



We are professionally trained to help you enjoy peace of mind while your dog enjoys his walks. Yes, even while we stop to pick up his poop.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 6

Book Club: Bestselling Material

Aesop wrote his fables a very long time ago. In 1877 *Black Beauty* galloped onto the stage, and mid-twentieth century, John Steinbeck wrote about his poodle-accompanied road trip in *Travels with Charlie*. Stories about animals have always been around, but precious few transcend the fluffy-edged sphere of children's literature. Not so anymore. Ten or twelve years ago booksellers noticed a trend: Books about dogs began to show consistently solid sales, almost regardless of subject. Training manual or glossy coffee table photography, it mattered little.



Today, what was a trend has become a wave. Once the sole province of ardent fanciers, dog-themed books now poke their noses onto bestseller lists every few months, even penetrating the fiction list, as in the case of Garth Stein's *The Art of Racing in the Rain* or W. Bruce Cameron's *A Dog's Purpose*. But the biggest winners are non-fiction that ranges from memoir to true stories to cognitive science and cynology. Who hasn't read, or heard of, John Grogan's mega-hit *Marley & Me*, about his family's adorable, dysfunctional Labrador? Temple Grandin's *Animals in Translation* earned bestseller status, as did Jon Katz' memoir (*Dog Days*) and Alexandra Horowitz' *Inside of a Dog*.



Dog Quotes

"All the virtues of man without his vices."

—Lord Byron



German Wirehaired Pointer



... Bestselling material

Why this groundswell of enthusiasm for doggie literature? The obvious answer is that dogs and other companion animals are more popular than ever before in history (a 2016 study by the American Pet Products Association estimates there are 78 million dogs in America alone, not counting the rest of the world), so the pool of interested readers has grown.

But surely the demand for dog-related books—along with demand for designer collars, raw food, dog walkers, poop scooping services, and more—also indicates the unique position dogs have come to occupy in the family. Long our hard-working ally, dogs have moved into our homes and hearts in a way previously reserved for human children. According to another study, more than half of dog owners consider their pet ‘an integral part of the family.’

Then again, the truth may boil down to this: Dogs, with all their lovable foibles, make for vastly interesting reading.



Healthy Dog: Dogs and flatulence

Awkward as the subject is, excessive flatulence in dogs is no joke. Of course, some gas production is perfectly normal, in dogs as well as humans. But too much of it is not just a nuisance for those living with the afflicted pooch, it’s a sign that something isn’t working as it should in the dog’s digestive system. An overproduction of gas can have many different causes, like eating food too quickly, food allergies, overgrowth of bacteria, a chronic bowel disorder, or a serious illness.

So, what do you do if your best friend is too gassy? First step is a visit to the vet, where stool checks, bloodwork, X-rays, and ultrasounds are standard initial diagnostic tools. If those don’t yield results, an endoscopy may be necessary. Most often, though, the answer will be something lifestyle related, like a change of diet or chewies, feeding smaller meals more frequently, or trying probiotics.



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