

More reviews for How to Right a Dog Gone Wrong

"This book tackles a lot of information in its short 191 pages. Since it is directed at the owners of dogs "gone wrong," I think Pamela Dennison was wise not to create a book so long that it would intimidate the intended audience.

The high points of this book for me are its easy-to-follow format which includes not just the typical end-of-chapter key points, but also frequent capsule summaries that contain a lot of important information—even if an owner only skimmed these summaries, they'd get some very good take-away messages.

I enjoyed Pamela's writing style—it's infused with just a touch of humor and some really wonderful analogies. One favorite is the comparison between a handler tightening their dog's leash and the secure feeling of walking with a companion who cares enough to pull you aside if you get too close to something dangerous, such as a nest of stinging red ants. Another favorite is when she compares a dog reaching the age of five months to the Bar Mitzvah rite-of-passage—"Now you are a Dog!"

...I appreciate that Ms. Dennison takes a strong stand on her position against the use of positive punishment training techniques. There will be no doubt in the reader's mind how she feels about certain training methods and tools and I admire that she takes that stand.

The book covers foundation behaviors in a brilliant way. The presentation of each behavior starts with a "Why You Need It" section and is then followed by a "How to Train It" section. This presentation technique is so simple and easy to follow that I think Dennison hits the mark for her audience. She also covers some areas that I haven't often seen in dog books meant for dog owners such as the Rule of Sevens and an excellent section on context design that has many sample sessions to give the reader a real sense of how rehabilitation may progress with their dog.

As happens with many books, Dennison gets a bit bogged down in a discussion of classical and operant conditioning, schedules of reinforcement, and other terms like "scheduled induced aggression"

that in my opinion are really not necessary for the typical dog owner and may make them feel they are in over their heads, especially when she does such a fantastic job, in general, of simplifying without “dumbing down” throughout the book. All in all I found this a very well written book with some excellent practical advice for owners of aggressive dogs and some very effective presentation techniques.

It also covers what I think most professional dog trainers would agree are the most critical foundation behaviors for most dogs (not just those with aggression). The good things in this book far outweigh any minor concerns and I would certainly recommend it as supplemental material for the owner of an aggressive dog who has first had a behavior consultation with a qualified professional.” **Sarah Kalnajs**

Practical, easy to understand steps

Reviewer: Jennifer Morse

How to Right a Dog Gone Wrong is so practical and easy to understand that it gives you the confidence to do the right thing for your dog and not give up on her. Pamela includes real-life examples that put things into perspective. Starting with the Ten Foundation Behaviors, she gives you and your dog a solid platform to start from and tells you where to go from there. She is not shy about telling you that it is a lengthy process but she also inspires you to make the investment in your pup. I believe that I am now armed with the knowledge to start helping my dog overcome her fears. What more could you ask for??

The First Step to Rehabilitating a Reactive Dog

Reviewer: Stephanie

I highly recommend this book as the first book to read for rehabilitating a reactive dog. Pam thoroughly reviews the foundation behaviors that are a must before setting your dog up for more difficult situations. Not only is the importance of the foundation behaviors reviewed and explained but she summarizes more advanced practices and other behaviors.

What I like best about this book:

- Teaching of the foundation behaviors
- Importance of goal setting and tracking progress
- Examples of how to track your progress

- Reminding the reader that this is a long process and take your time
- Set your dog up for success

Reviewer: Amy Flanigan (www.civilobediencedogtraining.com)

This is a fantastic resource for owners of aggressive dogs; as a professional trainer, I frequently recommend this book because it's easy to read, well laid out, and very instructive. The author explains and emphasizes the need for positive reinforcement (as opposed to punitive methods) when working with aggressive dogs. I love Dennison's use of 'protected contact' for proofing in the later stages of behavior modification.

Reviewer: beth b.

This is an excellent book. In my experience, Pam knows more about rehabilitating a reactive dog than any trainer out there. I also read her book 'Bringing Light to Shadow,' which chronicles day by day how she trained her dog from fearful and aggressive to calm, friendly and competitive in agility and obedience.

The training is practical, but even more importantly, her books give you a sense of timing and pacing your dog's progress slowly over time.

Because of these books, I hauled across the country to spend a few days with Pam and a small group of handlers to practice these skills. It was well worth it.

Beth