OLD WORLD FLOCK GUARDIANS



- ♦ Most DO NOT HERD! The instinct to chase is very weak in the guardian dog and all but disappears by adulthood.
- ♦ They act independently of humans; guardian dogs generally stay with or near the flock most of the time. They must be trustworthy, protective and attentive to their charges.
- ♦ The dogs develop a strong sense of territorial protection.
- ♦ Both males and females are used as flock guards to protect the sheep and goats from wild animals such as wolves, bears, covotes, etc.
- ♦ They are large animals (80-120 lbs.). They stand about 30 inches at the shoulder (a bit more or less depending on the breed).
- ♦ They have a flop (drop) ear.
- They have tails that hang low in repose and curl when alert.
- ♦ They vary in color from very dark to white—excluding the colors of the local wolves.
- ♦ They have thick coats that provide good insulation against heat, cold and predators' teeth.
- ♦ They are aloof with strangers but affectionate with their care-giver.
- ♦ They are instantly alert to changes in their surroundings but respond slowly or not at all to obedience type commands.
- ◆ They prefer the company of the livestock they are raised with over that of humans or other dogs.
- Guardian behavior varies between the breeds and is dependent on the individual temperament and early training of the dog.