



# A Guide to the Livestock-working Dog

\$1.50

B. Henny

**W**elcome to the fascinating world of the livestock-working dog. This publication contains four sections:

- Selecting the working dog, including review of the common working breeds
- Basic training methods and tips
- The International Sheep Dog Rules with course pattern
- A list of resources including breed associations

It's intended as a reference guide, not a training manual.

*"Training a working dog is not child's play. It is serious business, requiring patience, perseverance, and knowledge of what you want your dog to learn. You must not expect the dog to learn it all in a week or month or any set time. It is a constant learning process."*

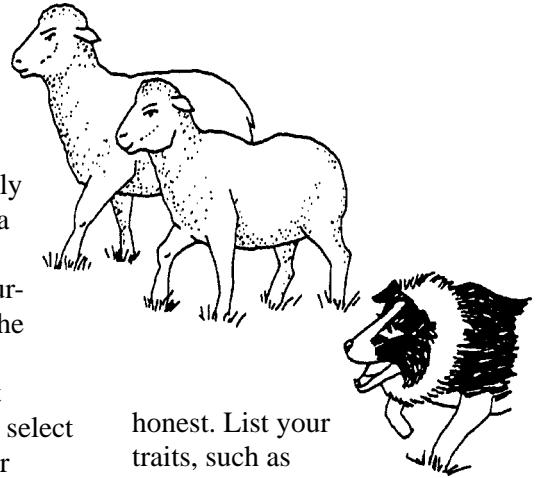
This excerpt from Pope Robertson's excellent training manual, *Anybody Can Do It*, illustrates the realities for 4-H members, or anyone else, considering the challenge of training a working dog. Experienced handlers, highly recommended by their peers, wrote all the resource materials listed in this publication. Each author has his or her own method, each with its own merit.

## Selecting Your Employee

If you select and train your working dog as carefully as you would hire and train a manager for your farm, you can have a very valuable four-legged employee that does the work of four people and becomes your best and most faithful friend. Whether you select and train the dog yourself, or instruct a 4-H member, we can't overemphasize the importance of studying all aspects of training before you begin.

The first thing to consider is choosing the working breed most suited to your personality and situation. Each working breed has common personality traits and a primary purpose for which it was bred. You should select an adaptable breed. Prime examples of improper selection include the dairy farmer who works an extremely aggressive dog that aggravates the dairy cows, which results in a decrease of their milk supply, or the beef rancher who works a meek and mild dog that lacks the power to move cattle, causing inefficiency and loss of valuable time. These situations occur often.

When examining your personality, be objective and



honest. List your traits, such as temper, patience, and the type of discipline you use. Don't be afraid or too vain to ask your spouse, parents, or leader if the list accurately reflects your personality. Then study the breeds and make a selection that suits you. The following is a review of the most common working breeds and some helpful hints on the "non-instinct" dog.

### Border Collie

Border Collies and their sleek working style were described as early as the 1500s; however, it was not until October 8, 1973, in Bala, North Wales, that the first documented sheepdog trial was

---

*Bonnie Henny, Brooks, Oregon; with assistance from Alan Snider, former Extension specialist, 4-H youth development, Oregon State University; and the 4-H Development Committee for the Dog Program. Illustrations by Nancy Lorain, Brooks, Oregon*



held. Ten dogs competed before several hundred spectators, and the winner was a Scotch-bred dog. This dog originated near the border of Scotland and England, and is now known worldwide as the Border Collie.

Border Collies are primarily black and white with occasional tinges of brown or red. They have either a long (rough) coat or a short (smooth) coat, stand approximately 16 to 26 inches in height, and weigh approximately 40 pounds. The Border Collie is bred for intelligence, instinct, working style, and “eye”; not for color, coat, nor size.

The most striking characteristic of the Border Collie is the “eye,” the dog’s power to control livestock with its eager watchful eyes while it crouches on the ground with legs gathered under it for immediate action. Border Collies use “eye” to establish authority and control without overrunning the livestock being worked. The “eye” is hereditary. Within the breed, dogs will show many levels of “eye” power, from very weak to very strong. “Eye” power is unique to the Border Collie and does not carry over well genetically when a dog is crossbred.

In top working dogs, “eye” and “power” are complementary traits that allow the dog to show no fear. Border Collies use their eyes as an enforcer and are able to communicate their courage to livestock without using roughness. This breed is not inclined to jump in and

bite. It moves livestock with a direct, businesslike attitude.

The variation in the power level of the “eye” and the strength of personality allow the breed to work any type of animal; however, it works best with herding-instinct animals (such as sheep). This ability to work any animal is well documented by Arthur Allen in his book, *A Lifetime with the Working Collie, Their Training and History*, in which he describes two Border Collies working a mountain lion into a truck.

The Border Collie is quick to learn and easy to train. It can understand up to 60 commands of both whistle and voice, and is extremely affectionate to its handler. It’s considered the most intelligent of breeds. It’s the most popular breed of dog working sheep and cattle at trials in the United States and Great Britain. The Border Collie is born with the instinct to work. It’s very good in obedience trials, but can become a handful if not given enough work to expend its energy. The breed generally thrives on large livestock farms.

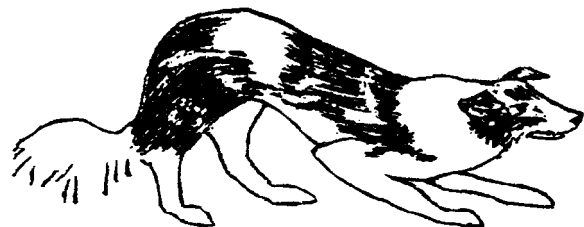
In selecting a Border Collie, look for a dog that has good working parents, medium-eye control, good power (neither flighty nor shy when working), and that is friendly to its handler. It’s very helpful to know the bloodlines of the Border Collie, as style of work, level of “eye,” and instinct are hereditary. Purchasing a puppy is the least expensive means of acquiring the Border Collie. You can feel confident the pup will have the instinct to work if you’re well aware of the bloodlines.

A reputable breeder is well-versed on the bloodlines and will guarantee the pup has the instinct to work. Many Border Collies annually are purchased from Great Britain, and many American-born puppies have imported parents. This does not imply that American-bred dogs are inferior or that imported dogs are better; however, bear in mind your needs and select the type of Border Collie best suited for your situation. This will allow you to obtain a good working dog more easily.

### **Australian Shepherd**

The Australian Shepherd originated in the Basque region on the border between France and Spain. It worked for the Basque shepherd for many generations, and may have immigrated to North America with the Spanish settlers in the early 1800s.

There is evidence the Australian Shepherd was imported to Australia from Spain with Merino sheep. In Australia, it was crossed with English herding dogs to improve its herding ability, and then imported to North America, where it had remained a purebred for many generations.

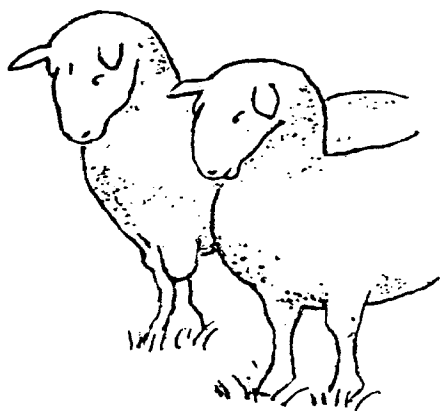




The Australian Shepherd can be identified by its natural or docked bobtail. Males stand 20 to 23 inches tall; females 18 to 21 inches. Average weight is 40 pounds. The Aussie (common nickname) may be blue Merle, red Merle, liver Merle, red, liver, or black. Merle is described as any coloration with flecks of another color in it. Eyes are almond-shaped and may be any color. (Dogs with one blue and one brown eye are common.)

The Aussie is a well-balanced dog of medium size and bone. It's attentive and animated, and shows strength and stamina combined with unusual agility. The dog should be slightly longer than it is tall. The coat should be of medium texture, straight to slightly wavy, weather-resistant, and of moderate length with an undercoat. The Australian Shepherd is intelligent, primarily a working dog, an exceptional companion, versatile, and easily trained.

The Australian Shepherd is commonly known as a general-use farm dog. It adapts well to small farms with limited work. As



with all working breeds, selection should be based on bloodlines and working style of the parents. The Aussie does not have the controlling "eye," but does have strong working instinct.

### **Australian Cattle Dog**

The Australian Cattle Dog was developed in Australia exclusively for working cattle in heavy brush or confinement. The breed is used in America to work cattle, hogs, and horses. Its primary style is "heeling," defined as driving the animal by biting low on the heels.

The Australian Cattle Dog (also called the Blue Heeler) weighs approximately 33 pounds; males are 18 to 20 inches in height, while females are 17 to 19 inches. It may be blue-mottled, with or without black, or red-speckled with darker red markings on the head. A blue-headed dog may be marked with black and tan, with tan legs.

The Australian Cattle Dog has a moderately short coat, straight and medium textured, with a short, dense under coat. It's a bold, strong, well-muscled dog that can withstand harsh conditions. A recognized American Kennel breed, it has specific standards for size, color, coat, and marketing. The breed usually is very aggressive and strong-minded, and has been bred to withstand a kick from cattle without backing off. A well-trained Australian Cattle Dog works effectively in stockyards and rough country. It can be difficult to handle with sheep, dairy, or poultry, and takes patience to train. The Australian Cattle Dog is well-known for its loyalty and protective instinct. Australian Cattle

Dogs often become self-appointed guardians of their owners' herds and property.

### **Australian Kelpie**

The Australian Kelpie is a lithe, extremely active, and intelligent dog with tireless gait and a strong instinct to work. It's sometimes referred to as a "desert Border Collie." It's a short-coated, prick-eared dog that revels in difficult terrain. The Australian Kelpie was established specifically for desert or tough terrain where it could "muster huge areas under extreme conditions, often having to do without water for hours on end."

It can be black, black and tan, red, red and tan, fawn-chocolate, or smoke-blue. Males are 18 to 20 inches in height; females 17 to 19 inches. The Kelpie weighs about 25 to 30 pounds. This breed is very sturdy and strong, but light boned. The Kelpie usually is found to have great endurance and energy and excellent working instincts. It works in an upright (standing) position, not flattened to the ground, and has a mild amount of controlling "eye."

In the United States, well-trained Kelpies adapt to large herds of any type of livestock. Handlers must be aware of the Kelpies' speed and endurance when selecting the breed. Sometimes with small flocks, the dog tends to run circles around the flock, primarily because it was developed to work very large herds of sheep.

The Kelpie originated in Australia in the mid-1880s, when three pairs of black and tan "working



collies” were imported from Great Britain. The intermixing of the strain helped stabilize the breed. At the time the black and tan “working collies” were imported to Australia, the Border Collie was known as “the black-and-white, rough-coated “working Collie.”

*Please note:* The Australian Kelpie, Australian Cattle Dog, and the Australian Shepherd are three distinct breeds, each developed for a specific and different purpose. Also, the Border Collie and the Australian Kelpie are included in the Miscellaneous Class of the American Kennel Club.

### **Bearded Collie**

The Bearded Collie is a medium-sized, long-coated dog that originated in the highlands of Scotland where it was used for herding sheep. These dogs were sent up into the hills where they worked independently as “huntaways” searching for lost or hiding sheep, running and jumping over hilly terrain while barking to move the sheep from under cover. They would then gather the flock together and bring it in to the shepherd. There used to be interbreeding between Beardies (common nickname) and Border Collies in Scotland, resulting in a strain more closely resembling the Border Collie. The two strains of Beardies, Border strain (grey and white) and the Highland strain (brown and white), are indistinguishable today due to inter-breeding.

It’s thought that some of the first ancestors of the breed were brought from Poland in 1514 by traders coming to Scotland to trade grain for Scottish sheep. The records state that one of the Scottish shepherds traded a ram and ewe for a dog and two bitches.

Beardies range in size from 20 to 23 inches (at the shoulder) for males and 19 to 22 inches for females. Their color can vary from black to silver and chocolate to sandy, with or without white markings. The topcoat is long, harsh, and flat, while the undercoat is soft, furry, and dense. Bearded Collies are intelligent, affectionate, stable, untiring, and good with children.

As with all other working breeds, selection of a pup should be made by looking for working parents. The Beardies are popular in dog shows and as house companions. The well-trained working Bearded Collie is not as easy to find as the working breeds previously mentioned. The Bearded Collie is registered through the American Kennel Club and has a specific set of standards.

### **Other Breeds**

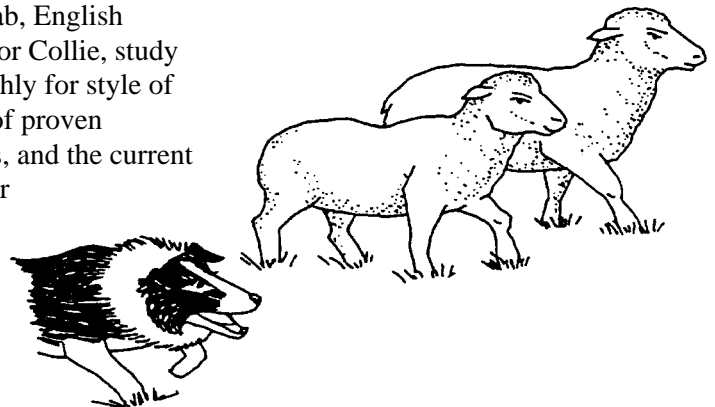
If you select your working dog from another working breed, such as the Corgi, McNab, English Shepherd, Sheltie, or Collie, study each breed thoroughly for style of work, availability of proven working bloodlines, and the current primary purpose for which the breed is being used. Be aware that many breeds, including

those we’ve discussed, are being bred for conformation shows and not exclusively for working ability. This will affect the natural working instinct of the dog.

Take time in selecting your dog! Breeders will be patient if you are sincere and determined in your selection process. Nothing can be more frustrating to a new owner or the breeder than when a puppy is returned due to lack of understanding about the breed purchased.

Within reason, any breed can be used to do minimum work around the farm with careful, strict training. Many breeds, such as the German Shepherd, originally were bred to herd livestock but may now have a very different purpose in life and no working instinct left. When you train a dog with no instinct (remember, chasing is not instinct), it must be completely trained to all obedience and directional commands prior to introducing it to livestock.

Two excellent training manuals, *The Farmer’s Dog* by John Holmes and *A Lifetime with the Working Collie, Their Training and History* by Arthur N. Allen, demonstrate training methods helpful with instinct and “non-instinct” dogs.





Once non-instinct training has begun, the handler must confine the dog whenever it's not being supervised. Never allow the dog to work on its own. The dog will not understand its purpose and can cause a great deal of damage to the livestock. A well-trained, non-instinct dog will work quite effectively in simple herding tasks, but will never develop the field maneuverability of a working breed.

Studying the breeds of working dogs and their bloodlines as well as your personality and needs is the first step toward selection.

Next is an extremely important factor, the environment of the dog before and after purchase. A well-socialized puppy with constant human companionship will show the purchaser an honest picture of the type of personality it may have at maturity. The pup or young dog deprived of human companionship may be shy and uninterested or behave over-aggressively as a result of its environment, never giving a clue to its true personality.

The purchaser must be aware of both the environment the dog came from and the environment in which it will be placed. If you purchase a shy or uninterested dog that has working bloodlines and place it in an environment of constant socialization and no competition with other dogs, it's likely to develop into an eager and faithful working companion.

Purchase a well-adjusted pup, give it constant affection, and

continually bolster its confidence. When a dog has confidence in itself, it will have the power to move the animal wherever its handler requests, and will know that its master will assist in a calm manner when difficulties arise. Power is two-staged; power to move the animals is hereditary, but that power will not develop to its potential unless the dog has confidence.

## Basic Training Methods and Tips

A highlight in family life is bringing home the new puppy. Contrary to popular belief, family socialization is a very good start toward training a working dog. Socialization bolsters confidence. Many professional handlers with grown families farm out a young pup (similar to the guide dog program) to a child to raise until it's approximately 1½ years old. During that time, the young dog will discover itself, learn basic obedience ("come," "sit," and how to behave), and mature. This early training makes it easier for the young dog to accept the strenuous training required to become a working dog.

If a handler starts with a puppy, socializes it, and completely trains it to a mature working dog, the handler will find the dog much more dedicated and willing to work than the handler who purchases a started dog or hires the training done. A dog with more than one owner during its early years requires more time to develop allegiance to its handler, and it will continue to worry about

changing handlers again. These dogs, especially the Border Collie, are highly intelligent animals with very long memories.

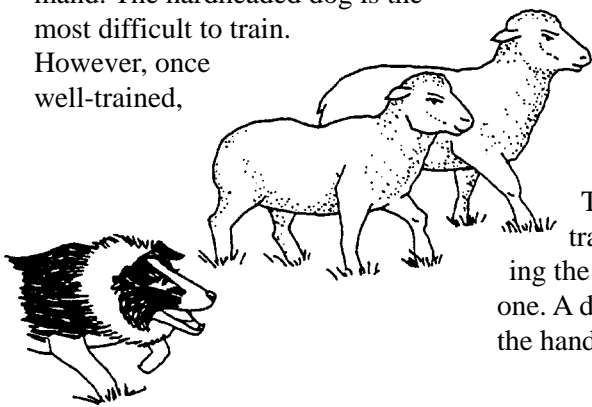
Throughout the life of your working dog, you must maintain firm control. Because of their intelligence, working dogs will take matters into their own hands and ignore the handler if given the chance. This becomes especially true during the teenage months, usually from 6 months to 1½ years. The younger dogs often are called delinquents! The handler will start with an eager pup, which will accept and understand commands in a very short training time. All of a sudden, the young dog will ignore the commands, especially "come" and "sit," and the handlers will wonder if someone switched dogs overnight.

Don't be alarmed; this is usually the time when the working instinct starts developing and the dog's legs begin to realize their full mobility. It's a very trying time for the handler, and requires patience with firm training. Many experienced handlers who maintain slow, firm training eliminate or reduce the teenage stage. It's important that dogs respond to the commands "come," "sit," and "that will do" (see "Common Commands," page 10) when you give them. Reinforce or retrain the commands any time the dog does not respond. The most common error in the field, or at trials, is that the dog does not respond to the first stop command. This can cause havoc when working livestock.



Do not discipline your dog unless it completely understands the command and still does not respond. Firm control does not mean physical discipline. Control is giving a command and working with the dog until it executes the command immediately no matter where the command is given—in the house or in a mud puddle. Each dog must be disciplined according to its personality. A soft, easy-tempered dog will respond to a slight tug on the choke chain or a firmly raised voice (not yelling) when discipline is needed.

Use physical discipline only on a bold and aggressive, “hardheaded” dog that understands the command, but after being reprimanded once by normal discipline, returns to make the same severe mistake. Physical force should be applied by the human hand, never with a material object. Physical discipline rarely is used, but often misused. If the dog is consistently making the same mistake, return the dog to the leash and retrain the command. Many times, this reinforcement can be invaluable training. Sometimes, it’s an indication the dog did not originally understand the command. The hardheaded dog is the most difficult to train. However, once well-trained,



a hardheaded dog will be able to withstand very difficult situations without being intimidated.

The 4-H sub-novice and novice obedience can be very helpful and will not harm a working dog. It’s important to keep all training short (10–15 minutes per day) and fun. Add tricks and lots of praise, not food. Be patient. Train one command at a time and do not allow the dog to be bored. If you find the dog acting lazy or uninterested, stop training it for a week or two. It can be helpful during a serious period of training to keep the dog tied and allow it off the lead only for training, followed by play time. This can instill a “let’s get to work” attitude in a dog not showing a strong dedication or willingness to work.

Try to have the dog be a constant companion, but when you’re gone, confine the dog to prevent it from working on its own. If the dog is a family pet, designate one person to train, feed, and care for it, especially during the initial training period. Once the family dog is working, it normally will obey anyone in the family, but will perform best for the original handler.

Likewise, unless a handler with two dogs can work them independently from each other as a brace, each dog he or she owns should work alone. The handler must separately train each dog, never allowing the old dog to teach the young one. A dog must take orders from the handler, not another dog.

Jealousy is common in the two-dog household. Because of the hen-pecking order found in dogs, a younger dog entering the territory of an older one can cause a great deal of strain between handler and dogs. Extra companionship, individually given, and patience usually will allow the dogs to live and work in relative peace.

Remember, you are training the dog to be your employee and friend. As an employer, the better you train your employee, the better it will work. Thus, do not expect immediate results. Take time and patience and your “friendship” will last longer with less frustration!

A puppy should be allowed to become a mature dog before going to work. Puppies with strong instinct can try to work as early as 8 weeks, and should be given ducks to move. Don’t allow the puppy to work large livestock, as it does not have the leg power, confidence, instinct, or maturity to handle the charging animals. You’ll find it much more difficult to train the pup to forget a bad experience than to prevent the experience in the first place. Even when a dog is 2 years old, allow it to test any situation and be prepared to assist so the dog won’t lose confidence.

The handler’s knowledge of the livestock being worked is often a forgotten necessity. You must know how the livestock will react in any given situation, and when to give assistance or correct your dog. Successful handlers strive to understand at least half of what their dogs know.



Starting the dog on livestock you intend to work requires careful planning. Begin with easy and free-moving stock in a confined but spacious pen, where you can have control of the situation at all times and the dog can gain confidence in its ability to work the stock as you command. Never use pet stock such as bummer lambs, because they tend to ignore any dog and do not react as a normal herd of stock would.

We urge you to read the three top training manuals: *Anybody Can Do It*; *A Lifetime With The Working Collie, Their Training and History*; and *A Farmer's Dog*.

*Anybody Can Do It* describes each step of training and assumes the dog to have a good working instinct. It is by far the best pictorial of each training step, but the reader must read every word to completely understand what the author intends to say. It does not waste words, and is considered to be top of the line for training a Border Collie.

*A Lifetime with the Working Collie, Their Training and History* is written by one of the grandfathers of the American Border Collie Breeders. It has excellent training methods, different from *Anybody Can Do It*, and very good history of some famous Border Collies along with some interesting tales of the author's dogs.

*A Farmer's Dog* is a much older publication than the others and can be used in training all working breeds. It offers slightly different training methods.

These three books offer excellent advice and each should be reviewed on its own merit.

Starting with a well-bred, working breed pup and training the dog yourself is the best investment toward a good working dog. Some handlers prefer to purchase a started or fully-trained working dog. If you purchase a started or trained dog, selection is more critical, but often less research is required than when buying a puppy.

Not only should you view the dog's ability in a given situation, but if at all possible, visit a few times with the breeder and dog prior to purchase. It's common for a professional handler purchasing a trained dog in Great Britain to travel overseas and spend up to a month with the original owner and the dog. This helps the trainer learn about the dog's environment, its temperament, the original handlers, stage of training, and hereditary factors. An imported dog comes with a tape of commands, both whistle and voice, because the dog understands the command with the accent used. If you purchase a dog from a different part of the country, be aware of the original handler's accent, since you must imitate any accent in the commands to obtain the correct response.

If the dog is well bred and well trained, you'll be investing a lot of money in its purchase. You should be prepared to invest a lot of time and patience after the dog arrives at its new home, too. Remember, your dog is your employee, and you do not expect a new employee of the farm to work perfectly after a week on the job. Why should you expect that of a new dog? The dog must accept the new environment and attach confidence and companionship to the new handler. Besides, the dog did not ask for the job; you took the dog away from its master.

Making a difficult decision is something handlers often face. Sometimes, because of handler error, improper breed selection, incompatibility between dog and handler, or between the dog's working ability and the job, a handler must decide how to eliminate a family member (the dog) and start over. This is extremely difficult if the dog is a child's pet, and it may be impossible. Only the owner can know how to proceed.

If there is room to house more than one dog, it may be practical to purchase another. However, if the dog has killed or maliciously attacked livestock, it must be destroyed, because there is no cure and the behavior will happen again. If you're a 4-H leader, and you and the parents agree the dog will go no further, decide on a united strategy to inform the 4-H'er, who often will already have realized the problem.



All three parties can then decide how to proceed. If, as a leader, you are not sure how to proceed in the training of a certain team of 4-H'er and dog, contact a professional handler. The "Resources" section (page 12) lists national and local clubs. Contact the club secretary, who will refer you to a local handler.

This information is not intended to discourage you from teaching or training a working dog. However, even in the best circumstances, failure is possible. Unlike dog obedience, where patience and time will allow any dog to learn basic obedience, not every dog can be a working dog. Professional handlers know that many dogs can be useful workers on the farm, but the excellent dog may come only once in a lifetime, if at all.

The basic commands on pages 10–11 will work a handler through an average working day, providing the handler is using a strong-instinct dog that wants to work and please its handler. Always have strong enforcement on the "stop" and "that will do" commands. This will allow you to correct any situation before it can get too far out of control.

## **Sheep Dog Trials**

### **The Outrun**

In starting each run, the contestants and their dogs shall take position at a designated point near the pen—this position to be "fixed" position for all work until the completion of the second gate and preparation for the pen. With the sheep in place, and upon a signal from the Course Director, the run for each dog begins. On the outrun, the dog may be directed to go either "right" or "left," and each dog shall run a pear-shaped outrun until beyond the sheep (approximately 10 to 11 o'clock position). Crossover, or disposition to crossover, shall cause deduction of points at the judge's discretion.

### **The Lift**

The introduction of dog to sheep should be cautious and done calmly, without frightening the sheep. Properly done, the lift requires the dog to control the sheep quietly and firmly, without unduly startling them, and move off in a straight line with complete control.

### **The Fetch**

The fetch should be on a straight or near-straight line through the fetch panels from the point of contact and lift to the handler. Swerving, zigzagging, wide and hard flanking, or other deviations from the near-straight line will cause loss of points. The nature of the work, conditions, and handling of the sheep are all considered. The fetch ends when the sheep are around the handler and in control.

### **The Drive**

The drive begins with driving the sheep behind the handler and, normally, behind the pen in a straight or near straight line to Gate 1, left gate; driving the sheep through Gate 1 (away from handler), then horizontally across the field to and through Gate 2, right gate, in a straight or near straight line. Points can be deducted for failure to completely send all sheep through the gates (usually 1 point deducted for each sheep), for any sheep coming back through the gate after it has been attempted, or for deviation from a straight or near-straight line during any part of the drive. Scoring will stop at fetch if drive is not attempted.

The drive ends when the sheep are through Gate 2. Once the sheep have passed either gate, no reentry is allowed. The contestant shall proceed to the pen. The dog is required to bring the sheep up for penning.

### **The Pen**

The pen is set not less than 10 yards outside the driving field. The pen shall be anchored securely at three points, but in such a way that the gate may open to the right or left, at the discretion of the handler. The opening corner of the pen shall



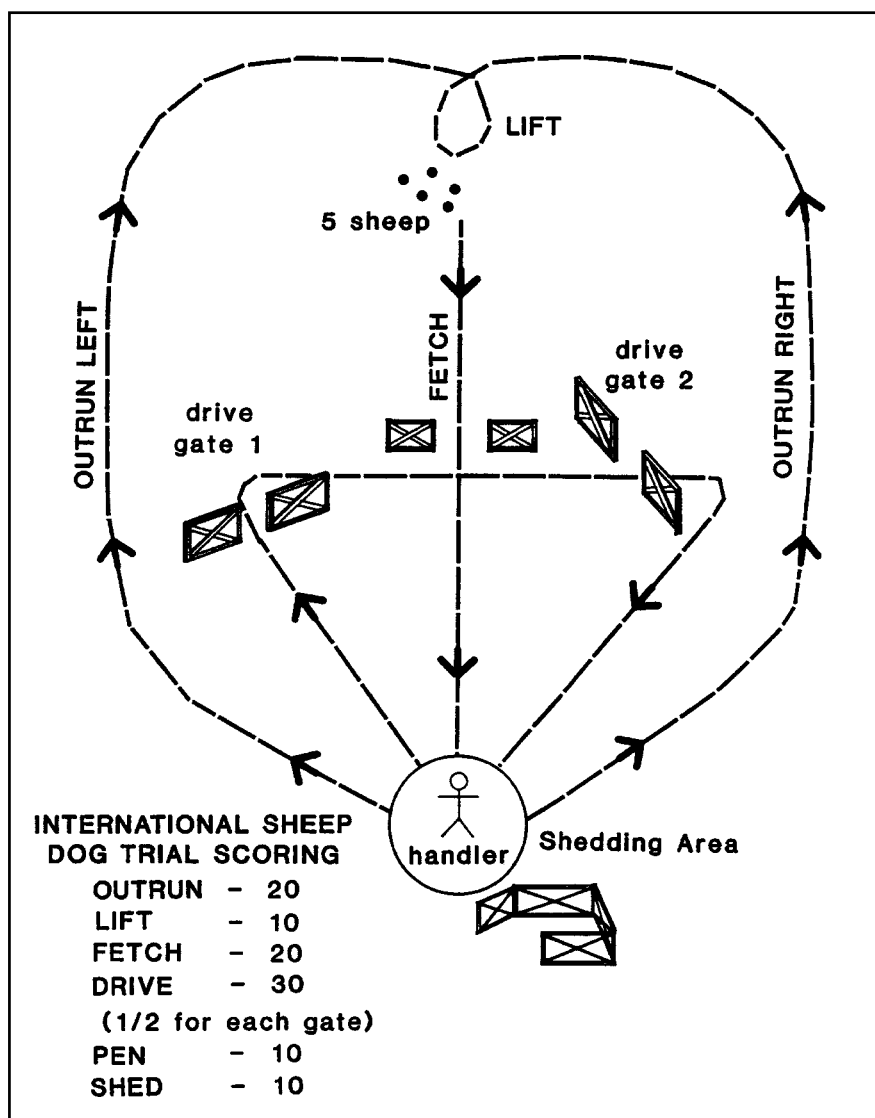


be the one nearest to Gate 2 on the driving field. A 6-foot cord shall be attached to the end of the opening gate. The handler is allowed to hold the cord to the end but not farther. The handler shall direct the dog to pen the sheep unassisted, and shall close the gate only when the sheep are completely inside the pen. Points may be deducted for excess movement during the pen attempt. No points are given for an unsuccessful attempt.

### The Shed

The shed shall be attempted only after a pen is completed. The handler opens the pen and moves the sheep out in the open field. The handler directs the dog to control the sheep in a designated area, and commands the dog to split and hold a determined number of sheep away from the flock. The judge will signal when the shed has been accepted. No points are given for attempting a shed.

Each dog shall work its assigned sheep through the course in a determined time, and must be unassisted in any way by the handler, other than commands spoken or whistled. A dog working too aggressively, or too inattentively to maintain control of the sheep, shall lose points in any or all of the sections.





## Common Commands for the Livestock-working Dog

<b>Come or come in</b>	The dog is to come to the handler
<b>Lie down</b>	To lie on all four legs on the ground (not lying on side of body on ground). Also “sit” or “down” can be used in normal obedience work, but are too short for use in the field.
<b>Stay</b>	To remain in the position the handler commanded until another command is given.
<b>Stand</b>	To stop in an upright, standing position.
<b>Heel</b>	Walk at either side of the handler in an orderly manner (usually left).
<b>That will do</b>	Command the dog to quit whatever it is doing and return to handler. (Very important command.)
<b>Get back, get off, or back off</b>	Create a wide distance between dog and livestock being worked.
<b>Get around</b>	Send dog out to gather livestock (no specific direction is given). It is critical the dog circle wide away from the livestock, a minimum of 50 feet away at any point, until the dog is well behind and prepared to move up (use of flanking dog commands, given on the following page, is more effective.
<b>Bring them in (or bring ‘em in)</b>	Dog gathers and fetches the livestock to the handler without directional commands.
<b>Walk up or walk in</b>	Move closer to the livestock in a straight line. This command should be trained only after the dog totally understands a wide outrun and <i>get back</i> command. (Often, dogs are too tight due to their eagerness to work, and the command is mostly used in a penning situation.)



## Flanking

The following commands are *flanking* (directional) commands along with some additional commands which allow you a great deal more maneuverability in the field and will prepare a path for trials. All these commands are explained in detail in *Anybody Can Do It; A Lifetime with the Working Collie, Their Training and History*; and *The Farmer's Dog*. Each author uses a different training method but accomplishes the same type of command.

<b>Away to me</b>	To send the dog counterclockwise or right (can be 360 or 10 degrees).
<b>Right</b>	To send the dog to <i>its</i> right, not the handler's right. Similar to the "away to me" command (which is the preferred command).

*Note: Once these two commands are trained, the "get around" command is not necessary.*

<b>There</b>	The dog stops moving in the direction it was going and changes direction. It is not necessary for the dog to completely stop.
--------------	---

<b>Steady, easy, or take it easy</b>	Commands the dog to settle down.
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------

<b>Look back, back around, or look for sheep</b>	Send the dog back around the field to look for additional livestock. Also, the handler can train the dog to tell the difference between livestock (cattle, sheep, or ducks in the same field) by name command.
--	--

<b>Up or hup</b>	To jump over normal stock fences. Does not matter how the dog accomplishes it (climbing or pushing with feet).
------------------	--

<b>Get in the pickup</b>	Helpful when you have a busy day or the handler needs the dog to stay in a place out of the way for a long period of time without being tied. The command instructs the dog to stay in the pickup until requested to move.
--------------------------	--

<b>Whistle commands</b>	Are trained after voice commands are completely trained and understood. Whistle commands should be shrill and specific. You must be careful always to be distinctive and consistent when giving the whistle command. To train a dog to whistle commands, give the whistle command followed by a voice command in repetitive fashion. Whistle commands are valuable in large or hilly fields where voice commands may not be heard. A "stop" whistle command (stand or lie down) often is more effective than voice, no matter the distance.
-------------------------	---

*Remember:* Select the commands you intend to use, and always be *consistent* in training and daily work. If, when using directional commands, your dog goes in a different direction, *never* use hand signals. A livestock-working dog often is out of sight and should be listening to its handler, not looking at him or her.



## Resources

*A Lifetime With the Working Collie, Their Training and History*, Arthur N. Allen, 1979 (order from author: Route 3, McLeansboro, IL 68259).

Very good basic training manual for all working breeds.

*All About The Bearded Collie*, Joyce Collis. Michael Joseph Publ., 1987.

*Anybody Can Do It*, Pope Robertson. Rovar Publications, 1979.

Best training manual on the market, especially for the strong instinct breed, e.g., Border Collie and Australian Kelpie.

*Beardie Basics*, Barbara Rieseberg and B.J. McKinney. Alpine Publications, 1978.

*\*Border Collies: An Owner's Companion*, Iris Combe. The Crowood Press, 1993.

History of the Border Collie.

4-H Score Sheets for the Working Dog Project. Available from 4-H county Extension faculty.

"Guidelines for Trials" Oregon Sheep Dog Society, P.O. Box 679, Athena, OR 97813.

*\*Sheepdogs, My Faithful Friends*, Eric Halsall. Diamond Farm Book Publishers, 1980.

Complete history of the Border Collie in Great Britain.

*The Bearded Collie*, G.O. Willison. Foyle Ltd., London, England, 1971.

*\*The Farmer's Dog*, John Holmes. Popular Dogs Publishing Co. Ltd., London, 1986.

Good, basic training manual for all working breeds.

*The National Stock Dog Magazine*, P.O. Box 402, Butler, IN 46721.

*\*The Sheep Dog: Its Work and Training*, Tim Longton and Edward Hart. David & Charles, 1977.

Good training manual; better for the experienced Border Collie handler.

*Working Sheep Dog News*, 5 Vale Crescent, Bishop Wilton, York, England YO42 1SU (<http://members.lycos.co.uk/workingsheepdog/index.html>).

Coverage of the working Border Collie and other sheepdog breeds throughout the world.

Australian Shepherd Club of America, P.O. Box 3790, Bryan, TX 77805-8690.

North American Sheep Dog Society, Rossine Kirsch, Rt. 3 Box 107, McCleansboro, IL 62859.

Northwest Bearded Collie Club ([www.nwbcc.org](http://www.nwbcc.org)), Jackye Dunn, 5009 N. 15th Street, Tacoma, WA 98406.

Oregon Sheep Dog Society (<http://www.osds.org>), Donna Grimes, P.O. Box 679, Athena, OR 97813.

The Bearded Collie Club of America (<http://bccca.us>), Jeff Ipser, 18956 Thorpe Road, Auburn, OH 44023.

The Working Kelpie Council of Australia Inc. (<http://www.wkc.org.au>), P.O. Box 306, Castle Hill, NSW 1765 Australia.

## Organizations

American Border Collie Association, Inc., Patty Rogers, 82 Rogers Road, Perkinston, MS 39573-8843.

American-International Border Collie Registry, Inc. (<http://www.aibc-registry.org>), P.O. Box 274, Chappell Hill, TX 77426.

Australian Cattle Dog Club of America (<http://www.acdca.org/>), Pam Mansfold, 5041 Britton Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32210-8648.

\* Items available from Diamond Farm Book Publishers, Division Yesteryear Toys & Books Inc., P.O. Box 537, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607.