

Roger



Trevor Duff

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Roger

Written by Trevor Duff

A smart working dog brings a lively cow into the yard.



I had a dog once. His name was Roger.

We had a pup from him that won the
Australian Junior Championship.

I got the dog from a man who
lived at No Where Else.

The dog was named when I got him.

He was a Border Collie.

He was a real trial dog.

The man had him started when I got him.

He could just go round the cattle and sheep.

He didn't know much about yarding or anything but he taught himself eighty percent of it – it was in him.

He had a lot of style. I used to put him round the cattle and sheep, put him through the yards. He'd always cast out ten chain or more either way.

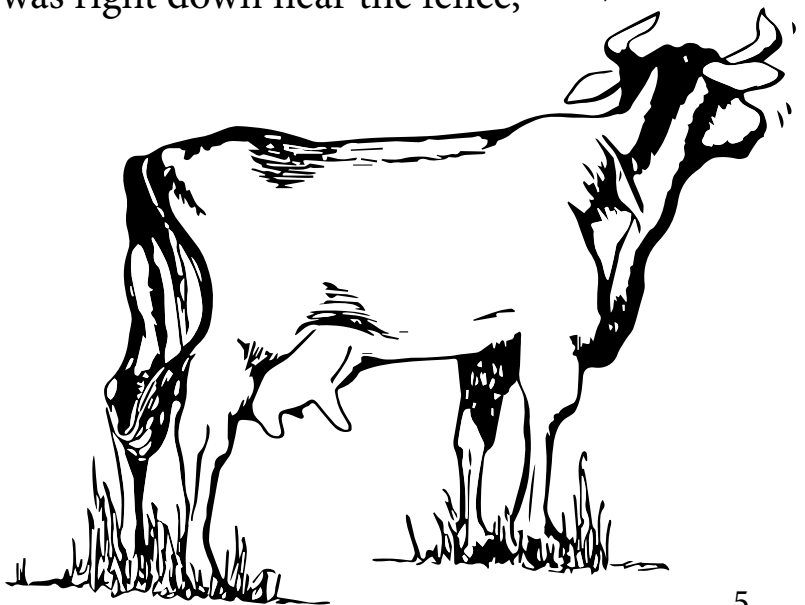
Whichever side you'd send him, he'd go.

The man from No Where Else came up one day to have a look at the dog. He thought he went too wide for a start.

The dog would take the full width of a paddock, he'd leave nothing behind. I reckon he wouldn't have sold him if he'd known he'd heel cattle. He said he wouldn't.

The dog put up a remarkably good effort with a cow once. The cow was just in, or she'd been in a day or two. She was a good half mile from home, right at the other end of the place.

The calf was right down near the fence,



in the bush, and the cow was standing in the paddock between me and the calf.

There was nothing wrong with the cow. She had too much life in her, that was the trouble; she'd have a go at you!

She kept running back to the calf, and when you went to get the calf she'd charge you.

I put the tractor and carry-all between the cow and the calf, and put the calf on the carry-all to take it home. The cow ran back to where the calf had been born, looking for it. I tried to walk her, but she wouldn't go. I took the calf home on the carry-all, but the cow stood in the paddock where the calf had been, and wouldn't come.

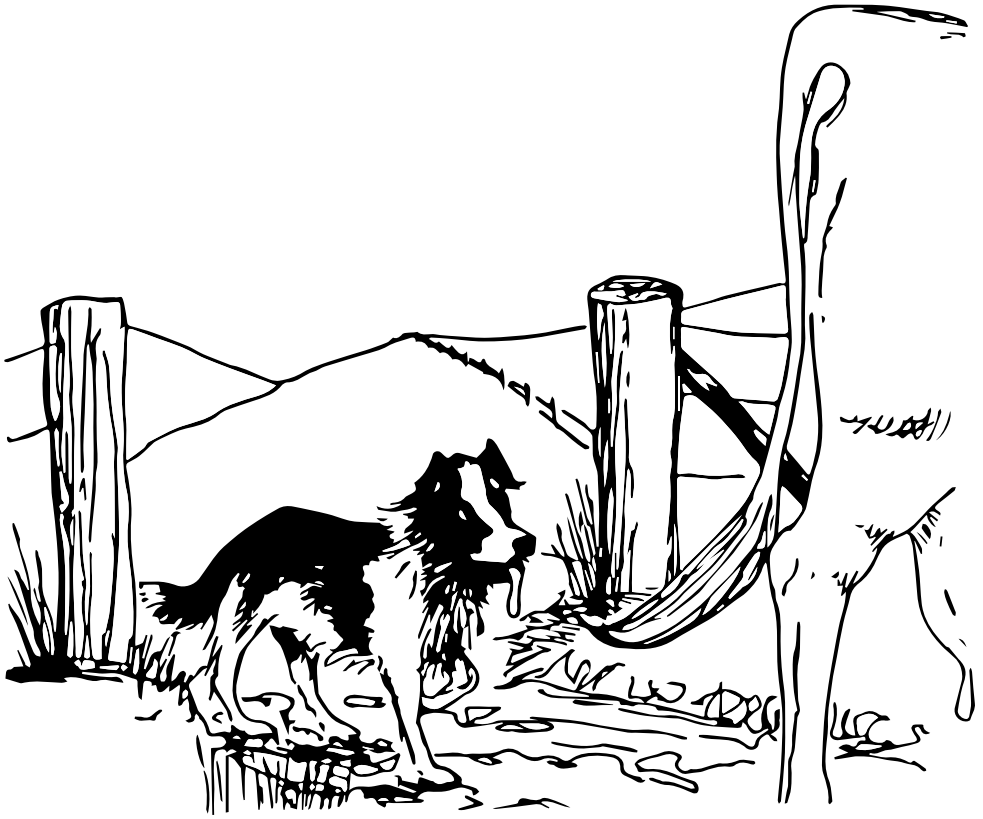
The dog stood and looked at the cow. When she went to run back he just stood there, like a real trial dog. He wouldn't let her get back to the bush. I drove off and left them standing there, like that. I took the calf and put it in the yard.

About fifteen minutes later or so, I looked up and there they were. There was the dog, bringing the cow up to the yard. I only had to open the



gate and let her in! The dog must
have brought that cow through
four paddocks and four gates.

He was a very smart dog, that one!



25 Stories

Written by learners and published
as a resource for others to share
on their learning journeys

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) Resources Unit in Devonport, Tasmania, published over 50 stories that had been written by learners as part of their literacy learning program. The writers were closely involved in the production of their stories, with the understanding that the resources would be made available for other learners, teachers and tutors. Since their initial publication there has been continuing interest in the stories, that contain relevant content and appropriate reading levels for adult learners. They are widely used by individuals and organisations across Australia as reading resources and as models for writing.

25 Stories is a selection of those works that have been republished and made available to download, free of charge from the Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL) website, www.tcal.org.au. Each story has been assigned an Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) level for reading and writing.

TasTAFE and TCAL wish to thank the original writers, illustrators, learners, teachers and publishers who have generously made these stories available for others to share.

