



The True Story Of A Frustrated & Confused Dog Owner Who Used The Reverse Dog Training Method To Teach His Dog Obedience And Solve Behavior Problems

By Eric R. Letendre

www.AmazingDogTrainingMan.com

Just some of what you'll learn from this book...

Learn how to use The Reverse Dog Training Method, a revolutionary system developed by The Amazing Dog Training Man

The number ONE Success Secret you need to know to have a well behaved dog

How to use the M.U.T.T. Method to fix any behavior problem

Why you should never use a choke chain

What "Successive Approximation" is and how you can use it to train your dog

Motivational giant Zig Zigler's famous "Ham Story" and how it applies to dog training

How to use the "Bagel Technique" to stop your dog from stealing food off the counter

A clever way to stop your dog from begging at the table

Four subtle, BUT ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL steps that every dog owner can follow to teach their dog that they are the pack leader

How to teach your dog to Come On Command using the Spring Loaded Recall Exercise

How to train your dog in only ten minutes a day

Two forms of exercise that can eliminate up to 75% of problem behavior

The #1 training secret German dog trainers use to get maximum results

What your dog needs to know before you give any command

Yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks

Eric has a terrific sense of humor that make his classes fun and enjoyable. At the Potter League for Animals, his classes are always well-attended, with both the two legged and four legged participants learning a lot. Eric uses positive reinforcement techniques, and has a commitment to help every family understand their dog's special needs and traits.

We see the results of Eric's teaching style and commitment every day. If you want to be best friends with your dog and have the best life long relationship with your dog, don't hesitate to sign up for a class at American Canine.

Christie Smith
Executive Director
Potter League for Animals

I thought my dog "Kimmy" was a candidate for Canine ADHD before I went to American Canine. Now, she is well-behaved, obedient, and comes on command. She is also an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen. It is all due to the training she received with Eric at American Canine.

Sarah Arruda
Veterinary Technician
Anchor Animal Hospital

I am the "Director of Operations" at the Potter League for Animals in Middletown, RI. Since Eric Letendre, from American Canine, has been coming to the Potter League, we have seen an increase in adoptions and a decrease in returned dogs to the shelter. His style and great sense of humor during obedience class keeps bringing adopters back and spreading the word about positive reinforcement.

The dogs that are adopted from the Potter League may be rescued strays or dogs that have been voluntarily surrendered for adoption. How important is obedience training? Extremely important! Eric shows you one of the best ways for you to establish a relationship with your new dog, and to begin to develop a bond through obedience training. A class taught by Eric is full of positive reinforcement, lots of praise, and fun for both you and your dog. We hope Eric will help us train here at Potter's for a long time, helping our new adopters.

Pearl Gonzalez
Director of Operations
Potter League for Animals

Eric is very easy to understand. He explains the training techniques clearly and simply. He offers encouragement for the owner as well as the dog. He is very helpful in addressing the individual problems unique to your dog. Eric always has good suggestions that work. The class is fun!

Kiki Mitchell
Middletown, RI

Clients that we have recommended to the American Canine facility have come back with nothing but great results.

Dr. Jim Lunig, DVM
Spinnaker Veterinary Clinic

Eric's years of "positive" dog training methods have remedied many behavior problems with our dogs – making them more likely to be adopted. We often recommend obedience classes at American Canine to promote continuing good doggy conduct in our dogs after they find homes, to assure that they remain well-mannered members of their new family. American Canine has been extremely generous in donating time and much needed funds to our organization. We are grateful for all the American Canine does for Placing Paws.

Patty Garber
Placing Paws
Board of Directors

When we got our first puppy, she was out of control. Going to American Canine's puppy class has helped us out tremendously, and most of all, gave us a better understanding of how our pup thinks. I was amazed that I could learn how to train my dog. Eric's patience and training brings understanding our out of control puppy to the forefront. Thank you, Eric!

Paul Ferriera & Family
Fall River, MA

I refer all of my clients with puppies and problem pets to Eric Letendre. I've been impressed with the excellent results I've seen. You worked wonders with Tazz, our hospital pit bull with the big goofy ears. Thank you for the excellent advice and service you provide.

Dr. Kim Wadsworth, DVM
Anchor Animal Hospital

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The Amazing Dog Training Man

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Introduction

What you are about to read are the dog training secrets that were passed on to me by a master dog trainer. The story you are about to read happened to me, a once confused and frustrated dog owner. I say once confused and frustrated. I met a man that cleared up all of my misunderstandings about dogs and dog training. I will share with you everything that I learned from him. During all of my meetings with this man, I took excellent notes. I have put the notes into this book to help you with your dog. By the time you finish reading this book you will no longer be confused about your dog's behavior.

One thing that I learned about The Amazing Dog Training Man while I was working with him is that he will do everything he can to help you train your dog. He has FREE video training clips that you can watch on his website that will help you train your dog. When I was training with him, my wife could not come to any of the lessons. I wasn't sure if I would pass along what he was teaching me correctly.

Here is what he said: "No problem, go to my website and she can watch the video training clips to see exactly how it is done!" He also has a free on-line mini dog training course that accompanies this book. You can get the free clips and the mini-course at his website, www.AmazingDogTrainingMan.com. You'll also find some great articles there for you to read.

Here's my story.

Bruce Manchester
Westport, MA
June 2003

Chapter One

My First Dog...

How It Almost Turned Into A Disaster
I felt confused, frustrated, and embarrassed
to bring my dog to an obedience class.

“There’s facts about dogs, and then there’s opinions about them. The dogs have the facts and the humans have the opinions. If you want the facts about the dog, always get them straight from the dog. If you want opinions, get them from humans.”

-J. Allen Boone-

I moved to Westport, MA about three years ago. I was living in Tolland, CT working for a large insurance company in Hartford when I got a transfer to Providence, RI. I was lucky enough to find Westport, located about twenty miles south of Providence. Westport is a quaint, beautiful, little seaside town tucked right between New Bedford and Fall River. When we moved out here, my wife and I agreed to get our daughter a dog once everything was settled. Three years had passed and my daughter had patiently waited for her dog. I have to admit, I was looking forward to getting a dog, but I was just a little concerned about my abilities. I had never had a dog and wanted to make sure that we had enough time to spend with him.

One Sunday afternoon my little family loaded into the car and drove off to the local shelter. When we arrived, a shelter employee showed us around. After spending about thirty minutes looking at dogs of all sizes and shapes, my daughter decided on a unique mid sized dog of about thirty five pounds. The shelter employee told us that the dog was a beagle/chow/shepherd mix. After spending a few minutes with him, my daughter informed us that he was the one. Her heart was set on him. We filled out the necessary paperwork, gave the shelter a donation, and were on our way.

The ride home was exciting. My daughter was smiling from ear to ear and my wife even looked happy about the new addition. We spent most of Sunday walking with our new dog on the beach, trying to decide on a name for him. My daughter suggested every name that she had ever heard in a Disney movie. She wanted to call him Simba, Mickey, Goofy, Nemo... My wife said that when she was a little girl, her dog's name was Peanuts. Everyone seemed to like that name, so we agreed that our new dog would be Peanuts. Everything seemed so easy that first day, everyone was happy. As you will discover in the next few minutes, it didn't stay that way. What started out as a happy beginning went quickly downhill.

The first signs of trouble cropped up that evening. We decided that we would let Peanuts sleep in the kitchen, but as soon as the lights went out, Peanuts started to howl and bark. We figured that he would stop after a few minutes, but no such luck. Peanuts went on for about forty five minutes until my wife and I couldn't take it anymore. We let him into our room where he quickly made himself at home on our bed. My wife said she thought she had heard somewhere that you were not supposed to let the dog on the bed. I told her that anything that kept him quiet was fine with me. Our daughter had school in the morning and we could not let him keep us up all night.

What happened over the next few weeks is a blur. I don't know how to describe it. What started off so good was

quickly becoming a nightmare. Peanuts was wrecking our lives. He was causing so much trouble that my wife and I were starting to argue with each other. We quickly learned that Peanuts loved to steal anything off the counters or coffee table. He would steal tissues, pens, eye glass cases, the TV changer, anything that was left there. He also had a terrible habit of chewing everything that he could get his teeth around. The corners of our tables and chairs were ruined, creating a lot of tension between my wife and me. Taking him for a walk was almost impossible. He would pull me in every direction and there was no way that my daughter would be able to handle him. I could not believe that a little thirty five pound dog could pull so hard. Our backyard had holes all over it, and if that wasn't bad enough, Peanuts was not housebroken. He would go anytime and any place he chose.

The tough part was that he could be a great little pet at times. He was very lovable and my daughter was crazy about him. Before things got too out of control, I decided to call the shelter and ask for some advice. They must know how to handle these dogs.

When I called the shelter the people that I spoke to were very helpful and tried to give me as much information as they could. They told me that I should get a crate and use it. They also said that maybe a choke chain would help. After speaking to them, I headed right off to the local pet store to purchase the necessary equipment.

When I put the choke chain on Peanuts it did not seem to do very much good. When we walked, he pulled so hard on the choke chain that I could hear him struggling to breathe. The crate was an even bigger disaster. Whenever I tried to put him in the crate, he would fight and resist me. Once I finally got him in it, he would not stop barking, howling, and scratching at the door. Everything we tried seemed to backfire on us. It was starting to feel hopeless. But I did not want to give up.

I figured my next step would be to enroll Peanuts in an obedience class. Looking through the phone book, I

found a dog training school that was not too far away. I called and signed up for a class that was starting in a few days.

The class didn't exactly go as I thought it would. On the first day, the instructor rudely informed me that my dog was unruly and badly behaved. I didn't need her to tell me that. After all, that's why we had signed up for the class in the first place. After I had been told that my dog was not well-behaved, the instructor said that she was going to put a choke chain on him. When I told her that we had already tried that, she informed me that I was not using it correctly. The class started and needless to say, I was thoroughly embarrassed by the end of it.

Peanuts was awful, he would not stop pulling and barking, and I was yelled at by the instructor more than once to control my dog. I didn't understand what she thought I was doing. Of course I was trying to control him, that's why I was there. But instead of giving me advice on how to go about controlling Peanuts, I was berated in front of everyone. At the end of class I waited patiently so I could ask the instructor a few questions.

When she saw me waiting I got the feeling that I was facing the principal, just like when I was a kid. The look on her face was not pleasant. I quickly asked her about some behavior problems that I was experiencing. The instructor informed me that whenever Peanuts was doing something I didn't like, I had to show him that I was the boss, or as she referred to it, the "Alpha".

"How do I do that," I asked?

"It's simple," she replied. "Grab your dog by the scruff of the neck and shake him while loudly saying **NO**." If that didn't work she advised me to do what is called an "Alpha rollover".

She decided to demonstrate on Peanuts. She grabbed him with both hands on either side of the neck. She lifted his front paws off the ground and flipped him onto his back. It happened so fast that the poor little guy didn't know what hit

him. As she was demonstrating she told me that this is what the alpha dog does to subordinates in the wild.

Then something strange happened. Peanuts began to fight her and tried biting her hands while she held him down. The more he fought the harder she fought back to keep him under control. The situation continued to escalate until Peanuts and the trainer were in what looked like mortal combat. The trainer finally let go, but not before getting bit. I was horrified as I stood there looking at what had just happened. I was at a complete loss for words. I asked the trainer what she would like me to do. She said that Peanuts was highly dominant and dangerous. She then told me that I would have to come in for some private lessons; just Peanuts, the instructor, and me.

I left the training class feeling crushed. Peanuts did a lot of things that we did not like, but we never felt that he was dangerous or a threat. There was no way I would have a dangerous dog around my family. I thought the training class was the solution, but now, in just an hour's time, I felt like things had gone from bad to worse.

A week later I showed up for the private lesson. The instructor told me that we needed to teach Peanuts who the boss was. She said we would accomplish this by using a prong collar. She showed it to me, and I was more than a little uncomfortable. It was like some kind of torture device. It was a steel collar with spikes coming out every few inches. She put the prong collar on Peanuts and I was apprehensive about what might happen next.

Peanuts was a mischievous dog that had definitely thrown a monkey wrench into my quiet life, but overall he was a good little guy. The instructor took the leash from me and commanded Peanuts to sit. Before I knew what was happening she had yanked on the leash and Peanuts yelped from the correction. When Peanuts still refused to sit, she yanked again. I could see that Peanuts was stressed. He was starting to pant and his eyes were wide open. He had a scared and confused look on his face. When Peanuts continued to refuse to sit, she yanked on the leash a third

time. Peanuts now started his revolt. He grabbed the leash with his teeth and started pulling back. This really made the instructor livid. She grabbed the leash with both hands and lifted Peanuts off the ground. I could only watch in horror as Peanuts was just hanging there, and I knew that this could not be right. I immediately told her to put Peanuts down and give him back to me.

What happened next is still a blur. When Peanuts regained his footing he attempted to bite the instructor. She lifted him off the ground until he almost passed out. When she finally put him down, he was too disoriented to put up a fight. I quickly took Peanuts from her and made for the door. As I was leaving the instructor told me again that I had a dangerous and dominant dog. She added that I should have him put down. As I drove home I could not bear the thought of bringing him back to her for more training. At the same time, things needed to change. I could not put my family at risk. I didn't know what to do. Did I just drive right to the vet's office, or continue to try and train him?

On the way home, I made a quick detour to the town beach. I thought maybe a walk would help and I could think things over. I took Peanuts out of the car and we started off toward the dunes. I had thought for sure that obedience school would be the answer to our problems. Instead, it seemed to only make matters worse. While walking, I noticed a woman and her dog about a quarter of a mile down the beach.

As I watched, I could see that her dog was off leash, running in the water, chasing sticks that she was throwing. At one point, I even saw her dog do some commands before she released the stick. She gave her dog a command to lie down and the dog dove into the position. Then she told the dog to sit and the dog popped up so fast I thought he was going to launch straight up at least three feet. I think she then told her dog to stay because when she threw the stick he didn't budge. A few seconds later she made some kind of gesture and her dog raced off after the stick. I watched in envy, wishing that I could let Peanuts run and play in the

water like that. At one point her dog noticed Peanuts and started to run straight for us. Peanuts was only too happy to greet him, but then the most amazing thing happened. The strange dog was within twenty feet of us when the woman yelled out his name and commanded him to come. I watched in awe as he came to a full stop, turned, and trotted back to his owner.

If only I had that kind of control over Peanuts, if he would just listen to me a little I know that things would get better. Maybe she was a dog trainer. Maybe she could show me how to control my dog like she does hers. Even a little help would be better than the disaster of a training class that I went through. I decided that I was going to approach her and ask for some help.

“Hello,” I called out, a little tentatively.

“Hi,” she responded in a friendly voice.

“Can I ask you a few questions?” I was feeling more comfortable now.

“Sure you can,” she replied.

I then introduced Peanuts and myself. I told her how impressed I was with her dog. I added that I really thought it was incredible how she could let him off leash and call him back to her. When I asked if she trained dogs, she said no, she didn’t. She also added that her dog had been out of control as a puppy.

“But he’s so well behaved,” I said, amazed. How could an out of control puppy turn into such an obedient dog?

Then she told me about a man that she had met when her dog was just a few months old, and she added he was an amazing dog trainer. He showed her all the little known secrets of dog training. After just six lessons with this man she had all the information she needed to train her dog, and just a few weeks later she and her dog had a great relationship.

Excitedly, I asked if she could tell me how to contact this guy. She said that she had his card in her car. As we

walked back towards her car I asked if she thought this guy could help me with my dog.

“His training is different,” she said. “The training program that he developed is something he calls *The Reverse Dog Training Method*.”

“Reverse dog training method?” I asked, a little confused.

“Yes,” she replied. “The success of any training is not dependent on the dog, it’s really dependent on the owner. You’ll see once you start to work with him, he makes things very clear and easy to understand.”

“Can I ask you one more question?”

“Sure,” she said.

“Will this guy also help me with all the other problems that I am having? Peanuts is chewing, digging, peeing in the house, you name it and he is doing it.”

“Yes, absolutely. He has a unique way of showing dog owners how to deal with all those problems. He will show you what he likes to call the *M.U.T.T. Method* for dealing with behavior problems.”

When we arrived at her car she handed me his card. When I looked at it I was surprised. Here’s what the card said, with his phone number on the back:

The Amazing Dog Training Man

www.AmazingDogTrainingMan.com

I thanked her and started back for my car. As I walked I felt a glimmer of hope. Maybe this guy could help me. Maybe we will be able to keep Peanuts. At the same time, I felt confused. Reverse training method? Fix behavior problems using a mutt method? What did it all mean? Either way, I was going to call this guy as soon as I got home.

Notes

Chapter Two

How It Changed Everything...

You can learn how to train your dog using a simple, easy, and effective training system.

You'll discover how to use The Amazing Dog Training Man's very unique Reverse Dog Training Method.

"In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog."

-Edward Hoagland-

Now, I must admit, I was starting to have some serious doubts. When I called the number on the card I got an answering machine saying someone would get back to me shortly. A few hours later I received a phone call. It was a pleasant sounding lady, letting me know that Eric, The Amazing Dog Training Man, would meet me at *The Barn* restaurant in Adamsville, RI for our first lesson. She said to just tell any of the waitresses that I was there to see Eric. They would point him out for me.