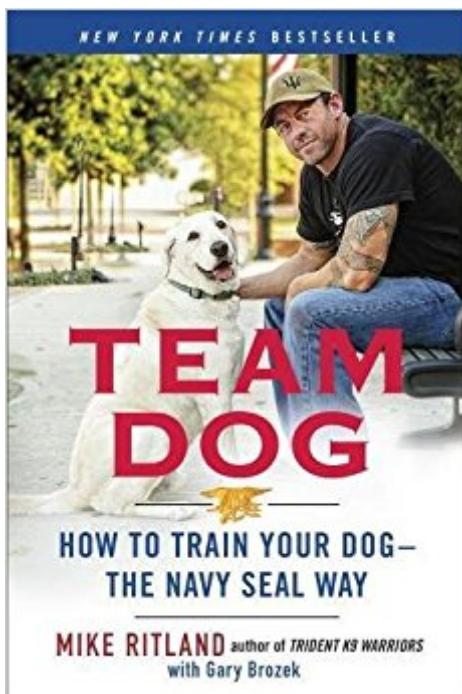


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# Team Dog: How To Train Your Dog--the Navy SEAL Way



## Synopsis

The New York Times' best-selling book by former Navy SEAL Mike Ritland that teaches all dog owners how to have the close relationship and exceptional training of combat dogs. In Team Dog, Ritland taps into fifteen years' worth of experience and shares, explaining in accessible and direct language, the science behind the importance of gaining a dog's trust and then offering invaluable steps for how to achieve any level of obedience. His unique approach uses entertaining examples and anecdotes from his work with dogs on and off the battlefield and direct tips from the Navy SEAL guidebook to teach dog owners how to: choose the perfect dog for their household, establish themselves as the "team leader," master "command and control," employ "situational awareness," and to solidify their dog's position as the family's ultimate best friend. Team Dog introduces pet owners everywhere to the new and distinctive authority on how to train your dog . . . the Navy SEAL way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Mike Ritland: "He's a good dude and doing great things for our 4-legged heroes!" "Larry the Cable Guy" "Perhaps most moving is how this level of trust plays a vital role in the inspiring and hair-raising stories that he shares about different SEAL handler-and-dog teams during deadly missions . . . [Navy SEAL Dogs is a] high-interest offering." "Booklist" "Special force SEALs are elite enough, but SEAL

dogs [in Navy SEAL Dogs] are a breed apart. Fascinating . . . About time these heroes got the attention they deserved for a young audience.  Kirkus Reviews  Navy SEAL Dogs gives a unique insider account of the training and deployment of these special animals and their handlers. Ritland does a superb job of detailing these dogs in combat, as well as the bond between operator and K9.  Howard E. Wasdin, former Navy SEAL and  bestselling author of *I Am a SEAL Team Six Warrior*  After a stellar career in the Teams, Mike Ritland has gone on to train working K9s for some of the most elite units in the U.S. Special Operations community. If you want to learn about these amazing animals, the sacrifices they've made, and their effectiveness in combat, then read *Navy SEAL Dogs*.  Brandon Webb, former Navy SEAL,  and editor in chief of SOFREP.com

Mike Ritland joined the Navy in 1996, and after twelve years started his own company to train dogs for the SEAL teams. His clients include the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs, the TSA, and the Department of Defense. He is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Trident K9 Warriors*, which is being adapted for film.  Gary Brozek has coauthored and ghostwritten nearly twenty books, including four New York Times bestsellers.

Just finished Mike Ritland's "Team Dog." I've been breeding and raising dogs for years - and I've taken back some epic training fails, so I've read a LOT of training books. Most of them are very repetitive and some of them use techniques no-longer-recommended. I took my time reading it because it's very dense in good material. Mike breaks it down into easily digestible bits. Many points took basic training to a new level. And there were things I kinda knew, but had never analyzed for use - more my instinctual response to dog's tells. It's just come out in paperback, so it's about half the cost of the book I bought. But mine will have a permanent home on my shelf of recommended books for my clients.

Excellent book all around. This is NOT a "turn your pet into a trained killer" book. It is an enjoyable and useful book to help you, your family and your dog become a team. With a clear and enjoyable style it communicates the methods the author has found successful training dogs of all sorts, from warrior dogs to family pets. The blend of story telling and instruction is just right. The methodology is clearly well thought out and supported by the wider training community. We have had good results with our four legged family member using the techniques in the book, and the sections about dog

psychology and personality were particularly useful in helping us understand him. I can't recommend it enough. I've purchased it as a gift for family members and our copy has been passed to several friends and co-workers. I can't recommend it enough!

It is an ok book but we actually have gotten more useful information from others we have purchased

Mike Ritland has done it again. This book gives a great explanation of how to develop pack structure with your dog. It covers everything you need to know and breaks it down in easy to digest bites. Hopefully this book will help all who read it to build a strong relationship with their dog!

I highly recommend this book for any dog owner. It's well written and gives a sound argument for looking at things through your dogs eyes.

Interesting read. Enjoyed the stories. Started the program with our eight year old Bichon. She really looks forward to the brief sessions.

Warning: I'm just a dog owner with a great interest in dog training. I'm not a book reviewer, I don't know Mike Ritland and I don't adhere to any dog training method or camp as though it were the gospel. I've read and been less than impressed with a lot of dog training books so my "meh" review/opinion isn't anything against the author or his methods, I just wasn't at all blown away by the book. I have only had one cup of coffee so forgive the typos and other grammar issues.TL;DR Version: Mike uses a balance of training methods to include free shaping, corrections, spatial pressure and lots of positive reinforcement. The book doesn't at all include a lot of specific training exercises, which leaves the reader wanting more in that regard.

There is a fair bit of information about things that aren't training-related and those pages could have been better served in other ways. Not a bad book, but not going to blow your mind. First I'd like to thank Mike Ritland for his service to our country and for contributing to the public awareness of our Military Working Dogs (MWD). I would also like to commend him for writing a dog training book that isn't overly political, campy or one-sided just to please a specific audience of dog owners and trainers who only believe effective dog training is achieved by using Method-X. I often say there is no group of hobbyists and professionals that share a common interest yet hate one another more than those involved in dog training and sadly it has generated a lot of debate (to put it lightly) and not a lot of dialogue. I have no doubt Mike will receive ridicule and even death

threats for some of the methods mentioned in this book because they aren't 100% hugs and kisses. The reason I'm only giving this book 3 stars is the subtitle of this book is "How to Train Your Dog the Navy SEAL Way" yet roughly 3/4 of the book isn't specifically training related. This is an extremely common theme in dog training books; there is a lot of theory, "what" and "why" but not a lot of "how". A brief example is many times throughout the book being "team leader" and building relationship with your dog is mentioned, yet very few specific examples on how a dog owner might improve that relationship are given. That is who is likely reading this book: people who want help in training their dog, not those who have perfect, well-adjusted, fully trained dogs. I have no doubt Mike knows what he needs to do specifically to achieve these goals, sadly a lot of that didn't make it in to the book. Those pages would have been better utilized by doing so. While Mike is balanced in his training approach yet focuses greatly on the positive reinforcement quadrant of Skinner's model, there are a few instances in the book where he doesn't explain the proper use of tools well and it comes across in a manner that could confuse the uninformed reader about the application of certain tools. One example is he mentions using humans to figure out an unknown exercise. First they use a remote collar (e-collar, electronic collar) to correct the person for getting it wrong and that leads to a shut down person who just doesn't attempt the exercise any more. Then they use positive reinforcement for "you're getting closer" shaping of the exercise and the person figures it out. No one has ever figured it out with the remote collar in his exercise. This is a common ammunition for the anti-remote crowd; "it leads to shut down dogs", and indeed it can when used improperly. The issue with this example is anyone that is trying to teach a NEW behavior that a dog has no understanding of with a remote collar is using the tool incorrectly and no quality remote collar user is training dogs that way. This anecdote only contributes to the misunderstanding of training tools and their uses, which goes back to the debate vs dialogue from earlier. Mike is strong on using the least invasive methods for teaching behaviors and details free shaping behaviors rather well. Motivating the dog to do wanted behaviors in a neutral yet leaning positive way is a great way to teach new behaviors. He also freely expresses the role of corrections in dog training whether it be a verbal "ah ah" or a leash correction if required. He also touches on the importance of not leaning on training tools (be it a prong collar, a head halter or a no-pull harness) to "fix" behaviors like pulling on walks. You're not fixing the behavior, you're leaning on a tool to stop the symptom. If your dog always pulls except with Device A, your dog still pulls. Several pages are spent on diet, physical inspections of the dogs and "if you want to be like a SEAL" statements. Those pages would have been better used on addressing specific behavior issues or how to shape certain behaviors. After all, it is a dog training book. Worth adding to the book shelf if

you like MWD books or dog training books, but it isn't the holy grail a lot of dog owners and trainers have been looking for. I hope to see more books from Mike in the future, specifically focusing on training and training exercises in a more step-by-step manner.

I enjoyed this book. It was not, however, what I was expecting. I thought there would be more actual training steps and presentations for various commands, which is what I wanted. This book was more of a supporting narrative for positive training theory. Still, it was an interesting read.

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