

MEDIA RELEASE

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Promoting
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Ownership



Australian Breeds for Australia Day 2009

-Celebrate their contributions-

Dogs NSW is celebrating Australia Day 2009 by paying homage to the pure Australian dog breeds that contribute significantly to this country at home and on the land. Characteristics and temperaments of Australian breeds are what have secured the international reputations of Australian dogs as superior dogs, employed as workers or kept at home as pets.

Seven breeds are recognised as purely Australian: **Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Kelpie, Australian Silky Terrier, Australian Terrier, Border Collie, Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, and Tenterfield Terrier.**

“Each of these breeds has contributed largely to the success of Australia in the past and continue to do so today. The **Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, Border Collie, and Australian Kelpie** are the hardest working animals in the world, they have extraordinary strength and stamina to round up livestock on farms, doing a job that would take several people to perform,” says veterinarian and **Dogs NSW** spokesperson **Dr Peter Higgins**.

Australian Cattle Dogs, also known as the ‘Blue Heeler’, are highly energetic, with intelligence and independence. They form strong bonds with owners and drive cattle fearlessly. Australian Kelpies are loyal, friendly, and energetic, thriving on challenges. Their trademark move when driving sheep is to mount a herd and run on sheep’s backs to efficiently drive large numbers at once.

“Cattle Dogs, Border Collies, and Kelpies are keenly sort after from all countries and they work all over the world, including in the UK and America.”, advises **Dr Higgins**.

The **Australian Terrier, Australian Silky Terrier, and Tenterfield Terrier** are recommended as companions in the home. They are small dogs but are keen, spirited, and self-assured animals. They are happiest when at home with the family, and have an acute sense of awareness that make them ideal watchdogs.

“Australian Terriers and Australian Silky Terriers really are small dogs with huge personalities. They were bred by early Australian farmers as companion dogs on their farms. Tenterfield Terriers were originally developed by Peter Allen’s grandfather; The Tenterfield Saddler. These breeds may only just tolerate other dogs and visitors to the home, but form loyal bonds to their owner and family,” explains **Dr Higgins**.

“While we celebrate the things that make Australia great, this Australia Day, we should all be mindful of the huge contribution that Aussie working dogs, and home dogs, make to the success of this nation,” remarks **Dr Higgins**.

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Additional Information

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BREED	HISTORY	APPEARANCE	TEMPERAMENT	ACTIVITIES
Australian Cattle Dog	Developed in Australia during late 19 th Century for controlling cattle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium sized - Short-coated - Most recognised as blue-grey colour: 'Blue Heeler'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High energy levels - Active mind and highly intelligent - Naturally cautious - Have an independent streak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cattle Driving - Pet (though need plenty of exercise if not working) - Guard dog (if properly trained).
Australian Terrier	Developed as a companion that would be happiest with its own people. Breeding originally begun in Tasmania to be a farmer's friend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 25cm high - Long body - Head long and strong with pricked ears and dark rimmed eyes - Coat is long and straight - Colours: Blue and tan, Solid Sandy and Solid Red. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keen and intelligent, spirited and self-assured - Happiest when in contact with families (as opposed to spending hours in the yard) – they are. - Breeding as created a fearless dog, rugged and hard-bitten. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Versatile workers as are free movers - Natural diggers, especially when they get bored - Watch-dog: highly responsive and good at raising alarm.
Australian Silky Terrier	The 'Silky' is generally believed to have developed by crossing the Yorkshire Terrier with the Australian Terrier in Sydney in the 1890s.	About 25cm at the withers, and weighs 5kg. Its head is longer than that of the Australian Terrier but shorter than that of the Yorkshire Terrier. The coat is 13 to 15cm with a silky texture and is virtually non shedding and odourless.	Bred as house dogs or lap dogs, so they tend to have a strong attachment to their owner and owner's family, coupled with a slight suspicion of strangers and strange dogs, but after a short period of time they will become more comfortable. They are very good watch dogs and have a keen sense of hearing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch dog. - Family pet. - a bundle of energy. They love to be given chances to run and play but can do well in an apartment.
Australian Kelpie	Over time they have become the most popular farming dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium sized (Working Kelpies are around 50cm tall) - Stocky build - Come in a variety of colours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loyal, friendly, intelligent - Highly energetic - Love new challenges - Self directed - Not aggressive towards people. - Persistent – will drive livestock all day in hot areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mustering and droving with little commands - Cheap and efficient workers, saving farmers having to employ multiple hands - Signature move: jumping onto sheep and running over their backs - Exported to the world

Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	Developed as a variety of Australian Cattle Dog	- Similar to Australian Cattle Dog though differences include: -Stumpy tail -Lighter body	-Similar the Australian Cattle Dog though differences include: -Greater stamina -More agile	- Similar to Australian Cattle Dog, but they are working dogs and better suit larger farms.
Border Collie	The Border Collie is descended from droving and gathering breeds originating on the Scottish, Welsh, and English borders.	Medium-sized dogs without extreme physical characteristics and a moderate amount of coat. Their double coats can be anywhere from slick to lush, and can come in many colours, although black and white is by far the most common. Black tricolour (black/tan/white or sable and white), red (chocolate) and white, and red tricolour (red/tan/white) also occur regularly, with other colours such as blue, lilac, red merle, blue merle, brindle and "Australian red"/gold seen less frequently.	Border Collies are an intelligent, biddable breed with an instinctive desire to work closely and intensely with a human handler. They are very well behaved and can be very excitable dogs. Although the primary role of the Border Collie is that of the working stock dog, dogs of this breed are becoming increasingly popular as pets.	Working border collies can take direction by voice and whistle at long distances when herding. Their great energy and herding instinct are still used to herd all kinds of animals, from the traditional sheep and cattle, free range poultry, and pigs, and ostriches.
Tenterfield Terrier	In 1993 fanciers from South Australia and other states formed the Tenterfield Terrier Club of Australia. Bred from Miniature Fox Terriers	Stand about 27cm and weighs about 5kg. Smooth coat with colours that are black and white, tan and white, and black, tan and white.	Friendly and very active. Bright, outgoing, loyal, and bold.	Main purpose as a small family pet that is hardy and good with children.

For further information, images or interviews, please contact:

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