

Let's Hear it for the Ever Faithful Barn Dog!

No barn is complete without a canine companion or two. Tell us your favorite barn dog stories.

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If you have a horse or ride a horse, chances are you also have a dog. It seems like horses and dogs have been coupled together for centuries. Stroll through any art museum and there in the portraits of patriots and kings, heirs and huntsmen, you'll see not only depictions of glorious steeds but also images of the owner's noble canine companion. Dogs have also been workmates on ranches and farms, right alongside draft horses and cowponies. That's why any horse person can point to the critter in the front seat of their pickup truck and say, "Oh, that's my barn dog," and everyone will understand the connotation.

Certainly, some breeds are more amenable to fulfilling the role of barn dog. No one can deny the innate herding abilities of an Australian Shepherd, a Queensland Heeler, or a Border collie. Want some help coaxing a recalcitrant colt up the ramp and into the horse trailer? Any of these breeds would be more than happy to oblige. If rodents are threatening to overrun your feedroom, any of several terrier types are eager to ferret out the furry vermin. And when you simply need a good larp of a pink tongue to lift your spirits, the ubiquitous Labrador retriever makes a great barn dog.

Of course, some so-called "off breeds" end up in the role of barn dog, regardless of whether they're actually suitable for the job. If you want to read about one particular un-barn dog, visit Cindy Hale's Life with Horses blog to read one shaggy dog story: [Barn Dogs Can be Oodles of Fun](#).

Want to share your own doggie tale? We'd like to hear about your barn dog. Maybe you had a perfect pooch who traveled with you to shows or trail rides, and listened intently as you recounted the day's adventure all the way home. Perhaps you once owned a benevolent bowser who was more of a tackroom ornament than a working canine. Or maybe your current barn dog deserves some honorable mention, simply because your horsey life wouldn't be complete without your dog. Just click on [Submit a Comment](#) below, and howl about your barn dog. Some of your tales may appear in a future issue of *Horse Illustrated*.

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