

Proactive Guard Dogs Take On All Predators

According to Katerina Rekowski, her Central Asian Shepherd Dogs (CASD) don't wait for predators to attack. They take the fight to them. Rekowski has been raising the multi-purpose guard dogs, also known as Alabai, since she was a young girl in Russia. Now she is promoting the breed in North America.

"They are the toughest guardians," says Rekowski. "While other guard dogs bark at a predator or intruder, the Central Asian Shepherd Dog will attack. It is known as a wolf killer in the central territory of Russia."

The American Kennel Club (AKC) describes the CASD as being created by the climate and culture of Central Asia over the past 5,000 years. They're thought to be one of the oldest known breed of dogs in existence.

The AKC describes them as independent, courageous, self-confident and fearless toward large predators. They are territorial guardians bred to guard people and their possessions.

Rekowski agrees. "They are a real working breed with the ability to do their job guarding, whether it is you, your property, your house, family animals or poultry," says Rekowski. "At the same time, they can be good show dogs."

Rekowski saw her first CASDs when she was 8 years old and within a few years had one of her own. When she emigrated to the U.S. about 11 years ago, she began visiting breeders.

"I wasn't happy with what I saw," she says.

The breed was first introduced in the U.S. in the early 1990's. However, initial enthusiasm for the breed sagged. Rekowski has been told that crossbreeding with Great Pyrenees and other large breeds took place.

Rekowski returned to Russia to secure a line of purebred CASDs. "Now the breed is gaining in popularity, and there is renewed interest in purebreds," she says. "Before buying a dog, familiarize yourself with the bloodlines, study the pedigree and look at littermates. They should all exhibit the same breed characteristics."

No official breed organization exists in the U.S., but standardization is recognized in Russia. This includes large stature; moderately long, robust, muscular body but not with visible muscles. Males are more massive than females. Head shape is close to rectangular seen from above and the side.

Temperament and sociability are important with dogs bred to be aggressive. While



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some livestock guard dog breeders warn against socializing the animals with people, Rekowski advises the opposite.

"They may spend their nights in the barn with the animals, but they need to spend time with people, too," she says.

Prices vary from \$300 up to thousands of dollars. Rekowski notes that lower priced dogs are likely crossbred.

"If an animal is of good lineage and

genetically tested for elbow and hip health, you are looking at something over \$2,000," she says. "My puppies are priced at \$3,000, each with a discount for multiples."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Central Asian Shepherd Dog - Guardian Dog, New Haven, Mich. 48048 (ph 513 602-8869; dogtrainermi@gmail.com; www.guardiandog.net).

Powered Spreader For Poultry Bedding

Spread-Rite from Nu-Matic Systems makes a tough job easy, spreading poultry bedding evenly, smoothly and quickly. The concept was the result of a poultry grower's remark to Vern Martin, Nu-Matic Systems.

"A neighbor had stopped to visit when he said he had to get back to the most dreaded job of chicken farming, spreading bedding," says Martin. "I asked what was bad about it, and he said it had to be done by hand. Then he said, if you build something to do the job, I'll buy it."

Martin went to work designing the Spread-Rite, a 60-in. wide, 20-in. high, box-like design open in the front and at the bottom. The rotating spreader reel at the rear of the box breaks up shavings or other materials and tosses them forward.

Adjusting gauge wheels at the rear of the cutting edge controls depth of the bedding. Depth can be adjusted from 3/4 in. to 3 in. with the turn of a crank.

"We used 3/16-in. steel and built it heavy-

duty," says Martin. "My neighbor bought it and still has it as back-up, 14 years later, having since added a newer, slightly modified version."

The handy attachment is designed for use with Ventrac and Steiner tractors' front-mount belt drives and lifts. "It fits the same brackets as a blade or other attachment," says Martin. "However, we can outfit the Spread-Rite with a hydraulic drive for use with nearly any compact or subcompact tractor with hydraulics."

The drive for the spreader reel is mounted to one side of the box. The other side is clear of any obstructions, a much-appreciated feature of the design, suggests Martin.

"Operators can spread materials right up against a sidewall, eliminating empty floor space and hand spreading," he explains. "The Spread-Rite creates a uniform spread of material throughout the barn."

Disengage the pto/hydraulic drive and the Spread-Rite can be used like a blade to push



The 5-ft. wide Spread-Rite spreads poultry bedding quickly and evenly. It's designed for use with Ventrac and Steiner tractors.

piles of shavings throughout the barn for later spreading.

The Spread-Rite is priced at about \$4,800 (Canadian) and can be ordered direct from Nu-Matic or through a local dealer. Contact the company for the nearest dealer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nu-Matic Systems, 1214 Noah Road, Elmira, Ont. Canada N3B 2Z1 (ph 519 669-5064; www.spreadrite.ca).



Box is open in front and at bottom. A rotating reel at back of box breaks up shavings and tosses them forward.

Sweep Bar Pushes Branches Off Rock Rake Tines

"I had a 6-ft. wide rock rake on my small farm tractor that did a great job scraping up limbs and branches. But whenever I collected a pile of brush and tried to dump it, branches would stick between the tines," says Missouri handyman Tom Roy. "I fixed the problem by making a scraper bar that operates with a double-acting hydraulic cylinder."

Roy says the idea came to him out of frustration because he was constantly getting off the tractor to clear brush and branches from between the rake tines after a big storm. Building the device to sweep the branches off with a cylinder was real easy, Roy says.

He welded brackets to hold the cylinder on top of the rake frame, then built 3 control arms that move a 6-ft. wide bar to push branches and brush off the tines when the rake is lifted. Retracting the cylinder returns the bar to the top of the tines.

"The whole device added quite a bit of weight to the rock rake, so now it actually works a lot better," Roy says. "I can also use the rake to yank out briar bushes and then



Hydraulic cylinder controls a 6-ft. wide bar that pushes branches off tines as rock rake is lifted.

push them off the tines without getting off the tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Roy, 5735 N Main Street, Joplin, Mo. 64801 (ph 417 781-1814).

13-Year-Old Built \$35 Scooter

"My 13-year-old nephew Anthony Yoder built a wood frame scooter powered by a 2.4 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine," says Firman Yoder, Millersburg, Ohio.

"The front end of the scooter came from a bicycle and he mounted a bicycle seat on the frame. The engine was fitted with a 2 1/2-in. pulley that belt-drives the rear wheels. "The rear wheels are mounted right up next to each other so that the belt rides between them. The scooter has a small pedal that you push to tighten the belt via a wire that runs to a small idler pulley. Another pedal connects to a wire that runs back to a board that pushes against the rear wheels to brake," says Yoder.

The scooter cruises at a top speed of 20 mph, fitted with small 9-in. wheels. A pvc pipe fitted with a removable cap serves as a toolbox. Total cost of the scooter? Just \$35.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anthony Yoder, 2411 C.R. 58, Millersburg, Ohio 44654.



Front end and seat on wood frame scooter came off a bicycle.



Engine belt-drives a pair of side-by-side rear wheels, with the belt riding between them.