

Title: Herding Dogs 2: Basic Training and Skill Building

Pre-requisites: Dog and Handler must have all the skills taught in the course Herding Dogs 1: Building the Foundation. Any herding breed puppy or adult dog at least 5 months old may participate.

Purpose/Goal: To solidly establish the basic herding skills, calm stock handling and to develop a working partnership between you and your dog.

Course Info: This course will teach you how to begin working together with your dog to handle livestock. Your dog's natural instincts for herding will be developed, while teaching your dog to look to you for guidance. You will learn the basic herding skills and how to teach them to your dog. You will be handling your dog on a long line, using clear communication, body language and a clicker or voice to affirm your dog's successful attempts of the lesson at hand.

Course Dates and Times:

This course runs 6 weeks.

What you can expect to learn from this Course:

- Understand the interaction of dog and sheep, and their response to one another.
- Learn the basic herding skills and verbal cues: what they mean and how to use them. (That'll do, Stop, Stay, Flanks - Come Bye and Away to Me, Steady, Lift)
- Teach your dog to look to you for leadership thru exercises off stock.
- Learn how to teach your dog flanking basics off stock.
- Understand and practice the principles of good handling.
- Introduce your dog to stock and teach the basic skills using a long line.
- Learn how to develop mindful, keen and workman-like behavior in your dog.
- Nurture a strong partnership between you and your dog.

Lessons	Topic/Objectives
Lesson One: •Overview of course •Stock Handling Basics	•Overview of the big picture: gather, drive, sort, pen) •Learn why and how stock moves; understand pressure, flight zones and flock mentality.
Lesson Two: •Outlining Basic Herding Skills and Verbal Cues	•Learn herding skills and verbal cues: what they mean and when to use them. (That'll do, Steady, Stop, Come Bye, Away to Me and Lifting.)
Lesson Three: •Preparation ground work: Teach your dog some basic herding skills.	•Review the herding skills and cues. •Practice and teach your dog the basics for come bye, away to me, steady and stop -- off stock.
Lesson Four: •Teach more skills off stock. •Introduce your dog to sheep.	•Off stock: teach Get Back, practice Gate work, and understand line handling. •Introduce your dog to sheep on a line and practice steady, stop and that'll do.
Lesson Five: •Communicating thru your line. •Teach Flanks on sheep.	•Build on your line handling skills. •Begin to teach the flank commands around the sheep.
Lesson Six: •Putting it together: Moving the sheep around the pen.	•Build on the skills learned in previous lessons. •Use flanks to change the direction of the sheep. •Practice smooth transitions between flanks, stop and steady. •Continue to refine the lift.