

Librarian's Shelf by Melodee Pedersen, President, Friends of the Library

Dog Whisperer Resources at the Library

The Columbus Days Book Sale is fast approaching. The Friends of the Columbus Public Library have been hard at work since the last sale, sorting and organizing the flood of books and other items. In fact, we have so many books this year that we were graciously allowed the use of a second room for shoppers to browse. You'll want to give yourself plenty of time to look over the thousands of books, but volunteers can help guide you if there is something specific you have in mind. Sale hours will be Thursday, August 16th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm (\$5 fee), Friday, August 17th from 9:30am to 5:00 pm, Saturday, August 18th from 10:00am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, August 19th from 1:30 to 5:00 pm. We will be offering everything left on Sunday for \$1 per bag-it's awful hard to beat that kind of bargain nowadays.

There is a new puppy at my house I adopted from Paws and Claws, and that means it's time to brush up on dog training. After perusing quite a few of the library's books and DVDs, I thought I would share with you some of my favorites.

The library owns several books and DVDs by "The Dog Whisperer", Cesar Millan. While the book "Be the pack leader" has just as much about his life and philosophy as actual dog training information, "Cesar's Rules: your way to train a well-behaved dog" focuses much more on obedience training. The unusual thing about "Cesar's Rules" is that he presents the methods of several very highly respected dog trainers and invites you to choose the training style that you are comfortable with, so that if one way of getting your dog to "sit" isn't working for you, there are other options to try.

New to the library is Cesar's six DVD set called "Mastering leadership". I've previewed a couple of the titles in the set, and while they are similar to his show, I find their more instructional nature very helpful. In particular, "Sit and stay the Cesar way" has Cesar joining forces with four well-respected trainers as they demonstrate their tried and true training methods.

Veterinarian Dr. Bruce Fogle's "New Dog" highlights over thirty popular breeds and also deals with crossbreeds and mutts. His chapter on what do to after you bring your dog home is extremely detailed, even including a section on shopping for toys, leashes, etc. for your new companion. Throughout the book, photographs illustrate the point he is trying to make. This is especially effective in the chapter on obedience.

"Dog owner's manual", also by Dr. Fogle, is unusual in that it takes a more medical view of the dog, with the first section on dog design including information on the skin and coat, skeleton, brain, hormonal responses, senses, and more. It contains information about dog genetics, courtship, mating, pregnancy and early puppy care, but only a brief overview of training and dealing with problem behaviors. Over 75 pages deal with health concerns, including giving medicines, parasite control, first aid, various disorders, and geriatric and end of life concerns.

This is just a small sampling of the over fifty titles the library has to offer on dog training. So come on down and check them out, and check out the book sale during Columbus Days as well.