



# ALL ABOUT FARMHAND DOGS



## A DOG IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF A FARM (OR RANCH) TEAM!

These four-legged friends help farmers manage their farm sites. Find out all about three types of farmhand dogs – (1) herding dogs, (2) watchdogs, and (3) guard dogs – with this handy guide! Plus find tasty BC grown dog biscuit recipes!

[www.bcaitc.ca](http://www.bcaitc.ca)

# HERDING DOGS | A Farmer's Best Friend

## What is a herding dog?

A herding dog (also known as a stock dog or a working dog), is a type of dog that has an **instinctive skill and drive for herding!** It has either been trained in herding or belongs to breeds that are specifically developed (over hundreds of years) for herding.

## What do herding dogs do on a farm?

Herding dogs are used on farms to:

- Gather and herd farm animals (like sheep, goats, cattle, or chickens).
- Cut or separate livestock from the rest of the herd or flock.
- Keep livestock away from the human handler while he or she is placing feed in a trough.
- Move livestock from one pen or pasture to another.

## What are the main traits of herding dogs?

- **Physical Traits:** ✓ Strong ✓ Good stamina ✓ Agile ✓ Good eyesight ✓ Good hearing ✓ Sturdy coat to protect from dampness, cold, and heat
- **Mental/Social Traits:** ✓ Intelligent ✓ Good with other animals ✓ Affectionate with people ✓ Good companion ✓ Hard worker ✓ Easy to train

## What are some common breeds of herding dogs?

 HELLO! I'M A...

**BORDER COLLIE**



**Height:** 18-22 inches (46-56 cm)  
**Weight:** 30-55 lbs (14-25 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Has an intense gaze - the famous 'herding eye'

 HELLO! I'M A...

**SHETLAND SHEEPDOG**



**Height:** 13-16 inches (33-41 cm)  
**Weight:** 15-25 lbs (7-11 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Also known as a "Sheltie"

 HELLO! I'M A...

**AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD**



**Height:** 18-23 inches (46-58 cm)  
**Weight:** 40-55 lbs (18-25 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Often seen on rodeo circuits and in cowboy movies

 HELLO! I'M A...

**PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI**



**Height:** 10-12 inches (25-30 cm)  
**Weight:** 27-30 lbs (12-14 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** One of the world's most popular herding breeds

 HELLO! I'M A...

**AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG**



**Height:** 17-20 inches (43-51 cm)  
**Weight:** 35-50 lbs (16-23 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** The puppies are born white and they change colour as they get older

 HELLO! I'M A...

**HANGING TREE COW DOG**



**Height:** 22-23 inches (56-58 cm)  
**Weight:** 50-60 lbs (23-27 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Hybrid breed known for working with cattle

# WATCHDOGS | Like to Bark, a Lot!

## What is a watchdog?

A watchdog is a dog used to **watch property and sound the alarm** against unwanted or unexpected human or animal intruders. Watchdogs are very alert, have the instinctive skill and drive for protection, and a loud bark!

## What do watchdogs do on a farm?

Watchdogs are used on farms to:

- Watch and protect farm animals (like sheep, goats, cattle, or chickens) from wild animals (like cougars, wolves, coyotes, and other species).
- Watch and protect farm equipment, property, and animals from theft.

## What are the main traits of watchdogs?

- **Physical Traits:** ✓ Loud bark ✓ Good stamina ✓ Agile ✓ Good eyesight ✓ Good hearing ✓ Sturdy coat to protect from dampness, cold, and heat
- **Mental/Social Traits:** ✓ Territorial ✓ Averse to strangers ✓ Protective ✓ Loyal ✓ Intelligent ✓ Hard worker ✓ Easy to train


## What are some common breeds of watchdogs?

 HELLO! I'M A...


**SHETLAND SHEEPDOG**



**Height:** 13-16 inches (33-41 cm)  
**Weight:** 15-25 lbs (7-11 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Also known as a "Sheltie"

 HELLO! I'M A...

**RAT TERRIER**



**Height:** 10-18 inches (25-46 cm)  
**Weight:** 10-25 lbs (5-11 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** The breed is called "Rat" because of their ability to control rodents on the farm

 HELLO! I'M A...

**SIBERIAN HUSKY**




**Height:** 20-24 inches (51-61 cm)  
**Weight:** 35-60 lbs (16-27 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** They like to explore

 HELLO! I'M A...


**GIANT SCHNAUZER**



**Height:** 24-28 inches (61-71 cm)  
**Weight:** 55-85 pounds (25-39 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Loves attention

 HELLO! I'M A...

**JACK RUSSELL TERRIER**



**Height:** 10-15 inches (25-38 cm)  
**Weight:** 13-15 lbs (6-7 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Tough, athletic, and friendly

 HELLO! I'M A...

**BEAGLE**



**Height:** 13-16 inches (33-41 cm)  
**Weight:** 20-30 lbs (9-14 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Vocalizes by barking, yodeling, and howling

# GUARD DOGS | Strong and Protective!

## What is a guard dog?

Like a watchdog, a guard dog is used to watch property and sound the alarm against unwanted or unexpected human or animal intruders. **The main difference between a watchdog and a guard dog is that a guard dog is capable of attacking and/or restraining intruders.**

## What do guard dogs do on a farm?


Guard dogs are used on farms to:

- Guard farm animals (like sheep, goats, cattle, or chickens) from wild animals (like cougars, wolves, coyotes, and other species).
- Guard farm equipment, property, and animals from theft.


## What are the main traits of herding dogs?

- **Physical Traits:** ✓ Large and strong ✓ Loud bark ✓ Strong scent to mark territory ✓ Good stamina ✓ Agile ✓ Good eyesight ✓ Good hearing ✓ Sturdy coat to protect from dampness, cold, and heat
- **Mental/Social Traits:** ✓ Brave ✓ Territorial ✓ Averse to strangers ✓ Protective ✓ Loyal ✓ Intelligent ✓ Hard worker ✓ Easy to train


## What are some common breeds of guard dogs on a farm?

 HELLO! I'M A...


**AKBASH**



**Height:** 28-34 inches (71-86 cm)  
**Weight:** 80-140 lbs (36-64 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Can fight off wolves

 HELLO! I'M A...

**GERMAN SHEPHERD**




**Height:** 22-26 inches (56-66 cm)  
**Weight:** 50-100 lbs (23-45 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Dogkind's finest all-purpose worker

 HELLO! I'M A...


**ROTTWEILER**



**Height:** 22-27 inches (56-68 cm)  
**Weight:** 80-130 lbs (36-59 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** One of the oldest known breeds

 HELLO! I'M A...

**ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD**



**Height:** 27-29 inches (69-74 cm)  
**Weight:** 80-150 lbs (36-68 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Ancient lineage dates back 6,000 years

 HELLO! I'M A...


**GREAT PYRENEES**



**Height:** 25-29 inches (64-74 cm)  
**Weight:** 85-100 lbs+ (39-45+ kg)  
**Fun Fact:** White dog blends in with sheep to deter predators

 HELLO! I'M A...

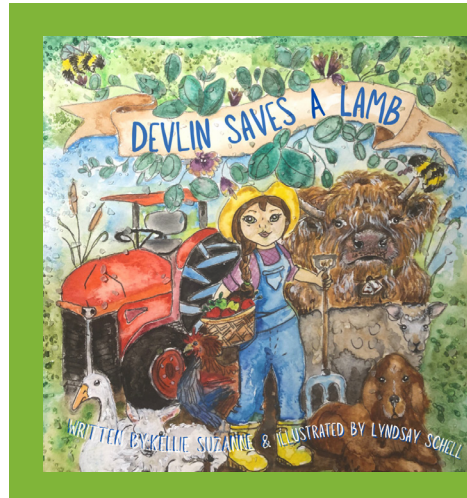
**BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG**



**Height:** 23-28 inches (58-71 cm)  
**Weight:** 70-115 lbs (32-52 kg)  
**Fun Fact:** Sweet, affectionate nature

# COMMON CALLS FOR FARMHAND DOGS

- "Come by" – move clockwise.
- "Away to me" – move counter-clockwise
- "Lie down" – stop and lie down.
- "Steady" – slow down
- "Walk up" – walk towards livestock
- "Get out" – move away from livestock
- "Cast" – gather livestock
- "That'll do" – work is complete
- "Here" – turn in and walk at farm animals
- "Sit" – sit and do not jump
- "Stay" – stay in the same position
- "Down" – lie down
- "Come" – come to owner
- "Heel" – walk at owner's side
- "No" – stop action
- "Quiet" – do not bark
- "Speak" – bark



Want to learn more about farmhand dogs? Read the **Devlin Saves a Lamb** storybook, with print edition available for free order to BC classrooms at [www.bcaitc.ca](http://www.bcaitc.ca).

CAST!



SPEAK



Sources: Wikipedia, American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club, [www.pethelpful.com](http://www.pethelpful.com), [www.k9ofmine.com](http://www.k9ofmine.com), <https://thedogsjournal.com>, and our friends at 4-H British Columbia

# ALL ABOUT FARMHAND DOGS COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a **herding dog**? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is a **watchdog**? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a **guard dog**? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Two main physical traits of **herding dogs**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is one breed of **watchdog** and one fun fact about the breed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do **guard dogs** do on the farm? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What would you say to a farmhand dog if you wanted them to 'move away from livestock'? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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# BC DOG TREATS

Your favourite pup will love these healthy treats made with BC ingredients!

## BC Pumpkin Dog Biscuits

Yields: 30 biscuits

### Ingredients:

1 cup	Cooked BC Pumpkin (or Canned Pumpkin)	250 ml
2 cups	Whole Wheat Flour	500 ml
1	BC Egg	1
½ tsp	Dried Ginger	3 ml



### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F (176° C).
2. Put BC Pumpkin in a large mixing bowl.
3. In a separate bowl, whip the BC Egg. Then, add it to the pumpkin, and mix well.
4. Slowly add the flour and dried ginger, stir, and then transfer to a non-stick surface.
5. Knead the dough until well-mixed. Then, roll it out on a floured surface until it is ½" (1 cm) thick.
6. Cut the dough into 1" (2.5 cm) squares using a pizza cutter or knife (or you can use a cookie cutter).
7. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown.
8. Cool treats completely and store them in an airtight container at room temperature.

## BC Cheddar Bacon Dog Treats

Yields: 10 biscuits

### Ingredients:

1 ½ cups	BC Rolled Oats	375 ml
½ cup	BC Cheddar Cheese, shredded	125 ml
4 strips	BC Bacon, cooked and crumbled	4 strips
2	BC Eggs	2
2 tbsp	All-Purpose Flour	30 ml



### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F (176° C).
2. Add BC Rolled Oats, BC Cheese, and BC Bacon in a food processor and process for about 1 minute or until ingredients reach a crumb-like consistency.
3. Add two BC Eggs to a food processor and process until the mixture resembles a sticky dough.
4. Sprinkle flour on a cutting board or flat surface and roll out the dough to about ¼ inch (½ cm) thick. Using a cookie cutter, cut out treats from the dough.
5. Transfer dog treats to a parchment-lined baking sheet and cook for 30 minutes.
6. Cool treats completely and store them in an airtight container at room temperature.