

MOVING SHEEP



Moving sheep



Woolgrowers need to work with large **mobs** of sheep regularly to move them between paddocks, in the yards and at **shearing** and **crutching**.

Depending on the size of the property and size of the **mobs**, woolgrowers might use utes, motorbikes, horses, sheep dogs or even planes or helicopters to **muster** their stock.

Many woolgrowers plan their paddocks and **stock routes**, to make **mustering** easier.

Sheep dogs

Woolgrowers often have employees who help out with all the jobs on the farm, but some of the most valuable members of the team are the sheep dogs.

Sheep dogs are working dogs that have been bred to work with sheep and have a natural instinct to keep the sheep together in a group.

This natural instinct, combined with training and skilled handlers, can save hours of time in the sheep yards.

Dogs are used in the paddocks, sheep yards and **shearing** shed to keep sheep moving in a particular direction.

A good dog can run along the backs of the sheep, helping push them up the race for **drenching** and **vaccinating**.



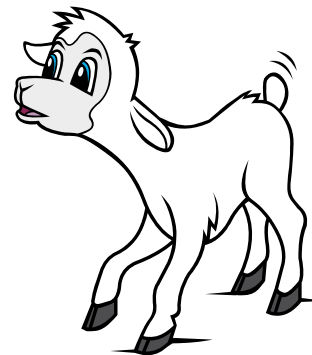
Sheep dog: Woolgrowers rely on sheep dogs to help them move sheep between paddocks and in the yards.

Did you know?

- If sheep dogs are kept as pets, their natural herding instinct means they often try to herd any animal available, including chooks and other pets.
- Motorbikes and horses can be used to **muster** sheep in areas that are too steep or hard to get to for utes.
- Border collies and Australian kelpies are the most common breeds of sheep dogs used in Australia.

- Kelpie is the Gaelic word for water sprite.
- Sheep dog pups start learning to work sheep when they are about 3–6 months of age.
- It is said a good sheep dog is worth two people.

FUN FACTS ABOUT SHEEP DOGS



Glossary

Crutching — removing wool by shearing around a sheep's bottom to prevent flystrike.

Drenching — woolgrowers give sheep medicine to protect them from worms.

Mob (flock) — a group of sheep.

Muster — moving sheep between paddocks and into yards.

Shearing — removing the wool from the sheep using specially-designed handpieces.

Stock routes — fenced laneways alongside paddocks to make it easier to muster sheep.

Vaccinating — producers give sheep medicines to protect them against diseases like tetanus, cheesy gland, pulpy kidney, sheep measles, ovine Johne's disease and black leg.

More information

To find out more about mustering sheep, take a look at:

- learnaboutwool.com
- Beyond the Bale magazine: beyondthebale.wool.com

