

# BORDER COLLIE TRAINING

Smartest Breed Owner Guide



# Border Collie Training: What's Different

Border Collie training is one of the most rewarding — and demanding — experiences in dog ownership. Ranked #1 in dog intelligence, Border Collies learn new commands in fewer than 5 repetitions. The challenge isn't teaching them; it's keeping their minds busy enough that they don't invent their own jobs (usually destructive ones). This guide covers everything from puppy through reliable adult.

## 3 truths every Border Collie owner needs

- **Mental stimulation is non-negotiable.** A Border Collie needs 2-3 hours of MENTAL work daily, not just physical exercise. Without it, they develop compulsive behaviors (shadow-chasing, obsessive ball fixation, light fixation).
- **They learn bad habits as fast as good ones.** 5 repetitions = command learned. Also 5 repetitions = bad habit cemented. Be deliberate about what you reinforce.
- **Herding instinct must be channeled.** Untrained Border Collies herd children, joggers, cars, and other pets. Provide structured outlets (treibball, herding lessons, agility) before the instinct becomes a problem.

**Want video demos for the smartest breed?**

The Fast Dog Training program covers Border Collie-specific training with video demos.  
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# The 8-Week Border Collie Training Plan

Designed for an 8-week-old Border Collie puppy. Sessions are 5-15 minutes (longer as the puppy ages). Three sessions per day minimum.

Weeks	Focus	New Commands
1-2 (8-10 wk)	Foundation: name, sit, crate	Sit, name, crate
3-4 (10-12 wk)	Recall + leash + intelligence games	Come, leash, find-it games
5-6 (12-14 wk)	Down, Leave it, Place	Down, Leave it, Place
7-8 (14-16 wk)	Heel + advanced commands + tricks	Heel, Off, trick repertoire

# Mental Stimulation: The Border Collie Difference

Most breeds need exercise. Border Collies need WORK. Physical exercise alone (a long walk or run) does not satisfy this breed — they need mental challenges that engage their problem-solving brains. The activities below provide what walking can't.

- **Trick training:** Teach 1-2 new tricks per week. Border Collies thrive on novelty.
- **Puzzle feeders:** Replace food bowls with puzzle toys, snuffle mats, frozen Kongs.
- **Scent work:** Hide treats around the house, teach formal scent discrimination.
- **Agility:** Even backyard equipment (jumps, tunnels, weave poles) provides hours of structured work.
- **Herding lessons:** Find a trainer with sheep — even monthly sessions satisfy the breed's deepest need.
- **Treibball:** Herding-style soccer with large balls. Perfect urban Border Collie sport.

## The 30-minute rule

30 minutes of mental work tires a Border Collie faster than 2 hours of walking. If you only have 30 minutes per day, prioritize a structured training session over a long walk every time.

## The training program for working dogs

Video demos, breed-specific guidance, and lifetime access. The training program for Border Collie owners.

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# 5 Border Collie Training Mistakes

Avoid these to prevent the most common Border Collie problems:

- **1. Treating them like a normal dog.** A walk and a chew toy isn't enough. Plan for hours of structured work daily.
- **2. Letting them herd children/pets.** Cute when they're 3 months old, dangerous when they're 50 lbs. Train an alternative behavior immediately.
- **3. Using harsh corrections.** Border Collies are sensitive — they shut down with punishment. Positive reinforcement only.
- **4. Boredom-driven destruction.** Furniture chewing, hole digging, fence patrol = symptoms of insufficient mental work.
- **5. Not providing a job.** Border Collies were bred to work. A purposeless Border Collie is an unhappy one.

# Where to Go From Here

This 8-week plan covers the foundation. After that, your Border Collie has the basics to build on for the next 12-24 months. Most Border Collies reach mental maturity around age 2-3.

## Get Fast Dog Training

Step-by-step training program with video demos for every command, Border Collie-specific guidance, and lifetime access. Used by 50,000+ owners.

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