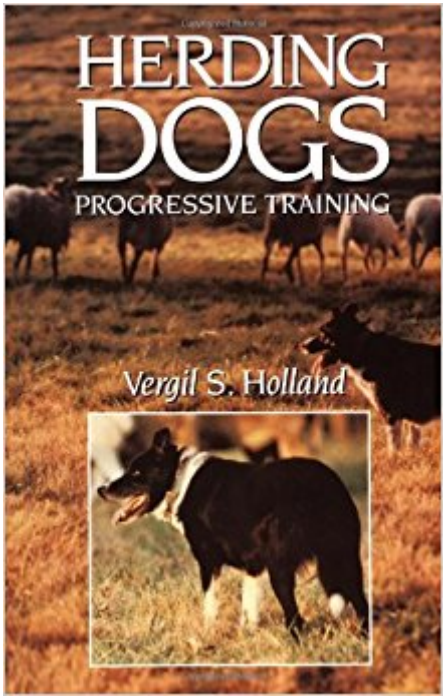
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Herding Dogs: Progressive Training



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Synopsis

Herding Dogs: Progressive Training is the only book of its kind to guide the owner toward training the complete herding dog. Whether you are involved in farming or ranching, or simply want to explore your herding dog’s heritage, you will find a wealth of information here. For those with competitive goals, Herding Dogs will enhance your knowledge with a philosophy that has the dog’s individual breed and personality as the central focus.Vergil S. Holland teaches the handler to understand the dog’s reactions before beginning this progressive training. Whether it is your dog’s first exposure to stock or your older dog with a new problem, you, as a handler, will find solutions to each problem and sound advice on each phase of training.Special chapters on different personalities of the various herding breeds, with training modifications tailored to these differences, make it possible for you and your dog as a team to reach your maximum potential.Herding commands and terms are thoroughly covered, as are those of basic Obedience for the stock dog. Working various kinds of stock-sheep, cattle and ducks-is covered to meet the needs of every stock dog owner. Detailed diagrams and concept maps throughout the book highlight the individualized training methods for each type of dog and stock.A Howell Dog Book of Distinction

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Customer Reviews

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Vergil S. Holland is the founder of the Training Center for the Advancement of the Working Stock Dog. He has conducted breed seminars for the American Herding Breed Association and is the winner of numerous stock dog championships.

This book is a classic. Of the handful of books available dealing with the training of herding dogs, this one seems to be unique in offering an approach which can be generalized to all breeds of such dogs. Most of the books and videos on training herding dogs appear to be directed to working with Border Collies. That leaves those of us who do not own these strong-eyed superstars without a hint. Mr Holland does not take for granted that the reader wants to use a Border Collie, and offers a variety of approaches that will suit the instincts and personalities of all herding breeds.

I first read this book when my first Aussie was about three months old. Frankly, I did not get it. I think it is difficult for the average person to learn how to work with a herding dog. Vergil Holland has not only put down all of the steps one might need to become successful at this activity, he has a lot of great advice in the book including very useful exercises and as the subtitle suggests, a progressive training method.However, the reason I did not get it when I first read the book was that the meaning of much of what he says is dependent on having the actual experience of herding. After many years of training stock dogs, I went back and re-read this book. It was very revealing in that I found myself agreeing with almost everything he said about training. I also found it helpful to get a clear picture of exactly what I wanted to do in a training session to read the portion of the book-- usually fewer than two pages at a time-- that was relevant to what I wanted to acheive in the

session. So for me, this has become a valuable hands on training tool.I still recommend it to beginners and I think it would really help anyone getting ready for their first exposure to stock to have read the preliminary sections on getting started and basic commands. It would help the beginner become familiar with common training techniques and concepts so that a clinic experience would be more valuable than going in without the insights that are offered in this book.But this is not just a book for beginners. It can be useful at several levels. For the more experienced trainer/handler, the troubleshooting section provides very useful exercises for solving common problems that are likely to be encountered.I do think the section on herding breeds is a bit simplistic and in the case of Aussies not really accurate. But I think it is only there as a summary of what one might expect from herding breeds and therefore does not take into account the variance of different lines within a breed. I would not recommend the traits listed in this chapter to select your dog. However it does contain some very good advice such as basing your decision in part on the parents' abilities and characteristics.The diagrams could be improved as was mentioned elsewhere, but they are accurate. The pictures are not very clear and they could be improved to actually demonstrate better the points they are intended to make.Overall I give this book high marks and recommend it to anyone who is building up a stockdog library. But remember that there is a lot more information in this book than there appears to be at first reading. Go back to it often as your skills develop to really get the full potential of the book which really does offer a progressive training method.

This book is very detailed and explains how and why the training should be done a certain way. I and my Border Collie, Lilly are in the early stages of learning and working as a team. We are being instructed by a long time herder who raises her own sheep and breads German Shepherds for herding. Her techniques and philosophy mirrors Virgil's who she has met. This book helps me understand our sessions with our instructor and helps me now what Lilly and I need to work on before working the sheep.

So, we have this crazy 50/50 mix Border Collie and Australian Shepherd, full of energy (not for people who live in apartments), and full of the right genes. She really, really wants to herd. All of the time. Anything. So far the list includes horses, cattle, other dogs, cats, children, birds, snakes, grasshoppers, skunks (just once) and bees (also just once). We'd bought some other books, one on Borders, one on Aussies. They were interesting enough, and had some good training tips. But this is the only one that dealt clearly with large stock animals. We don't want her getting kicked (and

thereby killed) by a horse, and she is a nipper. I passed this on to a herding trainer we sometimes take her to, and he liked it, as well.

Good book. Very good information. I am using it to train my border collie with goats. The book is heavily biased toward border collies.

I am re-reading this book as well as Vergil's From the Handler's Post ..... and working with my dogs. Very helpful and insightfull of what I might expect so I am less inclined to be caught out with something my dogs do.KarinaAustralia

Because we adopted two Border Collie Mixes strictly as pets, have only begun reading this and have started turning the pages of a training puppies book. However, once the urgent needs have been met, will definitely put this back on the top of my list. In the couple of chapters I read, the author of this book presents a wonderful (and somewhat ethereal) learning experience for the dog owner. I highly suspect, that with that knowledge, the partnership between the dog owner(s) and their dog(s) will surpass, by far, most human/dog relationships.

I have been taking my 2 borer collies sheep herding for fun. This book really helped me take it to the next level in getting a better understanding for my dog in general, and the activity. Love the diagrams and images. Great for any borer collie owner even if you don't herd.

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