

# Contents



## 1

### Your New Best Friend

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction  | 4  |
| Do you REALLY want a dog?                                 | 6  |
| Can I give a dog the exercise it needs?                   | 8  |
| Do I have time for a dog?                                 | 10 |
| Can I afford a dog?                                       | 12 |
| Do you really want a dog, or is it just for the children? | 14 |
| What type of dog will suit you and your lifestyle?        | 16 |
| So where to start?  | 18 |
| Working dogs  | 20 |
| Pastoral Dogs   | 22 |
| Gundogs   | 24 |
| Hounds  | 26 |
| Terriers  | 28 |
| Toy   | 30 |
| Utility   | 32 |
| The mongrel   | 34 |
| Puppy or older dog?                                       | 36 |
| Finding Your Dog  | 38 |
| A Rescue Dog  | 40 |
| Male or female?   | 42 |
| Neutering   | 44 |
| Dogs and children   | 46 |
| Equipment   | 48 |
| Stress-free homecoming for both you and your new arrival  | 50 |

## 2

### Training Your Dog

|   |    |
|---|----|
| How Dogs Learn  | 54 |
| Why should your dog do what you ask?                      | 56 |
| Socialisation – the ultimate problem solver               | 58 |
| Handling  | 60 |
| Toilet training   | 62 |
| Toilet training failures                                  | 64 |
| First Training Exercise – ‘Watch Me’                      | 66 |
| Teaching the Sit  | 68 |
| Teaching the down   | 70 |
| Training the Recall (coming when called)                  | 72 |
| Teaching your dog to stay                                 | 74 |
| Teaching the Stand  | 76 |
| Teaching the Retrieve                                     | 78 |
| Teaching the Nose Touch                                   | 80 |
| Teaching your dog to walking on a lead and basic heelwork | 82 |
| Teaching Settle on a Mat                                  | 84 |
| Introduction to clickertraining                           | 86 |



## 3

### Problem solving and prevention

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Jumping up                                     | 88  |
| Keeping dogs off furniture                     | 90  |
| Coprophagia (eating poo)                       | 92  |
| Play biting                                    | 94  |
| Attention seeking behaviours                   | 96  |
| Excessive barking                              | 98  |
| Separation problems                            | 100 |
| Chewing  | 102 |
| Digging  | 104 |
| Chasing  | 106 |
| Travelling with your dog                       | 108 |
| How to make sure your car is safe for your dog | 110 |
| Travelling in comfort                          | 112 |
| Possessiveness/resource guarding               | 114 |
| Aggression                                     | 116 |
| Problems in general                            | 118 |



## 4

### Have some fun!

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Using a clicker to teach tricks   | 120 |
| Waving                            | 122 |
| Teaching the wave using a clicker | 124 |
| Giving a paw                      | 126 |
| Play bow                          | 128 |
| Playing dead                      | 130 |
| Spins and twists                  | 132 |
| Weave in and out of legs          | 134 |
| Closing doors                     | 136 |
| Putting things in the bin         | 138 |
| Skateboarding                     | 140 |
| Scentwork for fun                 | 142 |
| Swimming for fun and therapy      | 144 |
| Agility                           | 146 |

## 5

### Appendices

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Useful contacts              | 168 |
| Index                        | 173 |
| Credits and acknowledgements | 176 |