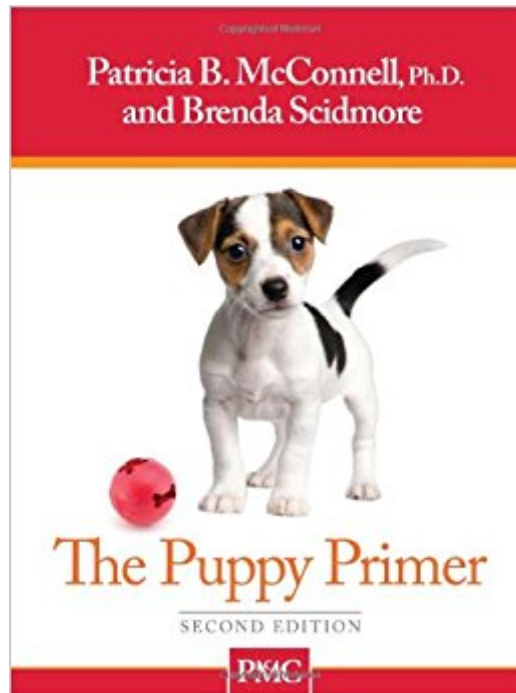




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# The Puppy Primer



## Synopsis

Trainer favorite! Engaging, humorous and easy to follow, the updated Puppy Primer is packed with positive reinforcement tips and tricks, special topics and more. This updated and expanded version of our best-selling Puppy Primer is used by thousands of trainers across the U.S. New dog owners love it because it provides clear and concise information that makes training effective and fun. It's tone is upbeat and encouraging, yet it is chock full of even more useful information that every puppy owner needs. What's new? Dr. McConnell added new information about the benefits of positive reinforcement AND the importance of realistic expectations. For instance, "sit" while waiting for the food bowl is NOT equivalent to "sit" when company comes to the door! While it is almost twice the size of the original, the book is still easy to read, user-friendly and priced right for trainers and dog owners especially important in today's economy. It's the perfect guide for positive-based training classes or for new dog owners flying solo! Expanded sections/special topics include: - Socialization - Positive Reinforcement - House Training - Crate Training - Handling/Collar Touch - How to Stop Unwanted Behavior - Helping Puppies Conquer Their Fears - How Play Teaches Obedience and Emotional Control - How Not to Play! - Lots of New Tricks and Games - Adolescence - Exercises include: - Sit - Down - Stand - Come - No Jumping Up - Walking Side by Side - Games like Fetch, Find the Toy, etc. - Take It/Drop It - Puppy Pause (Precursor to Stay) NOTE TO DOG TRAINERS: The Puppy Primer is designed as a guide for puppy classes based on positive training methods. Join hundreds of professional dog trainers across the country who rely on this book to help set the standard for excellence in puppy training

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book should go home with every new puppy! The fun, easy to follow exercises guide puppy owners through every aspect of raising a puppy with lots of games, helpful hints and trouble-shooting tips that even an expert will appreciate." - Valerie B. Olszyk, CBC, Pet Behavior Help, Inc  
"This is the perfect book for the perfect puppy! I highly recommend The Puppy Primer to anyone, whether a novice or experienced trainer. I'll be sure to give this book to all of my training clients!" - Khris Erickson, CPDT-KA, Humane Animal Welfare Society, Waukesha, WI

Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., CAAB is an Ethologist and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist who has consulted with cat and dog lovers for over twenty years. She combines a thorough understanding of the science of behavior with years of practical, applied experience. Her nationally syndicated radio show, *Calling All Pets*, played in over 110 cities for fourteen years and her television show *Petline* played on Animal Planet for two-and-a-half years. She is the behavior columnist for *The Bark Magazine* (the "New Yorker" of Dog Magazines) and is Adjunct Associate Professor in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, teaching "the Biology and Philosophy of Human/Animal Relationships." Dr. McConnell is a much sought after speaker and seminar presenter, speaking to training organizations, veterinary conferences, academic meetings and animal shelters around the world about dog and cat behavior, and on science-based and humane solutions to serious behavioral problems. She is the author of thirteen books on training and behavioral problems, as well as the critically acclaimed books *The Other End of the Leash*, *For the Love of a Dog* and *Tales of Two Species*.  
Brenda Scidmore's lifelong passion for dogs became a professional interest many years ago, after receiving help from Dr. McConnell for "Kato", Brenda's very shy, and aggressive Great Dane puppy. Thanks to appropriate early intervention, Kato overcame his fear of and aggression toward people, while Brenda became permanently hooked on the study of dog behavior and how to influence and change it. Brenda began her career working with Patricia McConnell at Dog's Best Friend, Ltd. as a class instructor, behavior consultant and writer. Brenda currently owns Canine Behavior Consulting, a family dog consulting and training business that offers in-home counseling and training for families with dogs that are exhibiting behavior problems from minor, to serious. Brenda is a charter member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, and lives in Verona, WI with her husband, Dave, their Great Dane Sophie, and two rescue terriers, Wally and Belle.

This book is excellent--super easy read, broken down very easily, very easy to go back and revisit topics--using both the table of contents and also the layout of the chapters is very easy for browsing

to find topic. McConnell breaks down training into week by week (or stage by stage), which is very helpful for novice trainers. She breaks it down for me and my pup so we don't skip steps and get ahead of ourselves and ultimately fail. So, for instance, sitting, coming when called, heeling, etc. are broken down and revisited several times throughout the book. By doing this, she paces out the obedience training. Master stage one (or week one), and then move to the next stage. I highlighted as I read. I use it like notes/outlines--reread before doing the next stage for obedience training. Our pup 14 week old Australian Shepherd/ Border Collie mix is coming along nicely--and so am I for that matter. It's very easy to skip around as well. Love info on house training, jumping up, play biting, as well as sitting, down, heeling, etc--love everything--very comprehensive. She also explains about the optimal windows for socializing and obedience training--it keeps me on task, focused, and optimistic about training my pup. Training my pup make me love my put that much more!! This is one of three books of McConnell's that I have. I LOVE: The Other End of the Leash and have her Family Friendly Dog Training: A Six Week Program for You and Your Dog which we are using for our 3 yr old rescue.

I started out with the Puppy Whisperer, but quickly lost patience with all of the fluff. I picked up The Puppy Primer and found it to be exactly what I needed because it is much more concise and practical (I am busy mom who already believes in nonviolent discipline and just wanted a book to give me the basics while a cute but crazy puppy was running circles around the kitchen). It provides a week by week program to follow and suggestions for troubleshooting. The authors take a very scientific but nurturing approach and have been right on with all of their advice. They also gives good suggestions for further reading. I can't say enough about this book!

McConnell is the best in puppy and dog training. She's spot on and empathetic. She suggests viewing your dog as a 3 year old. I don't have a dog yet but have shifted my perspective on my cat to that of a 3 year old and it's resolving some of the conflicts we were having because my expectations were too high. Sooo glad for this author and her insights.

I think for a positive reinforcement book, this is perfect. I do think SOME situations have required altering slightly or a hybrid of more traditional methods. For stubborn dogs who learn super quickly, not enough discussion was given to behavioral cycles. When a dog knows the rules but is challenging you and seeing what it can get away with. Call my dog quick, but by 3-4 mo's he learned all these rules in the book, but was then not listening to see how much he can do. Maybe a

chapter devoted JUST to this would be good (similar to the adolescent chapter, but in more detail with examples). Regardless, this is an awesome book and I can see it had our puppy on its way much much faster than the other older dogs in his basic dog behavior classes.

The Puppy Primer is the ultimate beginning training manual for people who are considering getting a puppy, or currently have one that needs some work. The book touches on key behavioral commands that all dog owners use such as sit, lay down, come and stay while also including some unique commands as well as games that can help stimulate your dog mentally and physically. The author did an amazing job of not only explaining how to train these commands into your dog, but how to maintain a positive and engaging environment the entire time. One aspect of the book that's key is the author explaining why to work with your puppy in certain ways, explaining some of the drawbacks to alternative methods as well as common consequences to using adverse training measures. A very realistic training manual, the tricks/commands are explained to include common problems that may arise but the reader is constantly told that if they are experiencing a more unique behavioral issue with their dog to SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP!!! The author doesn't explain this book to be the end all, be all of puppy training but something to allow the owner to lay a foundation. Definitely a worthwhile read for pending puppy owners, or those interested in studying canine training and behavior.

I found this book dovetails really nicely with "Perfect Puppy in Seven Days." When we brought our puppy home, I started by implementing the "Perfect Puppy..." instructions. Then after the first week, I moved onto this book which covers a six week training plan. I'm four weeks into it and have found it very helpful and practical. It covers all the basics, so it's not overwhelming. There are several instances of offering alternative suggestions if what you're doing isn't working. I also like the voice used in the book....it's like talking to a friend. All training methods in the book are completely positive. But I like that the author includes some tips on what to do when puppy is running off with your \$300 glasses or getting into spilled medicine. When you're ready to add more advanced tricks and training, I like Kyra Sundance's books, either "51 Puppy Tricks" or "101 Dog Tricks" (I bought it for only 2.99 on Kindle). And for more troubleshooting and health related topics, I like "Baron's Dog Training Bible" by Andrea Arden. Enjoy your puppy!

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