



Sheepdog Fun



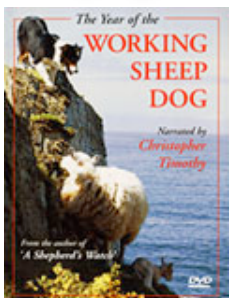
Border Collie Sheepdogs - Off Duty!
80 minutes of pure joy for any dog lover or sheepdog enthusiast. Watch a [Trailer](#) - or [more DVDs](#).

Dog Training



The Dog Listener.
Training your dog for good behaviour is of great importance Jan Fennell shows how to train a dog through understanding [More info](#) - or [more DVDs](#).

Sheepdog Work



The Year of the

Adopting, Rehoming, Caring For & Training your new Puppy

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Collecting your puppy and taking it home:

Probably the single most stressful time in a dog's life is when it's taken away from the place of its birth, and transported to its new home. Although this is an especially joyous time for you (*and your children if you have any*) try to remember that rehoming's unlikely to be a happy time for the pup and it almost certainly won't want to play. It should be transported to its new home with the absolute minimum of stress

Some puppies travel very well - they quickly go to sleep and stay that way for journeys of many hours. If this is the case, we recommend you try to avoid stopping on the way home if it's practical. This means the puppy will have the minimum amount of stress because the first stop will be the last and the puppy is at its new home. Of course, road safety is of paramount importance here - tiredness when driving is a killer so please stop for rest and / or refreshments if you need to.

Travel sickness in puppies and young dogs:

Not all pups travel well though - the most common problem is travel sickness. A thoughtful breeder will withhold food from a puppy that is going to a new home that day, because it can help prevent travel sickness but to be on the safe side, be prepared for the puppy to be sick. It's a good idea to buy a travel cage or box for the puppy to spend the journey in - make sure it's plenty big enough and well ventilated and almost as important, put an old rug, piece of carpet or material on the floor to stop the puppy from sliding around on corners or under braking etc.

Always have fresh water with you:

Puppies need to drink a lot of water - and with the serious delays we encounter on trunk roads and motorways these days, it's wise to take a drinking bowl and a bottle of clean water for the puppy - especially if the weather's likely to get hot. Puppies dehydrate quickly in hot cars - especially when stressed by being taken away from home.

Steady does it:

Drive steadily - especially if the roads are winding. Fast driving is the best way to make a dog sick in the car. If you drive steadily, there's every chance the pup will fall asleep and have a pleasant, stress-free journey. Once you're on the motorway, there are no significant bends to worry about, so as long as you avoid heavy acceleration and braking, it's OK to speed up!

Feeding a young puppy:

When you collect your puppy, it's very important to make sure the breeder gives you some of the food that the pup's used to eating. Use this to make the change to your preferred food gradual, and so avoid stomach upsets.

We have absolutely no connection with Purina but we recommend their "**Beta Puppy Junior**" - **Lamb and Rice Flavour**. It's so good, it's the only food we feed our puppies apart from their mother's milk and we never soak it. Even very small puppies eat it (*or we suspect suck it*) when they first start to eat solid food.

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Assuming you collect the puppy from the breeder at eight week of age (*this should be the minimum age*) the pup won't have had its mother around to top him up for some time but he'll still need between 3 and 5 meals at regular intervals through the day.

How much food should I give my puppy?

As a general guide, give the pup much food as he will clean up easily and quickly. This can be reduced to 3 meals at 5 months and by 12 months either 1 or 2, as you prefer.

Some owners feed ad lib, leaving a bowl of dry food available at all times. We don't feed our adult dogs this way, but it's a personal choice. You may find it's a regime that suits you but in our experience, it encourages the pup to eat too much - with consequent digestive problems. Food can be fed moistened with warm water or fed dry, according to the dog's taste or your time, but dry food will exercise jaws and keep teeth and gums clean and healthy.

Fresh, clean water should always be easily available.

Other things you can feed for variety include Ready Brek, Weetabix, rusks, boiled rice, pasta, plain chicken, cooked fish, scrambled eggs, rice pudding, cooked vegetables, natural yoghurt or tinned dog food. Bear in mind that it's almost certainly you who need the variety, the puppy won't know what he's missing!

If the stress of a change of environment does cause the puppy to have diarrhoea a good, quick standby is grated apple in natural yoghurt. The pectin in the apple has the desired effect and the yoghurt bacteria will repopulate his gut. Just provide water for 6 hours, and then begin feeding small amounts until all is back to normal. Rice and chicken are good for the first meal or two.

Bear in mind that if your puppy has a runny tummy, he's probably having too much food - either at mealtimes, or maybe someone's giving him titbits? It's important to stop the diarrhoea quickly as it makes the puppy prone to infections of the stomach.

If your puppy has very serious diarrhoea - and especially if there's blood in the faeces, take him to your vet for a proper examination - especially if the pup appears to be poorly.

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Veterinary Health Check:

This should be at the top of your priority list when you take a new puppy home. The vet will check the puppy over and give it the first vaccination. It's advisable to worm the pup (unless the breeder has clearly just done this) and apply some anti flea treatment such as Frontline.

Always buy wormer from a vet

Supermarket wormers are not as strong as those you can buy from your vet and in our experience they are quite often ineffective.

Alarm bells:

Your vet may give you alarming information about the puppy, such as "retained testicle" (*monorchid*) or worse, "heart murmur". There's no need to panic, both of these problems are fairly temporary in a young puppy (*all puppies are born with a heart murmur and all males have "retained" testicles at first*) but they should be normal by about twelve weeks. If the vet tells you the pup has either heart murmur or retained testicle, take it back at twelve or preferably fourteen weeks for a further check. Even after this time, there may be no need to worry about a retained testicle, they can sometimes take quite a number of months to descend. Your pup will require it's second (*booster*) vaccination two weeks after the first one.

Socialisation and training puppies:

Don't take your puppy to dog training classes or walking in public areas such as town streets, parks or playing fields until full immunity is achieved - usually 2 weeks after the 2nd vaccination. However, visiting friends and relatives, trips in the car, meeting visitors to the house and encountering as many different animals, noises and experiences as possible at home in the meantime will make your early public appearances that much easier.

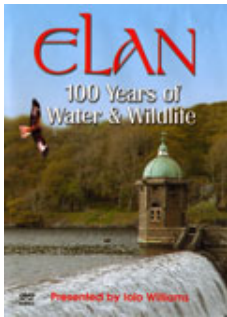
Dog Training Groups:

Get in touch with local dog training groups to enrol in puppy classes as soon as possible - there's often a waiting list - but as with all things in life, there are good and bad dog training classes.

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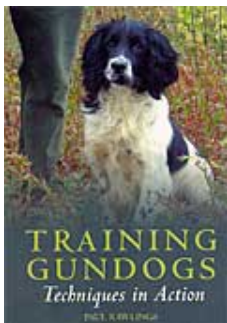


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Gundog Training



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Sheepdog Trials



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Sheepdog Fun

Are you getting good advice?

If what your dog trainer is trying to get you to do to your dog clearly isn't working - or doesn't seem to make sense, look around for a new class or talk to experienced owners who own well trained dogs to see what they think. If it doesn't seem right for your dog, it probably isn't.

Training a Border Collie Puppy:

Games are essential for puppy development, physically, mentally and emotionally, but where toys are involved, you should always be able to win the prize at will - and you should regularly demonstrate this to your dog.

A bitch uses a harsh growl to warn her puppies if they're making a mistake, and a growl is a good way for you to correct your puppy too. Before long you will have a repertoire of soft and hard growls to suit any occasion, and if you have small children the puppy won't mistake a reprimand to a child as directed to him - and vice versa. Growling is something children can learn to make themselves understood.

If a puppy nips, for instance, a high pitched squeal can be quite exciting to him and make him repeat the action. A good growl as the child snatches their hand away will be quite effective. A growl will also, usually, make the puppy let go of a toy (or stolen sock!) more efficiently than pulling. Again, as soon as the puppy releases reward him with your voice and if he's "stolen" something replace it immediately with a toy he can keep.

Incidentally, such is the arrangement of a dog's teeth and jaw that if it's pulling back on something, such as a sock, it's physically incapable of letting go of it. Slacken the pressure on the sock and THEN growl. It does work, and avoids damage to sock or puppy.

A Rule for Good Behaviour:

As regards behaviour, a good rule is not to let the puppy do ANYTHING at 6 weeks that you don't want him to do at 6 months or older. It's hard, but if he's never done it - he won't miss it. He will, however, look to you for guidelines and consistency and will be the happier for it.

Remember to reward good behaviour, not bad:

If you take him out of his bed BEFORE he starts to whine or bark for attention you will be rewarding him for being quiet. Even if he's just lying quietly with a chew make a point of letting him know you're pleased. He will want to repeat the things you like.

Be FIRM, FAIR and CONSISTENT when you train your puppy

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Chewing:

All puppies chew. It's important for the development of jaws and teeth as well as providing entertainment and a release for some pent-up energy or frustration. There are many types of chew on the market, from quite expensive branded "dental" chews, down to rawhide strips, rolls and shoes as well as roasted or sterilized bones.

It's a good idea to put puppy/dog and chew onto a surface that cleans easily, preferably in the garden or the dog bed, as some chews will stain. If you find the puppy chewing something you don't approve of, growl, remove the item from the puppy (or vice versa) and then offer the "good" chew with encouraging words and a pleased tone of voice. Always let the puppy understand which are the "good" habits and which are "bad".

A puppy's attention span is short, and he needs regular naps. In the early days at home you can make good use of this. When he begins to tire, or if he actually falls asleep, take him to his designated sleeping place - whether it's a dog crate in the kitchen, outside kennel or the end of your bed - and leave him to sleep. He may complain a little but hopefully he'll be tired enough to sleep.

As soon as he wakes up his reward will be to come out and be with you so keep an eye on him and be ready to take him out to the designated toilet area as soon as he's awake. Refuse to play until he's finished and then praise him. Remember he only wants to do what will make him be a part of the pack so make it easy for him to understand.



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John Fisher

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Sheepdog Work



Crates, travel boxes and cages:

We thoroughly recommend the use of cages and well ventilated crates and travel boxes for puppies and young dogs. Used sensibly, they are not cruel at all, in fact, puppies and dogs love "dens" and if they encounter an open box or crate, they're likely to curl up in it and go to sleep. Crates are a very useful place for a young puppy to get away from children (*and adults*) when they are tired - and it's a good rule for every member of the family to leave the puppy alone when he's in his crate.

Take Care When Using Crates

Of course, dogs and puppies should not be left in crates for too long and the crate must be large enough for the dog to be able to sleep comfortably and move around.

The 'Recall' or - getting your dog to come back when you want him:

This is something we get asked about an awful lot - it's all part of everyday puppy training. Make a point of calling the puppy to you, rewarding him, and then releasing him.

Until he knows his name, or whichever "Come here" command you decide to use, a puppy will be happier to come to you if you crouch to his level and extend your hands - palm uppermost - while you call him. Fuss, a happy voice, his dinner, a toy or the occasional treat will make it worth his while to come back.

If it's fun to come back to you it will become a habit, wherever you are.

NEVER punish a dog that has returned to you - however long it takes.

If it's taken a very long time you may not want to fuss the dog or give a treat, but punishing him will only make him more reluctant to return next time.

In the early days at home, if you see the puppy coming to you make use of it. Call him and be pleased when he reaches you. Always make use of any opportunity to reward an action you will want him to repeat.

On the subject of treats, manufactured treats often contain salt and sugar, and can be quite expensive. Pig's liver, boiled then cut into small pieces and dried in a medium-hot (190°) oven makes a good treat. Dogs love it, it's healthy and cheap and quite smelly (*to a dog*) so he'll know when you've got it with you and try extra hard. It will also keep for a while in a sealed jar in the 'fridge. The drier it is the better, and the longer it keeps.

REMEMBER:

If your dog won't come back, it's probably having more fun where it is. Make coming back to you a happy, good fun experience!

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House training:

The golden rules of house training a puppy!

After sleeping - after eating - after playing - and after about every 30 or 40 minutes, your puppy will probably want to "go"!

The puppy should have learned very basic toilet training. He already knows to move out of the "nest" when he needs to, and to move away from his food. Use this to your advantage. Puppies are quite predictable in their toilet routine - they will need to pee when they wake up after a nap, if they've been busy playing for a while, immediately after they've eaten and at regular intervals just 'anyway'.

If you don't give your puppy the opportunity to make a mistake, toilet or house training will be quick and easy. That said, most Border Collies that we've house trained have had a day or two when everything they'd learned just disappeared. Just when you think they're 100% reliable they're peeing everywhere. My opinion is that this is a 'testing time'. They seem to need to know that they've understood you. My advice is to deal with any accidents that you actually see in progress by growling and whisking the puppy away to a designated area. Put it down and speak kindly, perhaps using any words you want the dog to associate with going to the loo to order (*it's very useful!*). Then go and clean up and forget about it, but resolve to take the puppy out earlier next time.

Watch your puppy carefully when he's in the house. If he starts wandering around with his nose to the carpet as though he's looking for something, he's more than likely looking for somewhere to pee (*or worse!*) Quickly but calmly, pick him up and take him to the toilet area to do his "business" and don't forget to tell him what a good boy he is for going in the right place! (*Very Important!*)

If you didn't see the accident, you've missed the opportunity to house train the pup (*by growling*) but you can still whisk it outside and then clean the mess up.





The Year of the Working Sheepdog
Just fabulous - a "must see" for any Border Collie or countryside lover! [More info](#) - or [more DVDs](#).

Training DVD



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A hot solution of biological washing powder is very good for cleaning puppy pee – and worse – out of carpets, but you may want to check for colourfastness. Clean up solids, and soak up as much urine as possible (*pieces of disposable nappy are ideal for this, and newborn baby size is usually quite enough*). Then soak the area with the biological powder solution, leave it to soak for 10 minutes or so, then mop it up, rinse and dry the area. We've found this method removes the discernible smell (*well enough for humans, anyway!*) and the paper or disposable nappy can be left in the puppy's toilet area for a while to show him where to head for.

There is so much to be written and learned about living with dogs, this article does no more than scratch the surface of your early days. We recommend a book called "Think Dog!" (*right*) by John Fisher, to get you off to a good start. There are others, of course, and dog-training classes are excellent for socialising and educating your dog. An Excellent DVD is "The Dog Listener" (*above-left*) by Jan Fennell

Do try to look at life, and yourselves, from your puppy's point of view.

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