

Congratulations on your new

Border Collie!



Congratulations. The Border Collie Society of America in conjunction with

the American Kennel Club welcome you and your family to the wonderful world of Border Collies.



The Border Collie Society of America (BCSA) is the AKC's parent club for Border Collies. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the well-being of this versatile herding breed. The "BCSA strives to promote and preserve the working ability of the world's premier sheep herding dog; and advocates for responsible ownership and breeding practices. The National Specialty highlights the versatile traits of the Border Collie in herding, obedience, rally, agility and conformation."

The BCSA's website – www.bordercolliesociety.com – is an abundant source of breed information, produced by knowledgeable breed experts. It offers continuous support for existing and prospective members, as well as experienced and new owners. It includes pages devoted to training, behavior, herding, canine performance activities, AKC breed standard, conformation, breeding, health, rescue, photos and club contacts. It may help answer many of your questions about the breed.

Brief History: The Border Collie originates from the UK Border region between Scotland and England. The breed was developed by shepherds whose breeding selection was based on biddable stock sense and the ability to work long days on rugged terrain. As a result of this selective breeding, the Border Collie developed the unique working style of gathering and fetching sheep. The stock is controlled with an intense gaze known as "eye," coupled with a stalking style of movement. This selective breeding over time developed the Border Collie's intensity, stamina, energy and trainability.

Breed Characteristics The Border Collie's intrinsic herding ability is legendary. This strong herding instinct is a hallmark trait. As described in the breed standard, the Border Collie's general appearance is that of a well-balanced, medium-sized dog of athletic appearance, displaying gracefulness, power

and agility in equal measure. Its hard, muscular body conveys the impression of effortless movement and endless endurance.

The breed, renowned for its high level of intelligence and ability to quickly learn, is extremely versatile. Possessing a keen and alert expression, the Border Collie is a known workaholic that thrives on mental activity and physical exercise with an abundance of energy.

Training: A properly raised, well-socialized, trained Border Collie makes a superb companion and versatile partner. Achieving this relationship entails lots of positive training and socialization, with confidence-building experiences in a variety of settings as they are growing and developing. Attending quality puppy classes can assist in the process, as can crate training for safety at home and for traveling in the car. Border Collies can quickly react to stimulation and can be sensitive to sudden sounds and movement. Steadiness, along with owner resolve, and a positive, consistent training program will help the pup grow up into a secure and confident dog. Understanding the mindset and function of a Border Collie is key to successful training and a productive partnership. A good trainer has the ability to convey clear instruction to the dog of what is required. For inexperienced owners, it is important to work with a proficient trainer to enable you and your dog to establish and maintain a fulfilling relationship. Because of the breed's high level of intelligence, they can easily outwit the human partner and may be a challenge to live with. Unfortunately, the very traits that make them appealing and spectacular can be the same traits that can make them difficult to live with. They have been known to learn unsuitable behaviors. Untrained, they may inappropriately chase moving traffic, bicycles, round up the children or become a neighborhood nuisance, which is hazardous for all concerned. It is imperative to discourage such behaviors from the outset and seek

preventative measures. A Border Collie should not be left alone for any period of time. They are not a sedentary breed, boredom can develop, and they have a tendency to develop compulsive behaviors such as inappropriate chewing, digging or may find a route to escape from your fenced yard. It is important that their needs are met and that they are given a “job” to do, otherwise they may become “self-employed,” creating their own entertainment and activity. Border Collies are known for their excellence in herding, obedience, agility, rally and many of the AKC performance events.

Ownership responsibilities: Responsible owners will want to maintain a happy, healthy, well-trained dog, safeguarding their dogs by providing a secure environment. Ensure that you provide your dog with age-appropriate physical exercise and mental stimulation, all of which is good for the dog’s well being. Maintaining contact with your dog’s breeder can provide you with support when required, and they can guide you through the dog’s developmental phases. It is important for you and your dog to develop a relationship with a trusted veterinarian so that you can discuss health concerns. Statistics show that one in three pets will go missing in its lifetime. That’s why microchipping your dog and enrolling the microchip with AKC Reunite at time of registration is recommended. When your lost dog is found, AKC Reunite’s 24/7/365 recovery service will call, email and text you to reunite you with your cherished companion. This program includes a custom AKC logo collar tag with the AKC Reunite recovery hotline phone number. There are no annual fees. For more information, see www.akcreunite.org or call 800-252-7894.



Breeding Border Collies carries a tremendous responsibility and is truly a labor of love. Responsible breeders will carefully consider all aspects when planning any breeding. They will evaluate their stock for herding ability, good temperament, correct structure, physical and mental soundness, trainability and overall health. Breeding dogs is typically not financially lucrative; there is always the risk of pregnancy complications or puppy health issues that can result in expensive veterinary costs. Responsible breeders will have time, facilities and finances to properly raise, socialize and provide health care for

their litters. They will ensure that potential new owners are suited to owning a Border Collie and in particular a specific puppy and its character. They will help educate owners to understand the Border Collie’s needs and natural instincts. They will take back at any time, without question, any dog they have produced so that these dogs are never abandoned, relinquished to shelters or placed with rescue organizations.

Health: The BCSA recommends that any dog being considered for breeding should have an excellent temperament, correct structure, possess the breed hallmarks and have proven success in performance activities, particularly herding. Breeding stock should be free from hip/elbow/shoulder dysplasia, eye disorders, epilepsy and deafness. Genetic tests are available for some disorders that can affect Border Collies. Your breeder will select appropriate tests and certifications based on their knowledge of the breeding stock and ancestor dogs. Additional information about these disorders and the available tests can be found on the BCSA website Health pages.

In the breed’s best interests and that of individual companion dogs, it is important to ensure that any decision to spay or neuter be an informed one and age appropriate. Based on recent studies, current recommendation is to wait until the pup is a minimum age of 12 months. To spay or neuter prior to this age may result in hormone and physical growth challenges. Border Collie growth plate closure does not occur until after 12 months of age.

The BCSA recommends keeping an ongoing relationship with your breeder for the dog’s lifetime. Good breeders encourage owners to contact them for help with questions, and they should always be interested in the welfare and development of your puppy or dog throughout its life. Breeders appreciate this relationship opportunity as it may enhance future breeding decisions.



BCSA website: www.bordercolliesociety.com
for breed-specific information.

AKC website: www.akc.org
Events page for activities to enjoy with your dog.