



What Is A Border Collie?

The Border Collie is defined by its working style and is a type of herding dog bred by sheep farmers and shepherds. Their ability to gather in both ranch hill conditions and also in herding trials make them necessary to manage large herds of sheep. Their “eye” is their ability to control the sheep calmly and quietly. This instinctual behavior separates the Border Collie from other herding dogs. They also have a tendency to “go down” or “clap” with their belly on the ground facing the sheep. This combination gives them a predatory look that will control most herds of sheep.

Their intelligence is unequalled, and their trainability and ability to think for themselves help to make them the dominant herding breed. They herd anything that moves including cattle, sheep, ducks, chickens and children.

Because of their strong bones they are able to run gracefully, have a tireless gait, change directions and cover ground almost effortlessly. Their stamina and agility also allows them to remain active for long periods of time.

The versatility of the Border Collie allows them to excel in other things like agility, obedience and flyball competitions and can be family companions. They are excellent search and rescue dogs as well.

A spectacularly hardy dog, the Border Collie nonetheless can be affected by some hereditary diseases for which responsible breeders always check. They are CEA or Collie Eye Anomaly, PRA or Progressive Retinal Atrophy, CHD or Hip Dysplasia, deafness, epilepsy, endocrine diseases. CL/NCL or Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis, TNS or Trapped Neutrophil Syndrome can also be found through testing. Even though allergies and skin conditions related to fleas or food, and noise phobia are not hereditary, they can be a problem. Some Border Collies carry the MDR1 gene that makes them sensitive to certain drugs, if tested positive for this gene some drugs can be **fatal**.

There is a Border Collie Health website that can be of interest to owners. It is maintained by Ronni DeLay of Majestic Border Collies. It has information on DNA testing, CEA/CHD testing, CL/NCL testing and TNS genes.



**All of us at Look Back Border Collie Rescue
wish to thank Carole from
The Border Collie Museum
for letting us use the website for this article.
<http://www.bordercolliemuseum.org>**

