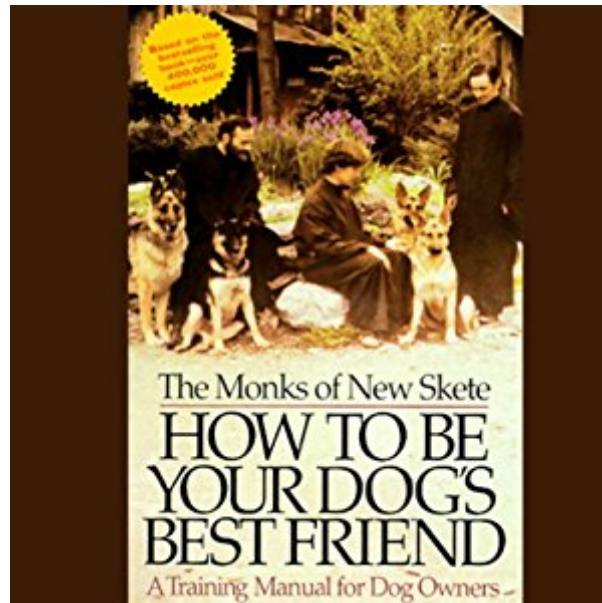


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# How To Be Your Dog's Best Friend: A Training Manual For Dog Owners



## Synopsis

New Skete dogs (the monks only breed German Shepherds but train all types of dog) can be found all over the US. The monks advocate the philosophy that "understanding is the key to compassion and communication" with your dog. Now they have prepared this guide to understanding your dog - whether a new puppy or an old companion - and thereby deepening your relationship with your pet. It includes selecting a dog for your lifestyle, how to read a pedigree, how and when to train, the proper use of discipline, feeding and caring, about dogs and protection and about behaviour problems and how to stop them. There is also a chapter on how to deal with the death of your pet.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My wife and I first used this book in 1980 with our first German Shepherd, a beautiful, gentle and easy to train dog despite strong alpha characteristics. We've given away many copies because it is about so much more than training. The monks have worked with each of our German Shepherds but their approach works with other breeds. Yes, there is a section on physical discipline but there is also a stern caution. This book deserves to read as a whole. We've read it and re-read it over the years, most recently on the death last week at 14 of a great, sensitive and intelligent old girl who was a loyal companion every day of her life. We used the monks excellent puppy book with our other dog, an aging male GSD, and soon it will be time for it again as another companion enters our home. Monks? Dogs? Religion? Don't worry about it. There's nothing to offend anyone. New Skete takes its religious life very seriously, but they are not intrusive. On the other hand, if you drink beer but won't drink the best beer in Belgium because Trappist monks brew it, then you probably won't

buy this book and don't deserve a great dog anyway.

I have had German Shepherds all my life, but that is not why I recommend this wonderful book from The Monks of New Skete. This is a fabulous book about dogs and having a great one--it's not by accident! Over the years I have given this book to many friends who were getting puppies. The Monks are quite insightful. Their techniques and more importantly their approach to dogs is the best. If you want more than just a dog--you want a companion (man's best friend), then follow their advice and you will have just that. If I were to buy only 1 book on selecting, training, having a dog companion, this would certainly be that book!

I have used this book to train all types of family pets, both puppies and adults, from Golden Retrievers to Wolf Hybrids and it works! My friends refer to me as "the Dog Lady" because I always seem to have some tip to help with their dog's training. It's no secret that I get it all from this wonderful book. With insight into the canine psyche that is years ahead of its time, the monks help the dog owner understand the mind of the dog. The section on discipline is tempered with a word of caution, and encourages you to take your cue from your dog -- excellent advice. They are also decades ahead of their time in suggesting Vitamin B complex as "behavioral insurance," making the early connection between vitamin supplementation, good diet, and behavior. With the focus on human brain development and vitamin supplementation in the media these days, it's amazing that the monks were making this connection with dogs more than 20 years ago. A must read for all dog owners.

Many people assume dogs experience the world the same way humans do- and the Monks do a great job of teaching a potential owner how to see things from the dog's point of view. Much of the current criticism of the techniques in this book stem from 1. misuse of the correction techniques they outline and 2. the current popularity of "non- coercive" methods of training. If you have a mild mannered pet, you might get away with never correcting your dog, but working dogs- like the kind the Monks are raising- thrive (and in the real world, survive) best in a disciplined environment. I think they make this abundantly clear, and I don't see how any reasonable person could extrapolate that they advocate abusing dogs. They also repeatedly advise getting involved in local obedience classes, which will help with timing and techniques, and for getting a professional involved if there's any chance of getting in over your head. Altogether, this is a book based on hands-on experience with a lot of dogs and their owners, and it displays a remarkable sensitivity to a dog's mind.

I was privileged to meet and work with Job Michael Evans, co-author of *How To Be Your Dog's Best Friend*, approximately ten years after this book was published. By that time he had moved to New York City and begun his own Dog Owner Counseling business. He said if he could change anything in the book, it would be the chapter on discipline. At the time the book was written, there was little to nothing in written form on HOW TO DISCIPLINE YOUR DOG. The Monks of New Skete were breaking new ground. Copying what a mother dog would do to it's pup for discipline was a concept that was embraced by many dog trainers. The draw backs were discovered as time passed. The fact that it was freely and openly discussed in hindsight only reinforces the integrity of the authors and their genuine desire to understand, communicate, have compassion for and communion with their dogs and encourage others to do discover this as well. The wealth of excellent information in the rest of the chapters far outweighs the questions of discipline techniques, and for that reason, I would recommend this book to anyone who owns a dog and especially to someone getting a dog for the first time.

I was a novice dog owner and bought this book to help me train my increasingly aggressive and out of control puppy. (I chose this one based on the customer reviews) I tried the training methods used by the monks even though they seemed to be overly confrontational. After a few weeks of the "shakedown" and "alpha rollover", the dog's behavior began to get even worse. The physical punishment was eroding any bond of trust that I had established with the dog. To make a long story short, I changed training methods and concentrated on positive reinforcement only. It made all the difference in the world. My dog is now almost a year old and she is truly my best friend (with first rate manners). I learned the hard way that you don't need to intimidate your dog to have her love and respect you.

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