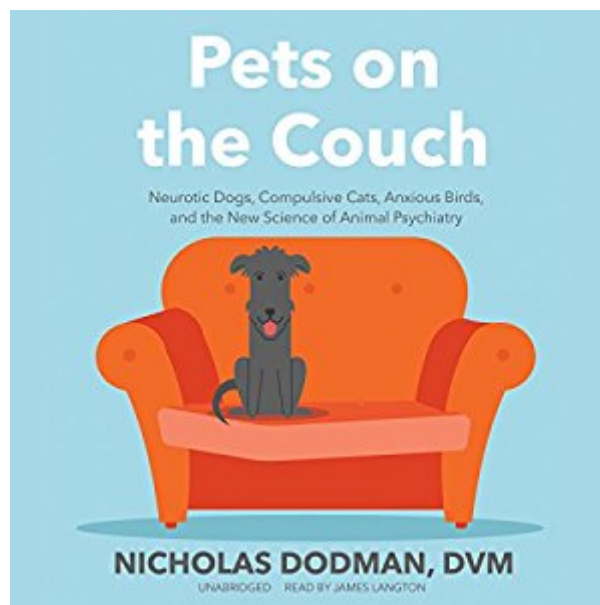




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Pets On The Couch: Neurotic Dogs, Compulsive Cats, Anxious Birds, And The New Science Of Animal Psychiatry



Synopsis

The pioneering veterinarian and author of the New York Times best seller *The Dog Who Loved Too Much* recounts his uniquely entertaining - and poignant - stories of treating animals for all-too-human problems, as he reveals his amazing breakthroughs with the new science of One Medicine. The Oliver Sacks of animal brains, Dr. Nicholas Dodman is an internationally renowned veterinarian and research scientist who wrote one of the first popular books to recognize the complex emotional lives of dogs, and to reveal innovative ways to help them, including with Puppy Prozac. Now Dr. Dodman once again breaks new ground with the practice of One Medicine, the profound recognition that humans and other animals share the same neurochemistry, and that our minds and emotions work in similar ways. Racehorses with Tourette's syndrome, spinning dogs with epilepsy, cats with obsessive-compulsive disorder, feather-plucking parrots with anxiety, and a diffident bull terrier with autism - these astonishing cases were all helped by One Medicine, which emphasizes the similarities, rather than differences, between animals and humans. Inspiring, sometimes heartbreaking, and utterly fascinating, *Pets on the Couch* demonstrates how what we share with our animals can only lead us to a greater appreciation for them - and for our mutual bonds.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nicholas Dodman saved my dog's life. I have read, or skimmed, all of his books as they pertain to aggressive behavior in dogs. As the author's writing career has progressed, I have found that his

concentration is more scientifically based and less anecdotal, and emphasizes the beneficial results of pharmaceuticals as much as behavior modification techniques. "Pets on the Couch" is a nice amalgamation of all four, and helps put Dr. Dodman's distinguished career as well as his vast experience into perspective. By the time my English Springer Spaniel was eight months old, four vets and three behaviorists had suggested that she had "fear aggression," "Springer Rage Syndrome," severe resource-guarding behaviors, "dominance aggression," and who knows what else. But the nearly unanimous opinion was that we should have her "put to sleep," an expression which I intensely dislike. What is sleep without dreaming and awakening? By this time I had read Dodman's first two books, "Dogs Behaving Badly" and "The Dog Who Loved Too Much," and I thought I saw a light. I had also read widely of other authors on canine aggression. The reading gave me something to do when I wasn't dealing with a snarling, snapping, 28 lb attack dog who I had to shove into a crate -- with gloves on--a lot of the time. When our local vet suggested I make an appointment with "Nick Dodman - he's out at Tufts in North Grafton" I was amazed that such an exalted, literate person could actually be seen by appointment. At that time his message was clear: "train your dog in obedience so she knows who is in charge, make her work for her pleasures, and let's try an (inexpensive) antidepressant, and an (inexpensive) anticonvulsant. We never had to look back. At 13, our pup is a satisfied and beloved pet who can reflect on agility training, bird dog training, obedience training, scent work, many swims and runs, happy chasing of wildlife, and many, many tennis balls. She does not beg at the table, get on furniture, jump up on people, countersurf, attack other dogs or humans, eat supper before we do, or precede us through a doorway. She passed her Canine Good Citizen Test and ran in field trials. She played with other dogs in doggy daycare for years. We are so lucky. So if you haven't been lucky enough to dip into a Dodman before, this book would be a great start. Pharmacology, biology, behaviorism and stories about animals which Dr. Dodman has treated are all here. Knowledge of these disciplines and anecdotes could give many pet owners hope, and many animals life. This is a fine writer regarding an underrated topic.

Dr. Nicholas Dodman has written another book that will capture the hearts of pet lovers. He has outdone himself with his new book. This is not a book about "lazy" pets- couch potatoes. This is a book that explores the many aspects of animal behavior and how emotional problems can be expressed by "unwanted" and difficult behavioral issues and the new medicines that are being used to help animals who are deeply distressed. The book is beautifully written and the author's love for animals and keen desire to help them ring through in every chapter. It is very hard to put this book

down in fact. I recommend it highly for animal lovers who are interested in "One Medicine" to which the author subscribes. We are not that different than our companion animals- emotionally or physically- It is a must read.

Informative book on use of new drugs for animal behavioral problems. Includes dogs, cats, horses and other animals.

I learned a lot from the book. It's primarily about using medications for dogs with behavioral problems which are rooted in neurological or medical conditions. The author tries to be fair in how he presents his opinions, often noting when studies don't support his hypotheses. It's not meant to be an academic treatise, so it's a little short on actual research, but pretty well-supported for a general public book. He didn't oversell medication as the first treatment option. He emphasized behavioral intervention (better environment, better training, etc.) when and where appropriate. The cases were very interesting, involving all sorts of animals, not just pets. I learned a fair amount about the behavior of horses. My only resistance was that he tends to think animals have more complex emotions than I think they do. I absolutely believe animals have the same primary and some secondary emotions as people (fear, anxiety, affection/bonding, joy, etc.). But, I don't think they feel guilt or other emotions that require sophisticated cognition. But, that played a relatively minor role in the book. I would highly recommend this book to people with animals in their lives. I think it provides an important way to think of problematic animal behavior, and I think Veterinarians should be more familiar with medications for what are sometimes identified as "behavioral" problems.

one of the best book on this topic.

I am a physician so perhaps I enjoyed it so much because of my prior knowledge. I really think non medical people will enjoy the book, also. It is well researched, written from personal and professional experience and written in easy to understand wording.

Excellent book about all pets. Gives humans a better perspective about animal intelligence and how they have problems too.

Fascinating combination of the latest in behavioral veterinary medicine and human medicine. I am a

dog trainer of 30+ years experience and really enjoyed it.

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