



# Sheep Dogs on the Job

**S**ome sheep dogs are guards,  
and some are herders.

Guard dogs protect the flock. They are often big, white, and fluffy—just like sheep. The dogs blend in with the flock and watch for enemies. If a wolf or coyote comes too close, the guard dog barks to scare the predator away.



That's not a sheep!  
It's a Komondor  
guard dog.



A good guard dog  
always stays close  
to its flock.



A guard dog puppy grows up with sheep. It learns not to chase or bother the sheep, but to treat the flock as its family.



Herding dogs chase and round up the sheep. They can move the flock from one pasture to another, into a pen, or into a truck traveling to market.

Some dogs herd other farm animals too, including cattle, goats, pigs, and ducks.





Different herders have different ways of moving animals. Border collies are headers. They glare at the sheep or run in front of the flock to keep the sheep bunched up.



Do you herd cats too?



Other dogs are heelers. They nip at the heels of sheep or cows to keep them moving.



A kelpie runs across the backs of sheep to get them to move.







When herding dogs are puppies, farmers start training them to follow commands. The farmer whistles or uses words or hand signals to tell dogs to turn left, turn right, or gather the sheep in a group.

Can you herd the sheep at [www.clickmagkids.com/trythis?](http://www.clickmagkids.com/trythis?)



When the job is done, "That'll do!" tells a hard-working dog to take a rest.

