

order, Bandit seemed marked for death. But at a further hearing, over bitter protest by Canine Control, a Superior Court judge gave Vicki Hearne custody of Bandit and three months to work with him to see if he could be trained. If he failed he was a dead dog.

In "How to Say 'Fetch!'" one of the remarkable chapters in *Adam's Task*, Hearne notes that one task the biblical Adam had was to name the animals, and suggests that a dog's mind and sense of responsibility expand as his name is linked to commands he can follow. It is the task of every dog trainer and dog owner to expand that dog's name, and sense of what he is, through coherent commands. "Coherence" is one of her touchstone words, for it denotes what dogs need more than anything else and what is notably lacking in the modern world.

A dog consistently called Bandit knows that he is Bandit. If he has been taught to sit properly, enduring distractions that a trainer introduces, his name and his sense of himself get broader. Now his name is "Bandit Sit," and he thinks of himself in some way that resembles the anthropomorphic phrase "I am Bandit who sits in majesty, ignoring robins and squirrels the way Mount Everest ignores fleas." And so on, through "fetch" and other character-building intellectual challenges. It was by just this kind of hard work that Bandit began acquiring a bigger name for himself.

Hearne's training program is based on the assumption that dogs are far quicker than humans at keeping track of the world as it affects them. That and joy in

partnership, she feels, are their main motivations. Her aim is to put the animal into situations where it knows what to do and does it, not as a conditioned reflex but because it has made a decision to do so. Otherwise the dog isn't really trained. With Bandit, as with other dogs, she began with three weeks of rambling around at Silver Trails, never giving a command, attached to him by a 20-foot longe (pronounced LUNGE) line. Whenever he'd dash on ahead, she'd head the other way suddenly, with her whole body, and bring him up short.

This continued until he knew he could count on her to do it and began to watch her carefully. In three weeks he was walking companionably beside her, with no pulling and in something like the "heel" position. Why? Because it was close and "a good position from which to keep track of what I was doing," she explains. Besides, as they walked together, the feeling of comradeship grew. Then she taught him what she calls the grammar of their language education, the traditional commands: "sit, stay, down, come, stand stay, down stay and OK," carefully positioning him each time until she was sure he knew what was wanted. Though her aim always is off-lead control, the grammar has to be taught on-lead. She regards "OK" as the most important command because it releases a dog temporarily from work or unleashes it for something it wants, yet reminds the dog that work is formal.

Rewards were smiles, hugs, praise, but no tidbits! And no "punishment," in which she includes anything done in anger—nagging, shouting, jerking a dog around



Drummer does warm-up jump, undistracted by presence under the bar of Cardigan Welsh corgi named Gaddis. Man at right is George Bernard, owner of Silver Trails, who took Bandit in when the dog would have been unwelcome elsewhere.