How Dogs Learn

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Mary R. Burch, Ph.D., and Jon S. Bailey, Ph.D.
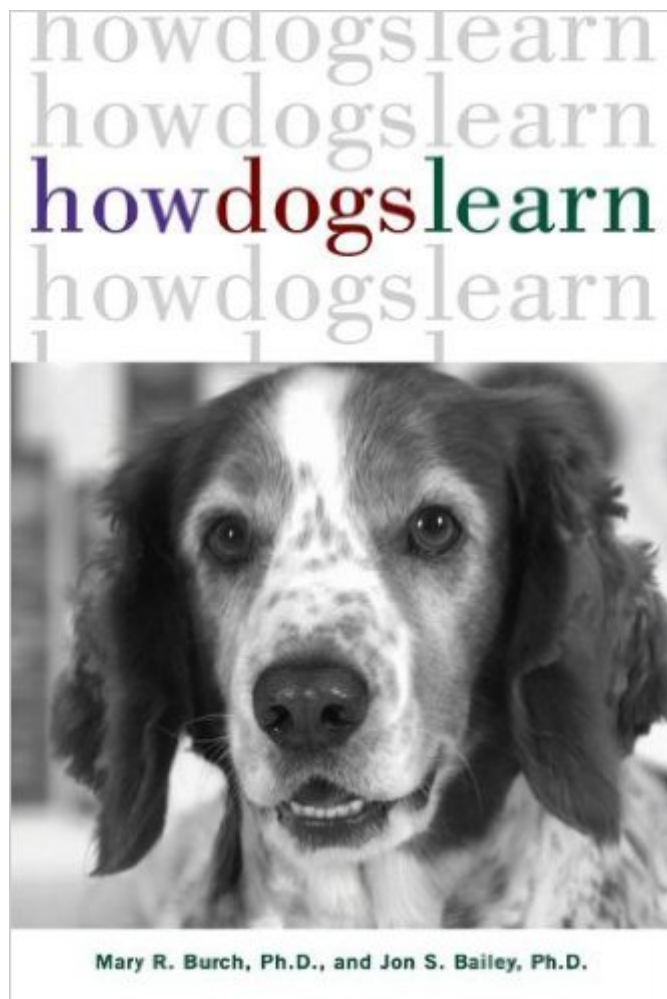
Synopsis

...this book should be on every animal trainer's bookshelf for future reference. How Dogs Learn covers the content of an undergraduate course in learning and behavior, but the examples are taken from dog training it is practical and very useful without sacrificing scientific and technical accuracy. --Jack Michael, PhD, Department of Psychology, Western Michigan UniversityHow Dogs Learn explore the fascinating science of operant conditioning, where science and dog training meet. How Dogs Learn explains the basic principles of behavior and how they can be used to teach your dog new skills, diagnose problems and eliminate unwanted behaviors. It's for anyone who wants to better understand the learning process in dogs. Every concept is laid out clearly and precisely, and its relevance to your dog and how you train is explained.A Howell Dog Book of Distinction

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Customer Reviews

Drs. Burch and Bailey have brought together their considerable talents to produce an important book for both dog owners and professional trainers. Dog owners will find the book to be a valuable resource for understanding how dogs learn, making their training efforts more positive and rewarding--both for themselves and for their dogs. The professional trainer will find the book to be an informative introduction to basic learning concepts and techniques; they will also appreciate the authors' balanced approach to explaining operant technology. Overall, the authors have done an excellent job of introducing operant methods (such as clicker training) and explaining how they can be used to improve the dog's behavior. Finally, the book is written in a lucid and accessible style, but be forewarned, there is not much in the way of entertaining fluff here, although the book is nicely

illustrated with many wonderful anecdotes and examples that both the novice and expert will appreciate. Dr. Burch is a highly respected Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, whose efforts to improve dog training and to develop humane methods for treating behavior problems are well-known within the dog world. Dr. Bailey is a Professor of Psychology at Florida State University. Among his impressive credentials, he is past editor of the Journal for Applied Behavior Analysis. If you are serious about dogs and training, you should read this book!

As a professional police dog trainer this book is the only dog training book that I have read that addresses the heart of in my field training. Late in life I decided to learn about the science behind training and now a student of behavior science. This book should be a must read for every trainer. Information here goes directly to applied behavior modification something every trainer should have at very least a working understanding of.

A very good book for the more technical reader. Ever since Pavlov got dogs to salivate when he rang a bell, man has studied dogs and associated their behavior with ours. This book uses all that great dog data (60-100 years)to tell us more about dogs instead of humans. Novel idea. I liked it. A little dry. I read most books and hope to get something good I can use. This book more than met my expectations. "Behavior Problems In Dogs" I think Bill Cambell was as good or better. Both must reads for the serious trainer.

This book goes over timing, consistency and motivation, with these you can teach any dog any thing! Everything you need to know on how to train a dog is in this book! I am a professional dog trainer and every now and then I reread this book just for a refresher, there are a lot of new terms in it that might get a little bothersome at first, but after you learn them everthything starts to make sense... Almost like common sense, and you wonder why you didn't think of it in the first place

A very quick read, this book covers the science of behaviorism very accurately. While I personally didn't learn anything new here (but have read many books on the subject) this was the most concise book on the subject yet. It explains the important concepts without getting too technical but still telling you what you need to know.This book covered most of what I learned in my undergrad Learning And Behavior psych course.I reccomend this book to people not just interested in how to train, but interested in why these training methods work. I would also reccomend Pryor's Don't Shoot The Dog which covers the same concepts but relates it to humans as well.

This book was a little simple for me, since I have and experimental psychology background. However, I did discuss it with a few friends with dogs, and found that they had no idea that they were actually reinforcing bad behaviors in their dogs. There are very good suggestions for gradually encouraging wanted behaviors and discouraging the unwanted behaviors. I highly recommend this to anyone who has not previously trained a dog. It is also a good checkup for experienced dog people, like me, to make sure we remember all the mistakes we could make.

This book is stunning in academic detail... as well as offering various foundations on which to build one's own canine education program. This book provides explanations of the different types of training - positive & negative, reinforcement & punishment - as well as how the *why* each type will result in a change in behavior. After 35+ years of working with animals (from punishment based to positive reinforcement based) this book is a Gold Mine!

I haven't finished this book yet, but I think it's going to be helpful. We adopted a rescue who, believe it or not, does NOT know how play. She seldom barks and has attached herself to the back of my legs. We think she perhaps was abused at some time, but who knows. She obviously is glad to have a caring home, but we are much concerned about the playing problem. Our girl is not a pup - rather middle age, we think. Anybody else had this problem and what did you do to fix the problem? We really would appreciate anything possible.

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