



In book-cluttered home in Westbrook, Connecticut, Hearne works in bed, attended by Patrick Cat and a

bossy pit bull named Annie, who tends to browbeat Bandit and the five other dogs in the household.

I am not a cooer. But my golden knows me for the briber I am, so it is with some trepidation that I push open another door in search of Ms. Hearne. Once inside, I am confronted by a woman in what looks like an all-purpose Winston Churchill suit, giving a dog a bath in a big blue wall tub. I have associated Vicki Hearne so thoroughly with Bandit, with pit bulls and with the bull breeds in general, that it is almost a shock to find her keeping company with a young Airedale. As we

talk she gently brushes and soaps him, then administers a rinse-down with a flexible showerhead.

Airedales tend to be what trainers call "hard dogs," meaning dogs that are often hard to train, but once trained are unflappable yet intense at whatever work or play they do. Airedales also turn out to be Hearne's favorite dogs, partly because they are big terriers and she has a weakness for terriers. German shepherds, she has noted, especially those trained to be "alert" to

*Photographs by Enrico Ferorelli*