



THE HERDING DOG



Australian Cattle Dog (Blue Heeler) * Australian Kelpie * Australian Shepherd * Bearded Collie * Beauceron * Belgian Groenendael * Belgian Malinois * Belgian Sheepdog - Belgian Tervuren * Berger Picard * Border Collie * Briard * Cardigan Welsh Corgi * Collie * German Shepherd * Old English Sheepdog * Pembroke Welsh Corgi * Polish Lowland Sheepdog * Puli * Pumi * Pyrenean Sheepdog * Rottweiler (also Guardian) * Shetland Sheepdog * Swedish Valhund * Tibetan Terrier

What we bred them for ...

When humans began domesticating livestock, we needed help controlling and moving them from place to place. That's when we began selecting dogs for their herding abilities. This group goes as far back as 55 BC. These dogs had to work closely with a shepherd and, of course, be reliable around the livestock.

You'll fall in love with your herding dog because she is:

A ROBIN TO YOUR BATMAN

Ready to heed the call for any mission on the horizon, she will not rest as long as there is an adventure to be had.

ATTENTIVE

She is keenly aware of her environment, as well as her partner's emotions and instructions.

RESPONSIBLE

This type-A personality keeps her i's dotted and her t's crossed with rules, routines, work and games.

You might find a herding dog hard to live with because she is:

BOSSY

She is a regulator, here to establish law and order by managing the living room, neighborhood, park and natural universe.

A WORKAHOLIC

Her mental and physical ambition can make her overwhelming and exhausting at times, especially if you have a quiet indoor lifestyle.

CLINGY

Her otherwise adorable person-focus can be a little on the unhealthy side.

Interests, Hobbies and Education

When it comes to satisfying a herding dog's interests, the focus and the burden rest squarely on your shoulders. For her, work is fun. Work is life. She is not picky about the kind of work she does ... and, the more complex the task, the better. While she doesn't lack the ability to employ herself, she will become anxious without a great deal of direction from you. However, you will have no trouble teaching her things. You do need to be aware of her tipping point. Her obsession with her occupation can be so intense that she becomes dysfunctional, literally unable to think about anything other than her job.





🐾 You might find yourself seeking professional help for:

- Chasing fast-moving objects like cars, bikes, skateboards, joggers, cats and children
- Controlling behavior toward other pets or family members, possibly manifesting as threats or aggression
- Sensory hypersensitivity: to lights, shadows, sounds, and motion
- Excessive barking: at events, at her environment, and at people and animals
- Nipping the feet or legs of people and animals
- Protectiveness of territory and social members
- Threatening or aggressive behavior towards visitors
- Hyperactivity, agitation or restless behavior
- Overexcitement, threatening or aggressive-appearing displays toward other animals, people, bikes, cars, etc
- Neurotic, repetitive and obsessive behaviors (OCD) - such as spinning, tail chasing, retrieving, circling and barking

🐾 Herding Dog Relationship Survival Key:

Fulfill her almost supernatural propensity for complex **LEARNING** by endlessly finding new things for her to do (like fetching the remote, cleaning up her toys, getting you the leash, or finding your misplaced keys).

Offer a structured and stimulating **ENVIRONMENT** that satisfies her instincts for work.

Prepare yourself for her herding **GENETICS** that lead to a need to micromanage the world.

Recognize and embrace the awesome intensity of having a full-time canine wingman at your side (**SELF**).



🐾 Ways to enrich your herding dog's life:

Plenty of physical exercise & outdoor time

- hiking, jogging, flirt pole, tug, triebball, agility, flyball, barn hunt, parkour, fetch or frisbee (beware OCD)

Challenge her mind and nose

- sniff walks, food puzzles, tricks, complex tasks, nosework, rally, tracking, scatter feed, freework, snuffle mat

Structure and predictability

- set predictable patterns that your dog can depend upon - things she can hang her hat on

Give her a job

- - pick up her toys, get your slippers, bring the remote, gather dirty laundry



To learn more, pick up a copy of *Meet Your Dog* by Kim Brophey. This really is THE game-changing guide to Understanding your dog's behavior

LEARNING - your dog's experiences and education

ENVIRONMENT - the many aspects of your dog's external world



GENETICS - the DNA that designed your dog inside and out

SELF - the unique interior world of your dog - health, age, sex, personality ...