



# Border Collie

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# Border Collies: From Frisky Puppy through Mature Adulthood

## Introduction

Border Collies will herd your heart! These loving medium-sized dogs have been around for centuries, originating in the borderlands between England and Scotland. Bred as herding dogs, Border Collies are still used in this capacity all over the world today. They can herd sheep and cattle, even when not in direct sight of their masters. Their independent spirit is a vital breed characteristic and one that makes them so appealing to some dog owners. Border Collie dogs have friendly, open faces, and happy expressions. They like treats, but they love your praise just as much. They are excellent pets, although an active breed that is in need of a lot of play and exercise time. They can form close, affectionate, cooperative relationships with their owner, especially if they are given opportunities to fulfill their herding nature. Work is an attitude with these dogs. They love everything from obedience competitions and agility contests to Frisbee events and flyball. Border Collies like “doing” something, even if it is visiting a nursing home or catching a tennis ball in the backyard. A Border Collie sees all activity as “work” and thrives by being kept busy.

Barring the all-black dogs, Border Collies are distinguished by a white blaze from their forehead to nose. The white marking continues down into their forequarters and paws. The rest of their body can be anything from blonde to a variety of browns and black.

Border Collies are handsome and intelligent dogs. On a Border Collie, a well-formed head that tapers to the nose can match their primary body color. Their ears are usually half-perked and lively looking. They are alert, eager, and full of interest in all activity. Their eyes can range in color, although most have brown. Occasionally, you will see a Border Collie that has one or two blue-colored eyes.

We will take you through the process of bringing home your new family member and lead you all the way through to your pet's senior years. We will provide you with some tips, advice, and helpful suggestions. This complimentary book is packed full of information to fulfill your dog parenting needs. You will be given access to checklists and handy vet tips to ensure you are taking proper care of your animal.

Please take a few moments to enjoy this information and discover how to build and maintain a loving relationship with your Border Collie for many years.

## General Border Collie Characteristics

Border Collies are happy and loyal dogs. They have excellent social skills and interact well with children. They can get a little neurotic if they do not get enough exercise and attention. They live to work. They will herd anything



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(children, other dogs, socks, even insects) with their firm manner and gimlet eye. They have a typical life span of 12 to 15 years.

Their lovely, soft coats come in both short- and long-hair varieties. This active breed requires a medium size yard for play or frequent trips outside if kept in an apartment dwelling. They are primarily used as service dogs, hunters, trackers, and of course retrievers. They excel in agility training and can be trained to perform tricks. They tend to have a life expectancy that is suitable for a family pet. Proper diet, exercise, grooming and veterinary attention will benefit you and your Border Collie.

Average Weight	27 – 45 pounds	Temperament	Can be a little hyperactive, yet loving and loyal.
Average Height	18-22 inches	Good with Children	Yes, protective and gentle with children – although they’ve been known to herd them!
Coat	Two varieties: Long-coat – a little rough; Short coat – smooth. Both kinds have a soft undercoat and need frequent grooming.	Health Concerns	Hip dysplasia, Collie Eye Anomaly, epilepsy (seizure disorders), deafness



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## Selecting Your Border Collie Puppy – Adoption or a Breeder?

It is a matter of personal preference whether you adopt or rescue a Border Collie. Another choice might be to select your Border Collie from a reputable breeder.

### A few words about adoption

Look for a pet adoption shelter or rescue center in your community by using your community resources, such as your library, newspaper, and any online information to learn about the reputation of the shelter before you go there. Ask questions at the center and talk to other people who may have used the center’s services before. Find out as much as you can about the history of the pet you are considering. Know that some pets are up for adoption because they have been left behind due to divorce or families having to relocate. Not all pets in shelters or rescue centers come from abused or neglectful situations. Pet adoption or rescue is less expensive than purchasing from a dog breeder. For families who face economical challenges, this option is worth considering. You will have the satisfaction of providing a home for a deserving pet.

### A few words about breeders

Perhaps you prefer a Border Collie that comes from a reputable breeder. Breeders are very knowledgeable about the breed’s overall health and characteristics. You can locate dog breeders by looking in the newspaper,

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### EXPERT TIP

#### Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a Border Collie Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Border and choose a crate based on those specifications. The average size of an adult Border Collie Dog is 15 lbs and 16 inches tall. Choose a sturdy steel or plastic crate for medium sized breeds such as the Border Collie Dog.

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searching on the internet, or checking with your local vet. You should make sure that the breeder is associated with the AKC.

Dog breeders can be very particular to whom they sell one of their dogs. They may want to know what other animals are in your home, whether or not you have a yard for the dog to play in, or if there are any children living in your home. Collie breeders will often confirm that you have the ability and willingness to work with this fast, agile, and endlessly energetic dog. When visiting a breeder, you should make sure that the breeder's facilities are clean. If the mother and father are available, it is highly advised that you ask to see them. The breeder should provide a written health guarantee for your puppy, along with all immunization records.

Whether choosing your dog through adoption/rescue or purchasing it through a breeder, you need to remember to select the pet that is right for you and one that fits into your lifestyle. Pet ownership is a huge responsibility.

## How to Choose Your New Border Collie Pup

Choosing a dog can be a difficult decision because they come in many different personalities and aesthetic qualities. Because there are so many coat color variations, you should determine beforehand if you have a preference. Sometimes, you can make a decision based on at the adorable facial expressions a pup makes. How can you resist those sweet puppy dog eyes that pierce right through you?

As mentioned previously, pet adoptions or rescues are options for selecting your Border Collie. Of course, locating a reputable breeder is always also a good choice as well. As you make your choice, you need to be sure that you know the following signs of a healthy dog:

- Bright and clear eyes
- Clean ears that are free of parasites
- Healthy coat and skin conditions
- Clear history and lineage
- Paw pads that are soft and cared for
- Plump bellies are common in healthy puppies, but they should not be too plump
- Tails and facial expressions can give strong clues as to the pup's personality and disposition

## Before You Bring Your Border Collie Home

If you are ready to purchase a Border Collie puppy, it is important that you be as prepared as possible by providing a safe and secure environment for your new family member. In an effort to prepare for the care of your dog, you should create a checklist and learn about the special needs of your pet. Make sure that your floors are free of clutter. This includes shoes and electric cords, as puppies like to chew on them. Use the rule "out of sight, out of mind" when introducing your puppy to his new environment.

You will need the essentials to care for your pet, such as food, a brush for grooming, toys for playtime, and crates or kennels for containment. When purchasing a puppy, you might want to consider purchasing Puppy pads and treats, along with other training products. You will also want to have a selection of toys. The reward system is great for teaching your pet important

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lessons. Some toys double as treat holders so that when playing games with your pet they have a fun way to get to their reward. Your pup will soon understand what you expect of him if you use a loving manner to convey your messages. Border collies are eager to please and respond well to positive reinforcement.

Being prepared is the most important aspect of introducing your new family member to their new environment. By purchasing books about your breed, you will know what important questions about your dog to ask the breeder or your vet. You can also read about your pet online or at your community library.

## Your Border Collie Through the Years

### Your Border Collie Puppy

Each stage of your pet's life will be characterized by special needs. Puppies' lives are full of learning experiences. Enjoy the time you spend with your puppy by purchasing chew toys or balls to play with and keep your puppy active. You can use these toys not only to play with but also to train your pet. You should keep in mind that Border Collies learn quickly. Since they are such quick learners, do not teach your new pet *anything* that you do not want them to learn for life! Puppies general learn quickly and can develop bad habits if they are not properly corrected. Conversely, they can learn good habits if trained lovingly, consistently, and early on.

It is important to start your pup with a good health regimen, especially by keeping accurate health and immunization records throughout the life of your pet. Introduce your dog to his vet and his grooming process as young as possible. Of equal importance is a healthy diet for your pet. It is a good idea to follow your breeder or vet's guidelines for all of your pet's nutritional needs. Puppy food has many different nutrients than adult or senior foods. Allergy sensitive animals require special dietary ingredients as well. Your Border Collie should have their own clean bowls for food and water. Sometimes it is helpful to place the bowls on a non-slip surface. There are many decorative bowls and placemats available to make your pets feeding time special. You should take extra time to get your pup used to regular grooming by using shampoos, nail clippers, brushes, and toothbrushes. When you introduce a new grooming device to your puppy, it is important to remember to let the pup become acquainted with the item before using it. You might want to put the item away when you are no longer using it, or the pup might mistake it for a toy.

### Your Border Collie Adult

As your dog begins to age, their needs also begin to change. Keep your dog active and healthy. Change out his toys often to keep his interest from fading. Sometimes adult dogs can develop allergies. If your pet develops allergies, you may see changes in the coat, skin, eyes, or ears. If you notice changes in your Border Collie's skin or fur, you may need to change their diet. If you suspect your dog has allergies, the best thing to do is take your dog to the vet. There are excellent remedies that can be used to overcome this condition.

As your dog ages, the nails, paw pads, coat, skin, eyes and ears need special attention. Grooming time should always be a happy time for you and your



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dog. You should keep the coat clean and free of dander, fleas, and tangled or matted hair. You should also keep the nails trimmed, check the pads on their paws frequently for spurs, and keep tooth tartar under control. By frequently checking supplies and making sure that you have the most efficient tools handy you will be able to keep your dog in good health.

## Your Border Collie Senior

When your pet climbs the hill into his senior years, his needs make another change. Dietary changes are the most prevalent at this lifestage. As your dog ages, you will notice changes in its digestive system. You need to make sure your senior Border Collie maintains a proper diet and receives proper nutrients with a daily vitamin. By keeping abreast of the latest trends in dental products, you will find many tartar control products on the market today to help maintain health teeth and gums. Bones, toys, and toothbrushes are essential to an older dogs' health and happiness. Border Collies are pre-disposed to certain health concerns like hip dysplasia, so be aware of any changes in the gait of your senior Border Collie. If your dog moves more slower than usual or starts to limp, it could be a sign of a joint problem. You may want to provide a more appropriate sleeping and lounging area for your pet, such as an orthopedic dog bed. By maintaining a regular exercise routine and proper diet, you may help ward off aching hips in your dog. Just remember, dogs age in some of the same ways that humans do. You can help them manage their aches and pains with proper pet healthcare aids, knowledge, and care.

Senior pets might have a change in disposition, especially when stressed by active young children. They may show signs of irritability when eating or when encouraged to do something they would rather not do. Collies are genuinely loving animals and are not known to cause harm but grumpy seniors have a way of making sure that you are aware they are unhappy. It is important to know that senior animals tend to do things in their own way and time. Primary to caring for your senior dog is to do so in a loving, gentle manner mixed with a little patience and understanding.

## Border Collie Medical Considerations

- Hip dysplasia is common in most medium- to large-sized sporting dogs.
- An eye disease common to collies is Collie Eye Anomaly, which is a malformation of the eye. PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy) was previously common, but seems to have disappeared in American dogs, possibly because of improvements in diet. Both of these diseases can be observed in dogs when they are puppies.
- Many Border Collies are quite allergic to fleas. Because they are such active, outdoor-loving dogs, you need to be sure to watch for fleas and other pests during regular grooming
- Epilepsy
- Deafness



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