

## Dingo Breed

by blue *Sunday, Feb 2 2014, 10:30am*

international / poetry / post

running working constantly,  
my heart ready  
to explode in my chest  
a well-trained (Oz) cattle dog,  
dingo breed,  
the dog obeys its master  
the dingo out-smarts  
hoofed beasts and feral dangers  
-- every time

a prized animal  
the working Oz cattle dog;  
a drover could manage  
alone on horseback  
with only one good dog  
and drive a herd  
hundreds of miles  
to market

a common enough event  
in days gone by  
in an unforgiving outback

i come to you  
in the evening,  
panting  
my heart pounding  
in my chest,  
my thirst is that  
of a thousand beasts  
but i wait for your  
command  
with tongue  
lolling from the side  
of my mouth

another  
day is done;  
you stroke my throat  
and give me  
water from your open hand,  
a skinned feral rabbit

my reward  
for another good day

it's my third year  
giving my all  
cockeys say that a good  
working dog dies  
in its fourth year  
from the arduous  
work,  
though house dogs  
may live for fifteen  
or more years

but a house dog does not  
sleep well  
nor does it have the respect  
accorded by a knowing master  
and bushman who  
respects a good dog's  
ability

i killed a taipan (today)  
without a second thought  
i let it focus  
on my eye and head  
as it telegraphed a strike  
i snapped its throat  
between my teeth  
and clamped down until  
asphyxiated,  
it dropped limp

it was spooking  
the herd leader --  
a scattered  
herd takes days  
to bring together

i learned from my mentor  
long dead now  
a champion dog

tonight  
i remain alert in sleep  
ever vigilant and aware  
of the herd  
i curl up on the end  
of my master's bedroll  
a chill wind  
hisses through the spinifex

wild dingos are lurking  
they try to spook the herd  
and cut out a calf or nursing cow;  
the wild dingo  
is the only animal  
that intimidates a mixed  
dingo breed cattle dog

they sense me  
as i sense them

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Jungle Drum Prose/Poetry. <http://jungledrum.lingama.net/news/story-986.html>