

INTRODUCTION

Dogs love our humans. There's no doubt about that. Even when we take off for an adventure, we return to your arms, our food bowls, and the comforting smells of home. You two-legs take care of us, but you have a lot to learn about dogs. Sometimes we follow you around hoping for a treat or a pat on the back and you ignore us. When we want to go out, we look you in the eye, we dance circles around you, and some of us even whine, but too often you look back like it's a complete mystery.

A few of you know how to fix us when we swallow a rock. You tell our people what to do when we pee in their shoes or cower under the bed. Some humans know how to get us to do tricks—*easy, get treats!* The dog whisperer works magic with scared dogs by acting like a dog himself. But it's hard to find advice from a dog.

So I decided to write this book. Yeah, I know, my paws don't even know how to hold a pencil, never mind work a keyboard. For a long time I didn't know what a book was. I just watched my human, Ellie, stretched out on the sofa, staring at piles of paper and turning a page once in a while. When she started telling me a story while looking at the book, I began to realize there's interesting stuff in books.

Ellie helped me write this book in order to tell you about my life. She put my story into words that people can understand. You'll probably be surprised at how much I know about you humans, just from watching, listening, and smelling. I know when you're worried or sad. I know when you're angry. Even if you don't yell or throw a plate across the room, you have a different scent. I know when you're going out in the car—*can I come too?* And when you go without me, I know where you've been by sniffing your shoes.

But I don't understand everything. And for those of you who told Ellie this book should show dogs talking to each other, please! We don't have conversations. Our communications are pretty simple: *Yes! Mine! I'm tough. Hey, cutie!* You get the idea.

No dog can buy this book, so two-legs, please take it home and read it with your favorite canine. The cats in the house probably won't be interested, but your special dog will curl up with you and help you to appreciate a story that he wishes he had written himself.