then addresses the crazy training methodologies dog owners hear constantly. Education is a wonderful thing! So, why 4 stars? I found my attention wandering about after perhaps 30 minutes with Dr Bradshaw. Then, I'd have to reread. I don't like having to reread. But, he's a wee bit dry :)

I enjoyed this book and found the information helpful. The author speaks to how the environment for dogs has changed with our urbanization and higher expectations that dogs must be under their owners control at all times. Also dogs are used less and less as workers and more and more as companions. The most responsible dog owners usually neuter their pets so these companion dogs do not get to pass on their genetics. It is the working dogs, the show dogs, and the dogs of irresponsible owners who are most likely to pass on their genes. Dogs are not wolves and they are not little people. They have a strong urge to bond to people. They live in the moment. Except in rare cases physical punishment of a dog is counterproductive as it creates a less trusting, less bonded, more anxious animal. If punishment is used it must be immediate. The dog cannot understand being punished for something in the past. Reward based training generates a happy, trusting animal. Dogs naturally wish to please. Most of their negative behavior is the result of fear, not an urge to dominate. When selecting a companion dog stay away from the most popular and thus inbred breeds where genetic weaknesses are concentrated. The first eight weeks of the puppy's life is very important in determining its personality. Look for a puppy who has been raised in a home and who has had a variety of experiences. A puppy who has lived isolated in a kennel or backroom somewhere is likely to be fearful and maladjusted. Taking a young dog to obedience training class exposes the dog to other dogs and people as well as teaching it important commands. Much of this information is commonsense, but I appreciate the reinforcement. The book could have shorter. As others have pointed out there was considerable repetition. The information that was repeated was important information so I did not find it overly annoying. Having dog companions for most of my life and having trained several of them in obedience and agility I can attest to the value of reward based training versus punishment based. Dogs just become fearful when they are hurt. Eventually a fearful dog may become aggressive out of self-defense. The author explains what dogs are capable of understanding. It is unfair to hold an animal responsible for something that is beyond its capability to

comprehend.

Given the title of this book my hope was to learn some useful nuggets which I could apply to my dogs; not expecting a training manual but thinking this might lend some evidence based insights. The title emphasis ought to be on the word "Science"; the first 3/4 of Mr. Bradshaw's book are ponderous going for the casual reader and seems like a draft of a university level thesis or dissertation. Pedantic and repetitive we go back to the prehistoric era in learning of the evolution of canid genetics and evolution of the species in mind numbing detail. I have a BS and MS degrees from respected universities and many a night "Dog Sense" sent me to slumberland. The last 25% of the book, if you can stick with it that long, does hold some more interesting thoughts but hardly anything revolutionary. I'm not criticizing the author's scholarship or his obvious affection for dogs but his editor should have held his feet to the fire. I did agree with his anti-corporal punishment stance and dismissal of the popular notion some TV trainer's espouse that K9's are trying to dominate us and every other being they encounter. Really, the back of the book jacket summarizes all you need to know from this work: "Don't be an 'alpha' [with your dog]", "understand your dogs emotional limits", "avoid punishment", "respect your dogs senses", "look beyond the breed", and "teach your dog to cope with being alone". Also (not mentioned on the back jacket) is the endorsement of early socialization of puppies the first 2 months of life (which has always worked for me). Some good info is buried in these pages but it takes a dedicated and patient reader to find it.

An outstanding and clear explanation of the history and relevance or lack of, in relating dog behavior to wolf or wolf packs as well as their roles past and present and issues with their nurture, breeding and training. However, if you have read 'In Defence of Dogs', know that it is the same book under a different title. Still, either book will certainly shed light on why today's behaviorists and trainers are moving quickly towards positive, rewards based training and avoiding things like 'alpha dog' and 'dominance aggression' and instead dealing with stress and fear issues and socialization.

This book is deep. You really need to be alone and focus while reading. Science says a lot about dogs, I think everyone who owns, and trains dogs should understand what makes dogs behave the way they do. Love this book.

The author is an expert on dog evolution and behavior, and presents the reader with new theories...for instance, is there really a dog hierarchy? The author suggests no, and his theories are

compelling. I hope this helps me understand my dog better and make his life a pleasure!

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