



The Bond

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There are few people who understand dogs better than Jennifer Arnold. Twenty-five years after she founded Canine Assistants, a nationally recognized nonprofit that raises and provides service dogs for people with disabilities, Arnold had an epiphany. She'd always approached the education of dogs with kindness and compassion—eschewing the faux science of fear and domination-based training methods. And she'd always understood dogs to be uniquely, uncannily attuned to their human companions; in fact she depended on it—she knew that the bond that developed between a person and their service dog was the single greatest predictor of that partnership's success and, conversely, failure to bond brought about anxiety and distress in dogs.

But it wasn't until recent scientific findings confirmed her hands-on experience with dogs' intuitive social skills that she was willing to put this bold idea to the test: Dogs who bond with us completely and unconditionally will seek to please us and, with minimal cues, can learn to make remarkably sophisticated decisions about their own behavior. Sure, dogs can be taught commands such as “sit,” “stay,” and “heel,” but even the kindest reward and punishment models were merely manipulating dogs' behavior, rather than unleashing their unique social genius and innate ability to navigate the world.

The Bond Details

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From Reader Review The Bond for online ebook

Susan says

I won this book through Goodreads. Really enjoyed this refreshing take on dog training. Lots of advice and ingenious ideas to try.

Adrienne says

I received this book via a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

What a fantastic book! I loved learning about the Bond-Based training method that the author developed for use with her service dogs. I had the same thoughts about domination-based training. I was thrilled that this author had the courage to come out against mainstream training methods by writing a book about the process she uses.

I love her training based on The Bond. It's beautiful. I loved the stories the author shared, her discussion about current research into dogs, and her insight into their behaviors. I especially loved the appendices, particularly the ones about giving a doggie massage (my boy loves neck and shoulder rubs!) and a glossary of what different dog vocalizations mean. I learned a lot about the Canine Code of Behavior, things that I didn't know, but that made perfect sense. I loved how she shared what might be going on in our dogs' minds based on what they know while they try to live in a human world with different customs. Thinking about situations from our dog's perspective can certainly increase our compassion and empathy.

I was thrilled to learn that I was already doing some of the things that she recommended with my dog who was adopted from a rescue organization. I look forward to implementing more of her suggestions to help him build even more confidence and to deepen our bond. I'm thrilled with this book, and it's a keeper! I'm debating on lending my copy to friends or just buying a few copies to give out...since not all books return home! This book is one I want to keep and will refer back to again and again. Thank you, Jennifer Arnold, for writing this revolutionary book. It belongs in the hands of all dog lovers.

Kate says

This book is actually called "Love is all you need." While I was expecting something a bit more revolutionary, it was interesting and though you still need to work at it (you can't just abstractly love your dog and expect everything else to just work out), it seems like the general idea of the method is sound and would work. I think we've intuitively done a lot of this with our 8-mo-old puppy. Now we can be a bit more purposeful.

Cyndie Brashear Kieffer says

I really was excited to read about bond based choice training. Overall, I found it an easy to read and informative book. I completely agree with her training methods and encourage everyone to examine their relationship with their dog. There were many points that stayed with me one being, "I have come to

understand that those who train using aversives are simply interested in what dogs can do for mankind not in what dogs can do with mankind".
