

South African Guard Dogs Tough, Smart

Willy and Deb Malcolm have always had large breed dogs on their Canadian farm. But none have fit in as well as the South African Boerboel breed.

“We have predators on our farm so we wanted an alert dog guarding livestock,” Deb Malcolm explains. In her research, the Boerboel breed kept coming up.

With a history that dates back to 1652 at the Cape of South Africa, the Boerboel breed was developed from Mastiff and long-legged bulldog breeds to be loyal, obedient and great protectors.

The Malcolms’ first dog was a male born in Canada on Christmas Day 2010. Shortly after they purchased a female from a South African breeder who Malcolm got to know through her research. Currently, they have eight Boerboels and are among a growing number of registered breeders in the South African Boerboel Breeders Society (SABBS).

Maintaining the breed standard is important, Malcolm says, and dogs must have a score of 75 percent or more at official appraisal events to be registered. Space to run and play and being around “family” is important also.

“This is a big breed that is athletic, agile and quick to train. They seem to think things through, catch on very quick, and problem solve. They are a dominant breed, and if they can, they will outthink you. You need to train

them when they are young,” Malcolm explains.

Despite their size (as much as 190 lbs. for males and 140 lbs. for females), she says they often act like lapdogs. They also adapt to strangers and are intuitive about children who are afraid of them and respond gently. Malcolm adds that they sense

when someone is not well. She experienced it herself with a health issue, first detected by one of her dogs.

The Boerboel’s guardian nature is one of its best qualities. On evening walks, she has had incidents where she knows her dogs detect danger - coyotes or bears - and a dog will get in front of her and push her back. Boerboels like being around livestock and going on “patrol”. They will attack predators that threaten livestock.

Because they are shorthaired they need to be indoors during cold weather, but they don’t drool or bark unnecessarily. They need to be around people and not be left alone for long periods of time.



South African Boerboels make tough, smart guard dogs, says Deb Malcolm, who uses them to protect livestock on their Manitoba farm.

The number of available Boerboels is limited so they are expensive. Puppies from registered dogs sell for \$2,000 to \$3,000. Boerboel organizations don’t recommend crossbreeding in order to maintain standards and build up numbers.

Like other big breeds, Boerboels can have hip health issues, and their lifespan is about 12 years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Willy and Deb Malcolm, Box 157, Pine River, Manitoba Canada R0L 1M0 (ph 204 263-5488; Facebook: Rocking Chair Boerboels; rockingchairbb@yahoo.com) or South African Boerboel Breeders Society (www.sabbs.org).

New Way To Drill Your Own Well

If you’ve checked the price of drilling a new well lately, you know you’re looking at an expense of thousands of dollars. That’s what prompted a pair of Texas inventors to come up with a new do-it-yourself method.

The heart of the system is an air-powered sander/polisher that can be picked up for about \$35. The Bursons removed the handle to fit the power tool inside a piece of pvc pipe. Then they drilled a hole in the back of the sander’s housing so air could exit.

With the right selection of “bits” and a compressor that’ll put out 16 cfm at 90 psi, they soon had a well drilling rig. Best of all, Burson says, it practically digs the well by itself. Here’s how it works:

A small hole is dug and water is added. Then the pipe with the sander and bit inside is inserted into the hole. As air passes up the pipe, it creates a vacuum that pulls in the water and soil to the surface through a hose. After filtering out the solids, the water is returned to the hole.

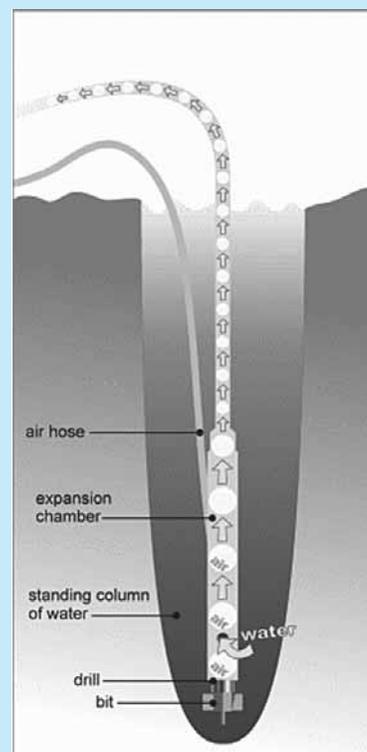
“The most revolutionary idea in the system was using the exhaust air coming out the hole in the sander’s housing to remove water and dirt from the hole,” says Burson. He reports using the system to dig wells as deep as 210 feet.

Kits ship with a bit to drill a hole for 4-in. casing, but bits for 6-in casing are available.

The time needed to drill a well depends on the type of soil and the depth needed to find water. In sandy areas of Florida, drilling a well can take as little as a day, while clay and rock can stretch drilling out to a week or more.

Well-Tek sells kits for \$699.95. Plans to build your own kit and an instructional DVD are available on their website for \$29.95 plus \$4.95 S&H. The website also features free videos of the system at work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Well-Tek, 10758 Highway 155 S., Big Sandy, Texas 75755 (ph 903 576-6800; www.howtodrillawell.com).



Reader Inquiry No. 97