

= Lad , A Dog =

Lad : A Dog is a 1919 American novel written by Albert Payson Terhune and published by E. P. Dutton . Composed of twelve short stories first published in magazines , the novel is based on the life of Terhune 's real @-@ life rough collie , Lad . Born in 1902 , the real @-@ life Lad was an unregistered collie of unknown lineage originally owned by Terhune 's father . Lad 's death in 1918 , was mourned by many of the story 's fans , particularly children .

Through the stories of Lad 's adventures , Terhune expresses his views on parenting , obtaining perfect obedience without force , and the nature and rights of the " well @-@ bred " . Terhune began writing the stories in 1915 at the suggestion of his Red Book Magazine editor . They gained in popularity and , as Terhune was under contractual obligation to submit something to Doubleday @-@ Page , he collected them into novel form . After Doubleday rejected the novel , he solicited other publishers until it was picked up by Dutton . After a slow start , the novel became a best seller in the adult fiction and children 's fiction markets , having been repositioned as a young adult novel by Grosset and Dunlap in the 1960s and 1970s . Selling over one million copies , it is Terhune 's best @-@ selling work and the one that propelled him to fame . It has been reprinted over 70 times by Dutton , and republished by a variety of publishers since its original release , including at least six international translations .

Contemporaneous critics praised Terhune 's writing style and the overall story appeal , while dog breeders criticized his unrealistic canine characters . In retrospective reviews , critics considered that the novel had aged badly , and that Terhune displayed little actual writing skill , but noted that the novel was able to hold long @-@ lasting appeal as it triggered the reader 's desire to have such an ideal dog . Terhune himself considered the novel " hack writing " and did not understand why it was so popular . Because of its reception , he went on to publish two additional novels featuring Lad and one featuring Lad 's son , Wolf , as well as many other fictional stories featuring dogs . Warner Brothers released a film adaptation in June 1962 . A series of four children 's picture books based on three of the stories from the novel were published by Margo Lundell between 1997 and 1998 .

= = Plot = =

" His Mate "

A rough collie named Lad lives at the Place with his Master , Mistress , and his mate , Lady . When Knave , a younger collie , is boarded at the Place , Lady begins ignoring Lad in favor of the newcomer . During a romp in the forest with Knave , Lady is caught in a leghold trap . Knave leaves her there and returns home but Lad finds her . Several days later , the still limping Lady accidentally gets locked in the library and is subsequently blamed for the destruction of the Master 's beloved mounted bald eagle . The Master starts to whip her , but Lad intervenes and takes the whipping himself , knowing Knave was the culprit . Later , he attacks Knave for getting Lady in trouble , sending him fleeing from the Place . As the Master apologizes to Lad , Lady lovingly licks his wounds from the fight .

" Quiet "

On a cold October day , the Mistress falls into the lake and develops pneumonia . As the house must be kept quiet during her recovery , the dogs are sent to a boarding kennel , except Lad who is ordered to keep quiet . One night a thief breaks into the house , hoping to take advantage of the absence of the dogs . After he climbs through a window , Lad silently attacks him . During the ensuing fight Lad is cut with a knife before sending the man crashing back through the window . The noise wakes the humans of the house and the thief is arrested . After Lad 's wound is treated , he enjoys praise from the Mistress then travels some distance from home to enjoy a lengthy session of barking .

" A Miracle or Two "

One spring , a relative of the Mistress brings her invalid toddler , Baby , to the Place in the hope that the weather will help her grow stronger . Lad immediately befriends the girl and becomes her constant companion . By summer , Baby is growing healthier , though she is still unable to walk .

One afternoon , the mother sits the child near the lake , then leaves her to go meet the Master and Mistress , who are returning from town . Lad saves the baby from a copperhead snake , but the distraught mother only sees Lad throw her backwards and begins beating him . To protect her friend , Baby manages to shakily walk to her mother and explain what happened . While the humans fuss over the occurrence Lad sneaks off and spends four days buried in marsh mud to draw out the snake 's poison .

" His Little Son "

Lady gives birth to three puppies , but after two die of unexplained causes , Lady lavishes all her attention on the surviving pup , Wolf . She later develops distemper and is taken away by the veterinarian , so Lad takes over the raising of his son , solemnly teaching him the Law of the Place . Wolf comes to love and respect his father and soon forgets his mother , though Lad continues to search for her daily . A month later , Wolf falls through the ice of the semi @-@ frozen lake , and Lad nearly drowns while saving him . When Lad staggers to shore , he is ecstatically greeted by the recovered Lady .

" For a Bit of Ribbon "

The Master and Mistress enter Lad in the Westminster Dog Show in New York , much to Lad 's abject misery as he dislikes the preparatory bathing and brushing . Dismayed to learn that Lad will have to stay chained to a small bench for all four days of the event , his owners begin to regret bringing him . To their joy , Lad wins the blue ribbon in both the Novice and Winner classes , and they decide not to subject him to the four @-@ day stay . When they let Lad know he is going home , he joyfully perks up .

" Lost ! "

Due to city regulations , the Master and Mistress are forced to muzzle Lad when they take him from the show . During the drive out of the city , Lad falls out of the car and is left behind . After he realizes he is lost , Lad starts towards home . Along the way he is chased by the police and a crowd of people , who presume he is rabid , but he escapes them by swimming across the Hudson River . Later he is attacked by a mongrel guard dog , but he refuses to run from the battle . He initially struggles to defend himself while muzzled , but then the other dog inadvertently bites through the strap holding the muzzle on , allowing Lad to quickly defeat him . When the Master and Mistress return from searching for Lad , they find him waiting on the porch .

" The Throwback "

Glure , a wealthy neighbor who considers himself gentry , stops at the Place for a night while on the way to a livestock show with a flock of expensive sheep . During the night , Glure 's " Prussian sheep dog " , Melisande , worries the sheep and they break free from the pen . Though Lad has never seen sheep , he instinctively herds them together while keeping Melisande under control . When the humans arrive to take the sheep home , Glure 's herdsman apologizes for having earlier insulted Lad and Glure offers to trade Melisande for Lad .

" The Golden Hat "

Tired of his high @-@ priced imported livestock losing in local shows , Glure concocts a dog show with a special gold cup event that is limited to collies that are both American Kennel Club blue ribbon winners and capable of completing the tasks of a British working sheep dog trial . Initially , it seems like the only dog who meets the requirements is Glure 's recently purchased blue @-@ merle champion , Lochinvar III ; however , the Mistress is able to command Lad through the motions of the trial . Lochinvar works primarily by hand signal , so when Glure accidentally burns his fingers on his cigar while going through the trial , the dog stops working and waits for Glure 's hand @-@ shaking to be explained . The dog is disqualified and Lad is declared the winner . The Master and Mistress donate the gold cup to the Red Cross in his name .

" Speaking of Utility "

Glure tries to encourage the Master to support the " war effort " by killing his non @-@ utilitarian animals , including his dogs . The Master quickly points out that Glure himself did not " sacrifice " his dogs but lost them to distemper . Pointing out that Lad had just chased off a trespasser from the Place , he fiercely argues that his dogs are his home 's best protection . A few days later during a livestock show , Lad attacks Glure 's new groom , recognizing him as the trespasser he chased

away earlier . Lad 's attack frees a vicious bull , which goes into homicidal rage . Lad abandons his attack of the groom to protect him from the bull . The bull chases Lad over the river and consequently gets stuck in the mud . The Master quickly determines why Lad attacked the man and Glure grudgingly thanks them .

#### " The Killer "

Lad is accused of killing eight sheep owned by a neighbor . When the Master refuses to believe the accusations , they are taken to court where the neighbor 's farmhand testifies that he saw Lad kill two of the sheep . The Master successfully shows the improbability of a single dog carrying off six sheep in two nights and that the two dead sheep left behind were clearly cut with a knife , not teeth . After Lad is given a 24 @-@ hour parole , the Master asks the judge to accompany him to the neighbor 's house that night , where they discover that the farmhand was actually stealing the sheep , then killing one from each batch to put the blame on Lad .

#### " Wolf "

Wolf , the companion and friend of the Boy , is highly intelligent and an excellent guard dog . The Boy is upset that he is not allowed to enter the dog shows , though he understands that Wolf does not meet the breed standards . While the family is at a dog show with Bruce and Lad , Wolf is poisoned by an intruder . Having only eaten part of the tainted meat , Wolf is still alive when the thief returns to the house that night and is shot twice while protecting the Place . The thief escapes , but is later apprehended by the police while being treated for his bites . Wolf recovers and is given a " Hero Cup " trophy , to the Boy 's delight .

#### " In the Day of Battle "

On a cold , snowy day , thirteen @-@ year @-@ old Lad feels snubbed when the three @-@ year @-@ old Wolf does not invite him to join him and Rex , a five @-@ year @-@ old collie and bull terrier mix , for a run in the woods . Later , Lad goes for a walk , following their path . When he meets them on the trail , rather than letting Lad pass , Rex viciously attacks him . With his teeth dulled by old age , Lad is unable to really fight back . Refusing to just run , he defends himself as best he can while moving backwards towards home , half a mile away . Though Wolf betrays him and joins Rex in the life @-@ or @-@ death fight , Lad manages to get close enough to the house for Bruce to hear the battle and alert the Master and Mistress . The Master is forced to kill Rex after the crazed dog turns on him . After four weeks recovering from his wounds , Lad is able to go outside again and Wolf steps aside for him , acknowledging he is still the leader of the Place 's dogs .

#### = = Themes = =

The Lad stories tended to follow a persistent formula that Terhune used throughout most of his fiction . The main character was a " noble , almost saintly character " that could engage in battle , exact vengeance as needed , and displayed supernatural intelligence , loyalty , and understanding of the needs of his owners . Lad generally did battle with some villain , human or another dog , in defense of a helpless human or animal . Within each story , Terhune would speak in a positive , authoritative tone while dispensing various tidbits of information about canine behavior and thought processes . Injecting himself and his wife , Anice , into the novel , Terhune positioned the character " Master " as a " just , strict , well @-@ intentioned but often rather bumbling man " who could be overly sentimental and was balanced by the " wise , calm , and patient " " Mistress " .

One core theme of Lad : A Dog is the obtaining of perfect obedience without the use of force . Through the story characters ' attempts at explaining Lad 's inexplicable actions using " mythologies of atavism " , Terhune reflects his own views of an ideal relationship between a parent and child , namely an " ideology of noble instinct tempered by inflexible training " . An unknown third @-@ person narrator also reflects Terhune 's perspective and values regarding violence , which is both repelled and embraced . Reflecting patriarchy and the idea of a living creature that obeys unquestioningly and unhesitatingly , the novel indicates that " perfect obedience and submission to a master 's will " can be obtained without needing violence or force . Indeed , Terhune regularly decries the use of physical punishment to gain obedience . For example , in the story " His Little Son

" , Lad takes over the raising of his son , using an even tempered , rational training system that reflects " discipline and firm kindness " . In the end , Lad is stated to have a stronger , love @-@ based relationship with his son versus that of the pup with his mother , the temperamental Lady . Lady raised their son using physical force to impose her will , and thus after she leaves for a period , she is forgotten by him as he holds no love for her .

Within the novel , the Law forbids violence between the inhabitants of the Place . Despite its seemingly unyielding nature , it is in fact broken several times , though always with " good reason " . In the story " His Mate " , Lad meets and later must win the heart of his mate , Lady . Lad is clearly " enthralled " by the adult Lady 's sexual appeal . As Terhune seems reluctant to note the facts of canine mating , Lady is never stated to actually go into heat . Instead the relationship is framed within the context of a " human courtly love triangle " when the " showy " Knave comes to the Place and Lady forgets Lad and fawns on the new arrival . When Lady is believed to have destroyed a beloved mounted bald eagle , the master breaks the rules against violence and intends to beat her . Lad , in turn , breaks the rules of perfect obedience and growls , becoming the object of punishment and taking the beating in her stead . At the end of the story , when the master realizes he was mistaken , he apologizes to Lad for beating the wrong dog . Despite the novel 's overall theme of nonviolence , the master 's " unreasonable attachment to the bird " becomes the motivation for his " cruelty toward the helpless dogs " , yet Lad perceives the Master 's actions as " reasonable and functional " . Though the numerous tenets of the Law forbid violence in various forms , if the dogs harm something of sentimental value it is deemed justifiable to treat them with " any amount of violence . " This change is seen as reflecting a lack of maturity in the Master , and his having a " childish fixation on having his own way " , showing a desire to have control and order over that which can never be perfectly ordered : everyday life . Throughout many of the stories , a consistent theme is the Master 's imposition of will , behind which is the " blind rage of a child who cannot get exactly what he wants . "

The dogs of the Place are trained and commanded to control any violent outbursts against the Place 's occupants or guests , yet Lad 's engaging acceptable targets is written to " glamorize " the use of violence . Throughout the novel , Lad is victorious in battles against two thieves , a runaway bull , an " invading Negro " , and four other dogs , including a battle against two dogs at once . Each of the battles is referred to as a death match , with intricate detail on the tactics and strengths of a fighting collie . Terhune paints him as a " noble savage " who is " human @-@ like , but better than human " and who worships , and is worshiped by , his humans .

Another theme frequently reflected is that of " breeding " , in several senses : " pedigree , an inborn sense of manners and behavior , and , elliptically , sex . " Showcasing contemporary views of " entitlement and noblesse oblige , the novel reflects Terhune 's place as a member of the aristocracy and attempts to " justify the natural rights of the well @-@ bred . " The Place is owned by a rich family , that needs to be guarded against threats by foreigners , thieves of all varieties , Negroes , poachers , and the homeless . Within the novel , Terhune notes the provisions of the " Guest Law " , which reflect a fear of " the flotsam of the American polity " . In the character Hamilcar Q. Glure , shows his dislike for the nouveaux riches , those with " new money " , over those born and bred into wealth .

The novel also focuses on competition in the venues of the dog shows and combat . Within the novel , despite disliking shows and being an " old style " collie , Lad 's " sheer noble nature " enables him to win despite the going preferences for " more superficial qualities " . Lad obeys the Law in part because of his heredity as a purebred , and the Master considers himself a thoroughbred due to his having certain " race characteristics that are ingrained in his blood . " Frequently , Terhune references atavism , attributing Lad 's calling upon hereditary instincts to the presence of " a strain of wolf " in the brains of all collies . This idea also reflects the power of humans over nature .

= = History = =

Albert Payson Terhune was an established newspaperman and author of several books in various genres ? including histories and thrillers ? when he penned his first canine short story , His Mate .

Ray Long , then editor for Red Book Magazine , had jokingly suggested he write a story about Lad one afternoon , when the reticent dog put his head on Long 's knee after having snubbed the familiar visitor for the last year . Having already tried to market the idea of his writing dog stories to magazines for several years , Terhune readily agreed . The first story featured three rough collies , Lad , Lady , and Knave , and used a similar formula to his previous works : an average male ( Lad ) protects a beautiful female ( Lady ) from a larger villain ( Knave ) . Long purchased the work for Red Book for \$ 200 and it was published in the January 1916 issue . Four magazines requested similar stories , and Terhune complied , finding them easy to write and sell . Additional stories , all featuring Lad and titled Lad Stories , were published in the Saturday Evening Post , Ladies ' Home Journal , Hartford Courant , and the Atlantic Monthly , though Red Book remained his most consistent publisher . By 1918 , the stories had grown in popularity and Terhune was paid an average of \$ 1000 each for the tales , with some selling for as much as \$ 2 @, @ 500 , . Though marketed as fiction , even people who were acquainted with the Terhunes and Lad reportedly believed that the stories were real .

In 1918 , Long began urging Terhune to publish a book of his dog stories , though Terhune himself was not convinced at first . He considered them to be nothing more than " hack writing " and inferior to his other works . Even after Long convinced him of the public 's love of the works , Terhune initially did nothing towards the goal . Later that year , Doubleday @-@ Page , which had published Terhune 's last novel Fortune , wrote asking to see his next book while reminding him that their contract gave them first refusal rights to it . Wanting to escape from that publisher due to the dismal performance of Fortune , Terhune decided to follow Long 's suggestion so he could use the book of dog stories to fulfill his contractual obligation . After he collected together the twenty Lad stories he 'd written so far , he reorganized them into chapters and submitted the book . He was unsurprised that it was rejected , but in the rejection letter the company referred to Alfred Ollivant 's 1898 novel Owd Bob and Jack London 's 1903 novel Call of the Wild as " superior pieces of work " . As Terhune himself considered both authors to be unimpressive writers , he became determined that Lad : A Dog would be published . E. P. Dutton 's John Macrae , who was a known dog lover , found the stories " simple but charming " and felt the public would like them greatly .

Lad : A Dog was published by Dutton in April 1919 , a year after the real @-@ life Lad 's death . Terhune continued receiving royalties for the novel up through his own death . His wife , Anice Terhune , ceased receiving the royalties after she surrendered the rights to them , along with those of Bruce and His Dog in exchange for E.P. Dutton agreeing to publish and perpetually print her work Across the Line , a supposed set of conversations she had with her late husband . With this agreement , Dutton became sole owners of the copyright to Lad : A Dog . Macrae later decided that the agreement was not completely fair to Anice and modified it to provide her a payment of \$ 100 a month for the rest of her life , likely exceeding the profits they earned on the novels as the years passed .

= = = Real @-@ life Lad = = =

Available evidence indicates that the real Lad was born in December 1902 and passed through the hands of at least two owners before coming to Sunnybank . An article in a Terhune family scrapbook indicates that he was likely a mature dog by the time he arrived , possibly not until after Albert Payson Terhune had purchased the Pompton Lakes , New Jersey property from his mother in 1909 .

Unlike the fictional Lad , he was not registered with the American Kennel Club and was not a show dog . His pedigree was reportedly lost by one of his previous owners , though there was no doubt he was a purebred collie . At one point , Terhune 's wife Anice claimed Lad had twenty champion collies in his pedigree , but this has never been confirmed . On July 4 , 1917 , Lad was entered into a dog show despite having no papers on his pedigree . It was the only show he ever attended and he won the Veteran Cup . As in the novel , Lad was extremely , even " hostile [ ly ] reserved " with strangers , wanting little to do with anyone outside of the family .

Terhune donated some of the earnings from the magazine stories to the Red Cross and Blue Cross

in Lad 's name , earning the collie the Honorary Crosses of both groups . When Lad was fifteen , he lost his hearing , after which the other dogs in residence began ignoring him and vice versa . Lad died on September 3 , 1918 , having had a tumor in his heart for five years before his death . Lad 's obituary was carried on a multi @-@ page spread of the September 14 , 1918 issue of Field and Fancy magazine . He was buried near the driveway of Sunnybank , with the Honorary Crosses he was awarded . He was mourned by thousands of fans who had read Terhune 's stories , with dozens of readers , primarily children , visiting Sunnybank to see Lad 's grave . In one season , over 1 @, @ 700 visitors came to see Lad 's grave , prompting Terhune to close the place to visitors for the day .

After the Terhunes died , Sunnybank slowly deteriorated , with the house and much of the grounds destroyed . Large chunks of the property were sold by the Albert Payson Terhune , Inc , an organization set up in the wills of Bert and Anice Terhune to provide funds for a charitable organization , the Terhune Foundation . The last ten acres of the property were eventually sold to a housing developer , which included the house , graves of the Terhune collies , and the dogs ' old kennels . In 1967 , this remaining chunk of Sunnybank was condemned by the Wayne Township . The next year , the township made the remaining acres a historical park , Terhune Memorial Park . The Van Riper @-@ Hopper Historic House Museum , located several miles away , displays Terhune 's writings , the awards won by the Sunnybank collies , and other memorabilia . The graves of Lad , Wolf , Lady , and the other Sunnybank dogs are preserved there and available for viewing by visitors . Clippings of Lad 's coat are stored at the Library of Congress , having been donated by Anice . Annual gatherings to Sunnybank are organized by the Collie Health Foundation on the third weekend in August , during which speakers familiar with Terhune and his dogs speak , seminars and tours are conducted , and various collie @-@ focused events and competitions are conducted . In 2005 , Marilyn R. Horowitz published a Sunnybank calendar , the proceeds of which were used by the Terhune Sunnybank Memorial to restore Lad 's grave , which had fallen into disrepair , and to aid in maintaining the grounds of Sunnybank .

= = Reception = =

The original Lad stories were well received by readers of their respective magazines . After the appearance of His Mate in Red Book , the readers began demanding further stories . Editor Ray Long , who initially purchased His Mate , considered the story In the Day of Battle to be one of the top twenty to appear in Red Book during his time as its editor . The success of the stories propelled Terhune to fame , enabling him to purchase Sunnybank from his mother and quit a loathed job working for a newspaper to become a full @-@ time freelance writer . Although the novel was initially ignored by critics , within weeks it had become a hit . According to Terhune biographer Kurk Unkelbach , it received praise from most of the important critics of the time . The American Kennel Club Gazette reported that Terhune earned over \$ 32 @, @ 000 from the publication of the Lad stories . Originally aimed towards adults , the novel was a best @-@ seller and gained critical acclaim in the adult fiction market . By the end of the year , the book had gone through 18 printings , and by 1935 , over 250 @, @ 000 copies had been sold . In 1939 an anniversary edition was released , marking its 71st printing . In the 1960s and 70s , the novel was repositioned into the young adult market , by dint of its animal subject matter . Grosset and Dunlap reprinted the novel in new editions that were prominently featured on their children 's book lists . By 1970 , these new editions had sold over 650 @, @ 000 copies , and overall Lad : A Dog has sold over 1 million copies and remains Terhune 's highest seller . Considered the novel that " propelled Terhune to fame " , it has been translated into and published in at least six different languages . Recorded Books released an unabridged audiobook edition in 1997 on cassette tape . In 2006 , Alcazar AudioWorks released a CD version .

Veteran dog breeders of the times were the primary critics of the novel , chastising Terhune 's depiction of an unrealistically perfect collie that would mislead the public into believing such a dog could exist . The anniversary and subsequent editions , featuring a sable @-@ and @-@ white collie , also drew criticism from loyal readers as it did not resemble Lad . New York Times Book

Review reviewer Alden Welch felt the full novel would " surely appeal not only to all lovers and masters of dogs , but to many who have never owned any and who have no general and indiscriminate liking for them . " He found the stories " interesting " and a " most welcome addition to dog @-@ literature " , praising the novel as the most " delightfully written " of Terhune 's works to date . In 1968 , Sports Illustrated 's Robert H. Boyle stated that Terhune 's stories were responsible for many of the active collie breeders at the time getting involved in the sport . Calling the author a " godlike figure " and the hero of " goggle @-@ eyed youngsters of the 1920s , ' 30s and even into the ' 40s . " In comparing the work to popular collie character Lassie , Boyle noted that rather than having Lassie 's seeming immortality , Terhune 's dogs " led epic lives and they had epic deaths " .

In the Fall 1996 issue of Raritan Quarterly Review , Stephen D. Cox , freely admitting to never having read the book , nonetheless called Terhune a " hack writer " who lacked " storytelling skill " and denounced *Lad : A Dog* as non @-@ literature with " sentences [ that ] are insufferably stilted and hammy " and " have a tendency to wander off on long romps with his personal obsessions . " Terming it a " socially interesting " work , he concedes that the novel has maintained " intense and long @-@ lasting " interest from readers due to its successfully playing on their emotions and " desire to have a collie dog . " He quotes Irving Litvag , author of Terhune 's biography *The Master of Sunnybank* , stating that *Lad* " became the dog we always wanted to have and never did . Maybe even more than that ? maybe he became the friend we always waited to find , or even the brother , or the father . " In *You 're Only Young Twice : Children 's Literature and Film* , Timothy Morris felt the novel had " dated badly " due to changes in American society , and while he stated that he enjoyed the work , in comparing it to Anna Sewell 's *Black Beauty* he faults *Lad : A Dog* for lacking an " autobiographical frame " and for leaving readers guessing as to what is happening .

= = Sequels and adaptations = =

Building on the success of *Lad : A Dog* , Terhune went on to pen thirty additional canine novels , including two featuring *Lad* . *Further Adventures of Lad* , which includes the stories of his arrival at the Place and his death , was published in George H. Doran in 1922 . Like the first , it went on to become a best seller , praised by both new readers and existing fans . Critics , however , gave it more mixed reviews . Though some praised the stories and *Lad* , others felt *Lad* was unbelievable and harshly denounced Terhune 's writing style . *Lad of Sunnybank* was released in 1929 by HarperCollins , and included another selection of stories about *Lad* 's life . Two of the collies that appear in *Lad : A Dog* , *Lad* 's son *Wolf* and another collie named *Bruce* , both received their own novels . *Bruce* was published by E. P. Dutton in 1920 and *Wolf* was published by Doran in 1925 .

Published by Scholastic as part of its Hello reader ! series , Margo Lundell adapted three stories from the novels into a series of 48 page picture books with illustration by Don Bolognese . The first book , *Lad , a Dog : Lad to the Rescue* , was released in August 1997 and adapts the story of *Lad* saving the baby from a snake . The next two , *Lad , a Dog : Best Dog in the World* ( December 1997 ) and *Lad , a Dog : Lad is Lost* ( February 1998 ) focus on *Lad* 's first dog show and subsequently becoming lost . The final book , *Lad , a Dog : The Bad Puppy* , released in May 1998 , details *Lad* 's raising of *Wolf* .

= = Film adaptation = =

In the 1960s , Warner Brothers purchased the film rights for the novel from Max J. Rosenberg , of Vanguard Productions , who had purchased them from E. P. Dutton . They later negotiated with Anice Terhune for the rights to the two follow up novels , hoping to produce a sequel and television series if the first film proved successful . Starring Peter Breck , Peggy McCay , Carroll O 'Connor , and Angela Cartwright , the film blended several of the novel 's stories with some modifications to make a flowing narrative . Aram Avakian was initially selected to be the film 's director , but his refusal to create a sentimental dog story resulted in his firing ; he was replaced by Leslie H. Martinson . The film was released on June 6 , 1962 . Although it was praised by fans and modern reviewers , contemporary critiques felt Terhune 's work did not translate well to film , and it was

considered a low budget B @-@ movie .