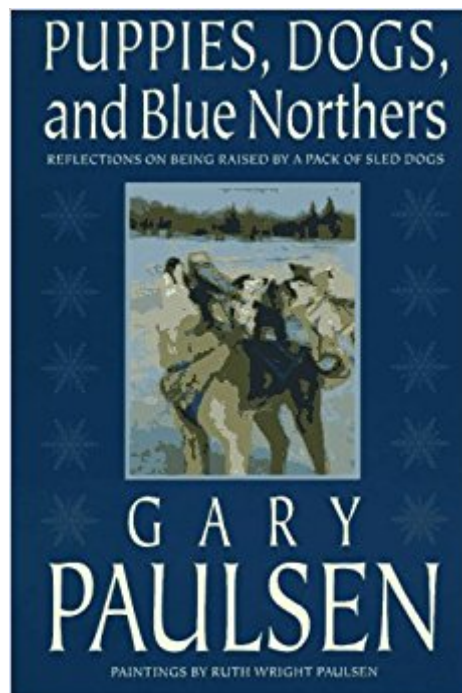




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# Puppies, Dogs, And Blue Northerners: Reflections On Being Raised By A Pack Of Sled Dogs



## Synopsis

An experienced Iditarod racer and award-winning author describes his joy at the birth of a litter of pups and the bonding experience of watching them grow, learn, and develop into dogs that pull sleds across the snow.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 81 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,809,921 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Teens > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#) #130 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Iditarod & Dog-Sledding](#) #132 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Sports](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Three of Gary Paulsen's books have made it to the Newbery Honor list: *Dogsong*, *Hatchet* and *The Winter Room*. *Puppies, Dogs, and Blue Northerners* is a good bet to join the previous three on that list. This loving biography relates the story of Cookie, Paulsen's dog and friend and the lead dog for the Iditarod sled race in Alaska. The book begins with Cookie's last litter and ends when the arthritic old dog heads out the door for the last time. It is a story no dog lover will be able to resist.

Paulsen is at the top of his form in this tribute to his sled dog Cookie, previously introduced in the adult title *Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod*. With the same rugged reverence for wilderness that underscores his classic *Hatchet*, Paulsen trains a sharp eye on the dogs and puppies he kenneled in his northern Minnesota home and trained as sled dogs until heart disease obliged his retirement from the sport. Elizabeth Marshall Thomas might envy his powers of observation as he reports on the dogs' behavior (including the dogs' conscious attempts to teach the pups various skills). The finest moments belong to Cookie, who more than once saved

Paulsen's life. She emerges heroically, a formidable presence whose animal nature is unsoftened by any anthropomorphisms. The high-quality production—fine paper stock; the paintings included as plates; etc.—will make it easy to cross-shelve this book alongside adult titles; it would be a shame to use age to limit the readership of this soulful and stirring tale, a love story every bit as much as an adventure story. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

At first I was very interested to read the book, the cover look very good, when I got to the middle at page 45 it was super good I like tell cookie the dog had lots of puppies I can just imagine 1 billion puppies crawling all over you. I have a puppy living with me he is a Labrador retriever named Casper, he is so cute but he is a monster, he ruins everything he rips stuff, And he loves to eat all of my toys and papers and homework and all that stuff. This book reminded me of all the the personalities of our puppy. I really did enjoy this book thank you for writing in

[illegible]

If you love dogs you can't not like this book. It is short but it gives a little insight into the relationship between a man and his sled dog(s). I enjoyed the bits of information about the lifestyles of the dogs and, albeit limited information, it helped me understand the reason for chaining the dogs, which I have always been bothered with. I liked the admittance of our human limitations and the lessons learned by our canine companions.

I read this to my 5th graders...it is such a great story filled with descriptive language as well as very rich vocabulary. They also learn to love Cookie, and have a great deal of empathy for her near the end, and sympathy for Gary Paulsen when it's all over. It is a great read!!

I have been to your house, and ridden behind you on a atv for a short run. I thought you were

kidding when you told me to lean hard on that first turn. I have a much greater understanding of animals from reading about your life. Thank you!

So very sweet. I bought this for some of my students who enjoy Paulsen, but I picked it up and started to read it myself. Paulsen's love for, and devotion to, his dogs is more evident than ever.

if you like dogs you will love this. period. Don't think twice, just get it. It will sit on your bookshelf as a treasure. Just as good as all his dog books, which I happen to think are the best modern ones out there... This guy knows his dogs, sees their hearts and spends so much time enjoying them... He has had enough dogs in his life to see some really special things. You will not be dissatisfied, except to wish as I did that it were 1000 pages longer !

Winterdance, by this author, is one of my all time favourite books: I love it for its sheer energy and love of life. And I have yet to meet anyone who did not enjoy it, from children sitting up at bedtime with eyes as big as saucers to grandparents falling out of bed with laughter. If you also enjoyed Winterdance, you will enjoy this little glimpse of what came after. Gary Paulsen has left us a rare and special treasure.

Great book touching stories including humor and a little sadness. This is a must read for dog and or nature lovers alike.

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