

# training your dog for protection

Training Your Dog for Protection: A Complete Guide to Building a Loyal Guardian

**Training your dog for protection** is a commitment that goes beyond basic obedience. It's about fostering a strong bond, understanding your dog's instincts, and guiding their behavior to become a reliable protector for you and your family. Whether you own a breed known for guarding or simply want to enhance your dog's natural alertness, protection training is a nuanced process that requires patience, consistency, and knowledge.

In this article, we'll explore the essentials of protection dog training, including the benefits, methods, and key considerations to keep in mind. From socialization to controlled aggression, you'll gain insights that help you develop a well-rounded canine guardian who is both confident and safe.

## Understanding the Basics of Protection Dog Training

Before diving into training techniques, it's crucial to understand what protection training truly entails. It's not about creating an aggressive dog that attacks on command indiscriminately. Instead, protection training focuses on teaching your dog to respond appropriately to threats, distinguish between friend and foe, and maintain control in high-stress situations.

## The Role of Temperament and Breed

Not every dog is suited for protection work. While certain breeds like German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers are traditionally favored due to their intelligence, strength, and natural guarding instincts, temperament matters just as much as breed. A dog must be confident, stable, and receptive to training.

A dog with a nervous or overly aggressive disposition might not be ideal for protection training, as the goal is controlled defense rather than unpredictable behavior. Early socialization can help determine how your dog interacts with people and other animals, which is foundational for effective protection training.

## Key Elements of Protection Training

Effective protection training combines several components:

- **Obedience:** Your dog must respond promptly to commands like sit, stay, come, and heel. Control is paramount.
- **Socialization:** Exposure to different environments, people, and animals to build confidence and reduce unwanted aggression.
- **Controlled Aggression:** Teaching your dog when it's appropriate to be defensive or protective.
- **Bite Training:** Training the dog to bite on command, release on command, and target specific areas safely.

- **\*\*Alertness:\*\*** Enhancing the dog's natural ability to detect and respond to unusual situations.

# **Step-by-Step Guide to Training Your Dog for Protection**

## **1. Start with Basic Obedience Training**

Before introducing any protection-specific commands, your dog must have solid obedience skills. This stage builds trust and ensures your dog listens to you in various circumstances.

- Use positive reinforcement techniques such as treats, praise, and play.
- Practice commands daily in different locations to generalize behavior.
- Ensure your dog reliably responds to commands even with distractions.

## **2. Socialize Extensively**

A well-socialized dog is less likely to react inappropriately out of fear or anxiety. Introduce your dog to a variety of people, including children, strangers, and visitors, as well as other dogs.

- Arrange controlled meetings with unfamiliar people.
- Expose your dog to noises and environments they might encounter.
- Monitor body language to prevent fear-based aggression.

## **3. Introduce Controlled Protective Behaviors**

Once obedience and socialization are in place, you can begin to teach your dog to respond to potential threats.

- Use scenarios where a helper approaches in a non-threatening way, gradually increasing intensity.
- Teach your dog to bark or alert when strangers approach.
- Reinforce calm behavior alongside alertness to prevent unnecessary aggression.

## **4. Bite and Release Training**

Bite work is a specialized part of protection training and should be approached with caution. Many trainers recommend professional guidance for this stage.

- Teach the dog to bite on command using a padded sleeve or bite suit.
- Train the dog to release immediately when given a command.
- Practice targeting appropriate areas like the arm, avoiding sensitive areas.

## **5. Maintain Consistent Training and Reinforcement**

Protection training is ongoing. Regular practice helps maintain skills and ensures your dog remains responsive.

- Schedule training sessions multiple times a week.
- Incorporate real-life scenarios to test your dog's reactions.
- Always reward good behavior and maintain a positive relationship.

## **Safety and Ethical Considerations in Protection Training**

Training your dog for protection comes with responsibility. It's essential to prioritize safety—for both your dog and others.

## **Understanding the Difference Between Protection and Aggression**

Protection training is about defense, not offense. An aggressive dog that attacks without provocation can pose serious risks. Teaching controlled aggression means your dog only reacts when there is a clear threat, and immediately stops when commanded.

## **Legal and Liability Issues**

Depending on where you live, training a protection dog might have legal implications. Some jurisdictions regulate the ownership of guard dogs or require specific training certifications. Additionally, you are responsible for your dog's behavior and any incidents that may occur.

## **When to Seek Professional Help**

If you are new to protection training or own a dog with a strong protective instinct, working with a professional dog trainer or specialized protection dog school is highly recommended. Professionals can guide you safely through bite work, aggression control, and complex behavior modification.

## **Benefits of Training Your Dog for Protection**

Beyond the obvious safety advantages, protection training offers several other benefits:

- **Enhanced Obedience:** Dogs trained for protection tend to be highly disciplined.

- **\*\*Stronger Bond:\*\*** Training builds trust and communication between you and your dog.
- **\*\*Mental Stimulation:\*\*** Protection work is mentally challenging and fulfilling for dogs.
- **\*\*Increased Confidence:\*\*** Dogs gain confidence through structured tasks and socialization.

## Common Mistakes to Avoid When Training Your Dog for Protection

Understanding what not to do can save you time and prevent problems down the line.

- **Skipping Obedience Training:** Without a strong obedience foundation, protection training can lead to uncontrollable behavior.
- **Inadequate Socialization:** A dog that isn't well socialized may become fearful or aggressive.
- **Using Harsh Methods:** Punishment-based training can damage your relationship and increase fear or aggression.
- **Neglecting Regular Practice:** Protection skills must be reinforced consistently to remain effective.
- **Ignoring Legal Responsibilities:** Not knowing your local laws can result in fines or other legal trouble.

## Integrating Protection Training into Everyday Life

Training your dog for protection doesn't mean your dog must be "on guard" all the time. Integrate training into daily routines to keep your dog balanced.

- Use controlled walks to practice obedience and awareness.
- Encourage calm behavior around guests, rewarding your dog for composure.
- Periodically simulate alert scenarios in a safe environment.
- Maintain playtime and relaxation to prevent stress.

Training your dog for protection is a rewarding journey that, when done thoughtfully, results in a loyal and reliable companion. With patience, consistency, and respect for your dog's wellbeing, you can raise a guardian who keeps your home safe while remaining a loving family member.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the essential steps to start training my dog for protection?**

Begin with basic obedience training to ensure your dog responds reliably to commands. Then, gradually introduce controlled protection exercises focusing on bite work, alertness, and controlled aggression under professional supervision.

## **At what age should I start protection training for my dog?**

It's best to start basic obedience training as early as 8 weeks old, but specialized protection training should typically begin when the dog is around 12 to 18 months old, once they are physically and mentally mature enough.

## **Can any dog breed be trained for protection work?**

While many breeds can be trained for protection, some breeds like German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers are more commonly preferred due to their temperament, intelligence, and physical capabilities.

## **How do I ensure my protection-trained dog remains safe and non-aggressive outside training?**

Consistent socialization, obedience training, and controlled exposure to different environments help maintain your dog's balance. Always reinforce commands and ensure your dog understands when protection behaviors are appropriate and when they are not.

## **Should I hire a professional trainer for protection dog training or can I do it myself?**

Protection training is complex and can be dangerous if done incorrectly. Hiring a professional trainer with experience in protection work is highly recommended to ensure the safety of both you and your dog, and to achieve effective training outcomes.

## **Additional Resources**

Training Your Dog for Protection: A Professional Insight into Canine Security Training

**training your dog for protection** is a serious commitment that combines discipline, patience, and understanding of canine behavior. As personal and property security concerns grow, more dog owners consider protection training as a viable method to enhance safety. However, this type of training requires a professional approach to ensure that the dog remains controlled, reliable, and safe both for the owner and the public. This article explores the nuances of protection dog training, examining its methodologies, suitable breeds, benefits, and potential challenges.

# Understanding the Fundamentals of Protection Dog Training

Protection training is distinct from basic obedience. It involves teaching dogs to respond to potential threats by guarding their owners or property while maintaining control and obedience to commands. This training goes beyond simple commands like sit or stay; it incorporates alertness, controlled aggression, and the ability to distinguish between normal and threatening situations.

Unlike typical obedience classes, protection training emphasizes situational awareness and controlled response. Dogs are trained to bark or show alertness when sensing danger, and in more advanced stages, to physically intervene when commanded. This requires a deep understanding of canine psychology and behavior modification techniques.

## Key Components of Effective Protection Training

- **Obedience Foundation:** Before any protection-specific skills are introduced, dogs must master basic obedience commands. This ensures they remain under control at all times.
- **Socialization:** Proper socialization is crucial to prevent aggression towards non-threats. Dogs must learn to differentiate between normal social interactions and genuine threats.
- **Controlled Aggression:** Training focuses on channeling the dog's natural protective instincts in a disciplined manner. This includes bite training and release commands.
- **Scenario-Based Training:** Dogs undergo simulated threat scenarios to practice real-life responses under supervision.

## Choosing the Right Breed for Protection Training

While many dog breeds can be trained for protection, certain breeds are more predisposed due to their temperament, intelligence, and physical capabilities. German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Rottweilers, and Doberman Pinschers are among the most popular choices for professional protection work.

These breeds exhibit traits such as loyalty, courage, and high trainability, which are essential for protection roles. However, breed alone does not guarantee success; individual temperament and the quality of training are equally important factors.

## Comparing Popular Protection Dog Breeds

| Breed | Temperament | Trainability | Physical Strength | Suitability for Families |

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German Shepherd	Loyal, intelligent, protective	High	Strong	Moderate
Belgian Malinois	Energetic, alert, confident	Very High	Agile	Moderate
Rottweiler	Confident, fearless, calm	Moderate	Very Strong	Low to Moderate
Doberman Pinscher	Alert, obedient, fearless	High	Strong	Moderate

This comparison highlights the importance of evaluating both physical and behavioral traits when selecting a dog for protection training.

## Methods and Techniques in Training Your Dog for Protection

Protection training involves a spectrum of techniques ranging from positive reinforcement to controlled exposure to threat simulations. Professional trainers often tailor programs based on the dog's breed, age, and temperament.

### Step-by-Step Training Process

1. **Assessment:** Evaluating the dog's temperament to determine suitability for protection work.
2. **Basic Obedience Training:** Mastery of commands such as sit, stay, come, heel, and down.
3. **Socialization:** Introducing the dog to various environments, people, and other animals.
4. **Introduction to Protection Skills:** Teaching the dog to bark on command, guard, and alert.
5. **Bite and Release Training:** Controlled bite exercises with emphasis on immediate release on command.
6. **Scenario Training:** Simulated intruder or threat situations to practice real-life responses.
7. **Continuous Reinforcement:** Ongoing training to maintain skills and obedience.

### Pros and Cons of Training Your Dog for Protection

- **Pros:**

- Enhanced personal and property security.
- Strengthened bond between owner and dog through training.

- Increased confidence in dog's behavior and response to threats.

- **Cons:**

- Requires significant time and professional guidance.
- Potential risks if the dog's aggression is not properly controlled.
- Not suitable for every dog or household environment.

## **Legal and Ethical Considerations in Protection Dog Training**

Training your dog for protection also involves understanding the legal responsibilities and ethical considerations tied to owning a protection dog. Laws regarding dog bites, liability, and animal welfare vary by region and can impact how protection training is conducted.

Owners must ensure their dogs are safe around family members and the public. Training must emphasize control and restraint to prevent accidental harm. Moreover, responsible ownership includes proper containment and supervision, especially in public settings.

## **Importance of Professional Guidance**

Given the complexities of protection training, engaging a certified professional trainer is highly recommended. Professionals use humane, evidence-based methods that prioritize the safety of both the dog and the community. They also provide ongoing support to maintain the dog's skills and address behavioral issues promptly.

## **Integrating Protection Training with Everyday Life**

Successfully training your dog for protection entails integrating learned skills into daily routines without compromising the dog's social behavior. Protection dogs must balance vigilance with calmness to avoid unnecessary aggression or stress.

Owners should maintain regular socialization and obedience reinforcement while providing mental and physical stimulation to keep their dogs well-adjusted. This holistic approach ensures that protective instincts do not overshadow the dog's role as a companion.



Training your dog for protection is a multifaceted endeavor that demands dedication and expertise. When executed correctly, it can provide an effective layer of security and deepen the human-canine bond. However, it is imperative to approach this training with professionalism and responsibility to ensure safe and positive outcomes for all involved.

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**training your dog for protection: Guard Dog Training** Dennis Thompson, 2023-01-28 GUARD DOG TRAINING A complete step by step guide on how to effectively train your dog for complete obedience, personal protection and home securityDog Protection training is there to train your dogs to protect you when no one else can for instance when involved in a hi-jacking, hold-up, gun attacks and attacks at home.This book on training guard dogs will train your dog to protect you when protection is needed.In here, personal protection training is taught and not attacks work. Dogs need to distinguish when to bite, and when not to. You do not want your child to get bitten / or have a lawsuit against you. Personal protection is taught at home, in the car, when the handler cannot give a protection command, when a gun is shot, etc. most dogs don't do protection jobs naturally, and this book will help train your dog either as a puppy or as an adult. You will also be able to learn ways to test the dog as it grows.This book will also answer all your unanswered questions about how best to raise a guard dog to protect you and your household.In the success story of Brett and Major, you will read that Major is a true hero. Major and Brett did not have to do protection dog training, they had such a strong bond that Major saved many lives on the night they were attacked. This is what we strive for when you train your dog. It makes a total difference if the dog likes you, as many dogs do not want to be around their owners because they haven't bonded with each other.We have

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**training your dog for protection: HOW TO TRAIN GUARD DOG** Kyle Dennis, 2023-03-07 A guard dog, or a watchdog, is trained to protect your property and your family. Contrary to what you might think, most guard dogs are not taught to attack. Rather, they are taught non-confrontational techniques, such as how to stand guard and how to use their bark to alert you of a stranger or potential danger on your property. Training your dog to be a guard dog will take some time and patience, but the result will be a dog that will not only protect you against a threat, but will also be comfortable and well behaved in non-threatening situations. This book will also answer all your unanswered questions about how best to raise a guard dog to protect you and your household. We have had on many occasions, handlers and their families protected by their dogs that went through my guard dog training manual. Handlers and their families were saved from hi-jacking, hold-up, gun attacks, attacks at home, because of their loyal dogs. ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

**training your dog for protection: Guard Dog Training** Ronald Williams, 2017-07-08 If you've downloaded and are now reading this book, you're probably doing so for one reason: you're thinking about getting a guard dog. From a survivalist or prepper's perspective, a reliable guard dog is one of the wisest investments you can make. Not only does a dog mean you will have a companion in a time of crisis, it also means you will have an excellent alert and security system for your home or property. That being said, you can't just buy any dog and consider yourself to have a guard dog. Rather, you need to know which specific breeds work best as guard dogs and how to train your dog to give you many years of good service. That's exactly what we're going to discuss in this book. In this beginner's guide, we are going to discuss the following subjects in detail:- The Benefits Of Having A Guard Dog - The Best Breeds Of Guard Dog- Learning Simple Commands- Guard Dog Techniques- Training An Attack Dog- Halting An Attack Dog- Giving Your Guard Dog Alone Time- Training Your Dog To Be Obedient By the end of this guide, you will have a firm and well rounded view of why you need to have a guard dog, the best breeds of dogs for you to consider, and then how to train your dog to become an effective guard dog.

**training your dog for protection: Guard Dog Training Mannual** Edward Bills, 2020-11-16 GUARD DOG TRAINING MANNUAL The Ultimate guide to completely train your guard dog for personal protection of your home and properties A guard dog is simply a dog that is trained to protect yourself, family and properties. Opposed to your regular thoughts, most of the guard dogs are not taught to attack. On the contrary, they are thought non-confrontational methods and techniques like; how to stand guard and alert you through barking if a stranger approaches or if there is a potential threat to your family or properties. It takes some amount of time, patience and perseverance to train your dog to become a guard dog but the result is exciting as you will get a dog that will be able to protect you against threats and dangers and as well be comfortable and well behaved in non-threatening situations. This book will also answer all your unanswered questions about how best to raise a guard dog to protect you and your household. We have had on many occasions, handlers and their families protected by their dogs that went through my guard dog training manual. Handlers and their families were saved from hi-jacking, hold-up, gun attacks, attacks at home, because of their loyal dogs. GRAB YOUR COPY NOW!! and learn everything there is to learn on how to raise the best guard dogs to protect yourself, family and properties.

**training your dog for protection: HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DOG** Raymundo Ramirez, 2018-05-29 Training a dog is a very wide topic and it would be very hard to cover all aspects of the ways on how to train a dog. The first dog fact that you must know is that the mind of any young dog and puppy is set on doing one thing and only one thing and that is to investigate the world around them and gather knowledge so that they will cope with and feel safe in the world that they are going to live in. However, right from the very beginning and preferably even before you go out and buy a dog you should have decided on some ground rules that you want to set for the dog so that you can start teaching him those right from day one. This way you will avoid unnecessary confusion for the

dog.

**training your dog for protection: K9 Personal Protection** Resi Gerritsen, Ruud Haak, 2014-12-22 Create a safe, successful K9 training program that results in reliable protection dogs. Learn how to: Select the optimal breeds, temperament and physical and mental characteristics for protection work. Master the obedience-training techniques that form the foundation of protection training. Use the methods of the Dutch Police Dog (KNPV) program, which produces some of the finest police and protection dogs in the world. Dr. Resi Gerritsen and Ruud Haak, leading dog trainers from the Netherlands, share their proven, comprehensive program for training dogs for personal protection. Their cutting-edge techniques and work with the International Red Cross, the United Nations and the International Rescue Dog Organization (IRO) have placed them in world demand. In this fully revised and updated edition of K9 Personal Protection, Resi and Ruud start with the basics, including how to select the right dog for protection work, how to properly raise a protection dog from a puppy and how to correct a dog's bad behavior. Next, they cover fundamental obedience training for protection dogs, such as training for heelwork, the recall, the send away and more. Finally, they present a complete program for training reliable protection dogs, from basic exercises and decoy techniques to the exercises of the KNPV program. Get a free ebook through the Shelfie app with the purchase of a print copy.

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dog, and can be a fun and rewarding experience. German Shepherd owners should consider advanced training as a way to take their dog to the next level.

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Shu Chen Hou, Are you struggling to train your furry friend? Do you find yourself constantly frustrated with their bad behavior and unsure of how to correct it? Look no further than Train Your Dog Successfully: 90 Dog Training Tips - the ultimate guide to helping you and your dog build a strong, healthy relationship. With 90 tips covering everything from general dog training to caring for your dog and crate training, this eBook has everything you need to know to turn your dog into a well-behaved companion. You'll learn the importance of focusing on the good things your dog does, rewarding positive behavior instead of punishing negative behavior, and being proactive in preventing bad behavior from happening in the first place. You'll also discover the difference between boredom and separation anxiety, and learn how to address both issues effectively. And if you're looking for a new training method to try, you'll learn about the benefits of clicker training and how it can help reinforce positive behavior. Don't let bad behavior get in the way of your relationship with your furry friend. Order Train Your Dog Successfully: 90 Dog Training Tips today and start building a strong, healthy bond with your dog that will last a lifetime.

**training your dog for protection: How to Train Your Dog** Liz Palika, Kate Abbott,

2022-05-24 Bond with your canine friend and learn how to train the dog that's in front of you with relationship-based methods. It's the easiest and most effective way to get happy, noticeable results. Your dog is your faithful friend, and they're happiest when they're by your side. But without some basic training, a dog can turn your life—and your house!—upside down. Chock-full of clear and easy-to-follow training tips and helpful color photos to illustrate, this guide will make you and your dog the best-behaved pair at the dog park! In this book, you get: Simple suggestions on establishing and strengthening your bond with your dog. A look at the collars, leashes, toys, treats, and other teaching tools you need. Terrific tips for keeping your training sessions exciting and upbeat so you both enjoy them. Easy lessons on housetraining and teaching basic commands, like sit, stay, and come. Pointers on using the positive lure-and-reward method to correct problem behaviors. Fun tutorials for teaching your dog tricks, retrieving games, agility, and more!

**training your dog for protection: Shaping the Wolf Within Your Dog** Nathan B. Childs, 2004

Shaping the Wolf Within Your Dog is a comparison study of wolf and dog behavior. It is also a comprehensive guide for living in harmony with dogs. We know dogs are genetically related to the wolf; and both exhibit identical instincts, behaviors, temperaments, and dispositions - and both abide to the law of nature that contends: for any animal grouping to survive, there must be social order and communication between its members. Knowing this, we should learn all we can about wolf behavior, and incorporate that knowledge with our dogs. By learning how pack animals establish social order and communicate with one another, we can use this information to shape our dogs' natural instincts, without having to use food bribes or violence. When we communicate in our dogs' language, we will be able to communicate our leadership. The outcome will be predictable, for we will be using the same methods of an alpha wolf when he establishes and maintains social order with a pack of wolves. We will be shaping the same wolf instincts that are intact and engaged in each of our dogs. Shaping the Wolf Within Your Dog illuminates: The natural behavior of canines The language of canines How alphas lead their packs How alphas discipline and show affection The hierarchy of the wolf social order The natural friendliness, loyalty, and devotion of pack members How to pick the best pup from a litter How to establish social order with pups Basic obedience and off lead obedience Family protection training

**training your dog for protection: Train Your Dog Like a Pro** Jean Donaldson, 2010-03-16

The tools you need to think and train like a professional Jean Donaldson is one of the top dog trainers in the United States, and her training academy has gained a reputation as the Harvard for dog trainers and behavioral counselors. Now, you can harness her highly effective dog-training techniques and benefit from her expert guidance without leaving your home. If you're like most dog owners, you treat your four-legged friend as a valued member of the family who enjoys the full run of

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**training your dog for protection:** *The Ultimate Guide to Training Your Watchdog: A Step-by-Step Manual for Beginners* Pasquale De Marco, 2025-07-23 Are you ready to train your loyal companion to be the ultimate guardian? Look no further than this comprehensive guide, packed with expert advice and practical techniques to transform your watchdog into a reliable and highly trained protector. Whether you're a first-time dog owner or an experienced trainer, this book provides a step-by-step roadmap to success. From choosing the right breed and laying the groundwork with basic commands to mastering advanced protection techniques, you'll find everything you need to build an unbreakable bond with your furry friend. With clear instructions, easy-to-follow exercises, and troubleshooting tips, this guide empowers you to handle any training challenge with confidence. You'll learn how to: \* Establish a strong foundation with obedience training, socialization, and positive reinforcement \* Train your watchdog to alert to strangers, track scents, and protect you in various scenarios \* Overcome common problems, such as lack of focus, aggression, and slow learning \* Equip your watchdog with the right gear and ensure their optimal health and well-being \* Understand the legal responsibilities and ethical considerations of owning a watchdog This book not only equips you with training techniques but also provides valuable insights into the responsibilities and rewards of owning a watchdog. You'll gain a deep understanding of the emotional and mental benefits of having a well-trained companion by your side, enhancing your bond and enriching your life. Whether you're training a personal protection dog, a family guardian, or a service animal, this guide will empower you to achieve your training goals and forge an enduring partnership with your loyal protector. Embrace the journey of training your watchdog and experience the unwavering bond and peace of mind that comes with having a highly skilled guardian at your side. If you like this book, write a review!

**training your dog for protection:** *How to Train Your Dog* Kevin Connolly, 2011-10-26 In this book, we cover dog training techniques, ranging from basic behavioral skills to intermediate tricks, and touch on the assorted methodologies therein. Additionally, we address the underlying concepts which must be understood before we can train effectively.

**training your dog for protection: Livestock Protection Dogs, 2nd Edition** Orysia Dawydiak, David Sims, 2019-05-17 Small farms and large ranches are turning to dogs as a humane and ecologically sound way to protect their investments. This newly revised edition will make it easy to select a breed, care for, and train a livestock protection dog. Training methods have been refined and expanded, and there's even a chapter on guarding unusual stock, plus a discussion of theory, history and selection; livestock protection breeds as dual companion/working dogs; puppy temperament testing and training. Illustrated. Topics include: • What a livestock protection dog can do • Selecting a puppy • Caring for your dog • Behavioral problems and solutions • Preparations for a family companion • Guarding unusual stock • Older dogs • Puppy temperament testing and training • Plus much more!!! Note from Dogwise Publishing: Please be aware that this older title may recommend some training techniques that are now considered outdated. At the time of publication the use of negative reinforcement and positive punishment were more widely used to teach certain types of behaviors, especially with dogs who display a high degree of resilience. We encourage owners to always use the least intrusive, minimally aversive methods possible. <https://m.iaabc.org/about/position-statements/lima/>

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