

## The Perfect Pet Essay

Murphy  
from "Dogs That Have Known Me"  
How I Got My Puppy  
by Ann Kerr



- 1 The dog that gave me the most trouble was a beagle named Murphy. As far as I'm concerned, the first thing he did wrong was to turn into a beagle. I had seen him bounding around on the other side of a pet-shop window, and I went in and asked the man, "How much is that adorable fox terrier in the window?" Did he say, "That adorable fox terrier is a beagle?" No, he said, "Fox terrier, lady." Now, I don't mean to say one word against beagles. They have rights just like other people. But it is a bit of a shock when you bring home a small ball of fluff in a shoebox, and three weeks later it's as long as the sofa.
- 2 Murphy was the first dog I ever trained personally, and I was delighted at the enthusiasm with which he took to the newspaper. It was sometime later that we discovered, to our horror, that—like so many dogs—he had grasped the letter but not the spirit of the thing. Until the very end of his days he felt a real sense of obligation whenever he saw a newspaper—any newspaper—and it didn't matter where it was. I can't bring myself to go into the details, except to mention that we were finally compelled to keep all the papers in the bottom of the tub.
- 3 He had another habit that used to leave us open to a certain amount of criticism from our friends who were not dogaphiles. He never climbed up on beds or chairs or sofas. But he always sat on top of the piano. In the beginning we used to try to pull him off of there. But after a few wily scuffles in which he knocked a picture off the wall, scratched the piano, and smashed a lamp, we just gave in—only to discover that, left to his own devices, he hopped up and down as delicately as a ballet dancer.
- 4 It's not just our own dogs that bother me. The dogs I meet at parties are even worse. I don't know what I've got that attracts them; it just doesn't bear thought. My husband swears I rub-dipped meat on my ankles. But at every party it's the same thing. I am sitting with a group in front of the fire when all of a sudden the large mast of the fire appears in the archway. Then, without a single bark of warning, he leaps forward upon me. He settles down peacefully on my lap. I blow out such quantities of hair as I have in my swallowed and glance at my host, expecting to be rescued. He murmurs, "Isn't that wonderful? You know, Beacie is usually so distant with strangers."
- 5 At a dinner party last week, after I had been nudged by a large sheepdog, I announced quite placidly, "Oh dear, he seems to have swallowed one of my earrings." The business looked really dimmed for a moment, until she examined the remaining earring. Then she said, "Oh, I think it will be all right. It's small and round."
- 6 Nowadays if I go anywhere I just ask if they have a dog. If they do, I say, "Maybe I'd better keep away from him—I have this bad allergy." This does not really charm the lady of the house. In fact, she behaves rather as though she'd just discovered that I was back in analysis for my kleptomaniac. But it is safe. It really is.

Copyright © 1977 Crown New Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Originally published in *Wag*. Reprinted by permission.

DOWNLOAD: <https://hytily.com/28qc7z>



---

7c23ce9bc

Related links:

[Total War Shogun 2 Fall of the Samurai Update 5 patch 22 Mod](#)  
[Shah movie song free download](#)  
[Nameless will heal your heart - Tei - crack download offline activation](#)  
[Como Flashear CON SFI software.rar](#)  
[SnippetsLab 1.8.1 Crack Mac Osx](#)