

Alternative Roles

Originally a useful, all-round guard dog, farm or stock dog displaying intelligence, loyalty and character, the Rough Collie always had close associations with man. By the end of the Victorian era its working qualities were being used less and less and it was gradually emerging as a glamorous show dog and domestic companion.

However the Collie's basic instinct or that innate subconscious behaviour, so highly developed in the herding breeds, is still very much in evidence today and because of the breed's intelligence and adaptability it can be trained for success in many roles.

Collies at War

Dogs have always been used at war. The ancient Egyptians' wall paintings depicted savage dogs straining on their leashes, held in the hands of Egyptian warriors and leaping on the enemy. In the middle-ages dogs wore complete armour plating when they were either hunting wild boar or at war.

The first large-scale use of war dogs in British military history occurred during World War I and many, including Rough Collies, were called to play their part in the war effort. The training of these dogs was a highly organised and specialised affair, masterminded by Edwin Hautenville Richardson, the son of a distinguished English 'gentleman farmer'. Richardson grew up with dogs and, following his marriage, purchased a large farming estate at Carnoustie in eastern Scotland. One day in 1895, whilst out shooting with a friend on the



Photo courtesy of Pat Lister

During the war ladies and girls were enlisted to help with the exercising of dogs.