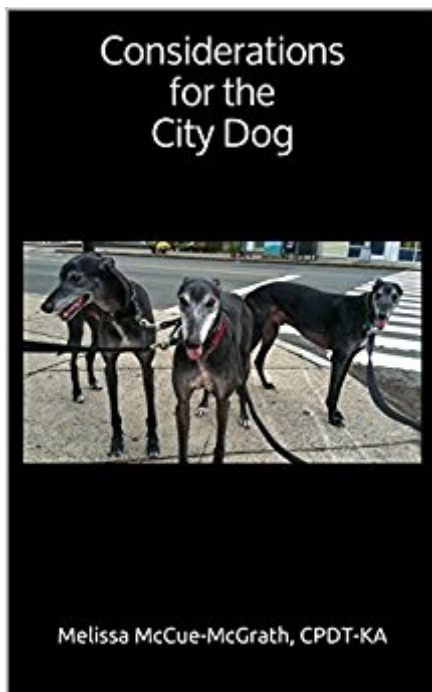


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Considerations For The City Dog



Synopsis

Melissa McCue-McGrath is a professional science-based dog trainer outside of Boston, Massachusetts. She noticed there were books for reactive dogs, aggressive dogs and every breed imaginable, but nothing for city dogs and their owners. After years of searching and secretly hoping someone else would write a handbook for city dogs, Melissa decided to take measures into her own hands. Melissa uses real situations over a decade of dog training in the city to inform students about the people they need in their corner, how to find reputable professionals, and how not to get scammed in a sea of people trying to make a buck. She delicately, but succinctly, dissects the biggest controversies in the dog world (like breeder vs. rescue) in a way that brings everyone to the table. She consulted with veterinarians, dog walkers, daycare owners, groomers, behaviorists, dog trainers, students and more to find out what they wish would be included. The final product, "Considerations for the City Dog" is the only handbook for urban dogs currently available. It would be a wonderful thing if we all could share the urban landscape with our pets, and Melissa's take on living with city dogs is a great place to start.

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Customer Reviews

This book fills a major gap in the literature on dog training and dog behavior. It belongs on the "doggy bookshelf" alongside classics by Patricia McConnell, Pat Miller, and Turid Rugaas for dog owners who want to use a positive, non-aversive approach to working with their dogs. This book is a wonderful resource for owners of city dogs, but is also great for people who are trying to juggle a demanding job with a family and a dog who also need your attention. Melissa's book can help you deal with "reactivity" (aka, "my dog freaks out at stuff"); people with opinions ("welcome to Boston"), other pets in the house, too much energy from your dog or too little, or lots of other practical things. Because of Melissa's advice, I can now walk my dog without her fierce leash-pulling wreaking havoc on my back. I'd read many books on "polite leash walking" and tried every walking device out there. Melissa's explanation of the how and why of a "head collar" has meant that I can walk easily with my dog without her pulling and without resulting pain for me. My dog and I are both much happier! This book is full of wise and helpful advice even for the non-city dog--e.g., "ditch the dish" (so your dog can take longer than twenty seconds to eat), "socialization and body language," and finally, "goodbye." But this book is not just "how to fix this" and "how to deal with that." It's a sweet, funny (VERY funny) poignant story of a young woman learning about raising dogs, loving dogs, learning to train dogs, and learning how to let them go when their time comes. It is one of the sweetest "dog tales" I've ever read. Reading Melissa's book you'll feel that you've made a friend who will stand by you and your dog when things get weird out there in the world. This is not just a book for and about the city dog. It is a book for any person who loves dogs. Buy it for yourself. Give it to a friend. Do both.

Considerations For The City Dog is filled with solid advice based on Melissa McCue McGrath's expertise, wisdom, and compassion for dogs and the people that love them. I read the book because Melissa's approach as a dog trainer had such positive impact on my new rescue pup and me. Melissa's approach to training is scientific, intuitive, creative, empathetic - always displaying a great sense of humor: Her writing reflects all of these very engaging qualities. Melissa McCue McGrath covers a variety of topics in Considerations For The City Dog. I wish that I had this book when I was searching for a puppy. This book helps you to be logical and well informed as you consider what breed may be a good match for you, gives you practical guidance on what to look for when you go to a breeder or rescue, suggests approaches for helping your pup to be well adjusted and well behaved, helps you to understand your dog's cues, (a wagging tail doesn't always mean your dog is happy) and gives guidance in what

to consider when it's time to say goodbye. Melissa's anecdotes about personal experiences with her own dogs and with those she has trained are both informative and touching. Melissa has a very deep understanding of the bond you have with your dog. Her exceptional qualities make her an outstanding trainer. Harvey and I were fortunate enough to experience those qualities in person. Reading Melissa's book is the next best thing!!

I won this book at a raffle at my local pet store/doggie daycare, and boy am I glad that I did! I think it's a terrific book, and I've purchased a couple of copies to give to dog owners in our neighborhood. I've tried to keep herding dogs as pets in a moderately urban neighborhood, and it has been a real challenge. Melissa's book has been a huge help to know how to keep my dog safe and sane. Not all dogs are created equal, and dogs that are really bred to work livestock on a farm (Border Collies, Aussies, etc.) can have a really tough time in the city if their owners don't know what they're doing. It's well-written and very useful; I highly recommend it.

As a certified professional dog trainer, I can honestly say the dog world is a better place for having *Considerations for the City Dog!* A must have, go to reference guide for urban dog owners, urban dog-care providers and shelters everywhere. Melissa gives scientifically sound, savvy advice across a range of topics. This is a common sense, grounded approach to laying a solid foundation that will help you guide your city dog toward behavioral wellness. This book will help you whether you live in a small city with your dog or NYC! I highly recommend *Considerations for the City Dog!*

Melissa has been my go to trainer for many years and I have many patients who have benefited from her expertise. When I heard she was writing a book, I was so excited to have a helpful reference for my dog owning clients. Melissa did not disappoint. Her book is full of straight forward, no-nonsense advice to improve the lives of our dogs. It's interesting and funny and truthful. If you share your life with a canine companion or are considering adding one to your family, please read *Considerations for the City Dog.* And if you are in the Boston area, take a class with Melissa. Your dog will thank you for it. Samantha Simonelli, DVM

If you live in the city and have a dog or are considering getting a dog- BUY THIS BOOK! It's a handbook for dog owners who live in the city. Melissa's insight and background with the dog community will bring a wealth of knowledge to your livingroom. It's a good read. Thank you Melissa!

Dogs fit into the world in a very different way than in years past. More is expected of them and their world is a much busier place now. Some dogs cope well, but many need help. This book is a comprehensive guide to helping your dog thrive in a busy environment, whether that's the city or a hectic household. Written with passion and commitment to dogs and their people, it is a very worthwhile read for any dog owner.

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