



Feeling Outnumbered?: How to Manage and Enjoy Your Multi-Dog Household

Karen B. London , Patricia B. McConnell

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Create order out of canine chaos in your multi-dog home by understanding canine behavior and using positive reinforcement. Manage multiple dogs at meals, on walks and in the dog park.

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From Reader Review Feeling Outnumbered?: How to Manage and Enjoy Your Multi-Dog Household for online ebook

Emily says

Good advice on managing multiple dogs. I have the 2001 edition and wish I had the extra leash-walking info from the 2008 edition. I found the info on play between two dogs to be especially helpful.

At the end of the day, the advice is prevention, give your dogs individual attention, and work up to working with them as a group.

I appreciated the supportive tone of the book written by people who clearly enjoy their dog families, but are also frank about the work and issues anything >1 entails.

Julia Duncan says

I would recommend

Great tips and training steps. I feel I will refer back to this book in the future
I have 3 dogs and I think can make home life more manageable after reading this book

Sue says

Love the philosophy. We were feeling stressed out about the advice to let our dogs "work it out." Our household is much more peaceful now.

A says

Just made a first pass, two days after (yeah I know) having adopted a second Great Pyrenees. I'd been doing something like body-blocking I think instinctively with our first Pyr, but she's a 3 or 4 y/o, and apparently much quicker to read human body language than our new almost-2 y/o puppy. He's been in and out of a couple different fosters, and his adoption attempts seem to have ended abruptly upon problems with barking in the house and being un-walkable on the leash. So we don't think this kind of thing was tried on him before? Maybe?

We were prepared for a couple weeks of adoption stress. (Our first one was rescued out of Korea, with a stab wound in her back, sooooo...yeah we were ready.) But the barking was really getting to both of us, and we were starting to get worried about integrating him successfully with our first pooch, who doesn't bark at all (except in the case of 'porch invaders'). And yes, we are now incredibly appreciative that our first go around was with a dog mentally strong enough to save the barking for special occasions!

Anyway we started calmly body-blocking with him just this morning whenever he bolted barking at the

door... and it's been four hours of people talking outside, dogs barking across the street, and motorcycles on a holiday weekend--in complete, serene silence. Our first dog has been even more deliriously happy than usual now that I've been able to be that much more consistent with her. There are a LOT of good, basic, practical suggestions in this book, and I can't wait to start working on them--and I imagine they'll have less immediate results--but this one technique is worth the weight of this book in GOLD.

Akasha Brandt says

Very helpful guide on dealing with multiple dogs in one space. Includes a very poignant section on deciding to re-home a dog as well which helped me through the struggle of re-homing a dog who wasn't fitting in very well in our household with our other pets.

Jan says

This book was very helpful, and I recommend it to anyone who has more than one dog. With my three, it has given me hope for a more sane life. Now that I've read through the whole thing, I will go back and read each section, then put the helpful directions into practice before I proceed to the next section.

Sofie says

It has a lot of the same exercises that are in *Chill Out Fido!: How to Calm Your Dog*, but taught in a different way. London's method moves a lot faster, and involves physically stopping the dog from making the "wrong" decision, while Arthur's is closer to error-less learning: rewarding desired behavior while the dog is well under threshold, and moving back a step whenever it becomes too much.

I feel like the methods in this book could be more frustrating for the dog, and lead to sneaky misbehavior. But what do I know. It's interesting to see two "positive" ways of training the same thing.

Not a lot of information in this book. I feel like McConnell's other books and seminars on dog behavior and play would be more helpful.

Elizabeth says

This was a helpful primer on owning multiple dogs. I've recently added a second, and have been surprised at how the dynamic has changed. What I appreciated most is having an expert walk me through some of the things that I was struggling with - does it have to be "fair" all of the time? is it okay for one to sleep on the bed and one to sleep elsewhere? what's the best way to deal with jealousy? do I need to train them separately?

The training that I've always found most helpful from Patricia McConnell is the idea that both dogs need to learn to be polite and wait. My 1 yr old has impulse control issues (as young dogs do). I've picked up some great tips in reading this short book for helping to corral those types of problems.

Johnny Fleck says

Summary in a sentence:

If you have more than one dog, you should teach them to sit, wait, off, and break them up if they fight. The end.

Marnie says

This is a really short book. If you are looking for an exhaustive tome on managing multiple dogs, you may feel somewhat disappointed, especially since the authors direct you to a large list of comprehensive books at the end. But I think that would be selling the book (or as the author calls it, pamphlet) short. There are a variety of common problems outlined such as crowding the door, chaotic meal times, doggy play time, and walks, that will pose a problem for any multiple dog owner and this book offers easy to understand techniques for addressing these problems. There are no instant fixes. These methods involve spending time, every day, working your dogs individually and separately, but the authors uses as much positive reinforcement with their readers as they do with the dogs they train and the lesson are broken down into small enough pieces to feel manageable even for busy and/or uncoordinated amateur home dog trainers.

I can't speak to the success or failure of the methods, since I have just finished the book, but the methods are in line with a current trend in training where good behavior is lavishly rewarded and undesirable behavior is simply ignored. Whether or not this method or the method now popular with a certain hollywood dog trainer with the roman emperor's name is more or less effective, is not my place to say, but I have seen examples of dogs trained both ways who effectively meet their handler's expectations. In the end, my style is more in keeping with the former, so it is my preference.

Colleen Remer says

Very helpful information

Kali says

This booklet has a lot of great information and training exercises for multi-dog households. The authors immediately won me over with the line, "three dogs are as much work as you would expect seven to be." I finished it in 30-40 minutes, but will definitely be referencing it again as I work on training.

Chris says

Good tips on how to work with your dogs when you have more than one in the house. I haven't started group training yet, because we are working on individual training, but we will definitely get some use out of this

book.

Joëlle Tétreault says

Excellent prequel to more extensive readings about having 2+ dogs at home. There are a lot of references that will help you choose further books on the subject.

You have to believe in positive reinforcement dog training to understand the whole approach.

Julie A Balerna says

Just okay

I was looking for more impactful advice about introducing a new dog to our home (we already have one dog), and felt that this book didn't contain enough useful information on that subject.
