

## FAQ

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### **What is a herding breed?**

A herding breed is a dog breed that was specifically bred to work livestock. This includes Border Collies, Kelpies, Australian Shepherds, Heelers etc. Keeping in mind, each of these breeds has a specific work style and purpose. Our methods are geared towards gathering style dogs, but we have had students work with all styles. Make sure the breed you select a line with your goals.

### **What should I look for when trying to find a stock dog?**

Look for a dog with good temperament, that wants to please, and comes from working lines. A medium drive dog is a good start for handlers, as high drive dogs can be difficult for first timers. Make sure you have met the sire and dam and you have seen them work. Good breeds will have videos on hand. Make sure those dogs are performing tasks you are looking to do. The parents of your dog are a window into what you will end up with.

### **What if my dog does not have the basic obedience skills required?**

Your dog's obedience will be evaluated and if the coach believes it is not yet at a level that is conducive to starting stock work, the student will need to complete the Dog Training course.

### **Do I have to compete in cattle dog trials?**

No, not all students have a goal of trialing their dogs. Some students are looking to just make their dogs a bit handier at home. While you are not expected to trial your dog, you are expected to work at the trials we host. So, plan on blocking some weekends out for stock dog events.

### **Can I be on Stock Dog Team and participate in another NCTA Team**

We would discourage students from doing this. Due to scheduling conflicts, this does not seem to work well for students. They are either stretched too thin or they cannot give each team their full effort. It's a hard decision sometimes but you will be thankful once you start getting into your coursework.

### **Does my dog have to be 8 months old?**

Yes, it does. Puppies are cute and fun, but they are not at an age to be training for stock work. The training we do requires physical and mental maturity. Keep in mind every dog is an individual, but most will show interest at 8 months and older.

For further information or questions, please contact Leighlynn Obermiller

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