

border collie service dog training

Border Collie Service Dog Training: Unlocking the Potential of an Intelligent Breed

border collie service dog training is a fascinating and highly rewarding process that taps into the remarkable intelligence and work ethic of one of the most agile and trainable dog breeds. If you're considering training a border collie as a service dog, you're embarking on a journey that combines dedication, patience, and a deep understanding of both canine behavior and the specific needs of service dog work. In this article, we'll explore what makes border collies exceptional candidates for service roles, outline essential training strategies, and offer practical tips to help you maximize their potential.

Why Choose a Border Collie as a Service Dog?

Border collies are often celebrated as the smartest dog breed, renowned for their problem-solving skills, eagerness to learn, and intense focus. These traits make them stand out in the realm of service dog training, where adaptability and quick thinking are paramount. Their natural herding instincts also lend themselves well to tasks that require attention to detail and responsiveness.

Intelligence and Trainability

One of the standout qualities of border collies is their rapid learning ability. They can grasp new commands with fewer repetitions compared to many other breeds. This means that with consistent, positive reinforcement training, they quickly understand complex tasks essential for service work, such as retrieving items, opening doors, or alerting handlers to specific stimuli.

High Energy and Stamina

Border collies possess a high energy level and stamina, which can be a huge benefit in service roles that demand endurance. Whether it's assisting individuals with mobility challenges, guiding those with visual impairments, or providing psychiatric support, border collies maintain their focus and drive throughout long working hours. However, this also means they require ample physical exercise to stay balanced and avoid behavioral issues.

Strong Bonding and Social Skills

Service dogs must bond deeply with their handlers to perform tasks reliably and provide emotional comfort. Border collies are known for their loyalty and affectionate nature, which fosters a strong handler-dog relationship. Their social intelligence helps them read human emotions, an invaluable trait in psychiatric service dog roles or therapy assistance.

Core Components of Border Collie Service Dog Training

Training a border collie to become an effective service dog involves more than teaching basic obedience; it requires specialized instruction tailored to the handler's unique needs. Let's break down the core elements of this training.

Basic Obedience and Socialization

Before diving into advanced service tasks, a solid foundation in obedience is crucial. Commands such as sit, stay, come, heel, and down must be mastered reliably. Early socialization, exposing the border collie to various environments, people, and other animals, is equally important to ensure calm and confident behavior in public settings.

Task-Specific Training

Depending on the handler's disability, the border collie will learn specialized tasks. For example:

- **Mobility Assistance:** Retrieving dropped items, opening/closing doors, turning lights on/off.
- **Medical Alert:** Detecting seizures, hypoglycemia, or anxiety attacks and alerting the handler.
- **Guide Work:** Helping visually impaired individuals navigate obstacles.
- **Psychiatric Support:** Providing grounding during panic attacks or PTSD episodes.

Because border collies have a keen sense of smell and exceptional focus, they

can excel in alerting behaviors and complex sequences of tasks.

Public Access and Distraction Training

Service dogs must behave impeccably in public spaces filled with distractions. Training border collies to maintain focus despite loud noises, crowds, or tempting smells is essential. This phase involves controlled exposure to various environments, gradually increasing complexity while reinforcing calm, task-oriented behavior.

Tips for Effective Border Collie Service Dog Training

Training a border collie as a service dog can be intensive but also incredibly fulfilling. Here are some insights and practical tips to enhance your training journey.

Use Positive Reinforcement Techniques

Border collies respond best to reward-based training methods. Using treats, praise, and play as incentives encourages them to repeat desired behaviors. Avoid harsh corrections or punishments, which can undermine their trust and enthusiasm.

Maintain Consistency and Structure

Consistency in commands, routines, and expectations helps border collies learn faster and reduces confusion. Structured training sessions that are short but frequent prevent boredom and keep their sharp minds engaged.

Incorporate Mental and Physical Exercise

Given their high intelligence and energy, border collies thrive when their minds and bodies are challenged daily. Incorporate puzzle toys, agility exercises, and scent games alongside service training to channel their energy productively.

Be Patient and Adaptable

While border collies are quick learners, every dog is unique. Some may take longer to master particular tasks or adjust to public settings. Patience and adaptability in your training approach will help you meet your dog's individual needs and strengths.

Work with Professional Trainers When Needed

Service dog training can be complex, especially for specific disabilities or advanced tasks. Collaborating with certified service dog trainers or organizations familiar with border collies can provide valuable guidance and accelerate progress.

Addressing Challenges in Border Collie Service Dog Training

Despite their many strengths, border collies present some training challenges that handlers should be aware of.

Managing High Energy Levels

Without proper outlets for their energy, border collies can develop undesirable behaviors such as excessive barking, chewing, or chasing. Incorporating daily vigorous exercise and mental stimulation is essential to keep them balanced.

Tendency to Herd and Chase

The natural herding instinct might cause border collies to nip at heels or chase moving objects. Training must include impulse control exercises and redirecting this behavior into constructive tasks.

Sensitivity to Stress

Border collies are often sensitive to changes in their environment or handler's emotions. Building a calm and supportive training environment helps reduce anxiety and fosters confidence in service situations.

Long-Term Commitment and Care

Training a border collie as a service dog is not a short-term project—it's a lifelong partnership. These dogs require ongoing training refreshers, regular veterinary care, and a healthy lifestyle. Their long working lives bring immense rewards, both in the independence they provide their handlers and the deep bond that forms through shared experience.

Border collie service dog training unlocks the extraordinary potential of a breed that thrives on purpose and connection. With the right approach, these intelligent companions can become indispensable partners, capable of transforming the lives of those they assist. Whether you are just starting out or refining advanced skills, embracing the unique qualities of the border collie will make your service dog journey a truly remarkable one.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are Border Collies considered good candidates for service dog training?

Border Collies are highly intelligent, eager to learn, and possess excellent problem-solving skills, making them ideal candidates for service dog training. Their agility and strong work ethic enable them to perform a variety of tasks efficiently.

What types of service tasks can a Border Collie be trained to perform?

Border Collies can be trained for numerous service tasks including guiding individuals with visual impairments, alerting to medical conditions like seizures or diabetes, providing mobility assistance, and performing psychiatric support tasks.

How long does it typically take to train a Border Collie as a service dog?

Training a Border Collie as a service dog usually takes between 6 months to 2 years, depending on the complexity of tasks, the dog's prior training, and the consistency of the training program.

Are Border Collies suitable for first-time service dog trainers?

Border Collies can be challenging for first-time trainers due to their high energy levels and need for mental stimulation. They require experienced

handlers who can provide consistent training and adequate exercise.

What are the key training techniques used for Border Collie service dogs?

Positive reinforcement, clicker training, and task-specific repetition are key techniques used. Border Collies respond well to reward-based training methods that engage their intelligence and desire to work.

How important is socialization in Border Collie service dog training?

Socialization is crucial to ensure that Border Collies remain calm and focused in various environments. Proper socialization helps them handle distractions and interact appropriately with other people and animals.

Can Border Collies handle the stress associated with service dog work?

Yes, Border Collies generally handle stress well due to their strong work drive and intelligence. However, they require regular mental and physical exercise to prevent anxiety or behavioral issues related to boredom.

What health considerations should be kept in mind when training Border Collies as service dogs?

It's important to monitor for common Border Collie health issues such as hip dysplasia, epilepsy, and eye disorders. Regular veterinary check-ups and a balanced diet help maintain their health during training and service work.

How can owners maintain a Border Collie's service training after certification?

Owners should continue regular training sessions to reinforce learned tasks, provide ongoing socialization, and ensure the dog receives sufficient physical and mental exercise to maintain its skills and well-being.

Additional Resources

****Mastering Border Collie Service Dog Training: An In-Depth Professional Review****

Border collie service dog training is an intricate and highly specialized process that taps into the breed's exceptional intelligence, agility, and work ethic. Known worldwide as one of the most intelligent dog breeds, border collies present a unique and promising candidate for various service dog

roles, ranging from mobility assistance to psychiatric support. However, training these dogs for service work requires a nuanced understanding of both the breed's capabilities and the specific demands of service dog tasks.

This article explores the complexities and methodologies of border collie service dog training, evaluating their suitability, training techniques, and challenges. By integrating the latest insights and comparative analyses, this review aims to provide a comprehensive perspective for trainers, service dog organizations, and prospective handlers considering this breed for service roles.

Understanding Border Collies in the Service Dog Context

Border collies are often celebrated for their remarkable problem-solving skills and eagerness to please, traits that can be highly advantageous in service dog training. With an average intelligence ranking placing them at the top of canine cognitive ability charts, border collies have an innate capacity to learn complex commands quickly and execute tasks with precision.

Breed Characteristics Impacting Service Performance

Several breed-specific traits influence how border collies perform as service dogs:

- **High Energy Levels:** Border collies require significant physical and mental stimulation. Without adequate outlets, they may develop behavioral issues, which can complicate service dog training.
- **Focus and Work Drive:** Their intense work ethic means they thrive when given structured tasks, making them excellent candidates for jobs requiring continuous engagement.
- **Herding Instinct:** This instinct can sometimes translate into nipping or chasing behavior if not properly managed during training.
- **Social Sensitivity:** Border collies are highly attuned to human emotions and cues, a characteristic that enhances their ability to perform psychiatric service tasks.

These attributes can be either assets or obstacles depending on the specific service role envisaged for the dog.

Key Components of Border Collie Service Dog Training

Training a border collie for service work involves several critical stages tailored to both the breed's temperament and the handler's needs.

Basic Obedience and Socialization

The foundation of all service dog training is comprehensive obedience. Border collies excel in this phase due to their quick learning ability, but their high energy requires consistent, positive reinforcement methods to maintain focus. Early socialization is also crucial to ensure the dog is comfortable in diverse environments, reducing the risk of anxiety or overstimulation.

Task-Specific Training

Depending on the service dog role—mobility assistance, diabetic alert, PTSD support, or hearing assistance—task training varies considerably. Border collies' intelligence allows them to grasp complex tasks such as retrieving objects, opening doors, or alerting to physiological changes. However, trainers must carefully tailor exercises to manage the dog's tendency toward over-excitement and maintain task engagement without distractions.

Public Access and Distraction Training

Service dogs must perform reliably in public spaces filled with distractions. Border collies' sensitivity to environmental stimuli can be a double-edged sword; while they notice subtle cues that enhance their service capabilities, they may also become easily distracted or anxious. Structured public access training, including exposure to crowds, loud noises, and varying surfaces, is essential to prepare them for real-world scenarios.

Pros and Cons of Choosing Border Collies as Service Dogs

Evaluating the suitability of border collies as service dogs requires a balanced look at their strengths and limitations.

Advantages

- **Exceptional Intelligence:** Facilitates rapid learning and versatility in task execution.
- **High Trainability:** Respond well to positive reinforcement and consistent training routines.
- **Emotional Sensitivity:** Ideal for psychiatric service roles due to their ability to sense and respond to human emotions.
- **Physical Agility:** Supports roles requiring mobility assistance, such as balance support and obstacle navigation.

Challenges

- **Energy Management:** Requires daily vigorous exercise and mental engagement to prevent behavioral issues.
- **Herding Behaviors:** May manifest as nipping or chasing unwanted in service contexts.
- **Potential for Overstimulation:** High sensitivity can lead to distraction or anxiety in busy public environments.
- **Not Ideal for All Handlers:** Their demanding exercise and mental stimulation needs may be overwhelming for some individuals.

Comparative Insights: Border Collies vs. Other Service Dog Breeds

While Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers dominate service dog programs due to their calm demeanor and adaptability, border collies offer a contrasting profile.

Trainability and Intelligence

Border collies rank highest in canine intelligence, often outperforming other

breeds in obedience and working intelligence. This makes them particularly adept at learning a wide range of service tasks, sometimes with fewer repetitions than other breeds.

Temperament and Suitability

Labradors and Golden Retrievers typically exhibit a more laid-back temperament, suited for handlers seeking a steady, less demanding companion. Conversely, Border Collies demand a handler capable of meeting their physical and mental stimulation needs. This means the choice between breeds should consider the handler's lifestyle and capacity to provide ongoing engagement.

Task Diversity

Border Collies excel in specialized tasks requiring problem-solving and agility, such as retrieving items in complex environments or alerting handlers to subtle environmental changes. However, their herding instincts may require more management compared to the naturally calm Retrievers.

Essential Training Techniques for Border Collie Service Dogs

Effective border collie service dog training hinges on methods that channel their intelligence and energy constructively.

Positive Reinforcement and Clicker Training

Using treats, toys, and clicker training harnesses the border collie's motivation and sharp learning abilities. Positive reinforcement encourages repetition of desirable behaviors and helps build trust between dog and trainer.

Structured Exercise Regimens

Incorporating ample physical activity such as agility exercises, fetch, and obedience drills reduces excess energy that could otherwise manifest as disruptive behavior during training sessions.

Task Generalization and Consistency

Training should ensure that border collies can perform service tasks reliably across different environments and situations. This involves gradually increasing distractions and practicing tasks in varied settings while maintaining consistent commands.

Managing Herding Impulses

Redirecting herding behaviors into constructive activities, such as specific retrieval games or target training, mitigates the risk of unwanted nipping or chasing. Early socialization with other animals and people also helps reduce these instinctual behaviors.

Real-World Application: Success Stories and Case Studies

Several service dog organizations have reported success with border collies trained for psychiatric support and diabetic alert roles. The breed's keen sensitivity to changes in handler behavior or physiological states allows them to perform alert tasks with high accuracy. For instance, psychiatric service dogs trained from border collies have demonstrated the ability to interrupt panic attacks and provide grounding behaviors that alleviate symptoms for their handlers.

Such case studies underscore the breed's potential when matched appropriately to the handler's needs and supported by expert training.

The journey of border collie service dog training is demanding but rewarding. Their intelligence and energy, when properly channeled, make them invaluable partners for many service dog roles. For trainers and handlers willing to invest in tailored, consistent training and active daily engagement, border collies can become exceptional service dogs that enhance quality of life through their unique capabilities.

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border collie service dog training: Your Service Dog and You Nicola Ferguson, 2023-09-07

Service dogs play an important role in society, assisting their handlers in leading independent, fulfilling lives. These amazing dogs are trained to work with a wide range of disabilities, from visual impairments to PTSD, and come from a variety of breeds and backgrounds. Some service dogs are custom bred and trained by large charities, while others are rescue dogs of indeterminate breed, trained entirely by their owners. Disability knows no bounds and can strike anyone, at any time, leaving us alone, scared and confused, with many of us wondering how feasible it would be to integrate a service dog into our lives. This is a practical guide, written from the perspective of an ordinary dog owner turned service dog trainer, following her own need for a service dog. It covers everything from service dog breeding and selection, how to acquire a service dog, basic training, and public access work, to your dog's eventual retirement. Chapters also detail the day-to-day realities of living with and loving a service dog.

border collie service dog training: *Border Collies as Your Everyday Companions* Pasquale De Marco, 2025-04-07 In the realm of canine companionship, few breeds capture the hearts of dog lovers quite like the Border Collie. Renowned for their intelligence, agility, and unwavering loyalty, these remarkable creatures have earned a place of honor in countless families worldwide. Embark on a journey to unravel the secrets of Border Collies, exploring their fascinating history, understanding their unique traits, and discovering the path to forging an unbreakable bond with these exceptional companions. Within these pages, you will embark on an immersive exploration of the Border Collie's world, delving into their captivating history, tracing their lineage back to the rugged hills of the Scottish Borders. Discover the pivotal role they played as working dogs, tirelessly assisting shepherds in managing their flocks, their innate herding instincts shining brightly. Witness their transformation from humble sheepdogs into cherished family members, captivating hearts with their charm and intelligence. Unravel the intricate tapestry of Border Collie behavior, deciphering their unique communication methods, body language, and emotional expressions. Gain insights into their remarkable problem-solving abilities, their boundless energy, and their unwavering devotion to their human companions. Discover the diverse spectrum of activities Border Collies excel in, from exhilarating sports like agility and flyball to therapeutic roles as therapy and service dogs, their versatility knows no bounds. As you delve deeper into the world of Border Collies, you will uncover the secrets to raising a well-behaved and thriving companion. Expert guidance awaits you on everything from housetraining and obedience to socialization and positive reinforcement techniques. Learn how to nurture their innate intelligence, channeling their boundless energy into productive and fulfilling pursuits. Delve into the importance of responsible breeding practices, ensuring the health and well-being of these beloved creatures for generations to come. Celebrate the unwavering bond between humans and Border Collies, a connection forged on mutual love, trust, and unwavering loyalty. Witness the joy, laughter, and unconditional love these canine companions bring into our lives, enriching our hearts and homes with their presence. Join us on this extraordinary journey into the world of Border Collies, unlocking the secrets of these remarkable creatures and discovering the true essence of their unwavering companionship. If you like this book, write a review!

border collie service dog training: *TEACH YOUR HERDING BREED TO BE A GREAT COMPANION DOG - FROM OBSESSIVE TO OUTSTANDING* Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell, 2015-06-15
Help! He's herding the neighborhood kids!!
 Herding breed dogs such as Border Collies, Corgis, and Australian Shepherds have incredibly strong instinctive behaviors to do the work they were bred for—controlling various kinds of livestock. These behaviors manifest themselves in modern herding breed dogs kept as companions or family pets in a number of ways. These include chasing cars and bicyclists, herding kids, nipping at vulnerable heels, barking incessantly, and acting as the “fun police” in dog parks. All behaviors that are entirely appropriate and necessary when dealing with sheep or cattle, not so great in a suburban neighborhood. Fortunately, these instincts can be redirected in a number of ways that keep these energetic dogs busy and happy as well as out of trouble. That is why so many of these dogs can be taught to excel in

agility and obedience trials, love to retrieve, and make great running companions. In her latest book, author Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell offers solutions to solving and preventing problem behaviors associated with herding breeds living in the modern world. And no, even though your Border Collie or Corgi might love it, you don't need to buy a farm!

 As the owner of two obsessive but outstanding herding dogs, I found myself nodding along in agreement with this book from start to finish. Dawn offers tips to allow a handler to work with, rather than against a dog's herding instincts and her easy-to-read writing style and the depth of information she shares makes this book a must read for anyone who works or lives with herding dogs.
 Nicole Larocco-Skeehan, CPDT-KA and member of the Board of Directors, CCPDT

 A super resource that explains how instinctive behaviors impact dogs in their every day activities. I especially like the training tips—very clear and helpful explanations to manage problems often brought out by a variety of herding instincts.
 Lynn Leach, owner of Downriver Stock Dog Training and creator of the popular <i>All Breed Herding</i> DVD series

 A wonderful mix of training information, management suggestions, psychology, and commonsense advice for herding dog owners. Easy to read and filled with gems of information for all dog owners—like eliminating annoying barking! I highly recommend this book for trainers and owners of any breed of dog.
 Gail Tamases Fisher, CDBC and author of <i>The Thinking Dog</i>

 If you have chosen to bring a herding breed in to your life and home this is the book for you! Dawn takes the reader through the history of herding breeds in order to help you understand the why behind some of the obsessive-compulsive behaviors your herding breed may be exhibiting. Better yet, Dawn then offers up specific exercises and training techniques to help herding breed owners become as valuable as livestock in the eyes of their herding dog. You owe it to your herding breed to read this book!
Gerianne Darnell, author of <i>Canine Crosstraining: Achieving Excellence in Multiple Dog Sports</i>

Dawn Antoniak-Mitchell is the author of <i>Terrier-Centric Training,</i> and <i>From Birdbrained to Brilliant</i>. She is the owner of BonaFide Dog Academy in Omaha, Nebraska.

border collie service dog training: *The Border Collie* Mary R. Burch, 2008-04-21 Not an AKC-recognized breed, but beloved as one of the most intelligent dogs.

border collie service dog training: *The Complete Dog & Puppy How to Guide For Kids, Adults & Beginners* Abigail Strauss, 2017-08-01 Having Problems Connecting, Understanding, Controlling and Becoming Respected By Your Dogs? Do you really love your dog? Would you like to learn how to REALLY understand and be understood and take care your dog? Aspiring to improve your relationship and be respected by them as the Alpha or leader? Perhaps you want to teach your dog basic tricks? Perhaps there is a disobedient dog you want to have more control of? Or perhaps you're about to bring in a new puppy to your household, and you need to learn proper ways of potty training and rearing them in? Whatever it may be, I've got you covered my friend. This book is meant to be the ultimate dog book you'll ever need. It will teach the dog owner everything he would need to know to properly take care of dogs. Please look below for the areas that will be covered in depth. This is a concise, no nonsense, no fluff book that covers virtually everything you could ever need in this endeavour! In this book you'll learn the following: Dogs and children Over 340 recognized breeds Dogs and their body language Body parts to watch Fight, flight, or ignore Aggression and excitement Showing authority Three D's Eye to eye contact Dog-talk Understanding your dog Dog training: the basics Dog training methodologies 1.Alpha dog 2. Positive reinforcement 3.Clicker approach 4.Scientific method 5.Electronic 6.Relationship-based 7.Mirror or model approach Basic commands 1.Sit 2.Down 3.Come 4.Leave it 5.Stay Potty training Hiring a trainer IV. Dogs and their masters On companionship Dogs and your words Dogs and your voice Dogs and your body language Disobedient dogs: how to handle A man's best friend: improving dog-master relationship Science behind dog-human relationships Dog pack hierarchy: when you have more than one dog in the household How to strengthen your dog-master bond A lifetime bond worth keeping and much, much more... What are you waiting for then? GRAB YOUR COPY TODAY

border collie service dog training: *The Force-Free Dilemma* Nicola Ferguson, 2024-03-01

Dog training methodology is an increasingly hotly contested topic. A number of vocal trainers insist that dogs should be instructed through exclusively positive reinforcement, and that training should be totally force-free. Popularized through social media, the force-free training movement has grown into a lucrative, billion-dollar industry, but the consequences may outweigh the positives. This book examines the current state of dog training and discusses ethical alternatives to force-free methods. Chapters cover the history of dog training, common myths, equipment, and the merits of balanced training methods that don't dogmatically avoid occasional force.

border collie service dog training: K9 Cops Nigel Allsopp, 2012-03-15 In this fascinating book, Nigel Allsopp lifts the lid on the world of police dogs, examining the vital roles they play both in Australia and around the world. Despite the numerous high-tech devices now available to law-enforcement officials, `K9's - as they're known in the trade - remain an indispensable part of police work in a range of fields, notably terrorism and border protection. K9s may sometimes be sent into difficult and dangerous situations, but this is never done without care and concern, for at the heart of their role is the intimate and symbiotic relationship between dog and handler. K9 Cops explores the history, training and current use of police dogs, as well as considering what future dogs have in modern law enforcement. It also includes an A-Z of police canine units in 47 countries. For all police and military personnel, K9 Cops is an informative, must-read book. For the rest of us, it is an entertaining and heart-warming account that dog lovers the world over will enjoy.

border collie service dog training: Dog Training & Tricks Tammie Rogers, 2014-09-15 Presents a step-by-step introduction to dog training, covering such topics as manners, basic training skills, competition skills, and trick training.

border collie service dog training: Lessons from a Disabled Caregiver William G. Reed, 2021-07-30 Progressive, untreatable nerve and muscle diseases transformed the author's life from having been a college athlete to needing a wheelchair and special equipment for day-to-day activities. While dealing with his own conditions, he was faced with the unique challenge of being the sole caregiver for his wife who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. He has written this experience-based book to help people with life-altering medical conditions and those dealing with challenging caregiving responsibilities. Comprehensive in scope, it covers topics including grief, finances, safety and end-of-life planning. This is a resource book containing many references aimed at helping the reader overcome their challenges, maintain their independence and have happy, fulfilling lives.

border collie service dog training: Dogs Raymond Coppinger, Lorna Coppinger, 2002-10 Offering a scientifically informed perspective on canines and their relations with humans, two biologists take a close look at eight different types of dogs--household, village, livestock guarding, herding, sled pulling, pointing, retrieving and hound. 34 halftones.

border collie service dog training: Let Buster Lead, My Discovery of Love, PTSD and Self Acceptance Deborah Dozier Potter, 2015-01-01 In this newly revised personal memoir about love, courage and healing, Deborah Dozier Potter shares her relationship with her Border Collie, Buster, from the day she met him at the animal shelter until the last moment of his life. But this isn't a typical pet love story. The author met Buster while in a state of cynicism and grief following the death of her father and her new pet helped to restore her faith in life. Buster then helped her cope with a high-powered marriage, intense stress and faltering self-esteem. When she suffered major trauma in a horse accident, Buster stayed by her side, his herding dog instincts protecting her vulnerable and broken body. A year after the accident she became too tense to be touched by others or leave her home, unaware that she had developed a severe case of PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). She tells us how she discovered she had this disease and how Buster became her official service dog. She describes her struggle with PTSD symptoms, and what it was like to travel on airplanes and function in public with a disability. Buster, as a therapy dog, helped restore her mental health and self-assurance and lead her back into a normal life. This is their story.

border collie service dog training: Dogs of the Shepherds David Hancock, 2014-08-31 Dogs of the Shepherds is a book for all those who admire the most valuable of all the working dogs, the

pastoral breeds: sheepdogs, cattle dogs and flock protection dogs, the indispensable farmer's servants and companion dogs for thousands of proud dog-owners across the globe. Painstakingly researched and packed with information, this book is not a manual covering training, grooming, nutrition and dog care; it is very much a reflective review of the pastoral dogs' contribution to the working and companion dog scene. It is a searching examination of their past, their performance and their prospects in an increasingly urban society. Essential reading for all those with an interest in these handsome and quite admirable dogs, and lavishly illustrated throughout.

border collie service dog training: A Dog Who's Always Welcome Lorie Long, 2008-10-14 You can take her with you... If you're like most dog owners, you want a trustworthy companion you can take on family vacations, to ball games, on hikes, and to cafes and festivals. You want your dog to behave when you have guests, stay peacefully at hotels, ride calmly in elevators, and maintain proper doggie decorum in all kinds of situations. Chances are, you've watched and admired assistance and therapy dogs who are attentive to their owners' needs no matter what. This book taps into the secrets of assistance and therapy dog trainers and shows you how to use focused foundation socialization training to make sure your dog is well behaved--even in unfamiliar environments loaded with distractions and temptations. It goes beyond typical behavioral training and basic commands and covers: Evaluating your dog and recognizing traits that will affect her needs Using reward-based processes to teach complex behaviors and self-discipline Creating a socialization program that makes your dog focused on you and confident in different environments Reading your dog so you can anticipate her reactions and keep her focused on your directions With these sophisticated training techniques, you'll turn your family pet into a sociable, take-anywhere dog who will always be welcome!

border collie service dog training: The Midnight Dog Walkers Annie Phenix, 2016-03-29 Aggression is a subject that no dog owner wants to talk about, but one that many owners have to face. Statistics show that aggression is not only the most serious problem in dogs but also the top reason for owners to seek out professional help for their pets. Left unchecked, an aggressive dog can become a dangerous dog, and this informative volume comes to the aid of many heartbroken owners who feel that they have tried everything to correct their dogs' unpredictable and inappropriate behavior. Author and certified dog trainer Annie Phenix shares her belief that many reactive dogs can be rehabilitated with the right training, and she offers her expertise in positive, force-free training methods to desperate owners who have resorted to extreme measures to keep their dogs away from other people and animals. Inside *The Midnight Dog Walkers: Stories and practical examples from the author based on aggressive dogs she's trained and owned* Behavioral warning signs that owners should recognize Definitions of different types of aggression and why they occur Tips on how to handle a potentially aggressive or aggressive dog The author's force-free training philosophy and how she applies it with her clients to effect positive changes Popular myths and misconceptions about training these grumpy growlers

border collie service dog training: About Dogs Nicolae Sfetcu, 2014-05-02 Dog anatomy, breeding, breeds, equipment, health, law, monuments, organizations, related professions and professionals, shows and showing, sports, training and behavior, types, working dogs. Dogs in popular culture, famous dogs, fictional dogs, films. The dog is a canine mammal of the Order Carnivora. Dogs were first domesticated from wolves at least 12,000 years ago but perhaps as long as 150,000 years ago based on recent genetic fossil evidence and DNA evidence. In this time, the dog has developed into hundreds of breeds with a great degree of variation. This guide details the dog anatomy, breeding, breeds, equipment, health, law, monuments, organizations, related professions and professionals, shows and showing, dog sports, training and behavior, dog types, working dogs, as well as dogs in popular culture, famous dogs, fictional dogs, films about dogs, dogs as pets, and many other related aspects.

border collie service dog training: The Praeger Handbook of Veterans' Health Thomas W. Miller, 2012-09-20 This four-volume set provides a history of veterans' healthcare that examines programs of care and veterans' special needs, and offers insight into future directions for veteran's

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