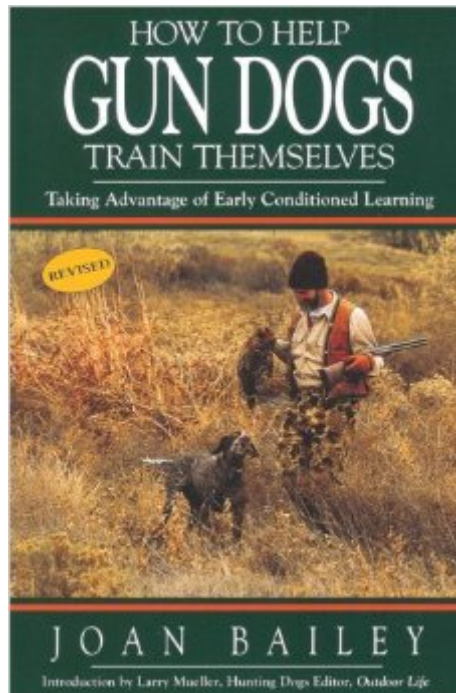


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# How To Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves, Taking Advantage Of Early Conditioned Learning



## 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

I really enjoyed Ms. Bailey's approach to training gun dogs, especially the emphasis that she places on conditioning instead of formal training. Ms. Bailey's conditioning techniques allow you to train your dog without the dog realizing it. Her book and its methods are only intended for puppies to 1 year old dogs. She defers you to other books and techniques to use for training your adult dog. However, I feel that if you use the techniques she has stated in her book with your puppy/adolescent dog, you will be well on your way to having not only a great bird dog, but also a great family friend that is well mannered and socialized.

I bought this in preparation for our new German Shorthair Pointer. Overall, it was a good read in gaining insight into what was a new breed for us in a non GSP-specific manner. However, I found a lot of the content fairly vague and non-specific. I'm the type where if I get a training aid, I want to be told exactly what to do and this was lacking in that regard

Quite simply, this is the best book I've ever read on the subject of training gun dogs. Joan follows a logical progression of learning challenges, just don't fall into the trap of thinking you and your dog have to be precisely where "the book says" you both need to be at X point in time. I don't believe that was Joan's intention, to be that exacting in the timeline, as she certainly knows and points out that each dog learns at a different rate, for any number of reasons. Still, the sequence of steps to be taken along the way are most effective. Teachings in other references actually help get the dog ready to start learning between their 5th and 10th week. When they get coupled with "How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves", even the most novice owner/trainer will find their task to be less like work and more like fun as you watch the dog learning faster and deeper. Now if only we could get her to write books like this for parents and teachers.

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.

This is the third time I have used "How to Help Gundogs Train Themselves" to expose a puppy to its first year of home and hunting and it is still working like a charm. I am having a very good season with my six month old wirehaired pointing griffon after following Joan Bailey's methods and recommend this book very highly!

Buy this book as soon as you get the thought of buying a new hunting dog! She will guide you to making a good choice on your new dog which will make your life easier in the long run. This author's teachings of lots of positive's and direct but small negatives is a wonderful way to build any relationship, especially one with your new hunting buddy. Buy this book, read it, and follow what she says word for word and you will have a dog that will be dependable, loyal and obedient. Next book to buy, which Joan Bailey recommends, is Training Your Retriever by James Lamb Free. He will train you and your new hunting partner to be pros.

I'm sure in 1993 this book was at the forefront of the positive approach in performance dog training, but reading it now tends to date it. There are lots of mentions to the debunked alpha mentality and

the discussions of force retrieving are not my cup of tea. Operant conditioning has made great strides since this book has been published, and while it's a good read as the author has valuable experience, I would read it with caution if you a force free trainer. I enjoyed reading it nonetheless.

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.

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