



PUPPY BOOK



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All the photographs of collies in this booklet are Baqilodge bred or owned.
Baqilodge collie owners have granted permission for their photos to be used.

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ This booklet is an introduction to the most delightful and beautiful of all dog breeds – the collie.
- ❖ If you are seeking an *overview*, read the writing in the *blue box* at the head of each section. For more *detailed information* continue reading *below the blue box*.

Collie owners will tell you, ‘Once you have owned a collie, you will never choose another breed.’

The collie is a healthy breed with an excellent reputation and a large fan base.

They are perfect for first-time dog owners. They make fabulous family dogs and are the best children’s pet. They love to please, are very gentle and easy to train and, even though they can be a little stubborn sometimes, very rarely do they misbehave.

While they retain their cheekiness and fun-loving playfulness for life, they will leave much of their puppy naughtiness behind them – and they will do it many months earlier than most other breeds.

I hope this booklet will answer most of your questions before you make your purchase and be a reference and guide for you after you get your collie. While it might look a little overwhelming at first, don’t be put off. I’ve tried to give you as much information as possible. Some of it might not be relevant to you or *every* Baqilodge collie puppy.

If you are going to own a dog, collies really are one of the easiest of breeds – on every level!

To top it off – collies come in three different colours and two varieties - a long coat and a short coat. How accommodating is that? They are perfect in every way!

“He is gentle, clean and kind. His absolute loyalty and trustworthiness makes him the perfect companion, and his innate understanding of his owner ensures that he is a joy to possess. He is a gentleman – he is one of the most beautiful members of the canine race – he is, in fact, a
COLLIE”.

- Margaret Osborne, breeder and author



SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ADDING A COLLIE TO YOUR FAMILY

How will a collie fit in with you?

❖ Consider how a Baqilodge collie would fit into your life, and what your role is in their life.

- What ***time constraints and commitments*** do you already have? Your collie will need you to spend some time with it each day.
- ***Would a collie thrive in your home?*** What is the atmosphere of the home? Lots of noise is fine if the mood is generally light and happy. A collie does not cope well in a tense, turbulent or unpredictable environment.
- Are there any ***other animals*** living in the home? How will this work?
- Do ***all*** the people living in the home want a dog? Is there anybody living in the home ***frightened*** of dogs?
- Is anybody living in the home ***allergic*** to dogs?
- How ***secure*** is your yard and home? Will your collie be safe? Do you have to prepare a place?
- Where will it ***live and sleep***? Is this place ready?
- ***Finances*** – to cover the cost of food, veterinary care, grooming, boarding (when you are on holidays) etc.
- ***Exercise*** –will you regularly physically and mentally exercise your collie?
- ***Training*** – are you prepared to train and socialise your collie?
- ***Grooming*** – are you willing to brush your collie weekly or have it groomed every four to six weeks by a professional groomer?



Orianna napping

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GET YOUR COLLIE

Each breed of dog is different in appearance and each also has its own character traits. A breed's main character traits reflect the purpose for which it was developed.

The collie's original purpose was to work with a shepherd as a sheepdog in the British Isles. Today the breed still retains the characteristics required of a good sheepdog. To name a few: a work ethic (wanting to please), loyalty, intelligence, stamina and alertness.



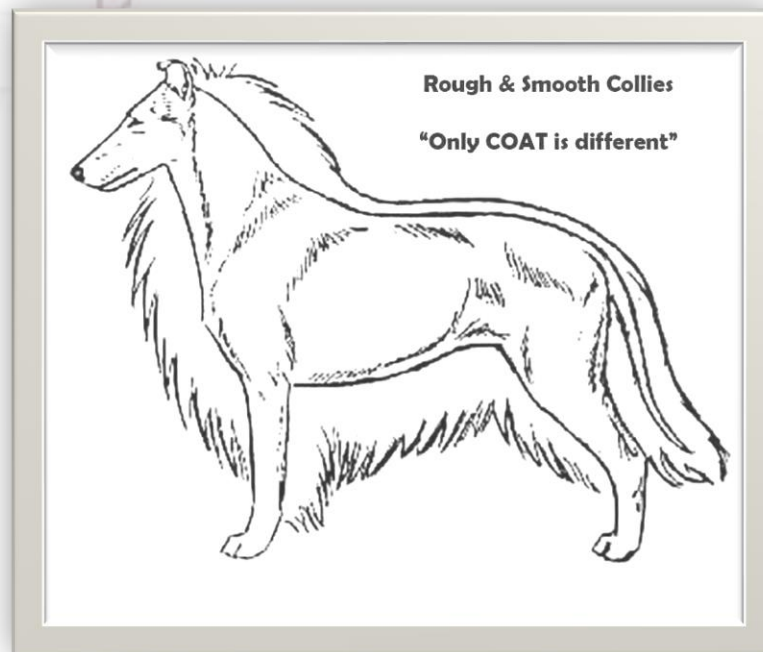
Collies (rough and smooth), by George Vernon Stokes
- a well-known dog artist - 1873-1954

About Collies

- ❖ Collies were originally bred to be sheepdogs and droving dogs.
- ❖ They come in two varieties, rough (long hair) and smooth (short hair). In Australia, we breed to the English Collie Standard, which recognises three different colours in each variety, i.e. sable, blue merle and tricolour. Each of these colours also come in various tones and shades and all the colours have white markings.
- ❖ (The Standards of some other countries recognise white collies and sable merles along with these three colours mentioned above. However, while they do occur, white collies and sable merles are not readily available in Australia.)

Collies are sheepdogs; – and, although most these days will never work as sheepdogs, their attitude, temperament and physical characteristics should still reflect their sheepdog heritage.

Collie roughs (long hair) and collie smooths (short hair) are the same breed. Rough puppies and smooth puppies may be born to the same parents in the same litter. Their coat type classifies them as different varieties.

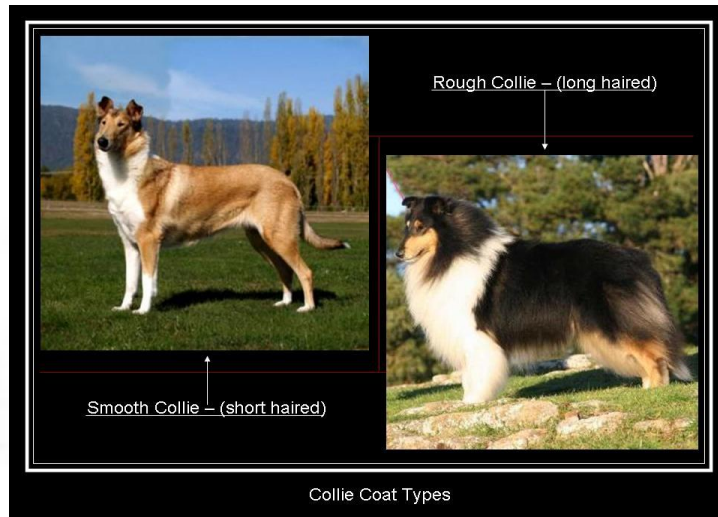


One breed - two coat types - three colours.
Artist Unknown – retrieved from social media.

About the two coat types

Collies come in two coat types:

- ❖ Collie smooth – short coat
- ❖ Collie rough – long coat



Anika (smooth) and Felo (rough)

That collies come in two coat types surprises some people, as most only know the long-coated collie – the collie rough. Today, collie smooths are classed as a rare breed as most collie breeders do not breed for the shorter coat.

Collies are a double-coated breed. That is, both varieties have two coats – a top coat and a dense undercoat.

They moult their undercoat once a year – usually for the summer months. Unspayed females will moult or drop their undercoat two to three months after their season (heat cycle).

The male rough usually carries a bigger coat than the female rough, with noticeably more mane and chest hair.

NB: Double coated breeds should [not be shaved](#) – unless it is for a medical reason.

HOT TIP

If you have an item covered in dog hair, the easiest way to remove the hair is to wash it then dry it in a clothes dryer with an antistatic sheet - voilà



The history of the collie

- ❖ The breed is descended from dogs brought to the British Isles by the Romans.
- ❖ Collies were originally sheepdogs and/or droving dogs and in their spare time useful farm dogs doing jobs like – helping to keep farm animals, poultry and even children safe and within boundaries; warning the farmer or their owner to strangers or visitors and alerting them to anything unusual and different happening in their environment.

The early history of the collie is mostly speculation – however, the consensus is that they are descended from shepherds' dogs brought by the Romans to Scotland around the fifth century, and that means their early history is the same as many of the other sheepdog breeds of the British Isles.

Dolly Dushka in national dress



How the breed's name originated is speculative too. Some think the name 'collie' came from the name of a breed of Scottish sheep with black faces ('Colley'). Others believe the word 'collie' derives from a Celtic word meaning 'useful.' The word might also trace to Gaelic as the words for 'young pup' or 'dog' are, respectively, *càilean* and *cóilean*.

The collie was a popular working sheepdog in Ireland and Scotland and even England in the 1800s. It is believed that the roughs, with their big insulating coats, worked in the highlands of Scotland and Ireland, while the smooths worked in the lowlands where temperatures were often slightly warmer. Both had similar jobs, – although we think the smooth had a greater role in droving sheep to market along lanes and roads, while the rough's main tasks were herding and looking after flocks on the hills and moors.

Although many claim the collie is of Scottish origin, research and pedigrees show that the male line of the family tree of our present-day collies traces back to the Irish-bred Shamrock, born in 1870. All present-day registered collies are descended from his son Trefoil, who was born in 1873.

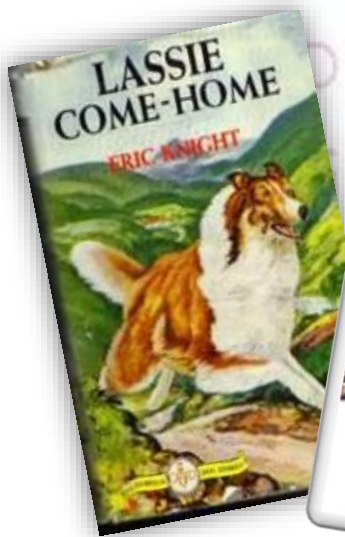
However, the first show collie of note was, Old Cockie, born in 1868, followed two years later by Old Mec. Sadly, the lineage of both Old Cockie and Old Mec is unknown.

Rough-coated collies first appeared as a separate breed on the Kennel Club Register in 1895. (Until this time, all farm dogs or sheepdogs were classed as ‘sheepdogs’.)



Old Cockie and Charlemagne (a Trefoil son)

So, all our pedigree rough collies trace their ancestry through Shamrock and Trefoil and, later, Trefoil’s brothers, Tartan and Tricolour, owned by a Mr Shirley in Ireland. These collies, in turn, were probably descended from the dogs used by the Basque Celts. Breed historian, Iris Combe, tells us in her book *Herding Dogs: Their Origins and Development in Britain, Faber & Faber, 1978*, that the Basque Celts trained their dogs to look after and work with small herds and flocks in Ireland. She wrote that their dogs were of medium height with lithe, athletic bodies covered by a dense, harsh coat usually brindle in colour, continuing with the description: ‘Ears, erect or nearly so; Nose, pointed; Hair, long and often woolly; Form, robust and muscular; Aspect, more or less wolfish. Their working method was to circle flock and herds to keep them together. They were plain workers with not much ‘eye’ and inclined to be noisy’. These are traits we see in our collies today.



Today, our beautiful, intelligent and useful collie is in all Dog Registries and lives in most countries of the world.

Made famous by Eric Knight’s book, ‘Lassie Come-Home’, and the ‘Lassie’ movies and TV series that followed, collies are well known and loved.



The Sunnybank Collies of Albert Payson Terhune, immortalised in his numerous books, have only increased that love and admiration for this delightful breed of dog.

Typical collie characteristics

Typical collies are:

- ❖ *soft and gentle*. It is unusual for collies to be boisterous or clumsy. They are easy to have in the home.
- ❖ *loving and loyal*. These are two prominent collie characteristics. They love to be with their family.
- ❖ *playful and fun-loving*. They love games and particularly enjoy chasing, running or hide-and-seek games.
- ❖ very *intelligent* and quick to learn, but do not like to repeat the same lesson over and over.
- ❖ *obedient* – they love to please.
- ❖ very *easy to manage*.
- ❖ *friendly* – but they are a *naturally cautious* breed. They will take a little time to evaluate new people and places.
- ❖ *highly sensitive and responsive* to their family's wellbeing. People often comment on how their collie tries to comfort them when they are sad, ill or upset.



Typical collie characteristics (continued)

You will find that they:

- ❖ love to interact and be a *part of the family* – they are not a breed to leave in the back yard for long periods without company.
- ❖ have a *well-developed sense of right and wrong*. They don't like to be caught doing something naughty or bad and often look 'guilty' before you even discover their crime. They will also 'tell on' other animals or children who they think are doing something wrong.
- ❖ *know the difference between being hurt intentionally and being hurt accidentally*. They don't easily forgive people who intentionally hurt them. They happily forgive accidents.
- ❖ *love routine* and quickly tune in and understand the household customs and schedules.
- ❖ are *clean dogs*. They hate to be dirty and are very easy to house-train. This doesn't mean they like baths, but most will enjoy being groomed.
- ❖ will be *active when the family is active*, but happy to lounge around in quiet times.



Typical collie characteristics (continued)

You will find that they:

- ❖ are **reliable watchdogs** who will raise the alarm to anything different in their environment, but they are not aggressive in their watchdog roles.
- ❖ typically **respect boundaries** and are not fence jumpers or escape artists. Usually a 1.2m fence can keep them safe. Rarely are they diggers.
- ❖ **love** to go on paddock **walks** or to the beach and will get their feet wet, but **do not like to swim** or get their body wet.
- ❖ are **not destructive**. Many will still have their puppy toys in their old age. However, puppies, especially when teething, may do lots of chewing and sometimes chew things they are not supposed to. They normally pass through this phase quite quickly.
- ❖ are a **herding breed**, and as such **can be vocal**. They will bark to let you know if something is wrong or different; if they want something; if they are bored or feel neglected or lonely. Many will also interact with you by ‘talking’ in response to you talking to them. They communicate through a wide range of barks and sounds. You will come to recognise what each one means.
- ❖ as a breed, have **very few health concerns**, and are considered one of the most robust canine breeds.

Friendly



Kalani

Topaz and Willow



Because the roughs and smooths are one breed, the varieties can be interbred and in the resulting litter, there will usually be both rough and smooth-coated puppies. (You always need one smooth parent for smooth puppies to be born in the litter. Two smooth parents can produce a rough-coated puppy if both are carrying a gene for the rough coat, but two rough parents can never produce a smooth puppy.)

As would be expected, because the two varieties are the same breed, they share the same characteristics. However, breeders and owners have noted minor differences in personality between them. Smooths are described as the clowns of the family and roughs as the thinkers. Regardless, both varieties are easy to train and very intelligent.

Originally, collies were bred to work with shepherds in caring for sheep. Dogs entrusted with this job had to be able to work with a person and take directions, while being intelligent enough to think for themselves. They had to be alert and watchful of their flocks. They also needed to be gentle, nurturing dogs as it was sometimes their job to find lost lambs and bring back sick sheep. As sheepdogs, they were required not to be too friendly with strangers. The shepherds needed loyal, staunch, intelligent companions - not dogs who would socialise all over the district. It was necessary for them to be active when there was a job to do, but to be calm and quiet when the sheep and shepherd were resting.

Even though most collies are not working sheep any longer, they retain these attributes. They train quickly and usually do very well in obedience training. However, because of their intelligence, repetitious training techniques bore them. When bored, they will frequently put a variation on the task. That means they will end up doing what you asked, but in their way!



They take a great interest in all the family members' activities, but frequently they choose one family member as their master or the boss.

Collies often take a keen interest in children and other baby animals, applying their herding and nurturing instincts to them. You can get a distinct feeling that your collie is protecting your children from harm. They are very much a family dog and will be keen to join in

family activities such as walking, jogging, camping, gardening, etc., but at the end of the day, they will also be happy to rest contentedly and quietly alongside their family.

Your collie may be aloof and uninterested in meeting strangers. It is part of its breed heritage. A shepherd or farmer wanted a dog who would give its undivided attention to them. Therefore, collies are not the happy socialisers – party first animals – that some other breeds are. Collies take family duties and other roles a little more seriously. However, that does not mean they do not like to play or have fun times.

They have a highly developed sense of humour and thoroughly enjoy being in on a good joke, but they will be offended if they think the joke is on them and you are laughing at them. Some collies will even ‘smile’ by pulling their lips above their teeth. Many individuals of this breed will also ‘talk’ to you, by making vocal sounds in response to you talking to them.

Collies love to play games that require a bit of imagination. True to their herding instincts, they particularly love running and chasing games and hide-and-seek games. With time, interaction and love, you can develop your collie’s capabilities and skills to an extremely high level. The higher the level you achieve, the more rewarding a companion it will be.

Another strong characteristic is their skill of determining if there is something different or unusual happening in their environment. They will always let you know, making them useful watchdogs. This breed is alert, intelligent and dependable.

When it comes to training, this breed may be led or guided, but never pushed. Treat them kindly and show them what you require, and they will learn very quickly. If you yell at them or handle them roughly, they will refuse to learn and will sulk, disengage and become very stubborn. If you treat collies badly, it can become almost impossible to undo the damage; they do not forgive intended transgressions. However, they will immediately forgive genuine mishaps, such as accidentally stepping on them. They always know the difference between an intended action and an accident.

Collies have a soft, sweet, sensitive personality. They flourish in harmonious environments that have established routines.

A stoic breed: they will bear pain without showing it by whimpering or whining. It can be difficult to tell if they are hurt or unwell. For this reason, it is wise to check with your veterinarian if your dog is limping, stops eating or seems withdrawn. Unlike many other breeds, collies will not limp or whine for sympathy.

Their trademark gentleness, intelligent playfulness and cheekiness will capture you and endear them to you forever. They make loyal, trustworthy companions.

More about the smooth collie

Because the smooth collie is unknown to many people, a few points to consider about this variety are:

- ❖ The minor personality contrasts with their rough siblings.
- ❖ The short coat that is easier to care for and needs less grooming time.

Apart from the coat, breeders feel there are other small differences – even when, in places like Australia, Canada and America, the varieties are interbred. (England and Europe decided to discontinue inter-variety breeding in the late 1900s due to exhibition pressures, which I believe has been to the detriment of both varieties.)

Smooths tend to be a little more resilient (both mentally and physically), vigorous and active. They are also quicker to respond to stimuli.

For example, one saying is: ‘The smooth is doing it, while the rough is still thinking about it’! A good friend of mine jokes that smooths do not need to put energy into growing a coat, therefore they have more to expend in other ways!

Smooths need very little grooming compared to roughs. It is much easier to find grass seeds, ticks or other foreign bodies in their coats and on their skin – making them a particularly good choice for owners who:

- are reluctant groomers
- live on rural properties
- live in tick-infested areas

They are also the best choice for hotter climates as smooths are sunbathers, unlike their rough-coated siblings who seek shade even on mild sunny days. They are winners during the winter months too as they bring less dirt into the home.



Sorell on the farm

Collie colours

The three collie colours (as per the Collie Standard) for both roughs and smooths are:

- ❖ **Sable and white** – all shades from clear gold, through to shaded, red or mahogany sable, with the usual white collie markings. (i.e. a full or part thereof white collar, legs, and tail tip and possibly a blaze on the face). All colours are correct except for ‘straw’ colour.
- ❖ **Blue Merle** – silver blue is correct, but some may be a slate grey, muddy sable grey or even grey with a pink hue. All have black patches and tan points and the typical white collie markings
- ❖ **Tricolour** – A jet black coat with tan points and the usual white collie markings is correct, but some have a dusty (grey-black) coat and others may have black coat hairs that are red tipped. The red can be a sign of sun damage sometimes, but it is also genetic.

SABLE ROUGHS



GOLD SABLE

Aust. Champion Baqilodge Ivy League



SHADED SABLE

Aust. Champion Baqilodge Picaresque



MAHOGANY SABLE

Aust. Champion Baqilodge Quote Unquote

BLUE MERLE PUPPIES



SMOOTH
Vedamea Knock On Heavens Door



ROUGH
Aust. Champion Baqilodge Jewels and Gems

TRICOLOUR SMOOTH



Grand Champion Baqilodge Quizmaster

Collie size

❖ The collie is a medium size dog, with the males generally being a little bigger than the females. However, a large female can be the same size as a smaller male. Regardless of size, females should look feminine and males should look masculine.

❖ **Height** (measured from the top of the shoulder to the ground):

Males: 56–61cm (22–24in)

Females: 51–56cm (20–22in)

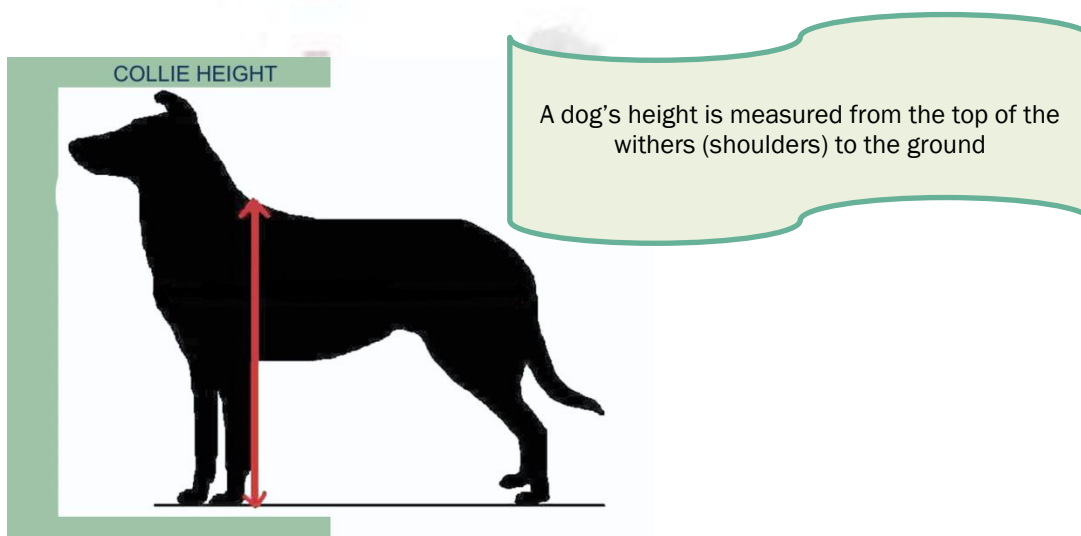
❖ **Weight:**

Males: 20–30kg (45–65lbs)

Females: 18–25kg (40–55lbs)

It would be expected that a collie in excellent condition and weighing in at the top end of the weight range would be at the top end of the height limit too. A collie measuring at the low end of the height range would be expected to be at the bottom end of the weight range.

Sometimes collies can seem to take up the *whole* couch or bed, but they can also tuck themselves into very tight balls and fit into very small spaces. (They've been known to squeeze themselves into laundry baskets for a nap!)



How much space and exercise does a collie need?

- ❖ Collies need less exercise and space to keep them healthy and happy, than most other herding or sheepdog breeds.

The collie's work was to bring sheep from the hills and fields to a fold. Once the sheep were penned, the dog was expected to stop work and lie around until needed again. Therefore, collies were supposed to be active when there was a job to be done, but quiet and 'off the job' until the next task. They still have these characteristics today. They are happy to lie around quietly, keeping an eye on household goings-on, but will eagerly participate in a walk or any other activity when it happens. They are not a high-energy breed like Border Collies, German Shepherds or even Corgis. Collies only require moderate exercise to keep them healthy and happy.

Because of their calm, low energy, they can easily live in town apartments and suburban homes if they have some mental stimulation and regular exercise – like a morning or evening walk. Simple hide-and-seek and ball games, like fetch or catch, can be played in small back yards or dog parks and even inside the home.

Of course, a free run in a paddock or along a beach is the highlight of just about any dog's life – and this is no different for a collie.

All collies should have some form of training and socialisation. While, to the uninitiated, this might seem like hard work, both

training and socialisation can be fun and counted as part of an exercise regime as they provide good mental and physical exercise. There are many clubs offering different activities who gladly welcome new members – for example, herding, obedience, agility, dog dancing clubs and walking associations and even dog showing, to name a few.



Collie health in general

❖ Collies are generally very healthy and have an average life span of 12 years.

Good news – unlike many of the larger breeds of dogs, hip and elbow dysplasia, heart conditions and epilepsy are uncommon.

While, still only affecting small populations of the breed, collies can be struck down with illnesses like lupus, degenerative myelopathy or hypothyroidism. Advances in science are allowing breeders to steadily breed away from many of these diseases – this trend will increase as the sciences mature.

Skin complaints have greatly decreased over the last 30 years and are now considered an ailment of the past. Lack of grooming, bad diets and fleas contribute to most skin problems. With the improvements in nutrition and health care products, breeders and owners now have the tools to keep their collie/s in excellent condition.

There are a few diseases that you might read about on the Internet, which are unheard of in the Australian collie population: like gastric torsion or bloat, entropion, and canine cyclic neutropenia or grey collie syndrome.

Collies do not develop sicknesses more frequently than other breeds or crossbreeds; in fact, they are one of the healthiest breeds. However, the very ‘nature of nature’ means that no living thing is exempt from potential health problems. Collies, like all living creatures, may develop health issues – particularly as they age. Sadly, this is a part of life.

There are, however, two primary health issues that do affect a large percentage of the breed. Luckily, we have some control over both. One is an eye condition called ***Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA)*** that, at its worst expression, can cause vision loss. The other is a disorder, called ***Multi-drug Resistant Sensitivity*** (previously known as Ivermectin Sensitivity), – which creates an adverse reaction to specific drugs. Thankfully, other drugs can be used, to replace the drugs that cannot be used for dogs with this disorder.

Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA)

Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA) is a term applied to a set of abnormalities affecting the development of the retina and optic nerve in the eye. Specialist eye equipment is required to see these abnormalities, and therefore all collie puppies should be tested, by an ophthalmologist, for CEA between 6-8 weeks of age. The primary concerns are *choroidal hypoplasia* and *colobomas*. Mostly though, the outcome of eye examinations (where colobomas are *not* detected) matters only to the breeder and their choice of puppies retained for breeding. CEA is not a painful condition, and there is no treatment or cure for it.



Choroidal hypoplasia (CH), one of the abnormalities, presents as a pale area lateral to the optic disc. It is the most common expression of the CEA complex and often the only defect to be seen. It accounts for the majority of collie eye lesions.

Choroidal hypoplasia does not affect vision, so if the puppy **does** have this part of the CEA complex it will **not** have eyesight problems. If, when tested, the puppy's eye status is CH, it will not change in its entire life. i.e. it will not get worse and it will not get better. Choroidal hypoplasia doesn't cause the owner or the affected collie any problems. It is, however, a factor breeders need to know about in their breeding programs.

"Choroidal hypoplasia is a relatively minor non-advancing condition that by itself causes no functional visual deficit".

Dr Bruce Robinson,
Ophthalmologist, Sydney.

A coloboma is a hole in one of the structures of the eye. A coloboma may occur in one or both eyes and it may cause vision loss. Depending on the size of the coloboma and where it is sited (retina, choroid or optic disc) will determine how much of the puppy's vision is affected. The range is from an undetectable loss of vision to total blindness. Total blindness is rare though. There is also a chance of retinal detachment in eyes that have a large coloboma, and if this happens the puppy will be blind in the eye of the detachment. The ophthalmologist will note colobomas on the eye certificate and the breeder is required to disclose this to new owners, and the extent to which the puppy is affected.

We suspect CEA has been with us for a very long time because it is widespread in the collie breed. Until the advent of sophisticated medical equipment to look into the eye, most cases would have been undetectable – allowing the breed to become saturated with this problem. Breeders are working to decrease the instances of CEA while protecting genetic diversity within the breed. To this end, there has been a significant reduction in colobomas – the worst aspect of CEA. Research continues into [Collie Eye Anomaly](#).

Multi-drug Resistant Sensitivity (MDR1)

Depending on their genetic makeup, collies (and other white-footed herding breeds) may be sensitive to certain drugs – possibly with fatal consequences. The most commonly used of these drugs is Ivermectin, which is an ingredient in some worming products (particularly products for heartworm).

Ivermectin came into medical use in 1975. The illness and sometime fatal reaction of some collies to Ivermectin alerted breeders and eventually veterinarians and drug companies to the problem we now know as multi-resistant drug sensitivity (MRD1). (For some time, this condition was just known as Ivermectin Sensitivity).

Research has proved that some collies (and some individuals of other breeds) have a gene mutation known as MDR1. These dogs are not genetically equipped to stop Ivermectin (and some other drugs) from crossing the blood/brain barrier, causing severe poisoning.

While a test is available to check for the MDR1 gene mutation, to eliminate all risk, it is a wise policy to treat all collies as ‘affected’ – even if the test shows the dog to be clear or free of this mutation. (I know of an instance of a test result being inaccurate). This policy also eliminates the possibility of one dog’s medical information being confused with another’s and of test results being mis-remembered in the heat of a crisis, etc.

While most veterinarians are well versed in the MDR1 mutation and have a policy of ‘white feet, don’t treat’ [with drugs that can cross the blood/brain barrier]), it is sensible to remind them.

Multi-resistant drug sensitivity is covered more fully in this booklet on [page 61](#).

Breeders are working to decrease and eliminate MDR1 from their breeding programs.

Pedigree papers: Will my collie be registered on the main register or the limited register?

- ❖ Discuss, with me, any activities or plans you have for your collie as soon as possible *and before purchase*.
- ❖ Baqilodge puppies are registered on the limited register unless they are acquired for exhibition (showing) and breeding.

Pedigree papers do not assure the quality, health or temperament of your dog. A pedigree is a record of ancestors: sire (dad), dam (mum), grandsire, granddam, etc. Simply, these papers are a family tree validated by a certified animal registry.

If your collie is to be your pet or companion, you may or may not be interested in knowing more about their family. However, if you intend to show and breed your dog, obtaining accurate information about their background is critical. The pedigree will be your keystone to the research you will need to do before you continue with a breeding plan.

What does it mean to be a main registered Baqilodge collie?

Main registered puppies have a validated Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) pedigree, issued through Dogs Tasmania.

At Baqilodge, we consider main registered puppies to have the potential qualities for showing and breeding. These puppies are placed in show homes. Consequently, they are more expensive than puppies placed on the limited register.

Bloodlines determine the price of our main registered puppies.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LIMITED

Certified Pedigree

Registered Owner: Miss M Bester 7005001930

Name: BAQILODGE NICKLE AND DIME 7100035233

Breed: Collie (Rough) Country of Origin: Australia

Sex: Male Microchip No: 95600004381484

Date of Birth: 11/12/2015

Colour: Sable & White

Sire: AM CH. BLOSSOM HILL TOAST OF THE TOWN (IMP USA) DN35862303
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

Dam: CH. BAQILODGE JEWELS AND GEMS 7100030795
[Blue, Merle] Collie (Rough)

Sire: AM CH. TIMELESS GOLDEN WARRIOR (USA) DL78838804
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

S. AM GR CH EDENROCK GOLD TRACE (USA) DN15002402
[Sable & White] Collie (Rough)

D. AM CH. JANCIN'S LEGACY AT EDENROCK (USA) DN08825602
[Black, White & Tan] Collie (Smooth)

S. AM CH. BLOSSOM HILL BROTHER THOMAS (USA) DN15058803
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

D. AM CH. BLOSSOM HILL PETITE GRAH (USA) DN25395202
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

D. AM CH. BLOSSOM HILL CIRCLE OF LIFE (USA) DN04988801
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

S. BAQILODGE TASSIE TIGER 7100019092
[Tricolour] Collie (Rough)

S. SWINBRAD JAMAICA BLU TIGER 2100342045
[Blue, Merle] Collie (Rough)

D. CH. SWINBRAD JAMAICA FANTASY 2100237856
[Blue, Merle] Collie (Rough)

S. CH. CORYDON BLACK ZERKES (IMP UK) AB02421702
[Tricolour] Collie (Rough)

D. CH. BAQILODGE QUITE SO 7100017586
[Tricolour] Collie (Rough)

D. AM CH. CH. BLOSSOM HILL AMERICAN DREAM (IMP USA) DN23550004
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

Bred by: Miss M Bester 7005001930
Date Registered: 11/02/2016 Date Issued: 11/02/2016
Issued by: Dogs Tasmania 9137

What does it mean to be a limited registered Baqilodge collie?

Limited registered puppies are issued an ANKC validated limited register pedigree, through Dogs Tasmania. This pedigree has the same information found on a main registered pedigree.

Puppies have the same general care, socialisation, attention and love as well as the same health checks and vaccinations. They are microchipped and wormed along with any main registered puppies, before going to their new homes.

Certificate of Registration and Pedigree
Limited Register

Registered Owner: Miss M Bester 7005001930

Name: BAQILODGE HARPS AND ANGELS 7100029345LR

Breed: Collie (Smooth) Country of Origin: Australia

Sex: Female Microchip No: 941000014876121

Date of Birth: 09/02/2013

Colour: Tricolour

Sire: CH. BAQILODGE BUSINESS AS USUAL 7100023647
[Sable & White] Collie (Smooth)

Dam: BAQILODGE XMAS EVE (AQ) 7100021515
[Tricolour] Collie (Rough)

Bred by: Miss M Bester 7005001930
Date Registered: 22/05/2013 Date Issued: 24/05/2013
Issued by: Dogs Tasmania

ANKC
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL CLUB

However, there are differences between main registered and limited registered **Baqilodge** puppies.

Main registered puppies have no restrictions applied, but limited registered puppies are restricted and different in the *three* following ways:

1. They are not eligible for:

- conformation showing
- breeding
- overseas export

They are, however, eligible for all other events including obedience, trialling, herding, agility, therapy dogs, etc. They can be purchased and transported by people in all States of Australia.

2. If at a future date, offspring are produced by a limited registered dog, the puppies will not be recognised by the ANKC or by any of the other State Associations. That means any offspring cannot be registered as purebred or obtain a validated pedigree.
3. **At Baqilodge:** Limited registered puppies are priced lower than main registered puppies – reflecting the fact they are not for breeding or showing.

The Breeder

Regardless of anything else, always choose a puppy from a breeder who:

- ❖ breeds for the betterment and the love of the breed.
- ❖ is **actively** involved, in at least one of, the ANKC disciplines e.g. performance, obedience, exhibition or other dog sports.
- ❖ is a member of other dog club/s or committee/s (as well as their State Canine Association).
- ❖ has an interest in the breed that extends beyond their own collies and kennel.
(For example: they will know and work with other collie breeders – most likely both nationally and internationally.) Ask for evidence of these things
- ❖ There are many essential features of being a responsible [reputable dog breeder](#), but one of the **most important** is that a breeder networks with other breeders of their breed. It is the only way to access a wide and tested gene pool. It is also the only way to acquire the resources and tools to profile pedigrees and track physical and mental health, breed characteristics and structure - both within individual breeding programs and across the breed as a whole. It is the only way to keep a breed healthy and sound.

Breeders who work in isolation have their focus on business. It would be most unlikely that they have a depth of knowledge across the breed, access to proven blood lines, or to other breeder's health records. They are most likely puppy farmers.

Breeding dogs is an art form embedded in science. Tremendous commitment, time, study and experience with their chosen breed are the hallmarks of a good breeder.

When enquiring about a puppy, be open about your expectations, your home environment and your experience and knowledge of dogs. Discuss any plans you have for specific activities with your collie – e.g. showing, herding, agility, pet therapy etc.

Be prepared to answer questions. I need to know what you are seeking in a puppy. I will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Be prepared to listen to advice when selecting a puppy. (Matching the puppy's attitude and aptitude with you and your family is far more important than markings or colour). You may need to wait to get the puppy you want – the one who is the right fit with you.

Puppies might not be available at the time you ask. In that case, you might be directed to another reputable breeder or invited to place your name on one of the Baqilodge waiting lists.

Established in 1986, Baqilodge's foundation was set by two rough female collies imported from the world renown, English, [Corydon Collies](#). Over the years a further two tricolour males have joined us from Corydon, the last one arriving in 2014. The Baqilodge smooth line began with the beautiful, 'Anika', in 2003, when she left her famous Blossom Hill Collie home in California, USA to join us. In 2013, one of her relatives, 'American Champion Dennis', became part of our family as well.

Bred from these strong lineages, with infusions of Australia's most successful bloodlines, Baqilodge collies have been, and continue to be, valued in many fields, e.g. family companions, winning show dogs, obedience trialling champions, therapy, service and working dogs.

**The mother of 'Anika' –
Am and Aust Ch. Blossom
Hill American Dream
[YouTube Video:](#)
Am Champion Blossom
Hill Full Circle (ROM) -
A.K.A. 'Cinnamon'**

This is Cinnamon's last appearance as # 1 smooth collie at the Top Ten Presentation at the Collie Club of America 2003. Embraced by a standing ovation during her entire time in the ring, she brought many people to tears. She remains the Top Winning Best in Show Collie, Rough or Smooth, in the history of the breed with 28 All Breed Best in Show.

BAQILODGE COLLIES

OUR COLLIES ARE TRULY ACCOMPLISHED AND CAN PROVE THEIR FORM & FUNCTION

BREEDING

Best In Show
Ch Corydon Black Zerkex (Imp UK)



42 Offspring – 14 CHAMPIONS, including BIS, RUBIS, BIG, RUBIG. All have Class in Show and Group both in Tasmania and Mainland Aust.
(The three roughs pictured below are his offspring)
Owned by Corydon, Pinto and Baqilodge.

Runner-up Best In Show
Ch & Am Ch Blossom Hill American Dream (Imp USA)



13 Offspring – 9 CHAMPIONS (PLUS MATILDA ON 99 POINTS). Her children have been DOL, Point Score Breed and RU/Up Breed Leaders, BIS, RUBIS, BIG, RUBIG. All have class in Group and most Class in Show awards both in Tasmania and mainland Australia.

CONFORMATION

Best In Show
Grand Champion Baqilodge Paid The Piper



BEST IN SHOW AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WINNER
Owned and loved by Julie Kaden.

Ch Baqilodge Quite So - Best In Show
Ch Baqilodge Picaresque - RU/Up Best In Show



2010 VIC. COLLIE CLUB CHAMP SHOW – the largest Collie show in Australia. This was 3rd time in the last 4 years that a Baqilodge collie has taken out BEST IN SHOW at this annual event. Both girls are currently being exhibited in Victoria by Kayy Collies

BAQILODGE COLLIES

OUR COLLIES ARE TRULY ACCOMPLISHED AND CAN PROVE THEIR FORM & FUNCTION

OBEDIENCE

Baqilodge Unstoppable



Matilda and her 13 year old handler, Brooke Tinsley, won TOP OBEDIENCE DOG AND HANDLER OF THE YEAR, 2010 (WA). Brooke is the youngest handler ever to win this top award at her club. Matilda only needs 1 point (or 1 CC) for her conformation title.

SERVICE/THERAPY

Baqilodge Unannounced



www.cusp.org.au

WORKING

Baqilodge Vin Diesel



Peter works on a large sheep station in NSW with a number of other dogs. His boss says he is their best yard and shed dog and that he does well out in the paddocks/fields too. He is a dedicated worker and hates to be 'off the job' (He is also the only dog to sleep beside the boss' bed each night.)

Several Baqilodge Collies hold herding titles.

COMPANIONS

Baqilodge Collies



A Baqilodge Collie's first job is to bring happiness, comfort, and companionship to their families. Supervising all human activities is mandatory. They all excel in this field.

Thank you to all the people who adore Baqilodge Collies and give them the opportunities to be so successful.

Mim Bester, Baqilodge Collies, www.baqilodge.com. +61 (0)3 6265 2102

Summing up



Prada

Capable of town living (including apartments)

Can be left alone

Tolerance to cold

Tolerance to heat

Tolerance to noise – e.g. thunder, gunshots

Interaction with family

Child friendly

Dog friendly

Friendly towards strangers

Friendly towards other animals

Ease of grooming

Amount of grooming

Amount of shedding

General health

Potential for weight gain

Size

Life span

Intelligence

Training capacity

Mouthing/licking

Drooling

Prey Drive

Tendency to bark

Escape or wanderlust

Energy level

Energy Intensity

Exercise requirements

Playfulness

Yes – but needs daily exercise.

Yes - for periods. However, needs to feel and be part of the family.

Excellent – especially the roughs. Smooths might need a coat if temperatures are low over night and they are housed outside the home.

Fair– must have shade and shelter. Smooths do better than roughs.

Fair – most hate very loud noises. They can be trained to tolerate them.

Devoted to family.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes – but may be reserved until they have evaluated the new person.

Yes – especially when socialised properly.

Easy to groom especially when trained and it's done regularly.

Roughs - 20 minutes weekly – more when shedding or if done irregularly; Smooths - a few minutes weekly.

A major coat drop once a year.

Excellent – most do not require any veterinary intervention until their geriatric years.

Moderate – especially if neutered.

Medium.

Average 12 years.

Very high.

Very high.

Low.

Collies do not drool. They are a tight-lipped breed.

The chase instinct is high, the kill instinct is low.

Moderate to high - barking is normal in a herding breed. Can be trained to be quiet.

Low.

Low to medium.

Low - i.e. gentle – not boisterous.

Medium – for health.

Medium – loves to play games but is not obsessive.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE AND AFTER YOUR COLLIE PUPPY ARRIVES

SECTION 1: LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND KEEPING YOUR PUPPY SAFE

Settling your puppy in and the first night

- ❖ Feed and toilet the puppy before bed.
- ❖ Keep the house quiet.
- ❖ Make its bed warm.
- ❖ Be kind and patient.
- ❖ Establish the rules from the word go.



The first week, and particularly the nights, might be a little challenging for you and your new puppy.

It will miss its litter mates and be puzzled and lonely for a short time. Keep the environment quiet and orderly until it settles in. For example, it would be inappropriate to take the pup to its new home and then have a very loud party with lots of people coming and going that night. This would be too many new things for it to cope with in one day. How you settle in your new puppy will have a big influence on its whole character. If you overwhelm your puppy you could ruin it forever.

You should have decided where your pup will sleep and play before you collect it. You will already have its bed ready. If it has been a little upset on the trip, or if it has been a long trip, the puppy will be tired. Offer a drink of water and then take it to the spot you want it to use as the toilet area; see if it will 'go' for you. After this, put the puppy into its bed and let it sleep for a while. If it does not want to sleep, let it have a quiet investigation of its new play area. This is a good chance for you to see if the area is going to be secure.

After the puppy has had time to settle and has had a nap or a play, offer it something to eat (within an hour or two of arriving home). It is wise, however, to give the final meal for the day about an hour before you go to bed. The puppy can eat, be taken out to the toilet area and then settled into bed with a chance to get used to it before you leave it for the night. Do not expect it to lay quietly if there is a lot of movement in the house; it will want to join in and will likely cry or bark to get your attention.

Give the puppy a little time to settle after you have gone to bed. If it does not settle quietly, it probably is missing the warmth and company of its litter mates and will be trying to let them know where it is. If the pup is unhappy, go to it but *do not* give in and take it to your bed – unless you are prepared to share your bed with it every night. Once started, this habit is hard to break. Instead, give it a little warmth in its bed (especially if it is a cold night). Fill a hot water bottle, wrap it very well in several towels or blankets and place it under the bedding. (Make sure there is no possible way the puppy can harm or burn itself or chew into the hottie.) It might just need a cuddly, woolly toy that it can curl up with for comfort.



I know you will not want to be kept awake all night by your puppy's crying, but do not get upset or angry with it. Your puppy has had a big change, and it will soon get past this period. Be patient, but firm.

Of course, it may not be as bad as all this and the puppy may go to sleep without any fuss.

Making sure your puppy has a safe place

❖ Check your yard and house to make sure it is puppy-safe and dog-friendly.

One of the responsibilities of owning a dog is to keep it safe, which is probably hardest when the dog is still a young puppy. Puppies are often mischievous and like to investigate every nook and cranny and anything new, making them a little more vulnerable to trouble than older dogs. Before you let your puppy into the garden or house, look around to see if there might be anything that could cause it harm.

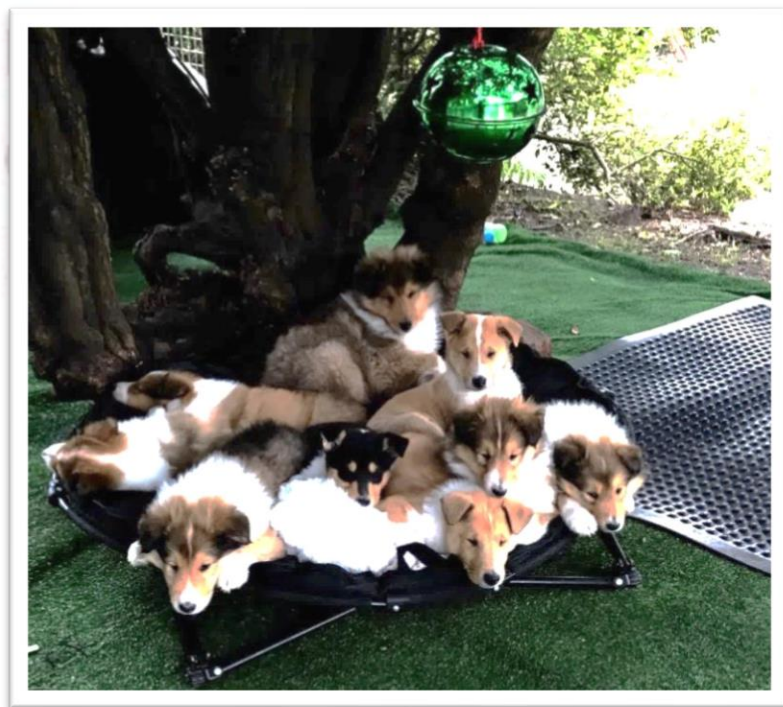
Keep these things in mind

- **Small objects**, such as rubber bands, hair clips, paper clips, children's small toys, bottle tops etc. are items that can choke a dog or cause problems later if swallowed. Keep a check of your house floors and outside yard/s to make sure small chewable items are not available.
- **Electrical wires** or cords can be fatal if your dog chews on a cord that is plugged in and turned on. Electrical cords that are plugged in, but turned off, are still dangerous. Unplug any equipment that is not necessary. If you need the appliance, you can tape the cord to the wall. Even better, do not let your puppy into that room. Young puppies will chew on just about anything – especially while they are teething.
- **Poisonous items**, such as detergents, bleach, rat bait, snail bait, fuels (petrol etc.) kept in your house or your garage must be secured. Make sure your dog cannot knock them down and spill them.
- **Keep your toilet lid closed.** A puppy can fall in and get stuck or drink water contaminated with a poisonous cleaner.
- Lock up or **put your puppy or dog in a safe area when using lawn mowers, whipper snipers, electrical saws or similar equipment.** Some dogs become excited;

Try always be
mindful of *where*
your dog is and
what it is doing.

others distressed, by the noise made by this type of equipment and they may even try to bite the tool, which could have disastrous consequences for them and you!

- If your driveway goes through the yard that your puppy or dog is in, and you need to drive your car through, put your puppy or dog in a secure place first. It can be near impossible to see a dog when it runs close to the car. Even just a slight bump with a heavy vehicle can kill your dog. Generally, **collies do not have any 'road sense'** and usually try to 'round up' cars by circling them.
- **Check your yard, fences, and gates** to make sure the area is secure, so your puppy cannot get out. Some puppies can be very clever at digging their way out. Even though collies are not usually 'diggers' or 'jumpers,' you could be unfortunate enough to have one who is. Collies can also manage to get through gaps that you would not believe to be large enough. It is much better to be *sure* than *sorry*, so pay close attention to holes and spaces and any fences that have gaps under them.
- **Garbage bins** can be attractive to dogs and may hold many dangerous things – e.g. cooked chicken bones, empty insecticide bottles, cigarette butts etc. Make sure lids are on tightly and cannot come off even if the bin is knocked over.



It looks like they would never get into any mischief !

Keeping your dog safe from poisons

- ❖ Many things are toxic to dogs if eaten. The lists below are not complete, but they might act as reminders to keep dangerous things out of your pet's reach.
- ❖ If your dog has eaten something poisonous, call your vet.
- ❖ Thankfully, most collie puppies are far too wise (and fussy) to poison themselves!

Garden plants poisonous to dogs

Azalea (leaves)	Larkspur (all parts)
Burning Bush (leaves)	Laurel (all parts)
Calla Lily (all parts)	Lily of the Valley (all parts)
Castor Beans (seed)	Lupins (seed)
Cherry (seed)	Mistletoe (all parts)
Columbine (berry)	Mountain Laurel (all parts)
Daffodil (bulb)	Mock Orange (fruit)
Dumb Cane (all parts)	Narcissus (bulb)
Daphne (all parts)	Oleander (all parts)
Elephant Ear (all parts)	Philodendron (all parts)
Four o'clock (root and seeds)	Pimpernel (all parts)
Foxglove (leaves)	Potato (green/seed sprouts)
Holly (berries)	Rhododendron (all parts)
Iris (root)	Scotch Broom (seed)
Ivy (leaves)	Spider Lily (bulb)
Jessamine (all parts)	Sweet Pea (stems)
Jimson Weed (all parts)	Tulip (bulb)
Latina (all parts)	

Foods toxic to dogs

- Chocolate – If enough is eaten it can be fatal. Dark chocolate is more dangerous than milk chocolate or white chocolate.
- Grapes/raisins – even just a few can cause kidney failure.
- Potatoes
- Xylitol – any food that contains this sweetener. It is 100 times more toxic than chocolate. It is used in lollies, many processed foods, chewing gum, etc.
- Salt or very salty foods e.g. pretzels, crisps.
- Onions – can lead to red blood cell damage.
- Alcohol
- Macadamia nuts – can cause vomiting, tremors and hyperthermia.
- Cow's milk – some dogs cannot break down the lactose in milk, causing stomach ache and diarrhoea.

Other

- Antifreeze – even a lick or two will cause kidney failure.
- Household cleaners – bleach etc.
- Snail bait, rat bait, etc.
- Human medications: It is important to understand that while a medicine may be safe for children, it may not be safe for animals. Never treat your dog with human remedies without checking with your veterinarian first e.g.
 - human prescription drugs – like antibiotics.
 - over-the-counter medications such as pain killers, anti-diarrhoea medication, etc.
 - herbal medicines.



Nearly 50% of all pet poisonings involve human drugs. Dogs metabolise medications very differently from people and even simple over-the-counter or herbal treatments may cause acute poisoning in a dog.

If your collie has accidentally ingested a human over-the-counter or prescription medication, call your veterinarian immediately.

Housing your collie

- ❖ Collies should have a secure, comfortable, protected space of their own where they will be undisturbed.

Having an area all its own, such as a bed or kennel, where it can go to rest or sleep undisturbed will give a dog a great sense of security.

Before collecting your collie puppy, you should already have decided where this area is to be and have it ready. It might take time for it to realise this place is theirs, but if you physically put it to bed each night it will not take long.

The type of housing you need for your dog will depend on where it is to sleep and where it will spend most of its time.

While the puppy is little, a safe and good solution for a sleeping area is either a travelling crate or a wooden box about 75cm (30 inches) in every dimension; leave one side open as the entrance. Across the entrance place a board, about 15cm (6 inches) high; this will keep in bedding and keep out draughts. You can make a grate from weld mesh to hook onto the top and bottom of the front of the box, so you can close it off and contain the pup at night. Some people like to offer their puppy a drink of water last thing at night just before taking it to the toilet and putting it to bed; water is then not available until early rising the following morning. I prefer to use a coop cup that can hook onto the weld mesh, so water is available all the time.

There are advantages to locking your puppy in its box/crate at night:

- Your puppy will feel secure.
- You will know your puppy is safe.
- You will know your house and belongings are safe!
- It is one of the quickest ways to housetrain a puppy.

Collies hate being dirty, and they will try hard to keep their bed clean. If you do keep your collie locked in its bed at night, you must be up early to take it for its toilet. You may find the bedding is already wet or dirty. Do not growl at it. It will not have complete bladder control until it is 9–12 months old. Just make sure you change the bedding. If you *always* put your

collie back into clean bedding, it will try to keep it clean. It is also important to set-up a routine and let it out around the same time every morning. You will find it will try to wait until it can 'go' outside. If you do not stick to regular times, it will not know when it will be let out, and it will not even try to wait.

It is not cruel to lock your puppy up at night – provided it has a large enough area. Dogs need to be able to stand up and turn around and comfortably stretch out on their side when they lie down. The bed also needs to be clean, airy, dry, and free from draughts. Never leave your collie in its crate/box longer than six to eight hours at a time. Do not place the box next to or near a fire or heater in case it gets too hot. As long as it is draught-free, your collie will be quite comfortable in a cooler corner of the kitchen, laundry or spare room.

The box described above will be big enough for a collie for the rest of its life. When your puppy is trained, and more reliable, you might find that it is not necessary to lock it in at night.

Here are some examples of sleeping boxes or crates. All you need to add is a blanket or crate pad and a drinking container, such as a coop cup.



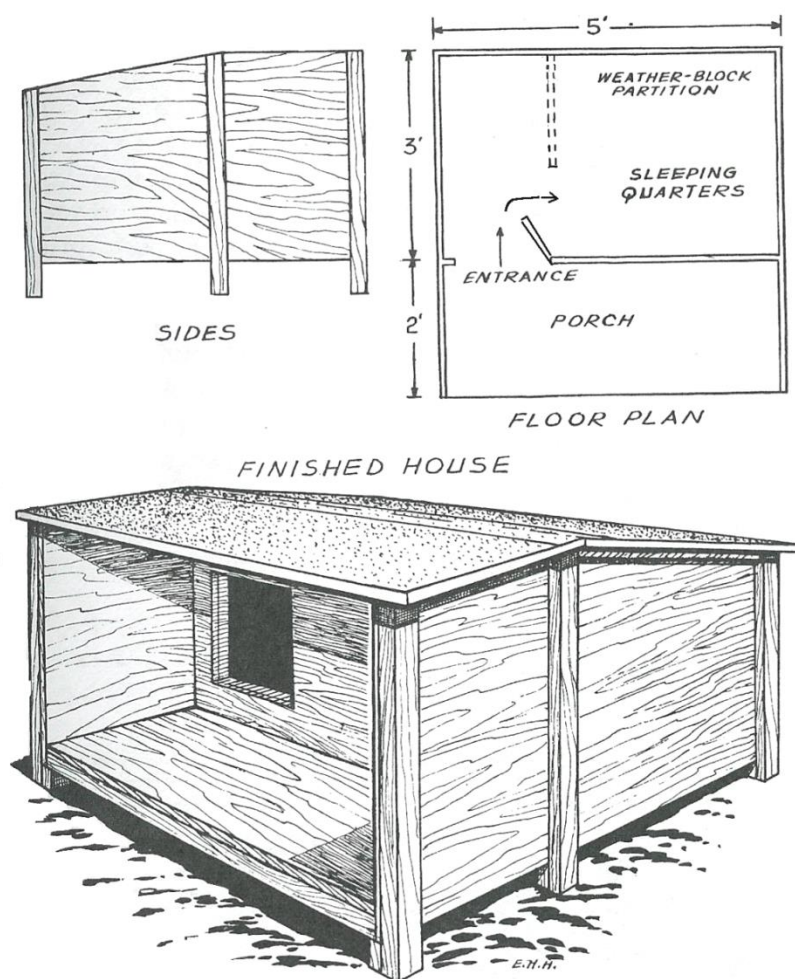
Coop cups will clip onto the door of the crate.



If you decide that your puppy will sleep in a kennel in the yard, be sure it is waterproof and that the wind and rain cannot enter via the door. It should be raised 5 centimetres (2 to 3 inches) off the ground to stop damp.

Below is a good kennel design, which was published in *'This is the Collie'*, Esther McCloskey, TFH Publications 1963. The roof of the sleeping area can be hinged to make it easier to clean and change the bedding. (If you make this roof a hinged lid, remember to make sure it is still waterproof.)

You might think this kennel looks elaborate but when you consider your collie could be using it for 10–16 years it is well worth the investment.



Never tie your collie to a chain or rope. Too many things can go wrong.

Dogs have been known to hang and die on ropes and chains. It is much better and a lot kinder to have them free but penned in a contained area.

Preferred housing is like the one below where you can securely and comfortably enclose your dog.

Preferred housing in an enclosed yard



Having a secure area like this in your yard, where your dog can stay when you have tradespeople in (or when people will be in and out of your home or garden), means gates to your yard can be left open while people are working and you do not have to worry about your dog's safety. It is also the best place for your dog to be when you are mowing lawns or using other 'non-dog-friendly' equipment.

An area like this will keep your dog well protected from all weather conditions and is a perfectly acceptable way to house it for sleeping at night or while you are away from home.

Offer and give a treat each time it goes into its enclosure and give it some toys (make sure they are safe dog toys) to play with to help pass the time.

However, a dog could not be expected to spend all its time in this kind of environment. It must have 'family time' and company, and that means your time and attention. On release, it will need to burn off some energy, so a game or a walk will be on the cards.

SECTION 2: GROOMING

Grooming equipment

- ❖ Your basic grooming kit should consist of brush/es, scissors, combs, nail clippers and a spray bottle.



Grooming products

- ❖ Shampoo, conditioner and hydrating spray.
- ❖ Use quality products. Over the years, I've tried them all and like [Melanie Newman](#) products the best.

Refresh Collection

Benefits

- Rich in avocado oil helps improves damaged coat
- Hydrating coat and skin
- Moisturising dry and brittle coat
- Natural whitener

Coat Types

- Double coated
- Short coat

Breeds

- Collie rough
- Collie smooth



Lemon Myrtle, Citrus & Avocado



REFRESH Coat Conditioning Spray

- Detangles & repairs damaged coat
- Can be used on a wet or dry coat
- Use for brushing in between bathing



REFRESH Cologne

Hydrating spray using therapeutic grade essential oils to use on coats in between and after a bath or on bedding.

Grooming your collie

- ❖ You can easily keep your collie in excellent condition with a quick weekly groom.
- ❖ If you are not prepared to do the grooming yourself, then your collie should visit a professional groomer every 4–6 weeks.

Both rough and smooth collies should have at least one grooming session per week – how long this takes will depend on several factors. Of course, the rough will take a little longer to brush than the smooth. If groomed regularly, most times it will take less than 15 minutes to have a rough coat collie looking great.

Usually, grooming means a good brush, getting right down to the skin, making sure there are no knots or mats in the hair and that the skin and the coat are in a healthy condition. It is only necessary to bath occasionally – usually a couple of times a year – if you brush your collie well in between times and it is free from parasites.

Some factors that will determine how long your grooming time will be

- How dirty is your dog? The weather can have an influence here.
- Has it been groomed regularly, or is this its first brush in months?
- Is it shedding its coat to grow a new one?

Basic grooming equipment

- A good quality **pin brush** (without knobs or balls on the end of the pins)
- A **fine metal tooth comb** (flea comb)
- A **wide tooth comb or rotating tooth comb** (for when it is shedding its coat)
- A **boar bristle brush** (optional)
- **Spray bottles** – for water and/or coat conditioner
- **Nail clippers**
- **Scissors** (quality sharp scissors, preferably blunt-ended or round-ended)
- **Toothbrush** and dog **Toothpaste**
- A **towel** or two



The best and easiest grooming position for you and your collie

The easiest position for grooming (for you and for your collie) is to have your dog lie on its side. If you have a grooming table or an old bench that is about your hip height, so much the better; train your dog to lie on top of the table. It will be so much easier on your back than grooming while it lies on the floor. When your collie reaches senior years, you will be so pleased you trained it to accept this position, as old dogs find it very difficult to stand still to be groomed. (See diagram on [page 45](#) and read [page 104](#) to teach your dog this position).

If you begin regular weekly grooming of your collie while it is still a baby, you will find it will learn to stay still and will enjoy the time spent with you. Weekly grooming also allows you to keep a good check on the condition of its skin. You will be aware of sores, cut feet, lumps or fleas etc. before they become a serious problem. During summer, grass seeds can be a major problem for collies, especially the roughs with their big coats. You may need to groom each day – keeping a close look-out for any foreign bodies in the coat. Grass seeds pierce the skin and enter the soft tissue of the dog. When this happens they usually have to be surgically removed by a vet.

Finally, keep a close lookout for matted hair in the rough's coat. The first place this is likely to happen is behind the ears, where the hair is fine and silky, or under the legs.

If knots and mats are left they can cause sores, and at that stage, they will have to be cut out to be remove.

Comb fine, silky hairs

with a fine metal-toothed comb to keep them free from tangles.



Bathing your collie

Choose a warm, breezy day to bath your collie. It only needs a bath a couple of times per year when it is dirty down to its skin, or is having a problem with fleas, or has gotten something on or through its coat. Be prepared to spend a few hours bathing, drying and grooming. Be

warned – if your dog is let loose immediately after a bath without being dried, it will take itself to the nearest pile of dirt and roll in it! This is its way of drying off and you will probably have to start again.

Another good time to bath your collie is when it starts to shed its coat (which happens about every 8–12 months), or if you have a bitch that has not been spayed, about three months after her season. Bathing and combing at this time will help loosen the dead coat; you will get rid of it faster, and that means (a) you will have less hair to pick up and (b) your collie will start to grow its new coat sooner. Several baths over a month or two might be necessary at this time.



Anika



Hardy

Well Groomed Collies



Regent

Grooming techniques

- ❖ After a robust brushing, you will be surprised how good your collie will look (and feel).
- ❖ Train your collie to lie on its side for grooming because this is the least exhausting position for both you and your dog. This arrangement is particularly important for a collie rough because your grooming time is going to be longer than when grooming a smooth.

The smooth coat

With a smooth coat collie, spray the coat heavily with water, rub in well with your fingers and then towel off excess moisture. You can do this a couple of times if you think your collie needs it. After you feel the coat is clean and the excess moisture is towelled off, run a comb through the coat several times to take out any loose or dead hair. Then brush your dog with a soft bristle brush until the coat is dry. Do a final spray mist with the Refresh Coat Conditioning Spray, followed by a mist of Refresh Cologne to keep the coat hydrated.

The rough coat

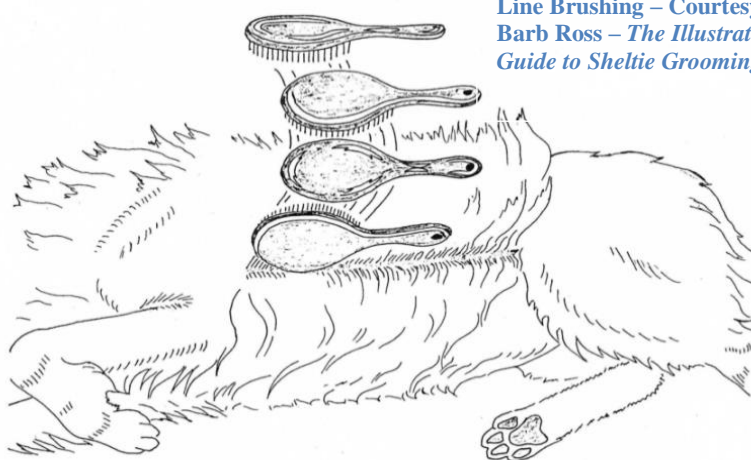
As with the smooth, take your spray bottle with water and give the coat a heavy spraying so it is quite damp. Gently knead the moisture through the coat, and then use a towel to soak up any excess water. Now lay the dog down on its side. Start brushing, using the line brushing technique.

Line brushing technique

The easiest way to make sure you groom down to the skin is to use a method called 'line brushing'.

With your collie lying on its side, using your pin brush, start under the chest

and belly by parting the hair through the middle until you get a line of skin from the front legs to the back legs. Use the Refresh Coat Condition Spray to mist along the parted hair line. With your brush free hand, lightly hold the hair below the line and brush the hair up to form



Line Brushing – Courtesy of Barb Ross – *The Illustrated Guide to Sheltie Grooming*

another part about an inch above the first part; spray and brush again. Keep doing this until you have brushed the dog's entire side and under its chest, tummy, back legs and pants/skirt.

Now turn the dog over and repeat the process on the other side. After you have groomed both

Pin Brush:

Use the pin brush for untangling and grooming the coat.

Bristle Brush:

After you have finished grooming, use the bristle brush as a polishing brush to give a good sheen to the coat.

sides of the dog, with the fine metal-tooth comb or flea comb, comb through the hair on the face, head and behind the ears. Keep a close watch for tangles and knots behind the ears. Finish by brushing the bib or shirt hair on the chest. At this point, you might find it easier to get the dog off the table and sit it between your legs, with its back to you. Leaning over it, and starting from in between its front legs, hold most of the chest hair up, brushing a few inches downwards at a time. Take care to brush down to the skin. As you get further up the chest, you will have to hold its head back, so you can brush underneath its chin.

Finally, stand the dog up and give it a final mist and firm brushing – going against the lay of the coat. Usually at

this point, after you stop, the dog will shake, and you will find the coat will settle into its proper place. A gentle touch up with the brush should leave your collie looking fantastic.

Do not forget to tell your dog how good it looks! Let it know that you are pleased with it and that the grooming session was pleasant – for you at least, even if it didn't think it was so great. With this attitude on your part it will not take long to convince it that it really is an enjoyable experience.

If you are worried about your dog being a bit smelly, sprinkle Johnson's Baby Powder through the coat, particularly through the skirt or pants, and then brush it out. (Make sure the hair is dry before you do this, because the powder will clagg if it is damp)



Follow up with a light spray of Refresh Cologne

Trimming

Very little trimming is done on the collie – even for show purposes.

Smooths

Trim the hair from around the bottom of the feet, so it is not covering the pads.

Roughs

Trim excess hair from around each toe and under the foot so there is no hair covering the pads. Neaten the hair on the hocks. The long hair from around the ears can be thinned and neaten too. This trimming makes a collie look a bit tidier.

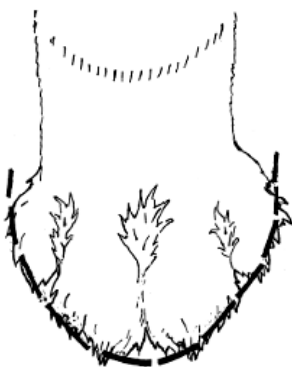
Trimming the hair from the feet and hocks helps to keep feet cleaner from winter mud, and in summer it makes it easier to find grass seeds etc.

It is not essential to tidy the ears. You only need to make sure the hair in this region does not become matted. If you do want to trim and neaten the ears, you will need some training otherwise it will look like you have scalped your dog, and this looks worse than the long fringes. Please ask me or a groomer to show you how to do this.

Trimming the feet

Front feet

Using blunt-nose scissors, trim around the outside of the foot and the outside of each pad to outline the individual toes. Cut this hair level with the pads under the foot. **Do not** remove the hair *in between* the pads. Make sure you do not cut the pad.



**Trim the hair
around the foot**

Courtesy of Barb
Ross –
*The Illustrated
Guide to Sheltie
Grooming*

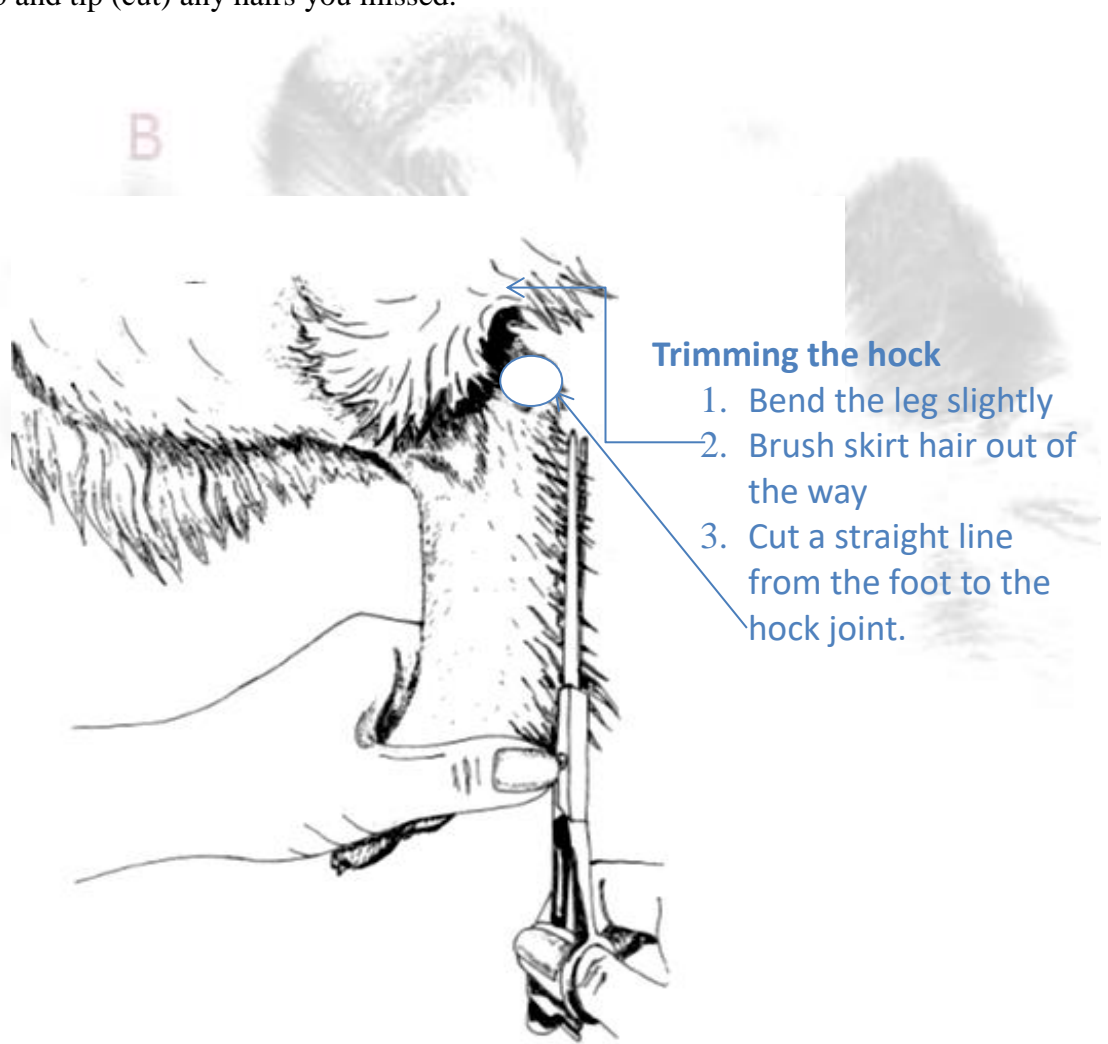


**Trim any hair that grows
over the pad, but do not cut
out the hair between the pads**

Back feet and rear pastern

For the rough, trim the back feet in the same way as the front feet; then, to neaten the rear pastern (hock):

- a) Comb all the hair straight out. (See picture below)
- b) Leaving about a centimetre length of hair, cut a straight vertical line from the foot to the hock joint
- c) Re-comb and tip (cut) any hairs you missed.



Courtesy of Barb Ross – *The Illustrated Guide to Sheltie Grooming*. 0-931866-60-x. Alpine Publications.

Nail cutting

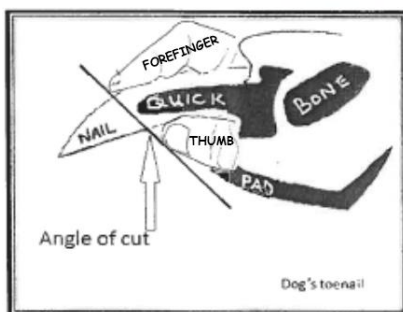
- ❖ The shorter you keep your dog's nails the more comfortable it will be.
- ❖ Frequently cutting the nails will keep the quick retracted.

Regularly check your collie's toenails. If the nails become too long, they can cause your dog to walk incorrectly on its feet. Apart from being extremely uncomfortable, it can also cause the feet to become splayed. You should not be able to hear nails clipping on the floor when a dog is walking.

Use a torch to shine a light through black nails and you will see where the end of the quick lies.



Each nail has a blood supply, called the quick. It can easily be seen in white nails as a pink line in the centre of the nail. It is more difficult to see in black nails, but you need to know where the end of the blood supply is before you cut the nail. If you do cut the quick, it will be painful for the dog, and it will bleed profusely. If that does happen, pack it with an anticoagulant powder (obtained from a pet shop) until the bleeding stops or, if you don't have the powder on hand, run the nail over a cake of soap.



Buy nail clippers designed for dogs and get the size suitable for a collie. Only use sharp trimmers, blunt ones will crush and split the nail, which is painful for the dog. Cutting a little nail at a time, trim the new growth close to the pink quick. Hold your hand over the top of the paw, cupping it in your non-dominant hand. Then with your forefinger and thumb hold the nail – just behind the point of where you will cut it. With the nail clippers in your dominant hand, cut the nail. This holding technique will keep the nail steady as you cut, and your finger and thumb will stop the nail clippers from moving up the nail and cutting into the quick if the dog moves.

If the nails have grown long the quick will be long too. File or clip a long nail every two to three days, and the blood supply will keep receding as the nail shortens.

If you are concerned about this job, arrange for a veterinarian or dog groomer to show you how to do it – or have them cut the nails for you. Depending on how often your dog is walking and running on hard surfaces, its nails might need cutting every 2-6 weeks.

Cleaning the teeth

- ❖ Make tooth brushing a part of your grooming routine.
- ❖ If you do not maintain dental care, your veterinarian might need to anaesthetise your collie for an expensive procedure.
- ❖ Bones are Nature's toothbrush for dogs.

Keep a regular check on your collie's teeth for tartar deposits. Over time, the tartar becomes hard to remove.

Soft foods encourage the buildup of tartar, which can lead to gum infections, tooth decay and even heart disease.

From your butcher, choose non-weight bearing bones like large tail, neck, or knuckle bones and feed them raw to your dog, to help prevent tartar build-up. These bones are hard, but not too hard, so that they will not wear down the dog's teeth.



Knuckle Bones

To brush your dog's teeth, gently hold your dog's mouth shut, slide your brush in between the lips and the teeth to clean along the outside of the teeth and then open the mouth to clean the inner side of the teeth.

Dog toothbrushes and paste can be bought from any vet or pet supply shop.

Toothbrushes can be sterilised in an antiseptic solution used for sterilising baby bottles.

By feeding bones and brushing your dog's teeth every grooming session, you should be able to prevent early mouth problems.



SECTION 3: DIET

Feeding your collie

- ❖ Only a high-quality *puppy* diet can support the enormous amount of developing and growing your puppy does in the first year of its life.
- ❖ After this growth period, health and vigour are supported with a high-quality *adult* diet.

As your puppy grows, it should fill out in body, bloom in coat and have a sparkle in its eye that tells you it is enjoying life to the full. It should have a covering of flesh over the ribs and its spine should not be 'bony'. It is easy, though, to let this slide so that when you feel it you can pinch rolls of fat. An overweight dog is as unhealthy as an underweight one (usually even



During your puppy's growing period pay particular attention to its front legs and check that the bones are growing straight. Monitor this carefully .

If the bones appear to be bowed when looking at the puppy from the front or the front feet are turning out you need to check your dog's diet with me.

Front legs bowing on a young collie (less than 12 months old) can mean that the protein content of the diet is too high for that particular puppy. You need to change to an adult diet where the protein content is a little less.

Once the growth plates have closed (around 12-18 months) correcting this problem is impossible.

more so). Being overweight as a puppy can lead to structural deformities and joint stresses. Keep a close eye on your dog's weight and reassess its diet often. A correct diet will ensure the steady growth of your puppy. Babies need to be fed more often than adults.

Always choose a high-quality dog food.

(I have been feeding Advance Puppy Growth). If you decide to use another brand, choose one prescribed for puppies. Read the packet and check the percentage of protein and fat. Look for the protein to

be ***at least*** 22% and fat to be about 14%. The first ingredient listed on the packet ***must*** be meat – not a cereal.



New Food

How to make a food switch

Current Food



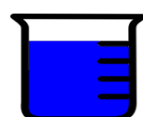
Day 1&2



Day 3&4



Day 5&6



Day 7

At any time, you switch between commercial dog food brands [make the change gradually](#) to avoid your dog having an upset tummy.

8 weeks to 3 months – feed four times daily

- ¼ cup of high-grade dry dog food.
- 100g meat (approximately 25g per meal) - you can use chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, kangaroo, fish.
- 1 fish oil capsule and 1 Vitamin E capsule (add to only one meal each day).

The above is a basic diet. To make it more interesting at different meal times you can add **one** of the items from the extras list:

EXTRAS LIST:

➤ 1 dessertspoon cottage cheese	➤ ½ cup cooked rice or pasta
➤ 1 cup cooked veggies	➤ ½ tin sardines in oil
➤ ¼ can creamed corn	➤ 1 handful grated carrot
➤ ½ cup yoghurt	➤ 2 tablespoons tuna in water or oil
➤ 1 handful grated cheddar cheese	➤ an egg yolk

If your puppy does not eat all of its meal, providing the weather is not too hot, and the food has not become spoilt or flyblown, you may offer the leftovers for the next meal. If it is not eaten this time, toss it out. It is much better to waste a little food than to end up with a vet bill because of bad food.

If your puppy is not eating all its meal or meals, watch to see if there are any other signs of illness. If it is bright and happy, it might be just weaning itself down to three meals per day.

3 months to 7 months – feed three times daily

- High-grade dry dog food – normally a slightly less amount than recommended on the packet. (Keep checking the weight of your puppy and adjust the quantity of food – up or down – as necessary.)
- 100g meat – chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, kangaroo, fish.
- 1 fish oil and 1 Vitamin E capsule (add to **one** meal only)

You can add from the ‘extras list’ if you wish.

7 months to one year – feed twice daily

- High-grade dry dog food – usually slightly less than the amount recommended on the packet. (Keep an eye on the weight of your puppy, adjusting feeding as necessary.)
- 100 g meat – chicken, turkey, beef, lamb, kangaroo, fish
- 1 fish oil capsule and 1 Vitamin E capsule (add to **one** meal only)

Add from ‘extras list’ if you wish.

When your puppy is around 12 months of age, change from puppy food to food designed for an adult and, if you wish, reduce its feed to once per day – either morning or night, depending on which suits you best. When you have chosen what part of the day to feed, stick to it, but do not rigidly stick to a specific time. If you make dinner time a set time in the day, and then you fail to meet it, you will have a stressed and probably noisy dog reminding you. If you



vary feeding times within a period of 2-3 hours your dog will be ready when it sees you getting the bowl and will cope with meals that might arrive a little late from time to time. Mixing up the timing of the meal will make it easier on you and your collie. For an adult dog you can add an extra fish oil capsule to the meal.

Your dog will enjoy large knucklebones, chicken carcasses, chicken wings and lamb necks etc. Mutton flaps can also be purchased cheaply from your butcher. On cold, wet days or when you especially want them to be quiet, give them a bone or flap to chew. **ALWAYS** supervise dogs when they have bones. **FEED ALL BONES RAW.**

HOT TIP

When feeding dry dog food pour 1-2 cups of warm water over it. Give immediately. Don't soak.

Why do this?

- This helps to increase your collies' water intake. (Many don't drink enough).
- It dampens any dry crumbs and small particles that could irritate your dog's throat.
- When the food is wet, the aroma is stronger and more appealing – for dogs that is!
- In winter – it makes a nice warm meal for them.

A Natural Diet

- ❖ Some people like to feed an unprocessed diet, which they feel is more natural for the dog. The following diet is designed (by Dr Ian Billinghurst) to help you make sure your dog is getting all their required nutrients if you choose to feed them this way.

I have given you a list of food, followed by a weekly menu and recipes.

On this diet, you feed two meals per day (breakfast and an evening meal). The evening meal menus – on the following pages – are for a mature dog. If you wish to feed your puppy this way, remember it will still need three to four meals per day. It may also need to have calcium added to its food, especially if it is getting meat and is not able to eat all the bones. Keep a close eye on it to make sure it is growing properly.

Food List - suggested items to feed for a natural diet

Raw meaty bones Chicken, lamb, beef, rabbit, kangaroo etc. (It is always a good idea to keep your eye on your dog while it eats it's bone in case the bone becomes caught between its teeth, or your dog tries to swallow one that is too big and begins to choke.)	Fruit Any – including dried fruit (except grapes and raisins)
Muscle meat Chicken, lamb, beef, pork, kangaroo etc.	Herbs Parsley, garlic
Organ meat Liver, kidneys, heart, brains - (only from a butcher where they have passed all inspection processes).	Mushrooms Any type bought from a store.
Seafood Herring, salmon, sardines, etc. (any fatty fish)	Legumes Peas and beans, baked beans etc.
Eggs Duck, chicken (especially the yolk).	Whole grains Brown rice, oat flakes, wheat germ, wheat bran, wholemeal bread.
Dairy products Cheese and cottage cheese, yoghurt, goat's milk, butter.	Oils Fish oil capsules, coconut oil, corn oil, soybean oil, wheatgerm oil, cottonseed oil, safflower oil, sunflower oil, peanut oil, olive oil
NEVER FEED: White potatoes, onions, grapes, raisins, chocolate or Macadamia nuts – these can be fatal. Some dogs can't process the lactose in cow's milk, but they will be fine with goats' milk	

Breakfast meal

Preferably ½ cup goat's milk – or failing that, lactose-free puppy milk (available from the pet section in your local supermarket)

1 teaspoon of oil – try to vary the oils - olive, corn, sunflower, etc.

1 teaspoon seaweed meal

1 teaspoon brewer's yeast

½ teaspoon honey or molasses

½ cup warm water

To this you can add **one** of the following:

- 1 egg yolk
- 2 dessertspoons of Greek yoghurt
- A handful of oats (soak the oats in the goat's milk overnight)
- 1 or 2 Weetabix
- A little wheatgerm
- A little bran



Three-week Main Meal Menu

(Usually an evening meal) – recipes for each meal are on the next page

	<i>WEEK ONE</i>	<i>WEEK TWO</i>	<i>WEEK THREE</i>
<i>MONDAY</i>	LEAFY GREEN	GRAIN & LEGUME	BONE MEAL
<i>TUESDAY</i>	STARCHY MEAL	BONE MEAL	MEAT MEAL
<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	BONE MEAL	MEAT MEAL	BONE MEAL
<i>THURSDAY</i>	GRAIN & LEGUME	BONE MEAL	GREEN LEAFY
<i>FRIDAY</i>	BONE MEAL	GREEN LEAFY	BONE MEAL
<i>SATURDAY</i>	LEAFY GREEN	BONE MEAL	STARCHY MEAL
<i>SUNDAY</i>	BONE MEAL	LEAFY GREEN	BONE MEAL

Monitor your dog's weight. As a guide: feed an adult dog approximately 1½–2 cups per day.

Recipes

Green Leafy Vegetable Meal

Put raw vegetables through a blender or juicer. (Dogs cannot break down cellulose, so all vegetables must be given as pulp and juice).

ADD to each cup of vegies

- two whole eggs or yolks only
- teaspoon of oil
- teaspoon of apple cider vinegar
- teaspoon brewer's yeast

For variation, instead of eggs add similar quantities of one of the following:

- cottage cheese
- ordinary cheese
- minced beef
- one of the organ meats (blended)

The Starchy Meal – basically a cooked meal

It will consist of one or more of:

- rice
- pumpkin
- sweet potato
- bread
- pasta
- oats, etc.

ADD such things as:

- yoghurt
- oil
- dried fruits (**no raisins**)
- lactose-free milk
- green leafy vegetables
- brewer's yeast and kelp
- warm brown rice or oatmeal porridge. Extra butter and oil can be added in cold weather



The Grain and Legume Meal – (cooked meal)

Equal amounts of:

- cooked grain (rice, oats, etc.)
- legumes (mushy peas, baked beans, three bean mix or a soup mix, etc.)

To this can be added:

- green leafy vegetables
- oil
- yoghurt
- brewer's yeast
- kelp, etc.



The Offal Meal

It will consist of one of more of:

- kidney
- heart
- brain
- tripe, etc.

(Small, blended amounts mixed in with one of the other meals – meat meal, green leafy vegetable meal)

The Bone Meal

A bone meal is fed at least three times a week and consists of:

- chicken and turkey frames
- whole fish
- large pieces of goat, sheep, beef, deer, kangaroo, rabbit, etc. – all fed on the bone.

On average, dogs require 2 to 3 percent of their body weight in food per day, or about 15 to 20 percent per week. That means a 25-kilogram dog needs up to 5 kilograms of animal carcasses (raw meaty bones) each week.



Water

Dogs must have fresh and clean, cold water available always. Clean the water bowl regularly.

Treats

- ❖ Treats are just that - treats. They are not part of the dog's standard diet. (You might need to decrease your dog's meal/s when it has them).
- ❖ Use treats wisely.

For me, there are two types of treats. The first type I use to reward or encourage a particular action or behaviour. These treats are usually small, smelly (like dried liver) and have a very high value (meaning the dog *really* loves them). Only feed these treats in small quantities – like the way humans are supposed to have chocolate!

Examples:

- small cubes of cheese
- dried liver (chicken or lamb)
- slivers or discs of saveloy sausage (hotdog)
- small pieces of cooked chicken, etc.

The second type of treat is for the times when you would like to give your dog something to do, maybe instead of a walk on a rainy, cold day. These treats usually take a bit more time to consume and keep the dog occupied for a while. These are not 'rewards' for behaviour.

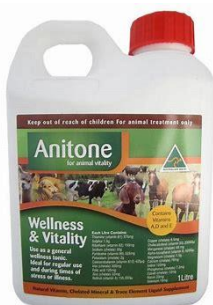
Examples:

- big meaty bone
- lamb shank or flap
- a couple of large raw carrots (yes - most dogs enjoy crunching on a carrot.)
- 1 or 2 [homemade dog biscuits](#)
- pigs ears, a Nyla or rawhide bone, etc.

Many treats contain lots of calories, so you might need to reduce dinner for that night.



Raffi enjoys a bone



Supplements

[Anitone](#) – available online or from animal supply outlets, is the only supplement, other than the fish oil and vitamin E capsules, that I recommend you use two or three times a week.

SECTION 4: KEEPING YOUR COLLIE HEALTHY

Immunisation/vaccination schedule

- ❖ The most severe canine diseases – distemper, parvovirus, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis and tetanus – are preventable with vaccinations.
- ❖ Your puppy will have had at least its first round of vaccinations and you will have been given a vaccination card when you collected it. Check the card to see when the next one is due and make an appointment with your vet. Take the vaccination card with you – so your vet can see when and which serums were used.
- ❖ Your collie ***must*** have **all** its puppy vaccinations and a booster shot 12 months after last puppy shot.
- ❖ After its 12-month booster, vaccinations are not needed every year. Research shows that vaccine immunity lasts much longer than one year and revaccinating when your dog is already immune is detrimental.

Puppies are given a series of injections over a 4–8-week period. Your puppy will have had, at least, its first round of injections before leaving for its new home. You will be given the vaccination card; this will tell you which inoculations it has had and when it will be due for a booster. The vaccination card will also inform your vet as to which serums were used. Take this document with you when you take your puppy for its follow-up needles.

Fourteen days after the last of its series of puppy vaccinations, it is safe to take your collie out into public places where there are other dogs.

Twelve months after its last puppy vaccination, (when your collie is now approximately 16 months old), it will need a booster. After that it does not need any further boosters until at least three years later.

Booster shots every year (12 months) used to be the normal schedule, but evidence shows that vaccines provide immunity much longer than 12 months. Re-vaccinating animals that have already have immunity does not increase their resistance to disease and may increase the risk of adverse post-vaccination reactions.

Recorded adverse reactions to vaccinations include failure to immunise, anaphylaxis, immunosuppression, autoimmune disorders, transient infections and long-term infected carrier status.

At Baqilodge, we have had reactions to vaccination in a six-year-old female. Within 24 hours of her injection, her hock joints became very swollen, hot and sore and remained that way for approximately a week after her shots. The same symptoms were seen again on her following annual vaccination at seven years of age. On veterinary advice, this was her last inoculation for life.

Baqilodge has frequent dialogue with our veterinary hospital about current diseases in the community; working in close association with our veterinarians we now complete puppy immunisation schedules, have booster shots at 12 months and then repeat the booster every three – five years.

Do not vaccinate your dog if it is not well. Get treatment for it and allow it to return to health first. Vaccinating while the immune system is already under stress could be dangerous, as the vaccinations will be inclined to suppress the body's defenses even further.

Find a vet with whom you can establish a good relationship. They should be willing to discuss (and listen) to all your concerns. You should never feel forced into a health care plan. If you have reservations seek a second opinion. If you need support – call me. Even though you are not vaccinating every year, you still might like your collie to have an annual health check. I do not believe this is necessary while a dog is young, fit and healthy. A good plan would be to start yearly health checks when it reaches 8+ years of age. If it has been unfortunate enough to have a health issue before this, then you would begin earlier.

Further reading:

- [Australian Veterinary Association Vaccination Policy](#)
- [The World Small Animal Veterinary Association 2015 Vaccination Guidelines for the Owners and Breeders of Dogs and Cats.](#)
- [Safer Vaccine Guidelines for Dogs](#)

Ivermectin toxicity in collies and related multi-drug sensitivities

- ❖ Some veterinary medications can be fatal if your collie has a MDR1 gene mutation.
- ❖ Regardless of any genetic testing, assume your collie is at risk.
- ❖ **Give a copy of these two pages to your vet and ask them to file it in your collie's medical history.**

Published by: Washington State University, USA

It is well known that collies and related breeds can have adverse reactions to drugs such as Ivermectin, loperamide (Imodium®), and others. It was previously unknown why some individual dogs were sensitive and others were not. Advances in molecular biology at the Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory at Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine have led to the discovery of the cause of multi-drug sensitivity in affected dogs. The problem is due to a mutation in the multi-drug resistance gene (MDR1). This gene encodes a protein, P-glycoprotein, which is responsible for pumping many drugs and other toxins out of the brain. Dogs with the mutant gene cannot pump some drugs out of the brain as a normal dog would, which may result in abnormal neurologic signs. The result may be an illness requiring an extended hospital stay – or even death.

Approximately 3 of every 4 collies in the United States have the mutant MDR1 gene. Initial studies have shown that the frequency is about the same in France and Australia, so, it is likely that most collies worldwide have the mutation. The mutation is present in other herding breeds, but at a lower frequency than in collies.

Problem drugs

Several drugs have been reported to cause problems in collies, **ranging from over-the-counter antidiarrhoeal agents like Imodium® to antiparasitic and haemotherapy agents. Many heartworm medications too are dangerous to dogs affected by the MDR1 gene. This list of drugs is likely to grow as research continues.**

Your vet will have easy access to information, but you can print off and give them the following [list of drugs that cause sensitivity to dogs with MDR1 mutation.](#)



Bačilodge Collies and MDR1

On testing in the trial studies that have taken place in Australia, from the last group of 18 collies from various kennels Australia-wide only three were normal. Two were from Bačilodge kennels, but also several of our collies tested as carriers and one as affected. Consequently, they are at risk to Ivermectin and other drugs that cross the brain-blood barrier.

While testing for this gene is now available in Australia, **the absolute safest way to deal with this problem is to assume *every* collie carries the mutant gene**, then mistakes cannot be made. For every drug that could be fatal to MDR1 affected collies, there are other drugs that can be used in its place.

Symptoms of intolerance to drugs (dogs with the MDR1 mutation).

Dogs with this sensitivity can show symptoms of toxic build-up in the brain within 4 to 12 hours of exposure to standard dosages of medication. Smaller doses can delay signs to 48 to 96 hours.

- **Pupil dilation:** One early symptom is dilation of the pupils and increased sensitivity to light.
- **Lethargy:** Lack of energy is another early indication, and the dog may be unable to get up.
- **Appetite and digestive problems:** Toxic dogs may stop eating, drool excessively and start vomiting. The vomiting can cause dehydration.
- **Motor impairment:** Staggering, falling and not being able to walk will happen as the poisoning progresses. The dog can also be disoriented and unresponsive.
- **Trouble breathing:** Breathing can become shallow, followed by loss of consciousness, seizures and coma. Without treatment at this stage, the dog may die.

This poisoning can look like heat stroke.

Get veterinary help immediately.

How to take your dog's temperature and other signs to check for if you think your dog is unwell

- ❖ A dog's temperature is normally taken anally.
- ❖ The normal temperature for a dog is between 37.5°C and 38.5°C.
- ❖ A temperature of 41°C can damage internal organs and can be fatal. Cool the dog by putting its feet in cold water and placing a towel, soaked in cold water, to the dog's head and ears. Get veterinary help.
- ❖ A temperature drop of two degrees or more can mean your dog is on the point of collapse or loss of consciousness. Wrap the dog in blankets, try to warm it up, get veterinary help.
- ❖ Some other signs to note if you think your dog is unwell are: gum colour, heart rate, panting and their general demeanour.

The only time you would be likely to take your dog's temperature is if you think it is sick. Nevertheless, it is worth knowing how to do this and what the 'normal' temperature is for your dog. The normal temperature range for dogs is between 37.5 and 38.5°C. You can take your collie's temperature occasionally when it is well (but not just after it has been exercising) to determine what is normal for it.

If you think your dog is ill, and you take its temperature and find one degree or more difference from its normal temperature, then you should watch it closely.

If there is less than a two-degree increase in temperature, put your dog away quietly for half an hour and then take its temperature again. (Any dog may show a rise in temperature just after it has been exercised, excited or stressed.) If its temperature has not dropped, or has continued to rise, call your vet.

On the other hand, if your dog's temperature has dropped two degrees or more below what is normal for it, it could well be on the point of collapse. Call your vet immediately.

How to take a temperature reading

Use a blunt end thermometer, purchased from a chemist. It can either be a standard mercury thermometer or a digital one. When using these thermometers, take your dog's temperature anally. Some dogs find this a bit disconcerting at first. Talk to them gently and be decisive about what you are doing, and they will accept it. If using a mercury thermometer, make sure to shake the mercury down to below 35°C. (You can lightly grease the thermometer before you insert it into the rectum). Be gentle and insert the thermometer for about ½ of its length. Leave it in place for 1 minute, or in the case of a digital thermometer, until it 'beeps' to let you know to remove it. Don't let the end of the thermometer go; and make sure your dog doesn't sit down on it – which it might try to do, as it will feel strange.

If you cannot handle taking your dog's temperature anally, then there is the new [No Touch/Contact Thermometer](#) for animals which might be easier to use. It is held near particular areas of the dog's body and is used like a scanner. A sensor is activated to take a temperature reading by detecting the infrared heat generated by arterial blood flow.

Other vital signs

Knowing some [vital signs that can indicate illness](#) is helpful: Check for the following:

- Panting or laboured breathing. (Panting can mean the dog is in pain).
- Gum colour, which should be pink. Blue, grey or white gums are signs that you need to see your vet – quickly. You can test circulation by pressing on the dog's gum with your finger. It will turn white under the pressure of your finger, but when the pressure is removed it is essential that the blood returns immediately (no more than 1 or 2 seconds) making the gum pink again.
- Your dog's demeanour will be a big clue. It will be acting in a way that you know is different. It may be withdrawn, not be interested in doing things or even refusing to eat. Frequently a sick dog's eyes look sad and sunken.

Regardless; if you are concerned about its health, see your vet. Knowing your dog's temperature and whether there have been any variations can be helpful to your vet, as some dogs' temperatures will rise just through the stress of being at the vet clinic and in a strange place. If you have taken its temperature before leaving home, you will have a more accurate reading in relation to any illness.

Fleas

- ❖ Flea bites are the number one cause of skin problems.
- ❖ Regular grooming will help you to keep your dog free of these blood-sucking creatures.
- ❖ When you treat your dog for fleas, treat its sleeping quarters and bedding too.

Fleas feed by biting the dog and injecting saliva to stop the blood from clotting. If your collie becomes allergic to the chemicals in the saliva, it will scratch violently. These allergies are known as eczema, flea-bite dermatitis, or summer itch. The allergy causes varying degrees of itching, skin sores and loss of hair and can be quite distressing. Some dogs become hypersensitive to flea bites and are severely affected even if they only have one or two fleas.

The control of fleas depends on the destruction of eggs, larvae and adults, or the ability to stop one of these life cycles. The ideal conditions for fleas are warm temperatures and high humidity, which is why fleas are more of a problem in summer but do not think that they will take a holiday in winter. They can survive in the warm bedding and can live for up to two years if conditions are right.

If you have a flea infestation it might be necessary to call in the pest exterminators to de-flea your house and treat areas where fleas might be living outside in the soil.

There are many excellent insecticides available. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations and observe all precautions when using any flea chemical. If you are confused about which preparation would be best, or about powders versus insecticidal dips, versus aerosols, versus flea pills and the newer 'spot-on' chemicals – chat to your vet. They will be able to help you make the right choices for your situation.

Be careful and do not combining treatments. Some chemicals should not be used together (for example, Fenthion and any other flea chemical). If you have any queries, ask your vet.

Worms

- ❖ To make it easy to remember, worm your dog/s with an 'all wormer' at the beginning of each new season. That is the beginning of September (Spring), December (Summer), March (Autumn) and June (Winter).
- ❖ At Baqilodge, we use either Drontal All Wormer or Canex All Wormer and Interceptor for Heartworm when necessary.

Young puppies are more susceptible to the effects of worms than older dogs.

There are four common worms that affect dogs in Tasmania:

- **Roundworms** – live in the stomach and intestines and look like earth worms. An infestation of roundworms in puppies causes diarrhoea, anaemia, dull coats and pot bellies. The lungs can be damaged, and puppies risk developing pneumonia.
- **Hookworms** – are like tiny leeches, about 12 mm (½ inch) long. They can cause anaemia, restlessness, apathy and stunted growth. Puppies can have bloody diarrhoea or tarry stools.
- **Whipworms** – are the thickness of a large sewing thread, looking like small whips. They make toxins that cause anaemia. They can also cause intermittent diarrhoea, digestive problems, dull coats, excessive shedding and sometimes a cough.
- **Tapeworms** – segments are small, white and like a maggot. The tapeworm is not as harmful as other worms but can cause stomach upsets, dull coats, dry itchy skin, a general 'unwellness', loss of weight and lifelessness. Dogs may be ravenous but even with an increased food intake do not gain weight.

Medications

There are a large variety of worm tablets, pastes, syrups, powders and even injections on the market.

All worming medicines can be toxic. Follow your vet's recommendations and the manufacturer's instructions carefully. You can buy drugs that are

worm-specific, or there are several brands of tablets known as All Wormers.



Heartworm

If your dog lives in Tasmania, you will not need to be concerned about Heartworm. However, if you take your collie to the mainland or live in other States of Australia, it may need to be protected against this parasite. Speak with your veterinarian about medications etc.

NOTE: Ivermectin is a common ingredient used in heartworm medications and can be fatal to some collies – see [pages 24](#) and [60](#).



At Baqilodge, we use Interceptor for heartworm when we travel to the mainland.

ATTENTION Baqilodge collie owners In the Mainland States of Australia

**Talk to your Vet about heartworm.
Be wary of medications.**

If using Interceptor, note that it also covers the other parasitic worms – so you will not need another worm medication.

***Remind your Vet about
collies and the MDR1 gene mutation.**

Sleep, sleep and more sleep

- ❖ Adequate sleep for your collie puppy is essential for its physical and emotional health.
- ❖ Puppies and young dogs need more sleep than adult dogs.

A puppy at eight weeks of age will play for about half an hour to an hour and then have a nap for 20 to 30 minutes. As it gets older its play times will lengthen but it will still have naps during the day. Even adult dogs take naps in quiet periods.

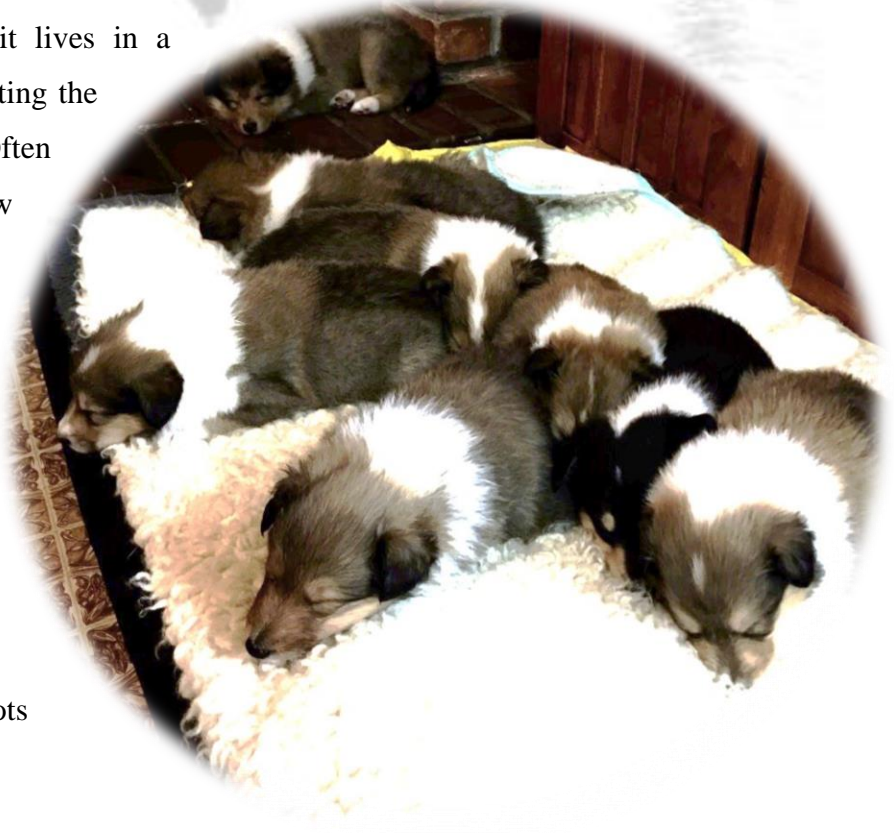
Puppies grow while they are sleeping, because this is when growth hormone is primarily secreted. Also, during sleep, proteins (cytokines) are produced. The body relies on cytokines to fight infection, illness, and stress. Too little sleep impacts the number of cytokines available to fight these illnesses and the puppy's ability to grow.

Therefore, it is clear that a puppy can become stressed and ill if it can't get enough sleep. At the very least it will become irritable, snappy, and nervous.

Monitor the puppy's sleep if it lives in a household with children, by putting the puppy 'to bed' for periods. Often young children expect their new puppy to be alert and active all day.

Make it a rule to never disturb the puppy if it is in its bed or sleeping in a quiet corner – even when it becomes an older dog.

It is vital that your puppy gets lots of undisturbed sleep.



Teething

- ❖ While teething, puppies might get upset tummies from time to time.
- ❖ Puppies chew more during this time, and their mouths will be sore.
- ❖ If your collie's baby teeth have not fallen out, and they are displacing the new adult teeth, they need to be removed by your vet.

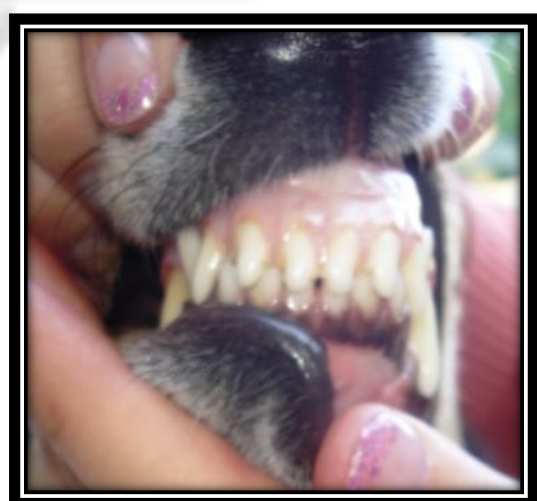
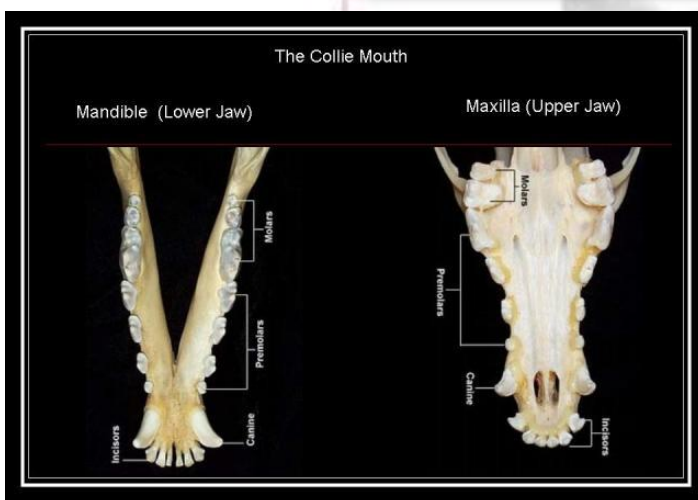
At about four months of age, your puppy will start to lose its baby teeth. This event usually happens without any problems, but, occasionally, baby teeth may be retained. Most often it is the large canine or 'eye teeth' either side of the top jaw and sometimes the canine teeth on the bottom jaw that do not fall out when they should.

If these teeth have not fallen out by the time your puppy is seven to eight months old, or if they appear to be displacing its new adult teeth, then you should have them removed by your vet. Do not leave them; they can cause mouth problems later.

Your puppy's mouth can be quite sore while it is going through this teething period and sometimes it might go off its food or have slight diarrhoea. Feed it a [soft, bland diet](#) of chicken and rice [or similar](#) for a few days.

It is while teething that puppies will be most inclined to gnaw on anything and everything. Offer your puppy a large bone or hard puppy chews to crunch on; this will alleviate its desire to chew and encourage its baby teeth to fall out. A gentle game of tug with your puppy, using a rope or a piece of cloth, might also help these baby teeth to loosen and fall out.

ADULT COLLIE MOUTHS



‘Puppy nose’

- ❖ If your puppy loses pigment around its nostrils, determine if it is because of infection before allowing your vet to do a biopsy for ‘Collie Nose’.

Sometimes the noses of collie puppies can become chafed and cracked around the nostrils or nares. There might be a discharge and the nose may have lost some of its pigmentation – changing from black to pink. Usually the top of the nose stays black unless it has been scratched. I call this ‘puppy nose.’

Puppies tend to snuffle around in the dirt and put their inquisitive noses into everything. By doing this they scuff or chafe their noses, which makes it easier for them to pick up low-grade infections. Sometimes this will clear up by itself over a week or two, but if there appears to be a lot of discharge; if the discharge is yellow or green; or if the nostrils look inflamed; then a course of antibiotics might be needed. This minor problem is not a significant concern; you just need to be aware of it.

An entirely different malady, commonly called Collie Nose, (Discoid Lupus Erythematosus or DLE) is an auto-immune disease. This condition is first noticed on the nose, where the nose leather and the face hair join. The nose leather loses pigmentation, and it can become reddened, ulcerated, and crusty. Often hair is lost from the bridge of the nose and around the eyes. Sometimes this disease can affect the lips and other areas as well. It is managed with corticosteroids and sunscreens and by keeping your dog out of the sun.

Some vets, however, are very suspicious of any nose abnormalities in collies. If your puppy has a crusty nose and the vet says it has ‘Collie Nose’, please ask if you could try conservative measures first – e.g. antibiotics for infection – before having a biopsy to determine if it is ‘Collie Nose’ or not.

Lacking pigment on the nose (for any reason) will make your dog more vulnerable to sunburn in this area, and this is the way to cancer. It is simple and cheap to cover these areas with a lip balm that has a sunscreen lipstick protection factor of 15+, or even white zinc cream. Keep your dog out of direct sunshine.

Eyes

Don't be concerned about:

- ❖ A clear, jellylike substance accumulating in the corner of the eyes (sleep), unless it becomes infected – turning yellow/green.
- ❖ A white spot appearing on the lens of the eye (corneal lipidosis) – unless it ulcerates (uncommon).

There are two things I'd like to mention about collie eyes because if you don't know about them they might cause concern when, in fact, you just need to keep an eye on them – excuse the pun.

A Clear, jelly-like substance in the corner of the eyes

You might find a clear jelly-like substance accumulating in the corner of your dog's eyes from time to time. There is no need for concern as this is normal and is called 'sleep' in humans.

Why does this happen?

Originally, collies were bred as sheepdogs in the British Isles where they worked among prickly flora like gorse, heather, and thistles. Therefore, for protection, their eyes are set back behind the boney structure that surrounds the eye – helping to shield the eyes from scratches when running through this prickly flora. In some collies, the set can be a little deep and oil, dead cells, dust, etc. will collect in the corners of the eye instead of draining away through the tear ducts. The deeper the set of the eye, the more the jelly-like substance will gather. You will usually see this in the morning or after the dog has slept for some time. The amount of 'sleep' or 'goop' a dog produces should be about the same each time.

How to clean your dog's eyes

Wipe the eyes with a warm damp cottonwool ball or a makeup remover pad. **Always** wipe from the outside edge of the eye toward the corner of the eye (into the centre of the face). Sometimes this goop can be sticky and difficult to detach. You might need to use a [mild saline solution](#) and a syringe or eye dropper to flush it out. You can make the saline solution yourself by mixing a ¼ teaspoon of plain table salt in a ½ a cup of cooled, boiled water.

Corneal lipidosis/Corneal dystrophy

Another common occurrence in collies is corneal lipidosis which is an accumulation of lipid (fat) deposits in the eye. It is reasonably common in dogs and seen across all breeds, although there is a group, which includes collies, where it is most common.

You will see a white or cloudy spot near the centre of the eye. It usually starts in just one eye but will eventually affect both eyes. The white spot starts small and sometimes remains small – but it can also become larger and very noticeable. It is rare for the condition to progress to where there is vision impairment.

A couple of Baqilodge collies have had this condition when they are young, (1-2 years old), but it has always disappeared as they age (not that you will find any reference to it resolving in any literature!) While it looks ugly, I have never experienced this condition affecting their vision or how they act.

In 30 years of breeding and many discussions with other breeders, we have found that if a dog acquires this condition while it is young (between one and six years), the fat deposit will break down and dissipate on its own accord over a couple of years.

In a young dog, there are no extra care requirements, and there are no treatments available for this condition. You do not need to see a vet – unless your dog is squinting, the eyes look painful or infected, or the dog is rubbing its eyes. (If this is the case, it will most likely mean there is a second or different problem or ulceration).

If the dog gets this condition in its old age, it will have it for the rest of its life. (So far, I have never had an older Baqilodge collie acquire this condition). The onset of this condition in an old dog could be an indicator of other health problems, and a blood work-up would be a good idea. Check it out with your vet or ophthalmologist.

Our ophthalmologist is Dr Andrew Turner, Victoria. <http://www.allanimaleyes.com/>

Some different eye issues

The following conditions are different issues and may require veterinary intervention. If your collie should ever get them and they last for more than a day or two – have it checked by your vet:

A yellow/green discharge or gunk in the corner of the eye. ‘Mucky eyes’ usually happen overnight after the dog has been sleeping and usually after windy weather or if the dog has been playing in dirt or sand. It is typically a sign of infection caused by dust or pollens. Frequently this can be easily managed by gently bathing with a [mild saline solution](#). If there is no improvement by the following morning or it looks worse, it may need an antibiotic to clear up the infection.

It is time to see your vet if your dog has:

- *itchy eyes* – rubbing or squinting them
- *red and watering eyes*
- *a white-grey mucus* around the eye
- *reddish/brown tear* stains on the face



Ears

- ❖ According to the Collie Standard, perfect collie ears should be small and mobile, with two-thirds of the ears standing erect and one-third of the ear tipping forward.
- ❖ You may need to help the ears stay tipped, – especially during the teething period.
- ❖ A tipped ear does make a difference in protecting the ears from fly bites.

Like most things demanded by the Collie Standard, there is a practical reason for collies to have a particular ear structure and shape.

When they worked in the hills and moors of the British Isles and Ireland as sheepdogs, often in stormy and blustery conditions, they needed excellent hearing to hear above the wind. Having mobile ears meant they could turn their ears to different directions to hear above the wind and storms without having to turn their head or body. Small ears are critical in reducing the loss of body heat when working in freezing conditions. (Dogs do not sweat, as such, but lose heat through their ears and their paws). A closer look at a collie's ear structure will show the erect part of the ear is rounded both vertically and horizontally. These contours are like the shape of the 'shells' of the Sydney Opera House and it is the best shape for collecting sound frequencies. Collies needed all the help they could get to catch sounds above the wind.

During winter they had to contend with snow and ice. The one-third tip of the top part of the ear helps in several ways: A) To prevent snow from falling into the ear canal. B) With the tip of the ear hanging forward, below the horizontal, snow could not settle on the delicate tips making them less prone to frostbite. C) The hairless inside of the ear is better protected from the bites of midges and gnats when the top third of the ears is tipped over – covering the inside of the ear.

However, particularly during the teething stage (10 weeks to 12 months), collie ears can do the most amazing things – often changing position overnight. They might hang down in what we refer to as a 'hound ear' where the ear does not lift off the head at all; they might sit so close on top of the head that they cross over; one might be up, the other might be down. If the ear still has the tip hanging over, it is best to wait and see if the ear will correct itself – which in most cases it will. But if the ear/s stands up perfectly straight – like a German Shepherd

Dog's ears – then it is best to act promptly to reset the tip as soon as possible, because if it is left it will be impossible to correct. When the whole ear stands erect, we call it 'pricked'.

Snow and frostbite are unlikely to be an issue with our collies' ears in Australia; but, while fly bites are not a problem in Tasmania, in some other States of Australia they cause big challenges. Owners who have collies with pricked ears say that this is a bigger problem for them than for those owners who have collies with tipped ears. This is a good reason, apart from how a tipped ear contributes to the lovely expression of a collie's face, to try to keep your puppy's ears tipped.

There are a few ways to do this – e.g. taping, glueing, weighting the ears etc. Some methods are more involved than others.

The following is a simple technique used by Leah, of Vedamea Collies, to keep ears tipped. She has kindly allowed me to share it with you.

A technique for tipping your collie's pricked ear

by Leah Ryan of Vedamea Collies

Collies should have the top third of their ears tipped over – for a good reason. The difference it makes to their beauty is astonishing! More importantly though, the skin on the inside of a fully erect ear is free of hairs and unprotected and exposed, when the top part of this ear does not hang over to shield it. In summer, when flies are at their worst, they find the exposed skin a simple source of food. They will bite the skin, and soon it will be bleeding. The more it bleeds the more flies will come to dine. Before you know it, you will have an invasion of flies. Without intervention, they can eat the whole tip of the ear off. I will illustrate a simple and inexpensive procedure below that will make life for your best mate a healthy and happy one...

You will need:

- a) an electric kettle*
- b) a packet of Blu Tack*
- c) a friend to help you hold the pup*



Boil the kettle and while it's coming to the boil take a piece of Blu Tack – about the size of a pea – and roll it into a ball. Stick it to the outside of the boiling kettle and leave it there for a minute until it gets hot and tacky. Turn it over and heat the other side of the ball of Blu Tack.



Figure 1. *You will notice the right ear of the collie is correctly tipped – with the top third bent over – but the collie's left ear is pricked (sticking up straight). We are going to adhere the Blu Tack to the inside tip of the left ear – to weight it over.*



Figure 2. *Roll the warm and tacky Blu Tack off the kettle (be careful not to burn yourself) and immediately press it onto the hair on the inside of the tip of dog's ear – where the blue dot is.*



Figure 3. *With your thumbs, knead as many of the surrounding hairs as possible into the Blu Tack. The more hair you push into the sticky ball, the longer and stronger it will hold. Be as quick as possible because the Blu Tack will cool down and become somewhat hard. Once the Blu Tack has set, this should stay and act as a weight for 3–6 weeks.*



Figure 4. The final step is an ear that is weighted and tipped like the other one. Once the Blu Tack comes out or wears off on its own, watch the ear closely to make sure it does not go pricked again. If it does (which often happens), repeat the process. You may need to keep doing this until teething is finished and the skull is fully developed - around when your puppy is 18 months of age.

This method only takes two-minutes once you become familiar with it and have the necessary materials. If you're doing it right, you probably will not have to do it more than 4 or 5 times a year.

If you see the ear(s) go pricked, don't say 'I'll do that tomorrow!' Deal with it right away. If the ear is consistently weighted during the puppies first 12 months of life, it should eventually stay over without the weight. For every day you leave it pricked, it becomes twice as difficult to get the ear to tip properly and, at some point, you won't be able to get it to tip at all.

Leah also kindly shares the following for those people who are having trouble with fly or insect bites to their collie's ears:

Treatment for fly bites to the tip of your dog's ears



You can buy Troy Fly Repella Cream from many of the large animal and farm produce suppliers – in particular, the horse produce stores. Petbarn stores often sell it too. (If they don't have it in stock they will either order it in for you or tell you where you can buy it).

A little of this cream, rubbed on the tips of your dog's ears each morning will ensure they do not get severely fly-bitten during the fly season.

[Link to buy Troy Floy Repella Cream](#)

Leah Ryan, Vedamea Collies
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Exercising your puppy

- ❖ Until about 18 months to two years of age your collie puppy is growing, and like any other baby, too much or incorrect exercise can damage its growth plates. Postpone high-impact, repetitious, leg-twisting and jumping activities until your dog has finished growing. A few months of patience could make a lifetime of difference for your dog.

Most puppies have lots of energy, but their bodies are immature. During their first year and a half to two years of life, they are not ready for high impact or repetitious exercises.

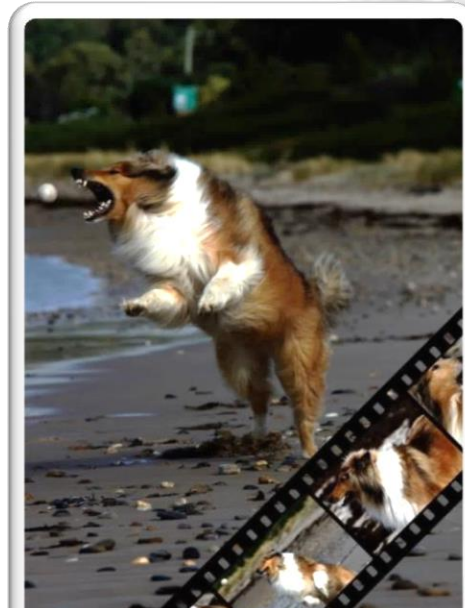
While the puppy is still growing, at the end of each leg bone there is an area of soft, immature bone called growth plates. The leg bones grow from these soft areas. (You can easily see them as knobbly knees or knuckle bones on dogs' front legs when they are youngsters.)

Between 12 to 18 months of age the calcium and minerals in these immature bones starts to harden and the bones stop growing. When this happens the growth plates are referred to as 'closed'.

Before they close, the growth plates are more at risk of fractures or damage. An injury to the soft growth plate can cause the bone to stop growing or to grow incorrectly. Injuries and breaks can be complicated to mend – not to mention expensive. To help prevent

your pup from damaging their growth plates, defer high-impact, body twisting and jarring activities. So, until the growth plates have closed, do not allow activities like leaping after Frisbees or over jumps, jogging (especially on hard surfaces), running for extended periods, jumping down from the back of cars or utilities and similar actions. Wait until your puppy matures.

Your puppy can begin to take part in 'grown-up' exercise when they are about 18 months to two years of age.



As an adult, Floyd enjoys leaping after balls on the beach.

A word about surfaces your dog might walk on

- ❖ Your dog should exercise on all types of natural terrain.
- ❖ Curtail running and games on slippery surfaces and stairs.
- ❖ Be mindful of the temperature of the surfaces your dog is walking on.

Think about the surfaces on which your dog walks and plays. For physical fitness and good mental health, your dog should exercise on all type of surfaces and outdoor grounds. However, there are some surfaces where you need to exercise caution as they are downright dangerous. For example:

- **Don't play games and stop any running on stairs and slippery surfaces**, e.g. tiles, polished floorboards, polished concrete, ice, etc. Sliding or slipping on slick surfaces means there is a far greater chance of moving leg and pelvic joints beyond their range of motion limits. Your dog may tear its cruciate ligament/s – a common event on slipping and this will be painful and debilitating for them, and a very costly (in the thousands of dollars) surgical repair for you.

The sacro-iliac joint can also be damaged, if the ligaments are strained, from the back legs splaying out on slippery floors.

Ligaments in puppies are laxer than those of an adult dog, which means puppy joints are less stable and are much more at risk of injury until the ligaments mature.

Mats or carpet runners may help with some of your indoor surface problems. Also keeping your dog's toenails short and removing any hair covering the pads of their feet will help to stop slipping.

- **Play with and run your dog on a variety of outdoor surfaces.** Making sure to let your puppy move at its own pace, choose an earth trail or grassy surface rather than pavement or tarmac paths, get your puppy out onto rough, uneven ground – the woods, bush, uncultivated areas etc. as soon as you can. A puppy raised in a smooth, even, manicured suburban backyard, exercised in well-tended public dog parks and walked on pavement never learns to watch its feet. It becomes so accustomed to moving automatically and uniformly over flat, even ground that it does not vary its

stride to dodge holes or objects and then when it does run on uneven terrain, it can end up with injuries.

Apart from the muscular benefits of navigating obstacles it is also mentally stimulating and makes the dog think and be more aware of its environment and its place within the environment when there are challenges such as holes, ditches, puddles, logs etc. to meet.

- **Consider the temperature of the surfaces your dog walks on.** Summer, (especially in Australia) and less so winter, are going to be the most concerning seasons.

The following surfaces can all become exceedingly hot on hot days – to the point they can cause severe burns:

- Pavement/Concrete
- Asphalt/Bitumen/Tarmac
- Artificial Turf
- Sand
- Metal
- Wood

Check the heat of the surface by placing the back of your hand on it. If it feels hot to your hand, or you cannot hold your hand there for 20 seconds – it is too hot for your dog to walk on.

[Click here to find 10 tips to protect your dog's paws on hot pavement](#)

In Australia, it is less likely your dogs will be exposed to snow, ice, and chemicals for de-icing. However, should your dog experience these conditions, inspect its paws and wash them with warm water to melt any ice particles and to remove any chemicals.

To toughen your dog's paws

If your dog spends most of its time indoors or in a manicured yard, chances are it will get sore feet from a hike or other outdoor activities if you take it out without conditioning it first. Sand, gravel, bitumen, rocks and particularly wet or iced surfaces can chafe paws. Toughen your dog's paws before going out on a long hike.

If you have space, you can make an enclosed yard and cover the surface with coarse sand or pea gravel (6mm-12mm small, rounded rocks) and allow your dog to play on it for several hours a day. If you have gravel landscaping, play fetch on it daily, starting with just a few minutes and building up the time. Take walks and runs over bitumen and gravel roads, begin with a 10 – 15 mins per day and lengthen the time as the pads toughen.

Keep an eye on your dog's paws. Things to watch for are:

- Limping or avoiding walking
- Licking or chewing feet
- Paw pads darker in colour than usual
- Pads visibly damaged – cracked, cut, blistered
- Thin, shiny pads
- Redness

Stop the exercise and heal wounds before slowly starting again.



Kep enjoying a walk in the bush – he needs to think about where he is putting his feet to avoid prickles, sticks, stones, holes, etc.

Neutering/desexing

- ❖ For health reasons, do not neuter your puppy until it is over 12 months of age - at least.
- ❖ Do not allow any Baqilodge collie sold as a companion/pet to breed.
- ❖ Any puppies born to a Baqilodge collie sold as a pet, will not be eligible for registration as a pedigree dog.
- ❖ Be responsible and do not allow planned or unplanned pregnancies.
- ❖ If you *do* want to breed your collie – talk to me first and let me help you.

Breeding puppies

The breeding of collies (or any dogs for that matter) should not be taken lightly. There is little to gain from breeding unless you are committed to the breed and are prepared to learn and study at great length. The aim of breeding is to produce puppies that are great advocates and examples of their breed. This takes time, stamina, commitment, finances, and a certain resilience to cope with bad/sad outcomes.

If you think you would like to be a breeder or even just breed one litter, please talk to me about this, so you can make educated decisions and choices. Firstly, in any breeding, you need quality animals that phenotypically and genetically show soundness of body and mind and embody the qualities of the true collie breed type. While pet puppies are true representatives of their breed, breeders only choose the best to carry on their lines. Usually, puppies sold as pets are not the puppies an experienced breeder would choose as the *best* or likely to contribute positively to the breed – for one reason or another.

Neutering – Pros and Cons

While sterilised dogs and bitches are a little easier to keep as pets, you should note that recent research has shown that neutering has health risks – particularly if the surgery is done before the puppy has matured into adulthood. There are advantages to desexing, but please read the links to current research at the end of this section and at least allow your dog to grow up before you have them neutered.

In Australia, like some other countries, we have been taught to believe that we are only responsible dog owners if we neuter our pets at an early age to stop unwanted pregnancies. Interestingly, desexing dogs in some countries is considered an unethical cosmetic surgery

and does not have veterinary or public approval. Dogs are only desexed for medical reasons. The belief is that nature designed dogs to have reproductive organs and using the ‘unwanted pregnancy’ card is an excuse for humans to absolve themselves of responsibility for good management of their animals. They have a point! Ironically, these countries also have the lowest percentage of stray, homeless or rescue dogs per canine population. Whereas Australia and the USA have the highest rates of early desexing and the highest rates of dogs in rescue etc. per dog population!

However, it is the recent research around health risks and the desexing of dogs before they are fully mature that is of most concern. I strongly recommend you do not neuter (both males and females) until they are *at least* 12 months of age. If you are worried about the risk of pregnancy, please talk to me.

These are some of the risks we know about if puppies are desexed before they reach maturity:

- The leg bones grow unevenly and tend to be longer than normal, significantly increasing the risk of hip and elbow dysplasia and torn ligaments – especially cruciate ligaments.
- Haemangiosarcoma – a deadly bone cancer – is increased by a factor of four.
- Hypothyroidism is three times more likely; the dog will require medication for the rest of its life if diagnosed with this condition.
- An increased likelihood of geriatric cognitive impairment (dementia) in old age.
- Females may become incontinent after spay surgery.

After sterilisation, both dogs and bitches *do* tend to gain weight. You will need to pay extra attention to their diet and exercise. Your collie’s coat texture will change too – becoming softer and more profuse.

I still recommend you neuter your collie, but not until it is physically mature. Wait until it is at least 12 months of age – even better if you wait until it is two years old. In the meantime, be a responsible owner and do not allow your collie to breed.

Further reading:

[Neutering Poses Health Risks](#)

[Study Finds Neutering Health Risk](#)

[Long-Term Health Risks and Benefits Associated with Spay / Neuter in Dogs](#)

Choking

❖ Take instant action if your dog appears to be choking.

It is not usual to have to deal with a choking puppy and normally your vet is the person to turn to for medical queries or if your dog is not well. However, in the case of a choking dog it is essential to know what to do because you may not have time to call your vet. If your dog has something caught in the top part of its throat, suffocation can happen very quickly.

Open your dog's mouth and try gently to pull out whatever has become lodged there. If you can't instantly find the offending item, there are several other things you can try to do to [save your choking dog's life](#). *(Please read this now, so you know what to do if your puppy should have a choking event)*. You might also like to take some time and watch this video to learn the [Heimlich Manoeuvre for dogs](#) - just in case you should ever need it.

Your dog may be difficult to catch and hold if it is stressed and panicked. If its air supply is severely restricted it will very quickly pass out and become unconscious from lack of oxygen.

There are two tubes in the throat, the trachea (or windpipe) in front which takes air to the lungs and the oesophagus at the back that takes food to the stomach. When something is badly swallowed, instead of going into the oesophagus, it goes accidentally into the windpipe and causes choking.

If your dog is unconscious and in danger of dying and you have tried other techniques without success, your last resort is to pull the tongue forward, open the mouth as wide as possible and reach in. With as much care as possible, try to dislodge or turn the object. If you fail to bring the item forward and out, your very last hope is to try to get it into the lower part of the throat or oesophagus to allow the dog to breathe. While this is risky, it might be your last chance. You are running a high risk of pushing the item further into the trachea and if that happens the air supply will be entirely restricted, and your dog will not survive. If you are successful, your dog will have to be taken to the vet immediately to be checked, and the object may have to be surgically removed.



SECTION 5: PUPPY DEVELOPMENT STAGES

Puppy behavioural/age stages

- ❖ Your puppy will go through several well recognised developmental phases which can contain a couple of stages.
- ❖ Until it has passed through all the phases it is not considered an adult. Usually, collies become adults around two years of age. But as with personalities, no two puppies are the same when it comes to growing up.
- ❖ These developmental phases and stages allow your puppy to learn about life and its place in it. For our dogs today, that means they learn how to behave in such a way that they can live happily and successfully with people and interact with other dogs and animals.
- ❖ It's your job to teach and guide your collie puppy in acquiring these skills – it's called training.
- ❖ Good news: collies are one of the easiest breeds to live with during all these stages. Being a lower-energy breed they don't get into the level of mischief or trouble that the higher-energy breeds often do. However, the fear periods might be a little more marked in collies due to their sensitive natures.

Dogs only understand and live comfortably in a hierarchical society or group. Hierarchical societies function with a 'top dog' position, organised in terms of rank with distinct lines of power. Your dog's society or group will consist of you and your family and possibly other animals owned by the family. For your dog to live happily and successfully within this group, you and your family members must hold the 'top dog' position. This position means you are protector and leader in all situations and you make the rules! You may be challenged for the boss position during your dog's adolescent stage or if you are doing a poor job. (If you don't provide your dog with a hierarchical structure in which to live you will have a confused dog who will try to put that structure in place for itself, which causes problems and is unfair to the dog.)

Loosely, dogs tend to follow the same development stages that humans do. You will recognise them:

Development Phases

Babyhood – learning to have control over its body; learning about its world; learning about its siblings and mother. It needs to be loved and nurtured.

Infancy – learning what it can and can't eat, learning the limits of its body, learning its environment, learning dog skills and dog language, learning to trust people. It needs to be loved and nurtured.



These babies are less than one week old – ears and eyes will not open until they are about two weeks old.

Puppyhood (Childhood) – starting to explore and develop a sense of independence. And starting to learn what it should and should not do. It is beginning to understand that the world can be dangerous (first fear period). To build confidence, it needs guidance, boundaries and training as it tests out new skills.

Adolescence (Teenagers) – Like a human teenager, it starts testing its identity and working out where it fits into the hierarchy of its group. It will challenge authority, becoming rebellious and stubborn. It will need firm, consistent rules and boundaries – and like all teenagers, it will try to break them.

Adulthood – Typically a settled period when you feel your dog now knows what is expected of it and it is a consistently well-behaved family member. It needs consistent rules and love.

Often people do not understand some of the more difficult phases like puppyhood (8- 12 months) and adolescence (18 months to two years). These are the two critical periods in a dog's life when they are most likely to be given or sold to new owners or relinquished to dogs' homes and shelters. A sad situation, when frequently it is not the dog's fault: it is a fault of its leader for not becoming educated in their dog's needs and giving it the training to get through these stages.

The following will help you chart your puppy's development stages and help you to understand why your puppy is acting in a certain way. I've included a few pointers on how you can direct and train the pup's behaviour, so it is more acceptable. Always be ready to lead the way by training. If you get stuck at a particular point, you might need to get help through an obedience club or a dog trainer. And you can always talk to me.

The puppy's mother will have started the learning process and now (from your first day) it is time to build on that foundation. Training is important, and it is your responsibility to make sure it happens, so that you have a happy, well-adjusted 'family member' who will fit into your family group and society.

Let us look a little deeper into these development phases.

Babyhood (2–8 weeks)

It is still a baby; its eyes and ears opened around two weeks, and it is learning how to use them. At three weeks it has just started to walk on its little legs. It is still full-time with its mother and being fed by her.

Usually, there will be a number of puppies in the litter, and at three weeks they will all start to venture out together with their mother into their immediate environment. They will not go too far from their 'den' or sleeping area.

The lessons learned in this phase are vital. A puppy removed too early from mum, and its siblings can exhibit incorrect behaviours, because it has not learnt social lessons from its family.

This period can be broken up into two stages.



Even mums say 'no' sometimes

Stage 1: 3–5 weeks

The puppy is beginning to learn dog language and interactions, working out how:

- to communicate with its siblings and mother through actions and postures.
- to communicate with its siblings and mother through vocalisations, discovering the meaning of barking, growling, whimpering and all the other noises.
- social ranks are arranged within a pack: who gets the best sleeping spot, who gets the toy, who gets mum's attention first etc. This is the beginning of learning how to establish social ranks when it is older.
- its environment works; by taking little adventures outside the whelping box.
- to look for food from other sources and not just from its mum.

Stage 2: 5–8 weeks

Puppy's education is becoming more advanced – it is refining postures, vocalisations and dog behaviours. Its exploration of its environment widens, and it will actively 'hunt' for things to

eat. A fundamental and key life lesson will now begin: how to be subservient to the leader of the pack.

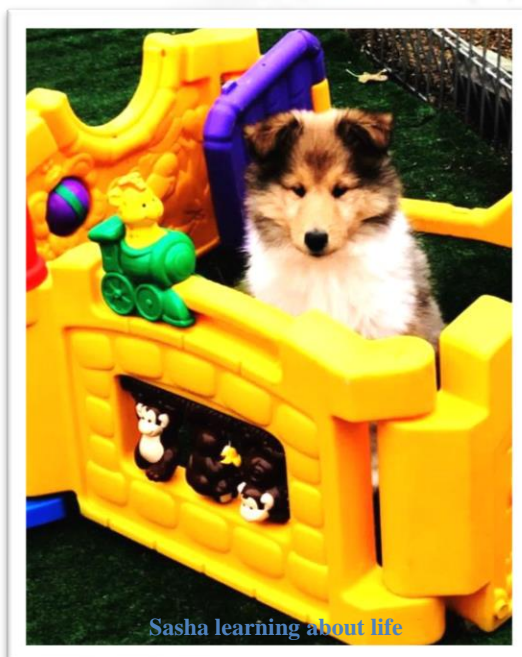
- The mother will start to growl, snarl and snap to communicate. She may even hold the puppy down with her mouth or paw. It will roll over in submission. The puppy learns quickly from its mother what is acceptable or not acceptable and who makes the rules.
- Littermates also learn how to make and interpret clear signals of communication between themselves. A lot of puppy wrestling and scrapping goes on at this stage.

Infancy (8 –16 weeks)

This period can be broken down into a couple of different stages too.

Socialisation period (8 – 16 Weeks)

It is during this time that a puppy needs to have lots of positive but different experiences. It



needs to be introduced to new things and begin the groundwork to becoming a happy, well-adjusted dog. (Read the booklet, *After You Get Your Puppy*, by Ian Dunbar, enclosed with your puppy package.)

The puppy will still have a very short attention span, but the things it learns at this time will be permanent. Start putting in place rules and boundaries for the actions you want from your puppy as an adult. Warning: things learnt during this period will be difficult to change later. Think carefully about what you want them to know and

do.

It will:

- be eager to learn and it will learn 'how to learn' – so each successive lesson is understood faster.
- start to watch and learn from others (including you) instead of just taking lessons from mum.
- experiment with its environment – e.g. climbing on rocks, digging, carrying things around in its mouth, jumping on grass that is blowing in the wind, stalking the cat, an ant, or even you – and many other things.

What you can do:

- Show your puppy you are the leader and you will protect it.
- Project a secure, comforting manner – but do not ‘baby’ it.
- Always project confidence for your puppy to mirror.
- Believe, *and expect* that your puppy is going to behave in the way you want it to. If you think it won’t succeed – it probably won’t.
- Make sure your puppy has plenty of quality sleep time.
- Teach your puppy a marker for ‘good dog’ (e.g. ‘Yes’, ‘Good’) for when you want to let it know you agree with its behaviour.
- Teach your puppy a marker (e.g. ‘No’, ‘Uh-Uh’, ‘Ttss’) for ‘bad dog’ which you will use to discourage unwanted behaviours. (I have given a couple of examples of ‘marker’ words. Use one word only – and use it consistently).
- Make every experience fun and enjoyable (provide treats, or toys, or pats and cuddles as rewards). Slowly introduce your puppy to many new things, environments and people. Meet as many new people as possible – each day if possible in different locations. Keep outings and meetings short.
- If your puppy is frightened of certain things or situations – take it slowly. Allow it lots of time to adjust and get used to every situation. Encourage it with food, toys or by play.
- During this time, don’t let other people interfere with the training of your puppy.
- If puppy becomes over-excited and growls or mouths you – yelp like you have been hurt (as a puppy would) and stop all contact and activity – including eye contact with the puppy. Your puppy should back off quickly. Wait a few moments and then start a different interaction with them.
- Keep introducing new experiences for your puppy.

Hierarchy ordering period (12–16 Weeks)

From the first day your puppy arrived, it will have been studying your (and others’) behaviour and actions – learning the hierarchy of the group. It will have discovered any ‘weak links’ and will start to pull rank. Working from the bottom it will try to climb up the ladder to the ‘top dog’ position. It needs the boss (you!) to show it exactly where it fits into the hierarchy.

Your puppy may try any or all of these – and other things:

- 1) Questioning authority by:

- Refusing to do as asked – when you know it understands perfectly.
 - Refusing to look or listen when you call.
 - Refusing to acknowledge you in any way.
- 2) Trying to move up in status by:
- Pushing or knocking over smaller children or even other animals.
 - Running in and out of doors in front of you
 - Jumping on you.
 - Jumping on furniture when it is not allowed.
 - Trying to snatch food from you.
- 3) Trying to control by:
- Pushing small children (or even you) around, grabbing your trouser legs, grabbing its lead in its mouth, tripping you up.
 - Determining what activities are going to be done and when – e.g. barking for food or for you to throw the ball etc.
 - Growling or resisting when you pick it up, put on its lead, put it to bed etc.
- Placing its mouth on you; rather than a bite and release it will grab and hold – usually with only a little pressure. The intent is to stop you – not hurt you.
- Becoming over-excited and hyperactive.
 - Not allowing you to touch its toys or food. (This can be as subtle as placing itself between you and the object, so you can't reach it.)

What you can do:

- Set clear boundaries – that do not change – ever!
- Recognise and find a way to control behaviours *before they start* or at least put a stop to them immediately. Try to work out a way to avert any second attempts.
- Enrol your collie in a puppy school or obedience class and practise the lessons at home.
- Make sure the whole family has a clear, consistent and united training method.
- Learn how to use body language to communicate with your dog.
- Do not play games that you might lose during this phase. (e.g. tug or wrestling)
- Watch your puppy with children and never leave them together unattended. Try to keep the atmosphere peaceful. If the puppy or children become over-excited remove the puppy to a quieter area until they have all calmed down.

Flight instinct period (4–8 months)

Your puppy has been staying close and following you everywhere. Now, suddenly, it has decided that it is ready to explore the world and is happy to run off – in any and every direction – paying no attention to you whatsoever. You must teach your puppy to stay close to you, and to come when called. The recall is an essential exercise for the puppy to learn. If you do not teach it your puppy to return to you the moment you call it, its recall is likely to be unreliable as an adult. There is nothing more frustrating (or dangerous) than a dog who will not come when called. You do not need 15 years of that!

Your puppy will be very clever in gaining its freedom to run around on the loose. That's because it is:

- becoming more independent and will venture off far and wide.
- confident enough to ignore commands to stay close or come.
- rebellious enough to believe you are not important enough to be the leader.

What you can do:

- Keep it on lead 100% of the time when it is not in a confined area.
- Keep attending your training class.
- Reinforce and continue to train your puppy to 'come' while on a lead and in a confined area. Do this by initially giving it a special treat when it arrives and then telling it 'off you go' and wave it off. When it knows how this works, only reward with a treat sometimes when you call it in, and the other times pat it and praise it for coming. Make coming to you when called a very positive experience and allow it frequently to return to what it was doing before you called. This will make it reliable in coming when you really need it.
- When you are confident it will come, test it by putting it on a long lead (6m – 20 feet) and dropping it. If it doesn't come back on the first call, pick up the lead and bring it in – treat it, but do not let it free again. Training now goes back to square one.
- Good news: once they get through this phase, collies are usually excellent at coming as soon as called – not like other breeds such as hounds, who when on their own mission cannot be diverted.

Puppyhood (7–14 months)

Puppyhood is one of the two most difficult times for any pet owner. Your dog turns into a total brat. Sadly, many dogs are rehomed during this phase. Remember, this is a stage, and you get out what you put into it. If you take the time right now to teach good habits and make

sure boundaries stay in place, you will have the dog you always dreamed about. The work will pay off.

Also – more good news – lucky you, you have a collie, which will never challenge you to the extent that some other breeds would.

Your puppy will:

- continue to challenge the pack order – hoping that its luck has changed.
- investigate and experiment in many ways, chewing, carting things around – usually your best or most expensive items. It might even take up gardening as a hobby!
- have heaps of energy and be exuberant and enthusiastic about life and all the new things it is learning.
- possibly decide to challenge its dog friends at the park or any social event – particularly over the ownership of toys or food.



Cooper having fun

What you can do:

- Continue to train and reinforce the things you do want it to do.
- Continue with any training classes; explore options for additional training opportunities.
- Make sure the family pack order is stable and strong. Re-evaluate the rules, make sure boundaries are solid and make sure the whole family is on the same page!
- Be realistic about expectations (it is still only a puppy).
- Direct the puppy's energy into learning and new experiences.
- Be patient and persistent.

First fear period (6–14 Months)

Out of the blue – your excitable, happy, confident puppy changes into a scaredy-cat. It refuses to walk down the stairs; shivers and shakes in the car, jumps out of its skin at sounds it has heard many times. It is terrified of the garbage bin that it has tried to raid every day, considers the next-door neighbour and the postman and your best mates, whom it has been friends with since the day you brought it home, as the greatest threats to dogkind! – And the list goes on. Believe it, or not, this is normal. You must help your dog work through this

stage. The skills of learning how to ‘keep calm and carry on’ or in your dog’s case ‘shake it off and keep going’ will be valuable to it for the rest of its life.

What is happening? *(This period can be subtle, and you may hardly notice it, or it might hit like a ton of bricks, leaving you feeling bewildered and often frustrated.)*

- The puppy that was so confident will suddenly become reluctant to try or do new things. It has become aware that there are things in life that can hurt it.
- This stage may come and go several times over an, approximately, 6–8 month period.
- Sometimes its reactions may seem unprovoked or even unrelated to any specific thing, which can be very frustrating.
- This stage seems to manifest more in males.

What you can do:

- Remain calm (no anger, forcing, or over-comforting). Try to make light of the situation, give reassurance but do not mollycoddle (your dog can interpret this as a reward for its behaviour).
- Dogs tend to mirror your feelings and reactions. Your dog will be taking clues, and its cues from you, so if you act frightened, worried or upset, it will too. (While *you* are reacting to your dog’s behaviour, *it* probably thinks you are responding to the thing that has upset it – allowing your dog to think it was right to be frightened in the first place.)
- Be patient and understanding.
- Work on desensitising your collie with gradual introductions and rewards.
- Give *big rewards* for any attempts. (You need to know or discover what your dog considers a *big reward*. It is the thing *they like the most* in the whole world.)
- Try to avoid situations that are very stressful for the dog during this period.
- Get professional help if you need it.

Adolescence (18 months to two or three years)

This is the second most difficult phase. If you have been consistent with training, this phase will be shorter and easier than the puppyhood phase. Your dog now is a fully-fledged teenager. It has reached its full height, but its body will continue to develop to maturity. At this age it might also challenge you for the ‘top dog’ spot in a more unyielding way. There can be subtle (and not so subtle) differences between the sexes in how they go about this. For

example, boys tend to be more ‘in your face’ defiant, while the girls are more manipulative or sneaky in their approach. Scenario: You come home from work and find your male collie sitting comfortably on your couch when both he and you know the rule is - ‘No dogs on the furniture!’ He looks at you with a look that says, ‘So what are you going to do about it?’ If your collie is a female, you won’t find her on the couch – but you will know she was there until the moment the key went in the door!

You might also find your collie is prepared to think about defending and protecting its pack and that is neither its place nor its responsibility. Go back to basic training.

It may also go through a second fear period – this is usually a little less challenging and shorter than the first fear period.

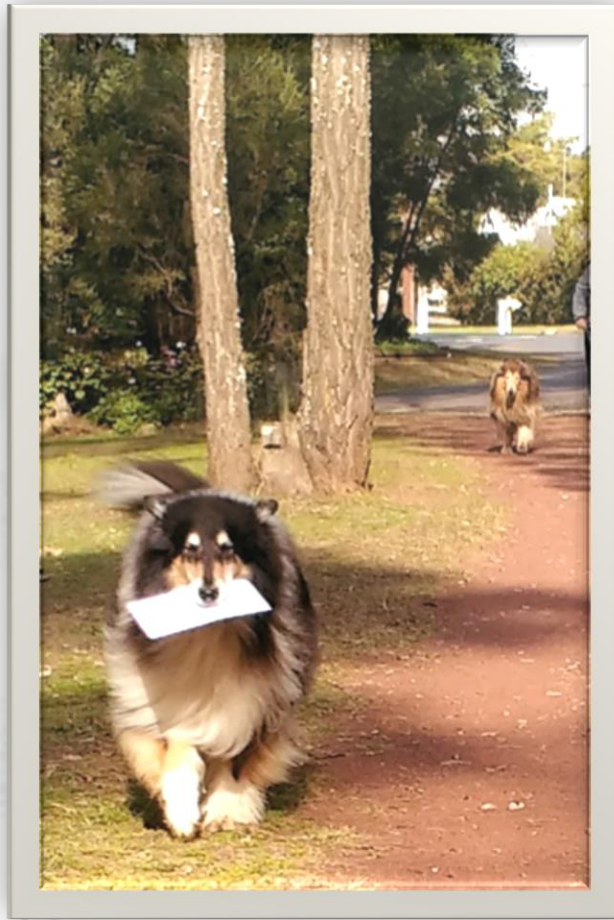
What sort of things might happen?

- It may become more protective - meeting strangers and visitors with barking and maybe even with some confronting posturing.
- It will give its full attention to anything that moves or makes a noise and it will have to tell you all about it by barking.
- Games with other dogs may end up in a brawl, particularly with those of the same sex.
- It refuses to come when called, becomes stubborn, pretends deafness and ignores commands.
- It will try to do (and make you do) everything to its own timetable e.g. insist that you get out of bed at its time, demand food at its time, demand you play with it when it wants to play – and the list goes on.
- It is, my friend, ‘moving on up’ (in the pack) – well, that’s its plan anyway.

What you need to do:

- Review, with your family, that the pack order is firm, and everyone is consistent with training, rewards and corrections.
- Reward good behaviours. Give clear signals using your ‘No’ marker when unwanted behaviour is displayed.
- Go back to the basics in your training.
- Learn to read your dog and other dogs. Try to be one step ahead.
- Do not give into its demands or work to its time schedule. i.e. if it is demanding you play a game with it, wait until the demanding has stopped for a period and then, when *you* are ready, play the game with it.

- Keep it busy – i.e. therapy work, obedience classes, agility. Even small jobs, like getting your slippers, collecting the mail, etc. will keep your dog busy and happy. If you are struggling (for whatever reason) – get professional help or call me.



Skipper has the job of bringing in the mail.

Adulthood

- After two years (give or take) ...what a fantastic dog you have. All the hard work has paid off and now you have a consistent, content, reliable, well-trained dog who is a wonderful family addition and companion. All you, and your family, must do now is maintain the pack order and make sure rules remain consistent for your dog – rewarding and correcting as appropriate.

Collars and harnesses for collies

- ❖ Choosing the right collar or harness for your collie is important. Collies' necks typically have a larger circumference than their heads, so collars cannot be done up tight enough to stop them from sliding back over their heads if they try pull out of them.
- ❖ The most likely time a collie will pull out of its collar is when it has been scared or if it is confused in a busy environment – the precise time when it is most dangerous for it to do this!
- ❖ You may need two different types of collars for your collie – one with a simple buckle or quick release for home use, and a harness or non-slip webbed check collar for 'off the property' use.

If you feel your collie needs a collar at home, a good choice is a leather buckle collar or webbed fabric fast-release collar. Make sure it is not too tight (you should be able to slip two fingers under the collar) and check that the hair under the collar doesn't become matted. (I am confident that my collies cannot escape my property, so they only wear collars when we go out).

Be aware that collies have a larger neck circumference in comparison to their head, so a leather or webbed fixed buckle collar that fits securely on their neck will easily slip over their



head. While these types of collars are excellent when the dog is at home in its secure yard, they can be risky if you take the dog out of its secure yard and it is untrained or a little nervous. It might slip the collar and bolt.

Until your puppy is trained and you can predict its reactions to all events when you take it out of its secure yard, you need a

safer way to control it other than a collar.

I suggest that babies and young untrained or inexperienced dogs wear a harness with the lead attachment that comes off their back. While this *is* safer, some collies learn to back out of this type of harness too! However, it does take them a few seconds longer to escape from a harness.

Be aware that it is instinctive for dogs to push against the pressure of all harnesses and collars but because a harness has a larger surface than a collar the dog will push into it harder, and it might start pulling you along. Teaching your dog to heel on a loose leash and collar is imperative. Only use a harness when your dog's safety is at risk.

When using a harness, choose one where the lead attaches on top of the dog's shoulders rather than to a D ring at the front of their chest. Chest attachments are for dogs who 'pull' their owners. I've never had a collie that does this. Most collies seem to prefer to walk one step behind you – the shoulder attachment is best, and it will help them stay beside you instead of behind you.

Once your collie is older, trained and more experienced with the world, use a soft leather check/choke collar and lead or a webbed check collar and lead. The webbed ones are called

Mountain Leads because they are made from rock-climbing rope.



Webbed mountain lead with check collar

Mountain Leads are safer for collies. In an emergency the check collar will tighten quickly and not slip over your dog's head. However, train your dog to walk correctly at heel

before wearing this type of collar; used incorrectly, these collars can cause injury.



Leather check collar

If you do use a check collar:

- Under no circumstances leave the collar on when you remove the lead – it has been known for dogs to get an end caught; they then panic, the noose tightens, and they strangle themselves to death.
- While wearing this type of collar, never tie the dog up and leave it unattended – even for the shortest time; for the same reason as above.

It is important that your puppy has worn and is comfortable with its collar and lead before you take it off your property.

Golden rules of training

- ❖ The most important keys to any training are **consistency** and **kindness** supported by thoughtful **common sense**.
- ❖ Regardless of whether you are training at home or in a class with a club, there are golden rules (see below) that should never be broken. These rules will save you from ending up in a situation where you are frustrated, and your collie is sulking and refusing to learn.
- ❖ You will discover that for some strange reason, *everybody* has an opinion on how *you* should train *your* dog, and that there is only *one* way – *their* way. Don't buy into this. There are many different training techniques, and how you train your dog will depend on you and your dog. Every dog is an individual with different drives, energy levels, skills, needs, physical ability and temperament. Surely, it makes sense then to tailor training to the individual. **You are looking to build a two-way bond of love, respect and reliability between you and your dog and its human family.** Choose a teaching method that suits your dogs and stick with it. If you get confused, talk to me.
- ❖ I repeat – the most important keys are **consistency** and **kindness**, and good ol' **common sense**.

You will hear of different training styles, but most encompass techniques from either 'traditional training' or 'pure positive training'. While I am hoping we are all passed the days of using the harshest methods used in 'traditional training', I think 'pure positive training' has flaws too.

For babies, there is no need to use anything other than positive training techniques and shaping. However, once the dog starts to question authority – which is normal for it to do – corrections: like removing toys, using 'time-out' for bad behaviour, and of course ignoring bad behaviour are ineffective – unless, of course, you have absolutely nothing else to do in your life but train your dog for the rest of its life! Positive training can be like playing a game of 'hot' and 'cold' where you are only told one temperature. It takes forever, and it is

frustrating trying to work out what you are supposed to do with so little information. This is the same for a dog when it does good or right things and is acknowledged and rewarded, but bad or incorrect behaviours are ignored! It is much more engaging for the dog if bad or improper conduct is marked and even challenged. This can be done without using violence or abusive methods or making the dog reluctant to 'have another go'. (And I don't believe removing toys and 'time out' are understood by dogs like we think they might be – I've never witnessed dogs giving each other 'time-out' or mothers removing toys from ratbag babies!)

I don't believe there is only one way to train a dog - like some dog trainers would have you think. All training methods, no matter which, have some excellent and valuable ideas. They also have some not so good – to downright terrible and even dangerous ones too. I wish we could get past all the egos and train each dog in a way that works for that individual!

Show the dog some respect, find out what motivates it, teach it about rewards (and some dogs need to know about consequences too - that is how the world works). Don't treat it as stupid and don't make it stupid! Always teach in a way that gives the dog information, and keeps it interested and engaged. You will find each dog processes information at different speeds, on different levels and to different depths. It is always the dog who sets the pace in any learning – not the trainer.

In 10 years', all todays training methods will be archaic, and there will be a different set of ideas! Just be consistent, kind and use common sense. Make lessons (and life) fun and challenging for your dog, and it will learn quickly and try its hardest to do as you ask.

The following are 'golden rules' to follow no matter what techniques you use to train or teach your dog. And remember – it is always 'horses for courses'.

The 'do' and 'always' list

- Do make training fun, even though you want serious results.
- Do make sure you know what you are going to teach and *how* you will give that information to the dog before you start working with the dog. For example: you want to teach it to sit. Run through the entire procedure from the start to finish without the dog first.
- Always make sure your actions are calm, smooth and definite. Act like a leader and your collie will be more inclined to listen to you and do what you ask.
- Do give lots of praise and treats when your puppy tries to do as you asked.
- Always be consistent and patient with your training.

- Do make sure your dog has rest or play periods during training – especially while it is still a puppy. A five-minute game or rest for every 10 minutes of work is ideal.
- Always try to see the world through your puppy's eyes. Sometimes it helps to get down to its level and see how the world looks from that height. It also helps to remember you know a lot more about the world, environment, and how it works. Until your puppy has had many experiences, it doesn't have this information. It is your job to teach it and to keep it safe.

The 'don't' and 'never' list

- Never train your dog if you are angry or upset. If you are not in control of yourself, how can you be in control of your dog? People who make this mistake usually find they end up undoing months of previous training and hard work as well as losing the trust of their dog.
- Don't sneak up on your dog and grab or trick, fool or tease it. You could frighten it, and this can be a recipe for disaster. At worst you could turn it into a 'fear biter'.
- **Never hit, kick, or be physically rough** with your collie. These actions are **never** warranted, and you may ruin your sensitive collie for life. It will never trust you again.
- Don't chase your dog to catch it. Train it to come to you. If it learns that you will chase after it, it will probably turn this into a game – and guess who can run the fastest!
- Never coax your dog to come to you and then punish it for some wrongdoing. That is wrong on every level and your dog will quickly learn not to come; dogs are not silly.
- Don't train your dog just after it has eaten. Give it about an hour to digest the meal before setting it to work.
- Don't allow everybody to give it commands while it is in the early years of its training. Let it learn from one trainer. That person should also have the most responsibility for its food and other care.
- Don't jump to the conclusion that your dog is dumb if it takes a long time to learn an exercise. If after a time you are not progressing, you might need to use another method or technique to get the message through. It might be a good time to refer to a good training book or talk to a dog trainer.
- Don't expect your collie to be just like 'Lassie' in a few weeks of training. Even she (who was really a he) needed a lot of training. Depending on your skills as a trainer, it may be one to three years before your dog is reliable, dependable and well trained.

House-training or toilet training your puppy

Hasten toilet/house training by synchronising your timing with your puppy's timing, taking it outside at the following times:

- ❖ The moment it wakes from a sleep or nap.
- ❖ As soon as it has finished eating a meal.
- ❖ If you see it sniffing and circling the floor.
- ❖ Every hour or so for the first few weeks. As the puppy grows, and if you are having good results, extend the time to every 2-4 hours.

House-training your puppy will be one of your priorities. Collies are an instinctively clean breed and hate being 'dirty' or living in a dirty area, making them easy to house-train.

The very first thing you should do when your puppy arrives is to take it to the place you want it to use as a toilet area. With a bit of luck, it might eliminate for you at this time. Great if it does 'go', but do not worry if nothing happens. (Do not forget to praise it when it does 'go'). Remember to choose an appropriate place for your puppy to use as its toilet area. If you just put the puppy outside your back door do not be too surprised to find it using this spot ever after.

Set up regular times for taking your puppy to its spot. Dogs have an inbuilt clock and they will quickly learn your routine. Go with your puppy until you have it fully trained; you can then make sure that it has done what it was supposed to. (You do not want it to have a little play in the garden only to return and dirty your floor). If you are with it, you will be on hand to praise it when it does 'go' in the correct place, helping your puppy to know when it has done the right thing.

Another great way to help speed the learning process is to limit access in the house by confining it to one area – e.g. the kitchen. This way, you will see if/when it 'asks' to be let out. It might do this by several methods, such as whining, or going to the door, or looking at the door, or looking at you, or a combination of these or indeed other actions – watch and take notice. It will not take long to recognise the signs it is giving you. (See the blue box above.)

In the early stages of house training you can expect your puppy to make mistakes. It will not even try to let you know it wants to go out. When this happens pick it up quickly and take it to its toilet area even though it will not want to use it now. **It should never be smacked nor**

have its nose rubbed in its eliminations – these actions achieve nothing – other than making it afraid of you!

However, when it starts to ‘ask’ to be let out, you must make sure you immediately open the door for it. If you do not and it has an accident you have nobody but yourself to blame. It would be unfair to blame your puppy for your mistake. Remember it will not have full bladder control until it is about nine months to one year old.

It is natural for your puppy to keep its bed clean; so, at night, you might consider locking it inside its sleeping box or crate. If you do this, make sure you get up early to take the puppy out. (It may need to be taken out during the night while still very young.) The puppy should be in its bed no longer than six to eight hours without the opportunity to relieve itself – even when it is an adult. It is most unfair if it is forced to be dirty in its bed. When pups have accidents in their beds too often it can become a habit. Do not let this happen because re-training can be difficult.

Lead training

- ❖ Lead training is easy. First, fit your puppy with a leather buckle-up collar or one of the 'quick release' collars and let it wear this around for a few days. It will scratch at the collar until it gets used to it.
- ❖ A day or two after it has forgotten about the collar, clip on a light lead. Hold the end and encourage the pup to come to you for treats. When it is beside you, step away, keep the lead loose and urge it to follow. You are on your way. Now it is just practice.
- ❖ Never jerk or drag them – you can hurt them.
- ❖ Use a more secure collar or harness when you take them outside your home area – especially the first few times. See 'Good manners' – [page 109](#).

You might feel that you want to have your dog walking on a lead without too much resistance before you join an obedience club or go to puppy school. While it is not essential, if you can get it used to a lead before you go, it will give you more confidence and free you up to concentrate better on the rest of the lesson.

There are several different reactions you can expect from your puppy when you first put on a lead. Walking quietly beside you is not one of them!

The puppy might try to take the lead in its mouth to chew or bite it. Try not to allow this. Pull the collar around until the lead is coming straight up from the centre of the back of its neck, making it hard for the puppy to get hold of the it.

The next step is to get the pup to walk with you. Try to coax it by calling it and patting your leg gently or holding your fingers out for it to see; you can also use food – such as a small tasty piece of cheese or liver treat, etc. – as a reward and encouragement. (Remember it does not get the treat until it takes one step at the least, in the right direction, or is trying to respond appropriately.)

Some puppies refuse to move while they have a 'string thing' attached to them! Others insist on going in the opposite direction and nearly choke themselves if you are not careful. Then you have the puppies who give great impersonations of rodeo horses. At this time, you must not lose your patience. Calmly, allow your puppy as much lead as possible, stand still and do not move. Wait quietly and patiently until it has settled; and even if it is still straining at the end of the lead, kneel and coax it to come to you using food and praise.

Do not jerk or drag it.



To distract and help your young collie get over its initial surprise of being restrained on a lead, use as much food as you wish. You can even use its favourite toy to distract it from the newness of the lead. Continually encourage. Praise and reward your puppy every time it takes a step in the right direction. Try to keep your lessons short and end them when it has just done something right. Ending lessons on a positive note means you can tell your puppy how good it is and give a 'jackpot' reward – e.g. several pieces of cheese as opposed to one piece.

The first lesson or two could be quite stressful for both of you, but do not give up. It will not take very long before your puppy quietly walks with you. Try hard to make sure the lessons are as happy and as much fun as possible – when things are fun, puppies learn quickly.

Note: While your puppy is small do not take it out on walks. Until puppies are at least 6 – 8 months old they should mostly have free running exercise where they can move at their own pace and stop and start and even sit down when they want to. Lead walking should only be for short periods and for training. If you are a keen walker or jogger, you need to wait until your puppy is 10-12 months old before you start to take it out on longer gigs with you. You need gradually to build up the time and distance. A dog under 18 months of age should not do *any* endurance-type training or sport – see [page 79](#).

This YouTube video will show you [how to hold and use your leash/lead correctly](#).

Crate Training

Another important and useful thing for your collie to use willingly, is a crate. A few reasons you might crate your puppy:

- ❖ Travelling
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Convenience

Many people have a mental block about using crates, believing it is cruel. It is cruel to make a dog live in a crate on a permanent basis – but this is not the way crates should be used! When they are used properly, they can play an important role in your dog's life. Dogs enjoy having a 'den' like place to rest. Crates can be just like a den, secure and comforting, where your dog can relax in a space that is entirely its own. (To make a crate more den-like, cover it with a blanket).

There are many valid reasons to crate your dog:

- Crates are a safe and convenient for car travel.
- Your dog *must* be crated to travel by plane and usually by boat.
- Crate training will stand you in good stead if your dog needs a veterinary stay. (Vet clinics use vet kennels that, for all intent and purposes, are like crates.)
- Being crated means that your puppy or dog can still stay in an area with you and the family even if for some reason they can't be allowed to roam free at that time. e.g. an elderly visitor at risk of tripping over a puppy, a young child afraid of dogs, you are painting your walls or the common reason – housetraining.
- Crates facilitate house training. If you are unable to watch your puppy for a period, putting it into a crate for a short time while you are busy and then taking it for a toilet on release, will decrease toilet accidents and hasten housetraining/toilet training.
- You will find staying with family or friends or even in a dog-friendly hotel will be easier if your dog is happily crate trained.

Most dogs take to crates – like ducks take to water. The occasional puppy might need a bit more convincing.

Always use crates in a positive way. Never use the crate as a place for ‘time out’ punishment or put the puppy in it in anger as it may cause a negative association with this valuable tool.

Choosing a crate

There are many different types of crates on the market (see [page 38](#) for some examples). Choose one that your dog can use for the rest of its life, and if you are going to travel, buy one that is airline approved. It needs to be at least 91cm (36") high and able to accommodate a dog weighing between 25 - 35 kg.

Introducing the crate

Place the crate in the room where the family spends the most time. Make it inviting by placing a dog bed or blanket and maybe a toy inside. Leave the door open or even remove the door for a time. Allow your puppy to investigate, play and lie in it. Leave treats in the crate for it to find. Begin feeding it its meal in the crate. Start by putting its food bowl near the front of the crate. Over a few days gradually move the bowl further into the crate. When the puppy goes fully in to eat its food, start closing the door. Gradually increase the time the crate remains closed while feeding. If whining and pawing start, take no notice and do not let your puppy out until it stops doing this. If you open the door while it is whining and pawing, it will learn this is the way to get the door to open. This behaviour only has to stop for a short time – less than a couple of minutes to begin with – before you open the door. Waiting for your puppy to sit and look at you before opening the door would be optimal.

Once your dog is very comfortable with this whole process, start offering chew treats that take a long time to eat (e.g. pigs’ ears, Nyla bones, Kong filled with frozen food) in the crate at different times of the day for extended periods. Start leaving the room – do not say ‘goodbye’ – or anything else. Ignore the puppy for a short time before you leave the room and then, without a glance or a word, leave the room briefly. Return to the room if all is quiet, ignoring your dog and do something else before approaching or talking to it. After a few minutes, if it is calm you can approach the crate and open the door. Do not make a fuss. Keep it very matter-of-fact. When you and the dog have mastered this, you can begin moving the crate to different areas, asking the dog to use it at different times and for varying lengths of time. Your puppy is now on the way to being fully crate trained.

Training your puppy to lie on its side

To lie on its side is an important lesson for your dog to learn:

- ❖ This position makes grooming much easier for you and for your collie – especially if your collie is a rough.
- ❖ Some vet examinations need your dog to be in this position. If your dog is used to laying on its side, it is less stressful for everyone.

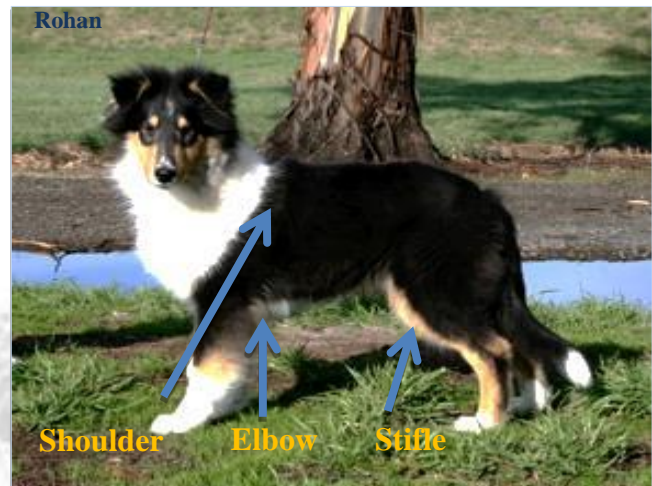
After your puppy's first week with you, start training it to lie on its side. You will be so pleased you took the time to teach this simple thing, especially when your dog becomes a senior. Elderly dogs find it very hard to stand in one place for grooming. Your vet will love you too for teaching your collie to do this.

There are different ways to teach this position. For me this is the quickest and the easiest:

Start by having your collie standing in front of you and sideways to your body. (If you are placing the puppy on the floor you will be kneeling on the ground with the puppy standing sideways in front of you. If you are going to lie your puppy on top of a grooming table, start with the pup in a standing position on the table. (Make sure it does not fall from the table, which can happen if the puppy starts to panic or is not used to the table).

Place one arm around your collie's bottom fitting it into the reverse curve of its back legs. Gently reach around and take hold of the stifle area of the back leg on the other side of its body. With your other arm reach around the front of the puppy and take hold of the elbow of the puppy's front leg (furthest from your body). Draw the puppy towards you and hold it snugly against your chest. From this position gently tip, and in a controlled way, lower it to the floor/table onto its side. (Your body will be between its front legs and back legs as you tip your collie from standing to lying). Hold your dog's body securely to your body, control the tilt, and do not allow it to hit its head on the table or ground as you lower it. As soon as it is lying on its side, immediately take your arms away and let it get. If it is on a table, guide it to a standing position and do not let it fall off. Repeat this a few times until it understands the action and allows you to tip it and place it on the ground without any concern.

When it is comfortable with this first part, up the ante by placing the palm of your hand on your puppy's shoulder as soon as it is in the lying down position. Apply gentle pressure for a second or two to the shoulder of the puppy – showing you would like it to stay down. Before your puppy starts to resist or 'fight' you, remove your hand and let it get up. You do not want to send your puppy into a panic or frighten it by pinning it to the floor or table top. Once the puppy is standing back up, *immediately* return it to lying on its side.



You might go through this routine several times before the puppy will lie quietly on its own accord without any resistance. Keep the times short for lying down for the first few times – a minute or less and then end the lesson. The most important thing is that *you* (not the puppy) ends the session - when the puppy is relaxed and doing as you ask. Give your puppy a marker that the lesson is over. Maybe just saying, 'Ok – all finished' and helping it to get up. Give a treat! Make sure you always stay calm and gentle – regardless of how frustrating your puppy is.

When your puppy is comfortable with this routine and is starting to stay in this position – run your hand through its coat, along its back, down the legs and under the tummy. Have a little look at the feet, checking its pads and toenails. Look in its ears and gently pull its lips apart to peek at teeth. (Remember your puppy will be teething, and its mouth may be sore at this young age. You are only getting it used to the idea of you looking in its mouth now.)



It could take a few months before you have your puppy fully trained to lie quietly without moving for an entire grooming session. (You will know when you have hit that mark when it sleeps – and snores –

while you brush!)

It *is* worth the effort to teach it to do this. It makes grooming easier and saves time. You will also find that you will do a better grooming job while making the sessions more enjoyable for both you and your dog.

Check out YouTube for another method to [teach your puppy to lie on its side](#).

Good manners

To help your puppy become a ‘good citizen,’ I suggest you enrol in puppy school or join an obedience club as soon as possible.

- ❖ Your puppy will greatly benefit from the socialising with other dogs and people.
- ❖ The environment will be exciting and mentally stimulating for it.
- ❖ The group rhythm and the example of the more advanced dogs will help reinforce and speed the lessons for both of you.
- ❖ Should you need it, you will also have encouragement, advice and support from other trainers and instructors.

As your new puppy starts to grow-up, you will find that both of you will be happier if the puppy has some training – formal or otherwise.

Aim to have a dog that is well trained so that it is a joy at home and a delight to take out in public.

I would strongly suggest that two weeks after your puppy has had its final vaccinations, you join a puppy school or an obedience club – especially if you have not experienced this type of structured training before.

Please research the training clubs in your area before you join. Training methods vary between clubs. Please do not use punishment or negative reinforcement in training your collie puppy. These techniques have no role in training babies!

Travelling with your dog

- ❖ Rules and regulations were introduced in 2013 for dogs travelling in cars or on motorcycles. Drivers can be fined and issued demerit points if a dog is causing the driver to lose concentration and not be in control of the vehicle.
- ❖ The RSPCA can issue fines if an animal is injured because it was not restrained properly in or on a vehicle.
- ❖ Never leave your dog unattended in a parked car, at any time, for any reason.

Restrain your dog properly when travelling in the car so it cannot interfere with the driver to cause an accident. If there is an accident it is safer from injury if it is correctly restrained. Restraints also stop your dog from jumping out of windows or exiting car doors as soon as they are opened, and when it might not be safe.

Do not allow your dog to travel on the front seat of a car. Airbags, when activated in an accident, have been known to kill dogs.

There are several ways to restrain your dog in a vehicle to keep it safer. For example:

- Use a harness (which is safer than a collar if you need to brake heavily or you are in an accident) and a lead that has an attachment that clips into the car's seat belt fastener or
- Place the dog behind a barrier – either in the cargo area or behind the front seat or
- Place the dog in an appropriate travelling crate.



On road trips longer than an hour or two, take rest stops for walks and drinks. Carry fresh water and a drink container with you.

NEVER leave your dog unattended in a parked car – even if you are satisfied that it is cool, and safe enough to do so.

Follow the link above for a better understanding. While it is an American article, Australia too has stiff penalties for dogs dying in hot or cold cars.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Tasmanian Collie and Shetland Sheepdog Club



President: Mim Bester Ph: (03) 6265 2102

Secretary: Julie Kaden Ph: (03) 6248 9624

❖ Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in or owns a collie or Shetland sheepdog.

Aims and objectives

- To establish a network of people involved or interested in collies and shelties so we can offer each other help and social interaction supported by a common interest.
- To recognise the specific needs of owners and breeders of collies and Shetland sheepdogs and encouraging and supporting responsible ownership of these breeds.
- To impart general information – such as responsibilities of collie and sheltie ownership, breed information, local government regulations, behavioural queries, kennel management, grooming and handling.
- Continuing education – e.g. covering specific breed problems such as collie eye anomaly, current developments in veterinary science, etc.
- Collie and Sheltie Rescue Program – the rehoming and sometimes re-education of collies and shelties placed in the Dog's Home, left at veterinary clinics or whose current owners can no longer care for them.

Breeder's code of ethics

- ❖ Australian Canine Council Control (ANKC) registered breeders are bound, through their State body, by a code of ethics for responsible dog ownership which includes the keeping, welfare, breeding, and selling of dogs and puppies.
- ❖ Scammers abound in this world. You should check with a breeders' [State Canine Association](#) that the breeder is *registered*, and an *active member* and *does not any have registered complaints* against them. (Ask the breeder for their membership number to make this task easier).



(Dogs Tasmania's code of ethics in relation to breeding and selling of dogs)

A member shall:

- constantly strive to improve their knowledge of their chosen breed or breeds, and their knowledge of the requirements for the care, welfare and betterment of dogs.
- ensure that at all times all dogs under their control are properly housed, fed, watered, exercised and receive proper veterinary care as required in accordance with any Government Regulations.
- ensure that dogs under their control are not left in any situation that may cause injury or death to the dog.
- not dispose of any dog owned or bred by the member to a pound or animal refuge.
- breed primarily for the purpose of improving the quality, health welfare, soundness of working ability of the breed in accordance with the breed standard, and not specifically for the pet or commercial market.
- take all reasonable action to reduce the incidence of hereditary diseases in accordance with ANKC Ltd Code of Practice for Hereditary Diseases.
- not sell or otherwise transfer from his or her care any puppy under eight weeks of age.
- ensure that any person acquiring a dog understands the requirements for the care, welfare and responsible ownership of the dog, and that the person acquiring the dog

has the time and facilities (e.g. adequate fences, sufficient room and proper shelter) to fulfil their responsibilities.

- provide to all recipients of dogs sold or otherwise disposed of, written details of
 - a) the breed characteristics
 - b) vaccination record or requirements
 - c) responsible dog ownership information
 - d) all documentation required by Dogs Tasmania
- not incorrectly describe or knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed.
- ensure that all dogs sold or disposed of are in the best possible state of health. Where there is a health issue or disability the member shall obtain from the recipient written and signed acknowledgement of the condition of the dog.
- not indulge in false or misleading advertising relating to conformation, characteristics or performance of their dog/s.

<http://www.tasdogs.com>

Your responsibilities as a dog owner

- ❖ As a responsible dog owner, you need to be aware of your State's Dog Control Act and your local council's dog regulations.
- ❖ Dog control regulations may change, and they do differ from State to State – check the current regulations for your area with your local council.



Tasmanian Consolidated Acts **A summary of the Dog Control Act 2000 and dog regulations** **(Tasmania)**

This is a very summary of the Dog Act and its Regulations in Tasmania covering some of the more common or pertinent matters that concern most people.

1. All dogs over four months must be registered with your local Council
2. Maximum charges for licences are provided in the Regulations
3. The fees must be advertised by the Council by the end of the first week of June each year.
4. If you move from one Municipality to another you are required to transfer the registration, but there is no additional charge except for a new disc.
5. Dogs in a public place must be under effective control of the owner or another competent person.
6. Bitches in heat must be kept out of public places.
7. You may not lead more than two dogs on a footpath or four dogs on a roadway.
8. You may not have a dog on a recreation reserve unless the Council has approved the area for dogs.
9. When walking dogs on the roadway you must walk on the right-hand side of the carriageway (against the traffic) unless it is a one way-street – when you must stay next to either kerb.

10. A person who abandons a dog is guilty of an offence.
11. A person who owns a dog which chases cars is guilty of an offence.
12. Councils may establish areas in which dogs can be exercised off the leash without being deemed to be dogs at large.
13. An owner of a dog who attacks a person lawfully entering premises is guilty of an offence.
15. Farmers may destroy any dog found at large on their property.
16. Anyone can destroy a dog that has bitten him or her or which is seen to be attacking another person or farm or domestic animal.
19. The destroying of a dog must be undertaken without cruelty.
20. Dogs may not be taken into any school etc. at a time when children are in the grounds without the permission of the Principal etc., may not be taken into any shopping area other than a pet shop or a veterinary surgery and may not be taken onto a sports ground where sport is being played.
21. A person shall immediately remove the faeces and dispose of them in a lawful and suitable manner if a dog while in that person's control defecates in a public place or in any private property which is not owned by the person. Failure to do so is an offence.
22. Where a person considers a dog is creating a nuisance by noise or other means, he may lodge a complaint together with the appropriate fee to the local Council who shall investigate the complaint. If the complaint is proved the Council must take legal action and the fee is returned to the complainant.
23. Owners must take all reasonable precautions to prevent dogs becoming infested by tape worms and other parasites.
24. Local Health Inspectors have the power to prevent the continuous use of a pen or kennel etc. if its condition is prejudicial to health or constitutes a notice.
25. Authorised persons who include Council Health Inspectors and the police may enter private land at any time for the purpose of demanding the payment of registration fee payable under the Act. In addition, if any authorised person believes that an offence has been committed he may also enter the premises and seize any dogs found on the

premises, but he may not enter the dwelling on those premises. In addition, the authorised person may demand the name and place of residence of any person in charge of an animal.

26. A Kennel Licence shall be sought for any premises on which it is intended that more than two dogs are to be kept. This means if you have three or more dogs you must seek a Kennel Licence. Sections of the Act detail the requirements for kennels. In addition, a number of Regulations also contain additional requirements. If you have more than two dogs you should obtain a copy of the Act and Regulations that apply to kennels and read them carefully.
27. Kennel regulations are performance based. This should mean a relaxation of standards for owners of small numbers of small dogs. It may mean higher standards for owners of large dogs or large numbers of dogs.
28. There are also a number of miscellaneous matters in the Act. One is that a person shall not drive a vehicle on a public street with a dog on or in the vehicle if the dog is outside the cabin of the vehicle. This does not apply if the dog is secured in a safe manner outside the cabin of the vehicle or if the dog is a working dog.
29. A person shall not have in his charge or under his control a dog in any public place while he is riding a bike or motorbike. This also does not apply if the dog is a working dog or if the dog is enclosed in a suitable container secured in a safe manner in the pillion area of the motor cycle.

Dog Control Act 2000

Links to articles or websites mentioned in the text

- The Collie Standard (Rough)
<http://ankc.org.au/Breed/Detail/155>
- The Collie Standard (Smooth)
<http://ankc.org.au/Breed/Detail/156>
- Shaving Your Dog's Coat – Should You or Shouldn't You?
<https://albertnorthvetclinic.wordpress.com/2013/05/30/shaving-your-dogs-coat-should-you-or-shouldnt-you/>
- Collie Eye Anomaly / Choroidal Hypoplasia
https://www.optigen.com/opt9_test_cea_ch.html
- The Reputable Breeder
<http://www.lowchensaustralia.com/breeding/repbreeder.htm>
- Corydon Collies
<http://www.corydoncollies.co.uk/index.html>
- American Champion Blossom Hill Full Circle (ROM) - A.K.A. 'Cinnamon' (Video)
http://int.search.myway.com/search/video.jhtml?n=783a3453&p2=%5EBNF%5Exdm789%5ETTAB02%5Eau&pg=video&pn=1&ptb=EEA20B86-B162-4E6B-977C-FA5CFE987C9C&q=&searchfor=Youtube+video+Blossom+Hill+Full+Circle+Collie+Smooth&si=mainT1&ss=sub&st=hp&tpr=sbt&trs=wtt&vidOrd=1&vidId=s_Xurk8CoV4
- How to Gradually Transition your Pet to New Food
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1vsPWL4Kqw&feature=youtu.be>
- Dog Food Recipes
<http://www.dogfood-recipes.com/Dog-Food-Recipes-Ebook.pdf>
- Soft Bland Diet Recipes
<https://www.care.com/c/stories/6316/bland-diet-for-dogs-how-and-when-to-use-them/en-au/>
- Australian Veterinary Association Vaccination Policy
<http://www.ava.com.au/policy/66-vaccination-dogs-and-cats>

- The World Small Animal Veterinary Association 2015 Vaccination Guideline for the Owners and Breeders of Dogs and Cats
<https://www.wsava.org/sites/default/files/WSAVA%20Owner%20Breeder%20Guidelines%2014%20October%202015%20FINAL.pdf>
 - Safer Vaccine Guideline for Dogs
<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/safer-vaccine-guidelines-for-dogs/>
 - Melanie Newman Grooming Products
<https://melanienewman.com.au/pages/about-us>
 - List of Drugs That Cause Sensitivity to Dogs with MDR1 Mutation
<http://www.collielife.com/Health/MDR1leaflet.pdf>
 - Neutering Poses Health Risks
<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/early-neutering-poses-health-risks-german-shepherd-dogs-study-finds>
 - Study Finds Neutering Health risk
<https://www.avma.org/news/JAVMANews/Pages/130401s.aspx?PF=1>
 - Long-Term Health Risks and Benefits Associated with Spay / Neuter in Dogs
<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/long-term-health-risks-benefits-spay-neuter-dogs/>
 - No Touch Thermometer
<http://www.notouchthermometer.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NoTouchVet.pdf>
- How to Recognise if your Dog is Healthy – Vital Signs That Can Indicate Unwellness
http://www.veterinary.ie/go/pet_care_notes/dogs/how-to-recognise-if-your-dog-is-healthy
- ‘Shaping’ your dog to lie on its side
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGV3pUeW6qg>
 - Rules and regulations for car travel with your dog
<https://www.dogculture.com.au/rules-and-regulations-for-car-travel-with-your-dog/>
 - Heimlich Manoeuvre for Dogs
https://www.petmd.com/dog/emergency/common-emergencies/e_dg_choking
 - Mild Saline Solution for Cleaning Eyes
www.dog-health-handbook.com/dolipidosig-eye-wash.html

Phone Numbers

PHONE NUMBERS

BREEDER:

Mim Bester

(03) 62 652102

Home

Baqilodge Collies

0499774013

Mobile

YOUR VET:

Puppy's DOB: _____

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL:

Puppy's Microchip No:

