



Course Code:	DOGS301
Course Cost:	\$120 (inc GST) paid upon enrolment
Delivery:	Online
Badged:	Yes (Upon 100% Completion)

Course Overview

Welcome to the Introduction to Working Dogs course. This course will provide you with a foundational understanding of training, handling, and caring for working dogs, helping you to build a strong and effective partnership with your canine team.

This course provides an in-depth look at the role of sheepdogs in New Zealand's agricultural landscape. These highly skilled dogs, brought to New Zealand many years ago, have been selectively bred to develop distinctive breeds that are integral to shepherding and livestock management. In this course, you will explore the history, development, and practical use of working dogs in the farming industry.

Participants will gain an understanding of the various breeds of sheepdogs, including their origins, unique characteristics, and how they are used in day-to-day shepherding tasks. From herding and driving livestock to specialised tasks in different terrains, working dogs are a vital part of farming operations, and this course will shed light on their incredible contributions to farm efficiency and livestock handling.

This course is ideal for:

- Farmers and shepherds looking to deepen their knowledge of working dogs
- Agricultural students interested in learning about the role of dogs in livestock management
- Anyone with a passion for working dogs and their role in agriculture

Introduction to Working Dogs Course



This course covers:

- **History of Working Dogs in New Zealand:** Learn about the origins of working dogs in New Zealand and how selective breeding has shaped the distinctive breeds used today.
- **Overview of Working Dog Breeds:** Explore the various breeds of working dogs, their unique characteristics, and how these traits make them suited to different shepherding tasks. In particular the course covers Huntaways, Heading dogs and Handy dogs.
- **Roles of Working Dogs on the Farm:** Understand the specific tasks working dogs are trained for, including herding, driving, and other specialised functions (ie: backing dogs) in sheep and cattle farming.
- **Working Dogs in Different Farming Environments:** Discover how working dogs adapt to different terrains and conditions, and how they are used in both lowland and high-country farming.
- **Working Dynamics:** This section will cover the relationship between dogs, farmers and livestock. These relationships show how the prey and predator hierarchy works, and why humans have formed a bond with dogs to control livestock movements.
- **Selecting and Working with a Dog:** Gain insight into the selection process for choosing the right working dog for your farm, and how to work effectively with them to optimise farm operations.

By the end of this course, you will have a solid understanding of the role of working dogs on farms, and gained some skills to select and work effectively with these remarkable animals.