

“When will it End?” Howled Dog (Or what to do while we’re warming up)

Source: Elizabeth Tenney, CRDL Reference Associate and her Dog

Many times this winter, my dog and I have found ourselves with our noses to the windowpane, staring with longing, out at the cold frozen world, dreaming of long summer walks and frisbees. My tennis shoes are gathering dust, sitting next to my salt ringed snow boots, while her leash has become tangled in the web of scarves by the door. We wait patiently for the day we can traipse the path outside our door, without landing on our backsides with our feet waving in the air. My dog is starting to resemble a canister vacuum, and the description of my spare tire is better left unspoken.

With the advent of the spring sun, sparse as it has been, I thought this would be a great time for Dog and I to start planning our nice weather fitness routine. We decided to start at our local public library. What a treasure trove of great stuff to chew on!

Dog and I decided that these books sounded like loads of fun. They include both indoor and outdoor activities, as well as challenging exercises for humans and either small or larger breed canines:

- The Beginner’s Guide to Dog Agility by Laurie Leach
- Beyond Fetch: fun, interactive activities for you and your dog by D. Caroline Coile
- How Smart is Your Dog? 30 fun science activities with your pet by D. Caroline Coile
- Totally Fun Things to do with Your Dog by Maxine Rock

Since winter is long and my dog’s memory is short, we always do a little refresher course in the spring, so Dog can remember her leash manners. There are some of great training suggestions in these manuals that the library has on their shelves.

- ASPCA Complete Dog Training Manual by Bruce Fogle
- The Complete Dog by the American Kennel Club
- DogPerfect: the user-friendly guide to a well-behaved dog by Sarah Hodgson

- Happy Dog: how busy people care for their dogs by Arden Moore

Since the better part of any life change is a healthy diet, we were happy to find some great ideas for both Dog and I.

- Doggie Delights & Kitty Cuisine: taste-tested by Cinnamon by Martha Ward
- The Hound Health Handbook: the definitive guide to keeping your dog happy, healthy and active by Betsy Brevitz
- Whole Health for Happy Dogs: a natural health handbook for dogs and their owners by Jim Elliot and Kim Bloomer.

Before winter truly gives up, we decided A Dog's Life: a year in the life of a family dog, by Jane Burton and Michael Allaby, would be a great read while curled up with an afghan on the couch. Just for fun, my dog and I decided to check out other terrific reads for planning our summer vacation. For traveling together, we found DogFriendly.com's United States and Canada Travel Guide, by Tara and Len Kain. Dog and I can't wait to take the leash and tennis shoes out of winter storage and hit the road!

Looking for a few things to add to your calendar to help keep warm? There's always Storytime on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. You can discuss a great book Tuesday the 25th at Faith's Book Sense. The young ones will enjoy Lapsit Storytime on Wednesday the 26th. For a complete list of events and locations click crdl.org.