

A Way with Dogs



Understanding the dog and human relationship

Trudy Nicholson

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In her new book, an animal-loving author and photographer celebrates the spirit of our canine friends and shares her insights into how to make life with a dog even better.

Any dog-owner will tell you that, as much as they love their adorable pooch, dog guardianship is not always easy. Get it wrong in those early years and you're stuck with it. And yet problems like biting, which so often makes the headlines, may be prevented – especially if you follow Trudy Nicholson's advice.

Known for her work with horses and her popular book *A Way with Horses*, the New Zealand author now turns to her other love: dogs.

Written in the same engaging and easy reading style that made her horse book a hit, *A Way with Dogs* unlocks the mysteries of this much-loved animal.

The dog, which brings so much pleasure and plays such an important part in so many lives, is said to be man's best friend – but Nicholson wonders how much we really understand them – their motivations, needs and desires.

A Way with Dogs takes us on a voyage into the dog's inner world, through Nicholson's stunning photographs and insightful text. The book provides an essential and readable overview for anyone thinking about getting a dog or for those who already have one but are keen to learn more about their companion.

Nicholson bases much of the book on her personal experience in the company of dogs as well as horses. She peppers her text with vivid anecdotes and personal observations that brings the dog's world to life.

She is the first to admit that dog ownership is not always a bed of roses. She firmly believes, however, that learning to understand the psychology of dogs enhances our relationship with them.



Nicholson takes us on a delightful and page-turning journey as the puppy moves from the security of his mother to being adopted by the human pack. She believes that, while dog ownership is a lot of fun, having a dog is a big commitment and a responsibility as the cute puppy grows into an adult and its needs continue to change.

“This is not a training manual or a breeds book,” says Nicholson. “It’s about understanding the importance of the ‘natural’ way of the dog, and the basic pack interaction and instincts.

“We have to see things through their eyes – the way our world looks to them as the puppy makes the transition from its world to ours.

“Many of the problems we see with dogs may be alleviated by learning to recognise and understand the dog’s basic instincts - those of his ancestor the wolf - his language and behaviour, as well as his life in the pack, which is his natural setting.

“Adapt and relate these factors to our own human and dog pack and we can share in a much more harmonious and rewarding relationship with our canine friends,” says Nicholson.

MORE ABOUT TRUDY NICHOLSON:

Trudy Nicholson grew up with dogs and horses. Her love affair and involvement with both species continued into her adult years, when she worked with and trained horses in a variety of capacities. She especially enjoyed observing her dogs: their spirit, freedom and instinctual behaviour as they accompanied her on her horse rides in the forest tracks or along the beach, running freely, joyfully plunging off into the forest after rabbits, and simply living life to the full.

Nicholson has always enjoyed photographing dogs and horses: she grew up with them and she cannot conceive of a life without the enrichment of their company. Her photographic skills and knowledge of dogs give her the ability to capture the body language, relationships and emotions of the dog in a uniquely expressive way.



When not travelling to expand her photographic library, her base is on a small rural holding in Nelson, New Zealand with her two horses, Gus and Laurel, and her new canine companion (who features in her book) Jimi, crossbreed puppy, from the SPCA. This is Nicholson’s third book – she is currently a full-time author and photographer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH TRUDY, PLEASE
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