



## Acknowledgments

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## About the authors

Sarah Fisher is the UK's only TTouch Instructor and has worked with a variety of dogs over the past 14 years. She has featured in many television programmes, including, *The One Show* (BBC1), *Animal Rescue Live* (BBC1) and *Talking to Animals* (ITV1 and Nat Geo). Sarah has written articles for *Your Dog* and *Dogs Today* and is the author of *Unlock Your Dog's Potential* (D&C, 2007). She teaches workshops for the UK's top shelters and lectures internationally and in the UK, Sarah also fosters over-the-top puppies for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. She lives with her partner Anthony Head and their two daughters Emily and Daisy in a multi-dog household with Archie, Orsa, Ginny, Bud and Cookie.

Marie Miller has 30 years of practical experience of training dogs, including helping dogs assist their disabled owners, and is a qualified Tellington TTouch Practitioner 3 for Companion Animals and one of the founder members of the United Kingdom Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT 130). She has been the resident Pet Behaviourist and Trainer at Hollycroft Vet Centre, Hinckley, Leicestershire for the past 18 years and has had articles published in *Dogs Monthly*, *Dog Training Weekly* and *Service Dog*.

Marie shares her home with some of the stars of this book The Fluffy Stuff, Our Oz and Maisy (German Shepherds), Tad (Dalmation x Labrador) and until recently Gem, who died on 30th January just short of her 14th birthday, and to whom this book is dedicated.

Marie says of Gem, 'She truly was the perfect dog and my son's best friend. At 13 years old he convinced us that he could be responsible for his own dog. He is an only child and we felt that it would be good for him to have a friend and confidant to help him through his teenage years.'

'My dear friend Debbie Summers bred Gem and gave her to Sean as a gift, along with a stern lecture that if he ever let his special friend down in any way she would come and take the pup away again. Sean never let Gem or Debbie down – in fact I became a bit jealous that he was still getting up early to make scrambled eggs for her breakfast when she was eight months old! He came home from school every lunch time to see her, took her to training classes and trained her to the standard that she could demonstrate at Crufts in the DOGAID team with him when she was only 14 months old and he was only 14 years old. Gem was not at all surprised that her normally able-bodied friend was working her from a wheelchair. Gem did all Sean ever asked of her training wise but most of all she was his companion and best friend. She was the light of his life and he is still feeling lost without her company.'

Cookie Dough Dynamo is the real star of the book. She belonged to Battersea and has now been adopted by Sarah. Marie and Sarah have worked with Cookie to help her overcome her rather exuberant and inappropriate behaviour and she has matured into a delightful, charming and well-socialized companion while enjoying every aspect of her training.



Sean and Gem



Cookie Dough Dynamo