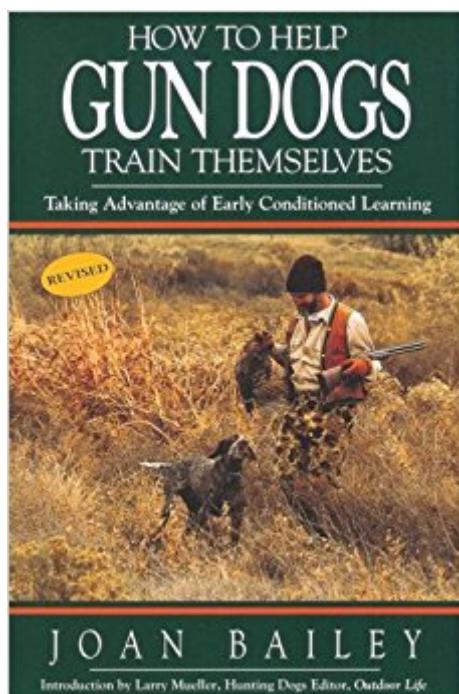


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# How To Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves, Taking Advantage Of Early Conditioned Learning



## **Synopsis**

An easy to read, step-by-step format that assists gun dog owners by providing proven methods emphasizing socialization, exposure and conditioning during the critical first 12 months of a dog's life. Over 130 photographs show the reader how to bring your pup along, using the easy, informal, time-tested methods. Now in the new, 4th edition, revised, this book continues to help hunters avoid making mistakes during the critical first months of a dog life, mistakes that could ruin an otherwise fine dog.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Gun dog editor of American Hunter, Bill McClure, said: Bailey's book is different...With enthusiasm, the author emphasizes 'use common sense, consistency, and a small dose of formal training, and you've got yourself a fine hunting dog.' that's what the book is about and believe me, it's a good one...I would recommend it to anyone about to start a young pup. Buy it before he comes home and memorize the first seven chapters. Then the next six. --American Hunter, February 1992

Outdoor Life's hunting dog editor, Larry Mueller said in the Introduction of the book: Hopefully Joan Bailey's insight into the dog's first year will at last clarify this important subject...The timely thrust of this book is how to accomplish the amazing things that can be done ONLY while the dog is but a baby...If you have a pup don't put this book aside to read later. --How to help Gun Dogs Train Themselves, page XI

Quail Unlimited Dogs Editor, Stephen C Rafe said: This book is a gem. It shows you how to avoid critical mistakes in your pup's upbringing. It's loaded with good advice including topics often overlooked by other authors. Start your new pup on Joan Bailey's program for socializing and

conditioning your pup for its first twelve months and you should have the bird go of your dreams. She knows her subject and her audiences, and matches them up well in a clear, concise book filled with solid guidance and numerous relevant photographs. it's a bargain for any bookshelf. --Quail Unlimited Magazine, July-August 1992, page 76

Bailey was a field judge of versatile hunting dogs for 26 years; editor of The Gun Dog Supreme for 25 years; winner of 13 awards from the Dog Writers Association of America. Her judging in the field took her to all parts of the U.S. and to Eastern Canada, and to Germany so that she is familiar with the different kinds of hunting terrain in North America. Most of her upland hunting was in Eastern Ontario, Nebraska, Montana, Eastern Oregon, and Washington.

Because I have judged hunting dogs all around the US for the past 25 years, I have seen a lot of dogs with excellent potential, and sadly, a lot of owners/handlers who, if they had only read this book, would have great hunting dogs. It starts at "day one" with a puppy, and no serious hunter, (or dog owner), should have a dog without also having this wonderfully readable book under their belt. This, and the companion book, How To Have The Best Trained Gun Dog, also by Joan Bailey, make a wonderful gift and the payback in having a wonderful canine companion is ten fold.

A clear common sense explanation free of the stilted prose found in some other training books. I highly recommend this book for the beginning trainer. It clarified many concepts and gave me an entirely different perspective on how to interact with my dog.

Even though the book was written a few years ago, it is full of great information. I started used the principle concepts on my pup when she first arrived at 8 weeks. She is now 3 months and we are still following the principles- all is well. I would recommend this book for anyone who has a "gun dog" pup.

My initial review of Joan's first book (How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves) did not quite do it justice. I followed Joan's book as closely as I could for my pup's first year and hunting season. I recently returned from a great hunt in the southwest, where my female GSP was born and raised. She is now 4.5 years old, and performing as close to flawless as a gun dog can (particularly without professional or "formal" training). She has learned on her own when she needs to be bold on wild desert birds to pin them down, but has also learned to be very cautious with tighter

holding quail, which includes having learned that after the covey rise, there may still be a few birds left sitting tight. She has gotten in the habit of taking a couple of jumps after the covey rise, but then stopping and re-pointing where the covey flushed, or waiting for me to tell to go on for a retrieve. I was kind of shocked really. We have never worked on that at all during any of the off-seasons. She just started doing it on her own. I have no doubt that I could finish her to polished, formal gun dog suitable for any field test with very minimal additional effort (for which Joan's other book "How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog" is a great read). But that is not what I am looking for at this point. I simply ask her to be a great versatile gun dog that works seamlessly with me as my hunting partner, as though connected by a string. And that is exactly what she is. She points staunchly, holds for the gun, and retrieves reliably from land and water. Most importantly, she continues to learn every season and surprises me with new tricks year after year. It's as if she's been thinking how to improve during the off-season just as much as I obsess about finding new places to hunt and why I am such a poor shot. I attribute all of this to having followed Joan's book (How to Help Gun Dogs Train themselves). All that is needed is exposure, good genes, and more exposure. And an owner willing to let it all happen (which I always need help with). She just continues to learn and train herself. We are so grateful for Joan's love and expertise with versatile gun dogs. Her methods and thoughts have led to many enjoyable days afield with our four-legged partners!

This book is my go to gift whenever a family member or friend brings a new pup into their household. This time it was for my brother and his first hunting dog just 12 months ago. I am happy to report that Joan's thoughtful advice worked as well for a young turkey dog as it has for other types of gun dogs raised by my family and friends receiving this book.

This book was one of two recommended to me by a member of the local NAVHDA chapter. Being a bird dog novice, I had contacted them for advice on how to condition my German Shorthaired Pointer for possible field work. It reads very well and makes a lot of sense, even if you are new to hunting breeds and the lingo of hunting sports. It emphasizes the importance of "conditioning" (as opposed to actual "training" which comes later) the puppy and young dog for its future job, and describes very clearly how to go about it. It also gives advice on what NOT to do to prevent having to retrain the dog later on. Regardless of whether or not you want to hunt with your dog, I recommend this to anyone who is getting a gundog puppy. It is a lot of fun to strengthen your pup's instincts in a gentle way, and fascinating to watch your dog grow mentally before your very eyes.

My deepest appreciation and thanks for your two Gun Dog Training books. I only wish I would not have had to edit my review down to 400 characters! I've read many Gun Dog training books, and your methods are the only approach that makes perfect sense to me. I'm getting a French Brittany female pup from a breeder in Bismarck, North Dakota this spring, and thanks to you, I now have a plan in place that I feel really good about.

lots of valuable information

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