Livestock guardian dogs are medium to large sized dogs that are kept with livestock to protect them from predators. In Australia, they are mainly used to protect sheep, goats and poultry, but they can work with any type of livestock; for example, with cattle, horses, rabbits, deer, emu or ostriches. These dogs live permanently with ‘their’ stock, and regard them as their social companions, protecting them from anything that they see as a threat. In Australia, livestock guardian dogs are mainly used to protect against dingoes, feral dogs and foxes, but also against birds of prey, cats, goannas, crows, quolls and Tasmanian devils.

The information contained in this manual has been collated from a range of producers, breeders and owners of livestock guardian dogs and should provide the basis to successfully employ these animals in a range of environments and grazing situations. It should also make prospective owners of livestock guardian dogs aware that there is a level of commitment required for training and management to make them work effectively as part of your business just as is the case with any other working dog.
Why you need livestock guardian dogs on your farms, avoiding common mistakes, busting myths of these breeds, how to train and understand them. Gabe, our livestock guardian dog watched the sky so well sparrows couldn't land in the bushes. He killed skunks, and all the other things that seemed to keep me up at night. He worked out so well that a few years later we decided to buy a pure bred Akbash, paying good money and driving even further, lots further, Mya entered our family.