

Border Collie

The formation of the *International Sheep Dog Society [ISDS]* in 1906 precipitated a split between the working and show Collie, with those following the traditional working disciplines selecting a variant pre-eminently adapted to the needs of competitive trails. Selective breeding producing a distinctive type renowned for its strong almost hypnotic eye and close to the ground creeping intimidatory movement giving supreme control over small groups of sheep while performing a set number of exercises.

For many years Border Collie enthusiast and the ISDS resisted moves to admit it into the pedigree dog mainstream, but during the 1970s resistance was overcome and the Border Collie achieved Kennel Club registration status to take its place as one of the more popular pedigree pastoral breeds throughout the world.

During the initial research into the infiltration of the MDR-1 mutation Border Collies

appeared to be free of the problem, but recent DNA tests have shown that the mutation is present within the gene pool, although its penetration is small at under 5% of tested Border Collies.

Photo: Carol Ann Johnson

