

Nicolas is a farmer and lawyer from Southern NSW. This is an update on two BMC dogs he bought from Troy and Baden in Australia. The comments were posted on-line.

I bought a going dog from Troy last February 2013. At that time I had been looking at getting a coonhound from the states and spoke to a couple of breeders. When I told them what I wanted the dog for, they suggested the BMC because it was "close-mouthed". After some research I contacted Troy. He had a going dog, at that stage we wanted a going dog because we only had a kelpie and some pups. He suggested Randy - about 150 pigs to that stage - so we bought him.

Randy has been on about 150 pigs since we bought him. Randy is a very striking looking dog. He is a very intense bailer and has pulled up pigs of all sizes since we have bought him. The smaller the pig the quicker he will pull it up. But sometimes that can depend on the conditions too. He has backed a 100kg boar about into a tree about 150 m from where he took off. Sometimes in open plains the pig will try and run on and then it becomes a rolling bail. He will grab a smaller pig by himself up to about 40kg, and wait until the cavalry arrives if the pig is bigger.

He covers a lot of ground like any kelpie. Has good pads and doesn't get knocked around by the heat. However he will work out further than the kelpie bitch we have. She has literally been on hundreds of pigs, will catch a fox, work cattle, retrieve and use a mobile phone if the keys are big enough. He is a better dog than her. We also run two stags and a bull arab. They are both very experienced dogs but he will find a pig when she can't, which is always the best indication. He is now at the level that if he cannot find a pig, there is not one there to be found.

In September, we bought another BMC pup from Troy. Mario (named by the grandson) is a brother to Angelo's bitch. He is a freak. We have had him out on pigs about 6 times and he started hunting immediately. He grabbed a sucker out of a mob of pigs the first time we took him out. He'll grab a bigger pig by the back end to try and pull it up. He's the type of dog that as soon as you put him out, nose down and he's hunting. Mario is a lot more aggressive than Randy. At this stage he will not go very far from me, but as with all dogs it is only a matter of work and experience. Having said that we take our dogs out every day to have a sniff and a run around. There are no pigs where we live, but the dogs get used to each other, the ute, and the hunting environment. It also good for their discipline.

The only problem with either dog is that they fancy themselves as cattle dogs, but it is in them to work cattle.

If the dog is purpose bred; properly trained, there is no reason why it should not turn out to be alright. The BMCs are a purpose bred dog. To a certain extent the price should be the last consideration. When you buy a dog - or anything for that matter - you have a certain set of criteria, if the dog fits the bill you buy it. The price is only the final consideration. If you want a monkey pay peanuts!

There may well be other dogs that are better; but the BMC is guaranteed and from my experience (provided you can give them enough work) they will turn out to be outstanding pig dogs and more importantly companions.

In my opinion if you want a finder/bailer you would have to go a long way to find a better dog than the BMC.

-Nicholas Rolfe