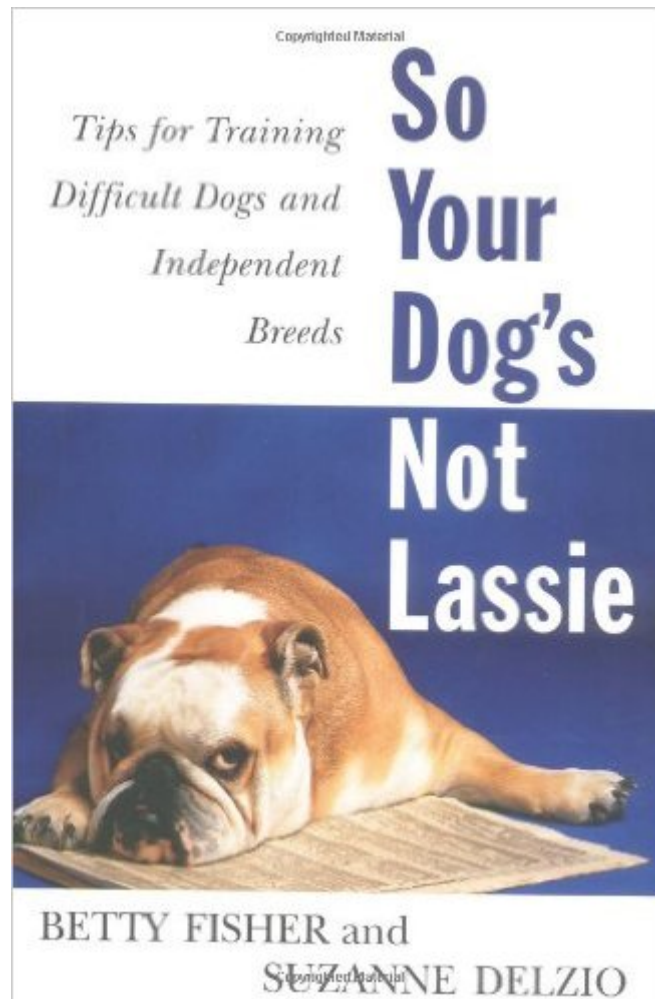


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# So Your Dog's Not Lassie: Tips For Training Difficult Dogs And Independent Breeds



## Synopsis

OK. Your dog doesn't live to please you. There, we've said it. Contrary to what you've always heard, not all dogs want to earn their owner's approval. Sometimes they seem as if they could not care less. But this is no secret to you -- you know your dog's not Lassie. With this book you will come to understand and appreciate that for hundreds of years dogs were bred for qualities like independence, dominance and determination. While these traits make dogs excellent hunters, trackers and fighters, they can make day-to-day living with your pet a real challenge. Betty Fisher and Suzanne Delzio will teach you how to employ or overcome the traits that make your dog difficult to train. They will show how to use body language, food, voice, training structure and style to convince your stubborn dog to do what you ask. Without force, you can turn your difficult dog into a perfect pet, or even a successful show dog.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the first training book I've owned that really translated into results with my dog. My dog isn't a "difficult" breed (she's a border collie mix), but she is highly energetic and distractable. Most books tell you "do this and your dog will respond this way." My dog rarely did what the book said she would. "So Your Dog's Not Lassie" instead gives detailed troubleshooting, covering a bunch of different dog reactions. With the book's help I've *finally* gotten her to stop pulling on the leash when we walk. She is 9 years old. This is a real accomplishment. I have a much better understanding of the need to get her attention (there's an excellent chapter called "Earth to Dog") and how that is the key to making our training work. This book made me excited about learning and

working with my dog again. I recommend it highly.

I am a Swedish girl teaching obedience classes and competing in obedience. My ever-growing library of American dog training books started with this book. I stumbled across it one happy day searching for a new book to help me further on the way to making my Icelandic sheepdog (a spitz breed) Swedish Obedience Champion. I fell in love with the cover within two seconds and the content was even better. Since then I have bought many more dog training books, with the help from "customers reviews" here on .com. I have books from the Monks, Kilcommons, Karen Pryor, Ian Dunbar, Morgan Spector, Terry Ryan, "everyone", but you know what? This is still my favourite! And, of course, it was a great help for us. She has her title now. It may not be exactly what the ordinary dog owner (not too interested in training) is looking for, but it's absolutely perfect for someone like me, wanting to convince my free-thinking, independent dog that training for obedience competition is fun. The book is packed with great information. It convinces you that you must BOTH be your dog's boss (without physical confrontation, of course) AND "give fat pay checks to the reluctant worker". The text is also easy to read and the photos of bulldogs and other unusual obedience breeds performing do contribute. If I could give it 10 stars, I would.

Perhaps living with many dogs which are allowed certain permissions, such as sleeping on the bed, but with rules, has allowed the authors certain insights that I have not seen elsewhere. I have a golden retriever, which should be classified as highly trainable. After reading many behavior books, nothing was really working. The authors explained that this is because first you must deal with the dominance issue. The authors are very specific in what your actions mean to your dog, which you would never guess on your own. I found our family was making many mistakes even though it was obvious we had a dominance problem. Another insight was that the dog knew exactly what we were asking for; when he didn't respond, he had his own reasons. This book clearly shows what your dog wants for rewards and is great fun to read. I learned that what dogs want for motivation for learning is no different than any of us humans.

I bought this book to get some advice on how to train my airedale terrier. (not much about terriers in it) It's good points are: it understands that your dog doesn't live to please. It explains what characterizes the dominant and independent dog. This is excellent. On the downside: not very good photos inside the book. This book is very focused on bulldogs. The author tends to get into a lot of details about how she trained her own bulldogs, lots of personal comments about her dogs etc that I

could have done without. The training method is nothing new, she relies on positive reinforcement using food, which is good, but you can get the same info on training in lots of other dog books. This book is recommended for trying to understand your dog's unique personality, not for the training exercises.

Unlike so many other training titles, *So Your Dog's Not Lassie* is founded on a respect for dogs and their individual personalities, and a deep interest in the development of a strong relationship between handler and dog. The authors's philosophy: "Owners who will be successful with their independent dog dispense with the common mind set that they are the master and their dog is the slave. Instead, they know that respect and accommodation must go both ways." Fisher & Delzio emphasize making learning fun and relevant from the dog's perspective. This book will help anyone convince their dog that there is a good and pleasant rationale behind your training requests while simultaneously strengthening and enhancing the dog/owner relationship. Humane and sensible, the training methodology is totally congruent with the philosophy espoused - a rare find in dog training books. If this book has a failing, it is in the subtitle. While aimed at handlers of difficult or independent breeds, *So Your Dog's Not Lassie* is eminently suitable for training any dog of any breed. This humorous, well written and informative book is notably fluff free, and one that readers - both professionals & novices - will refer back to time and again. Highly recommended!

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