

Pastoral

Border Collie

The Border Collie is still seen performing the task for which it was bred, working sheep (and cattle) and its fitness for function is seen in its speed, its innate herding instinct and its stealthy gait and carriage.

The name derives from the border regions of England, Scotland and Wales where he originally showed his worth, working sheep in the hills and mountains. His intelligence, speed and versatility have brought the Border Collie success in many canine activities such as obedience, agility and as a sniffer dog for detecting explosives and drugs. In relatively recent times the breed has become highly popular in the show ring. The natural activity and intelligence of the Border Collie means that he needs to be engaged to lead a fulfilled life.

Breed Group	Pastoral
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Medium
How much exercise?	More than 2 hours per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	More than once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Small or Large House
Minimum garden size	Large
Lifespan	Over 12 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Border Collie?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- Eye testing

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- DNA test - CEA/CH
- DNA test - CL
- DNA test - TNS
- BVA/KC/ISDS Gonioscopy

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or

- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
- 6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

With effect from 01 January 2013, the Kennel Club will not register puppies whelped from a merle to merle mating born on or after this date. This is due to associated health risks of impaired vision and hearing associated with the merle gene in this breed.

Border Collie Clubs

Name	Telephone
Border Collie Club Of Great Britain	0121 471 4445
Border Collie Club Of Wales	01352 753510
East Anglian Border Collie Club	
Midlands Border Collie Club	01580 890422
North East Border Collie Club	01325 378252
North West Border Collie Club	
Scottish Border Collie Club	01698 290050
Southern Border Collie Club	01795 880410
Wessex Border Collie Club	01795 842776
West Of England Border Collie Club	01453 824903

Border Collie Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Border Collie Spot	01344 450206
Border Collie Trust (GB) - ADCH	01889 577058
Border Collie/Working Sheepdog Rescue	01903 746504
Valgrays Border Collie Rescue	01621 51467
Valgrays Border Collie Rescue	01883 624513