



## WHAT DOGS NEED AND HOW THEY THINK

### 71 Tips on Understanding Your Dog's Behavior

by

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Hi, I'm Harry. I know I look like I could be a wild child — that's what my people call me sometimes. I really don't mean to be, I'm just doing what dogs do — trying to understand and cope with my world, working hard to get my needs met and do what my people want. I bet your dog and I have a lot in common.

Let me tell you, dogs and people don't think the same way. Ask your dog — I'll bet she agrees with me. I've taught my people a lot about dogs, and I've learned a lot from them about humans. That's why we have a good relationship now — we've learned how to communicate and understand one another.

I'm a lucky dog because my people understand me so well. I wanted to share my good fortune with my fellow canines, so I talked my people into helping me write this booklet. It makes me sad to think so many of my friends have lost their homes because they and their people just didn't understand one another. My people and I hope we can prevent that with this booklet and its companion, **"76 Ways to Get Your Dog to Do What You Want."**

I'd sure enjoy a toy to chew on while you sit down and read. See — I knew this booklet was a good idea!

# I. Aim For a Match Made in Heaven, Not Somewhere Else

\_\_\_\_\_ **1 Take time to consider if I'm the right choice for you.** Dogs require significant time and energy. Puppies are equivalent to raising a toddler with sharp teeth and no diapers. Be fair – how much time can you devote to a dog? Perhaps a pet rock is better for you right now.

\_\_\_\_\_ **2 Research the characteristics of my breed before adding me to your family.** No breed is inherently good or bad, because so much depends on what behaviors you encourage. Whatever a dog was bred to do will be the behaviors most easily and frequently displayed. Retrievers will likely carry the kids' toys around, many working breeds may want to tell visitors their presence isn't wanted and terriers may be inclined to chase small animals.

\_\_\_\_\_ **3 Ask yourself if I'm the one that best fits your lifestyle.** Choose a dog who matches your activity level. If you are a couch potato, get a basset hound. If you live in an apartment, a toy poodle might best match your space. Assess your lifestyle and learn about breed characteristics so the match will be good for you and your dog. Visit our web site for a list of recommended books on breed selection.

\_\_\_\_\_ **4 Be prepared to see my behavior change over time.** The behavior your dog or puppy first shows when you meet him may later change significantly. No tests or evaluations for adults or puppies that you have heard about accurately predict later behavior.

\_\_\_\_\_ **5 Be honest with yourself about your ability to handle my problems.** If you are a first-time dog owner, or know you aren't well equipped to deal with a "high-maintenance" dog, choose a dog who seems friendly, already has some training if she's an adult, and doesn't show any fearful or aggressive

