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Publishing Pit Bulls

By Lisa Hood

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You have invested a great deal into your writing: time, attention, your heart and soul, maybe even a few tears, and now you're considering investing even more: your cold hard cash. Rather than accepting "No" as an answer to your dream of being published, you have decided to publish your book yourself. Before you put your money where your mouth is, be aware there are publishers willing to take your money and offer little in return.

To self publish, you must take on the expense of printing, marketing, distributing and storing of your manuscript. You will be involved in every aspect of the publishing process, which could leave you with very little time for writing. However, you will keep 100% of the profits from your book sales.

You may work with a vanity press, which will print and bind the book for a substantial fee. Vanity presses are not selective, they will publish the work of any one willing to pay, and they do not edit, market, promote or store the books once printed. Some vanity publishers do not require upfront money, but require payment for other "services" such as editing, set up charges, promotional charges, or they may ask authors to buy their own books for resale. While they may call themselves "small press" or "traditional" the fact remains they are a pay for print publisher.

A subsidy publisher will promote their services as a partnership, perhaps offering to absorb some of the publishing costs or provide marketing services. You are still expected to pay a large fee for the cost of publishing, but you do not own the books once printed and you receive only a portion of the profits from book sales. You need to be very careful about using subsidy publishers. The only benefit over vanity press is the promise to market and promote your work. However, they have already made plenty of profit just from printing your work and are likely to forego any marketing to make a few more dollars in book sales. It's much more profitable to just move on to the next new author desperate to see their name in print. According to Writers Beware (2004) "...it's rare that this financial investment is ever recouped through sales. Vanity/subsidy publishers have no economic incentive to get books into the hands of readers, since they've already made a profit from the author's fees. Despite what they may

promise, they won't effectively market or distribute your work. Some vanity/subsidy publishers don't even have arrangements with book wholesalers, making it impossible obtain books except through you or maybe the publisher's website."

There is also a stigma attached to vanity and subsidy publishers, because they are not discriminate in works they publish. There are also many disreputable firms who "engage in a wide range of unethical or fraudulent practices, including grossly overcharging for their services, reneging on contract obligations, producing shoddy books, failing to print the number of books contracted for, and even providing kickbacks to agents that refer manuscripts to them." (Writers Beware, 2004)

Many authors are opting to epublish in order to avoid expensive printing, distribution and storage costs. Epublishers may offer royalty payments up to 40% of the sales price and do not require up front fees.

However, be wary of hidden charges like formatting charges, cover art or editing fees. Never conduct business with an agent or publisher who requires you purchase services as a condition of representation.

Resources

Writers Beware, <http://www.sfw.org/beware/agents.html>

Unknown Author (2004) Writers Beware. Retrieved March 12, 2004 from www.SFWA.org

Lisa Hood is the author of "Shades of Betrayal" and "Shades of Revenge". She has been writing for over 10 years and is presently working on her third suspense novel, "Shades of Jealousy." She is also the Talent Liaison @ BOOKJOBBER.com. Other articles by Lisa Hood can be downloaded from <http://www.bookjobber.com/articles.asp> or mailto:lisa_j@bookjobber.com

Pit Bull Terriers: What Are The Best Dog Toys?

By Tim Amherst

It is important to provide your Pit Bull with toys that are safe for him. Due to the strength and aggression that Pit Bulls naturally have, it is often hard for owners to find suitable toys that are strong enough to hold up to the dog. Many Pit Bulls are also hard to please when it comes to toys, they want just the right size, shape, and texture, or they won't have anything to do with it. Purchasing toys that are Pit Bull suitable can get expensive, but can often help prevent your Pit Bull from chewing up your belongings. Many Pit Bull owners prefer a toy called the Galileo Bone. It is produced by Nylabone, and proves to be able to hold up pretty well with the average Pit Bull. AT least, it lasts long enough to kind of make you feel like you have gotten your money's worth. Nylabone also makes the Crazy Ball, which is also a really tough toy designed for Pit Bulls. Kong toys can in many different sizes and colors, and many can be stuffed with your Pit Bull's favorite treats. They have tremendous durability, so are especially great for Pit Bulls that like to chew a lot. Most Pit Bulls will occupy themselves for hours with these toys. Many companies also produce interactive toys, some of which are tough enough to withstand your Pit Bull. These toys hold his interest with sounds and lights, usually good for a few

Publishing Pit Bulls

hours of play before he gets bored with it.

Plush toys are also good for some Pit Bulls, it is important to make sure that you purchase one that doesn't have small parts that could easily be chewed off and swallowed. These are probably toys that you would want to supervise your Pit Bull playing with, or use them to just play fetch with.

Rope toys can soon become a favorite for you both. They help to clean your Pit Bull's teeth, and can be great for fetch. They work well for getting you involved in your Pit Bull's play, as they work great for tug of war matches. It is important to keep in mind when pulling that you need to be careful not to pull too hard, as you may accidentally break one of your Pit Bull's teeth.

Balls are popular with almost any dog, again the important thing here is to purchase one that is made of material durable enough to hold up to your Pit Bull. Larger balls will probably work better, as they will be harder for him to get in his mouth.

Toys are a necessity for your Pit Bull. Just keep in mind your Pit Bull's personality and strength, so that you can buy the best toy for him. There are several sites online that sell toys suited for Pit Bulls, or your local pet supply may have them as well.

To learn all about owning, raising, and caring for American Pit Bull Terriers, visit
today!



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