



## Living with a Herding Dog

### What is a herding dog like?

Herding breeds of dog are highly intelligent, work-driven, active, have lots of stamina, and are meant to be out working alongside a human all day. When they don't have a job to do they get bored -fast! If not given an appropriate outlet, they will find ways to entertain themselves (usually by being hyperactive and destructive in the home).

### Common herding dogs:

- Australian Shepherd
- Australian Cattle Dog
- Smooth/Rough Coated Collie
- Old English Sheepdog
- Pembroke/Cardigan Welsh Corgi
- Border Collie
- Shetland Sheepdog
- German Shepherd
- Belgian Malinois
- Or any dog mixed with one of these!



### What is herding? What does it look like?

Herding is when a dog tries to control where an animal/object goes. They do this by chasing, circling, nipping/biting (usually the ankles/legs/backside), and barking. They may do this to anything that is moving fast (animals, children, skateboarders, joggers).



The most common signs of a dog that is about to start herding are when they crouch down and stare intently at a moving animal/object. Herding is different from hunting because there is not an intent to kill, just to control. Usually herders will vocalize, whereas a hunter will remain silent.

## How do I stop my dog from herding me?

Follow these easy steps to teach your dog that herding *you* is not ok!

1. When your dog is running after you, become very still and quiet.
  - a. Animals being chased will move and make noises; you should do the opposite!
2. As your dog is running up to you, tell them to do a different behavior, like sit or stay.
  - a. If they listen, calmly praise them -don't get too excited or the dog will get worked up again!
3. If they don't listen and keep coming at you, exit the area; don't let your dog follow you, and don't turn your back on them!
  - a. For example, go into another room and close the door. Wait 5-10 seconds, and as long as your dog is not barking/jumping at the door, go back out to them and continue your interactions.
4. Repeat this several times in a row -run, stop, tell them sit or you leave, repeat.
5. Find an alternative way for your dog to satisfy their instincts without using you! Without doing this, your dog will continue chasing/nipping at people!



## Healthy alternatives to herding people:

Some fun activities you can do with your dog that satisfy their need to chase are:

- Treibball (image above)
- Fetch
- Frisbee (image right)
- Flirt Pole (image below)

