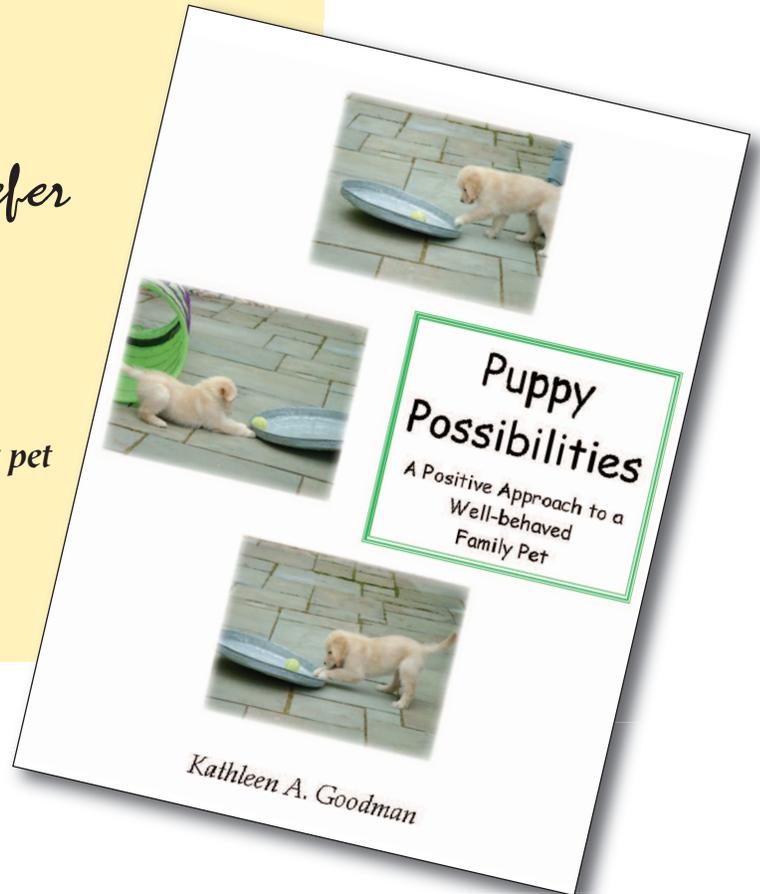


Book Review by Edell Schaefer

Puppy Possibilities:

A positive approach to a well-behaved family pet

by Kathleen A. Goodman



Puppy Possibilities:

A Positive Approach to a Well-behaved Family Pet

by Kathleen A. Goodman

Published by the Author (PuppyTrek.com)

My combined passion for dogs and books has resulted in a home library of considerable extent. As books have taken over more space over the decades I've disciplined myself to acquire them only in certain areas, or by favorite authors, and by far the greatest number of books on my shelves relate to animal behavior and dog training. *Puppy Possibilities* by Kathleen Goodman is

one of the special few that are so unique in approach or quality that they rise to the top and become frequently used or recommended. Although this book targets the new puppy owner, it would be suitable for anyone acquiring a dog of any age; the underlying principles of preparation, care and training are the same.

The chapters are sequenced starting with "Planning Your Adventure," which includes a checklist of things to consider before bringing a puppy home, a shopping list for supplies, and a vocabulary list so you can familiarize yourself long before the puppy arrives with the words you'll use in communicating with your new family member. Chapter Two covers "Homecoming Week" and introduces housetraining, crating, imprinting, the basics of come and sit, discipline, and accepting having feet and bodies handled. Chapter Three includes nail trimming, introducing household noises such as the vacuum cleaner, bathing and grooming, and more basics such as stand and walking on a leash. Chapter Four is devoted to "Devil Dogs 'n Chewpellant" and the challenges faced as puppies explore and test boundaries. Chapter Five focuses on "Tricks and Games" with fun activities such as biscuit flips, catching a ball, and figure-8 weaves around your legs, in addition to working on basics of sit/stay, down, and off.

"Table Manners and Discipline" is designed to nip counter-surfers in the bud, and introduces what Goodman believes is the most effective form of discipline – the timeout. The final chapter takes earlier training a step further with sit/stay at a distance, how to handle a leash when walking, hide 'n seek, wait at doorways, and a 'throw and go' game.

Kathleen Goodman's credentials as a dog trainer and teacher shine through in this book. The writing is clear and concise and liberally illustrated with photographs. Because of the layout and sequencing, this book is very suitable for first-time puppy/dog owners and it would be a valuable item to include in any breeder's puppy packet. ❖

