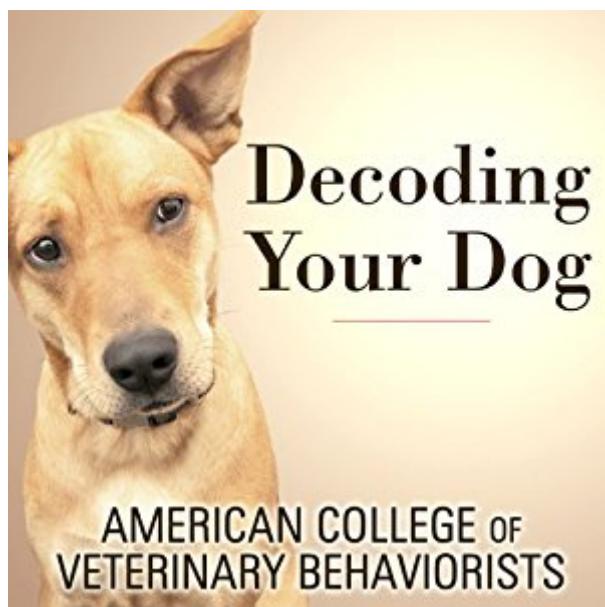


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# Decoding Your Dog: The Ultimate Experts Explain Common Dog Behaviors And Reveal How To Prevent Or Change Unwanted Ones



## **Synopsis**

More than ninety percent of dog owners consider their pets to be members of their family. But often, despite our best intentions, we are letting our dogs down by not giving them the guidance and direction they need. Unwanted behavior is the number-one reason dogs are relinquished to shelters and rescue groups. The key to training dogs effectively is first to understand why our dogs do what they do. And no one can address this more authoritatively than the diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Behavior, whose work, the culmination of years of rigorous training, takes them deep into the minds of dogs in an effort to decode how they think, how they communicate, and how they learn. In *Decoding Your Dog*, these experts analyze problem behaviors, decipher the latest studies, and correct common misconceptions and outmoded theories. The audiobook includes: Effective, veterinary-approved positive training methods. Expert advice on socialization, house-training, diet, and exercise. Remedies for behavior problems such as OCD and aggression. With *Decoding Your Dog*, the experts' experts deliver a must-have dog behavior guide that ultimately challenges the way we think about our dogs.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When I read the first few chapters of this book, I thought, "I've heard all this before." How to pick a dog...well, I choose shelter or rescue animals, and you don't have the luxury of visiting the breeder, evaluating the parents, etc. I also was a little annoyed at the focus on Veterinary Behaviorists. But as I read on, I really started to like this book. I liked the in-depth approach to the whys of dog behavior AND the specific methods of eliciting the behaviors you want and discouraging the behaviors you

don't. The authors also dispel the 'dominance' myths that some experts use to explain and train dogs. I especially liked the chapter on solving common problems. For instance, one of the common problems is pulling on the leash when taking a walk. Many behaviorists call an act of dominance, and that you have to show the dog who's boss. But the authors argue that leash pulling is not a dominance problem (they use a case to explain); it's a behavior problem. They then go on to discuss how to solve it--step-by-step. They also talk about the tools you need to solve it (no retractable leash, the right collar, etc.). Of all the training books I own, I think this is the one that I'll keep at hand. It not only gives clear solutions to problems, but also does so in a positive, humane way. I'm glad that I took a chance on 'another' dog training book. This one was worth reading.

It can be a bit more info than you want about some things (lengthy explanation at times) and I have found myself skipping over some sections especially in the beginning of the book, BUT there are definitely nuggets of information that are very useful for interacting with and working with your dog. Explanations that will give you a better understanding of your dog. Many commonly held misconceptions about dogs are rebuked and explained in a common sense way. For example, the belief that taking your dog's food away from him/her when they are eating is not promoted. It is explained that a dog who has its food periodically and for no reason taken from him/her is more likely to develop aggression when eating because of the fear someone is going to take the food. It is instead suggested that you periodically add a special treat to their bowl while they are eating to make it a pleasant experience to have some approach them when eating. Makes perfect sense when you think about it logically. The book endorses positive ways to work with your dog and his/her behavior. A gentler, kinder, approach than some methods that insist aggressive domination of your pet is necessary. There is quite a bit of time taken explaining dog behavior and how our own interaction with them affects our dogs. I found very helpful. Again with the reasoning explained in a common sense and logical way.

I was hoping for a miracle cure - something I hadn't already thought of for my dog with severe separation anxiety. This book didn't contain much info that I hadn't already heard or read or discussed with my vet. However, if you haven't already researched the subjects you are interested in (regarding dog behavior), this is a good overall source book for "decoding". Book is well written, easy to understand, gives suggestions for various behaviors and what to do/not to to change them. Good book - just didn't help me and my phobic but adorable dog!

This book provided a benefit many times the price when I read chapter 4 on housetraining. A tip jumped out at me: Use a separate door for potty breaks if possible than the one you use for walks, etc. I implemented it and suddenly--no more urinating on my carpet. Like magic! I had read another book specific to housetraining, but only this book included this tip. Further, it's very well-written and difficult to put down. I love that it explains the WHY, including the research behind the recommendations. I'm implementing many other key learnings from the book, knowing that it was written by the leading board-certified veterinary experts in the country. Both my dog and I are reaping the benefits and will no doubt, for years to come. Thank you ACVB!

I own this book in hardcover, ebook, and audiobook. I truly feel that there is something for every dog lover in its pages. Even if you don't own a dog, Decoding Your Dog can help you more fully understand the canine mind. If you have a well-behaved dog, this book can tell you why that may be. If you have a puppy, there are techniques for getting your puppy off to a good start. And even tips for older dogs. I found it emotional to read what behaviors in my old dog may have meant, and that knowledge will help me be a better owner to my current dogs. There's no agenda here. Finding a veterinary behaviorist sometimes isn't easy, but hopefully you can use the tools provided here to prevent the need for one (or to convince yourself that that's exactly what your dog needs).

I couldn't see when I got the book, I HAD IT READ TO ME..... This is the science behind the choices that every dog trainer must make. Due to the forays into research this is awkwardly worded to be considered diggable to the light reader. But authors go to great lengths to make it user friendly-ish. This stuff is really good to know, if you want to cut through the fads and B.S. on the web, as dog training undergoes a REVOLUTION in no force/low stress training.

This is a great book..! I have read so many dog books...I just stopped counting a while ago.. There are quite a few great books about dogs and dog behavior out there (check out Stanley Coren), but this was a nice surprise... The writing style is quite refreshing and straight-forward, and the certain behaviors, postures, and other body language are explained extremely well. The authors explain why dogs act a certain way, what triggers specific behaviors, and they describe the many signals a dog is sending us in great detail and easy to understand. I highly recommend this book to every dog owner, even experienced ones who think they "have seen it all"... :-)

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