



CANINE MANNERS S.O.S

The AKC GoodDog Helpline (GDH) also marked its 10th anniversary in 2023. GDH director Penny Leigh says the service has offered support to nearly a million puppy and dog owners. Most callers are new puppy owners, but about 10 percent are seeking help with rescues.

“Our trainers were able to help a long-time client train her rescue dog through reactivity issues and other issues with being around other dogs. She recently called to let us know that this dog just earned her CGC!” says Hilarie Erb, AKC GDH supervisor. She tells of another dog who was barking excessively and was resource guarding. A GDH trainer offered tips to correct and manage the dog’s issues. “This dog’s owner wrote to let us know that her dog’s behavior has improved so much that he is now a registered therapy dog,” Erb says.

The live telephone service offers individualized training advice for all owners and their dogs. With an AKC GoodDog Helpline subscription, owners get instant access to a team of trainers available seven days a week. The service recently released video training consultations as well.

For more information, visit the AKC GoodDog Helpline at akc.org/products-services/akc-gooddog-helpline.



That’s the number of therapy animals it took for Denver International Airport’s Canine Airport Therapy Squad (aka CATS) to win the Guinness World Record title of “Largest Airport Therapy Animal Program.” At least 33 dog breeds—and yes, one cat—participate in the program, which offers stress relief to travelers. —Jen Reeder

books we love

Horror Dogs: Man’s Best Friend as Movie Monster

By Brian Patrick Duggan
Published by McFarland & Co. Inc.

Horror Dogs covers more than a century of canine characters that are the stuff of nightmares—from the bloodthirsty Hound of the Baskervilles of the silent era to a scrappy little shelter pup who turns into a “weredog” in a 2020 Hulu series.

In the book, author Brian Duggan aims to answer one question. “Dogs have always been Rin Tin Tin, Asta, Benji, Lassie,” he said in an interview on the “Dog Talk” podcast. “When did we start making dogs into bad guys?”

The first canine movie monster was the 1914 silent version of Hound of the Baskervilles, but the golden age for the genre was roughly a 20-year period starting in the 1970s. Those years saw the production of films like *Cujo*, *The Omen*, and the lesser known but truly terrifying *Devil Dog: The Hound of Hell*. Duggan delves into these movies, and there are more than 120 of them, from all angles—history, philosophy, and behind-the-scenes looks at how filmmakers created the hellhounds. You’ll learn, for example, what they used for the blood on *Cujo*’s face and other production secrets.

AKC *Family Dog* readers will recognize the author. His meticulously researched, beautifully written, and often quirky history features have graced our pages for more than a decade. A film buff, historian, Saluki breeder, and AKC judge, Duggan brought the perfect blend of skills to this project. No book has ever explored the topic of dogs in horror movies. It’s almost as if the book was waiting for Duggan to write it.

Horror Dogs is a scholarly work. But it’s also fun and fast-paced, a great read. If you are a dog lover or movie buff, we highly recommend it, although you may want to purchase a nightlight along with your copy.

