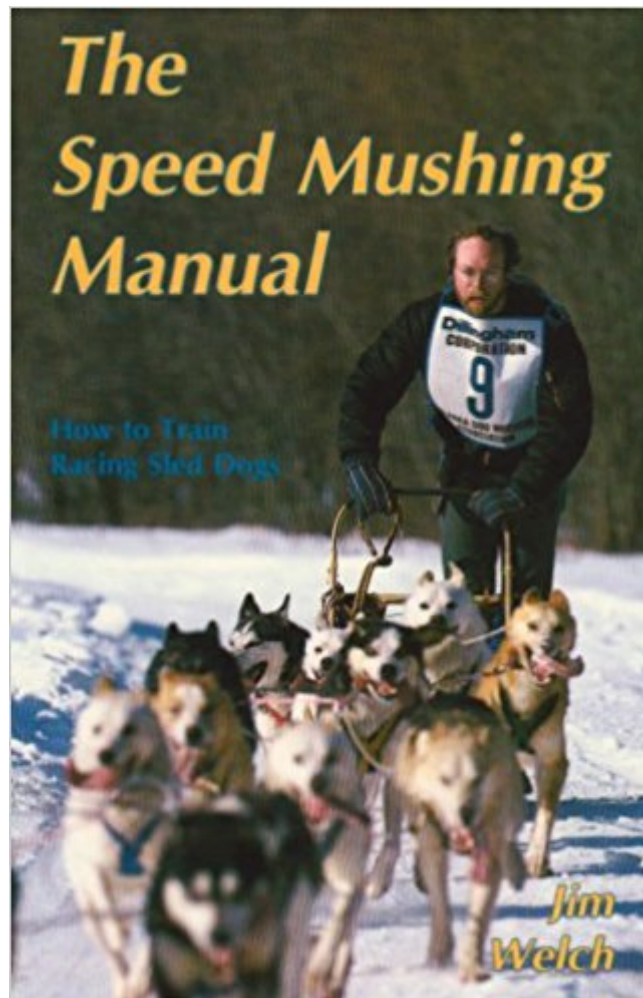




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The Speed Mushing Manual: How To Train Racing Sled Dogs



Synopsis

This book gives a dog musher the information he needs to become a winner. Whether you race dogs or not, it's the best information on sled dogs there is, period.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Jim Welch has written a clear and concise book on training sled dogs to race. There are specific examples to clarify most techniques and ample support for the effectiveness of each method. He has successfully condensed the knowledge of many of the world's top mushers into a relatively short book. Consider it essential reading for anyone who wants to reach the maximum potential of their dogs whether they be competitors at the national or local level.

I have an Alaskan husky and malinois I train for skijoring and thought this book would be useful. I found much of it to be helpful- training distance and speed recommendations, puppy raising, feeding, choosing a dog, injury treatment and prevention, and race day preparation were all good. There are some beautiful pictures of old-school sprint dogs that I like so much better than the new pointer mixes everyone uses these days. But I did not like the training section where the author recommends smacking a dog with a whip when he/she doesn't "get up" on command or isn't putting it all in harness. Or correcting from behind when the dog misbehaves in whatever manner. I understand that this would work- and it has worked for many dog mushers- but I think the sport has generally moved on from this type of training now. Plus, most dogs are bred with pretty hard heads and/or with such a drive for running- but soft (pointer Xs) that they don't need or wouldn't tolerate

this type of correction. I can't imagine treating my malinois like this- she would let me know if the correction is unfair. I just don't like to see this in a modern mushing book. But, overall, the author's love for the sport and love of a good dog shines through. I am not saying he is abusive of his dogs in using this type of training. It is effective and it is easy when you have a lot of dogs and not a lot of time to devote to positive training. But I do think there are fairer and more humane ways of training a dog to pull that do not involve a relationship of fear or avoidance between the handler and his dogs. For skijorers, the 2012 edition of Skijor with Your Dog has many tips for training dogs to pull in a positive and humane way.

Much of the info in this book applies to skijoring as well. Recommended by the skijoring book Ski Spot Run.

Jim Welch has made this such an easy read and understandable to even none mushers. As a sprint musher myself I could take a lot from this book and apply it to my own training with my dogs. He describes and explains training situations with great examples. He talks on a comfortable level and has a true passion for dogs. Jim is a great trainer and musher and surely this is a book to read by any musher or dog lover. As a trainer myself I think he truly grasp the concept of training dogs in a positive way by doing what most dogs love called mushing.

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