

**THANK GOODNESS
HE DOESN'T
HAVE OPPOSABLE
THUMBS!**

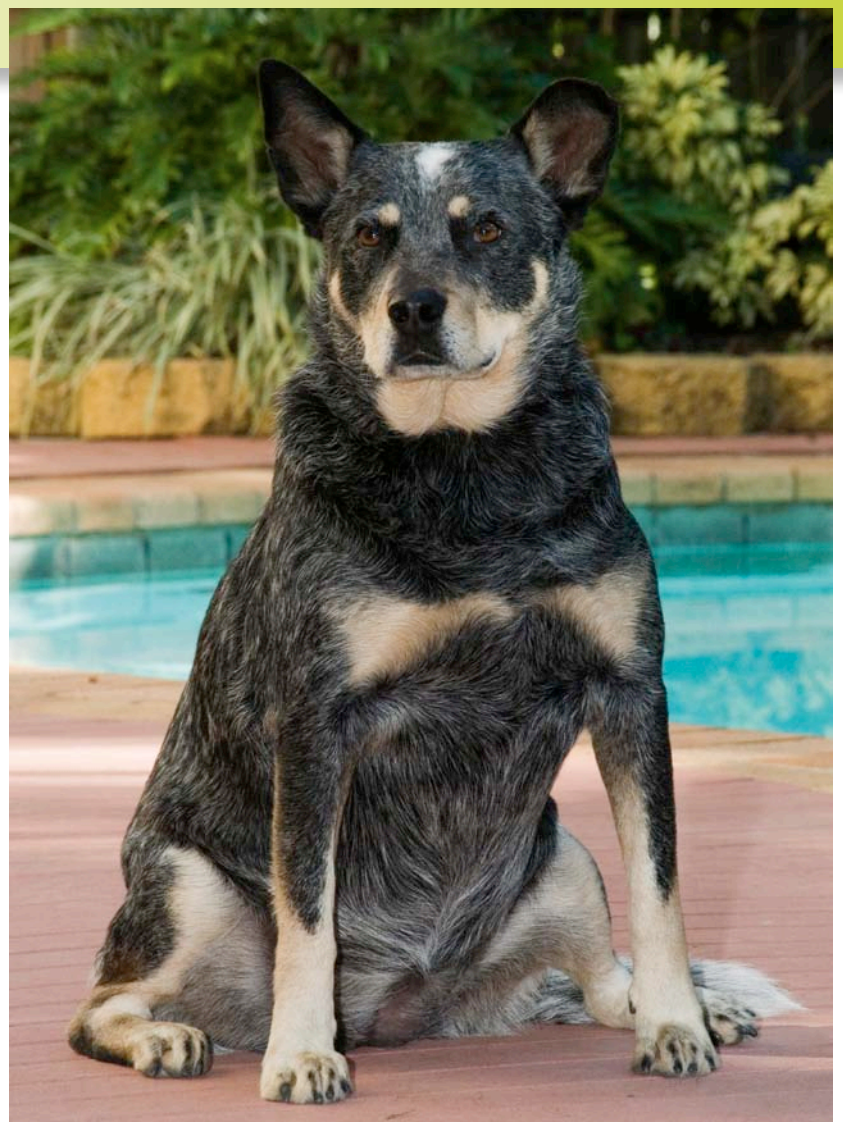


YOU WOULD COME HOME TO OPEN CUPBOARDS, EMPTY CANS AND YOUR TV SWITCHED TO HIS FAVOURITE CHANNEL BUT HE NEEDN'T BE LEFT ALONE TO BE BORED

WE HAVE A RANGE OF TOYS THAT STIMULATE THE MIND AND KEEP BUSY PAWS AND MISCHIEVOUS NOSES ACTIVE



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SOPHIE DOG OVERBOARD

**THE INCREDIBLE TRUE ADVENTURES
OF A CASTAWAY DOG**

BY EMMA PEARSE

In 2009, Sophie Tucker became a global media sensation - even Oprah jumped on board. Sophie, an Australian cattle dog, fell overboard in the Whitsunday Passage and was found five months later on a remote Queensland island. Her story left the world amazed.

When Jan and Dave Griffith's beloved cattle dog Sophie fell overboard from the family yacht during wet weather, they feared the worst. They had been sailing in the blue waters off Queensland's Whitsunday Islands when Jan went to help Dave on the bridge. Jan took her eyes off the 3 year old blue cattle dog for just 5 minutes, but when she looked back Sophie was gone.

It turned out that Sophie, a true Aussie battler, wasn't going to give up that easily. She swam six miles through dangerous waters to a remote Whitsunday island where she survived for an incredible five months before being reunited with her amazed owners. Many animal experts were stunned that a dog had lived through such an ordeal. Sophie was a highly domesticated dog who pushed the boundaries of animal endurance, living feral - and surviving. Yet it took her only one glimpse of her owners for Sophie to fall back into her old ways.

SOPHIE is more than just a dog story. It an inspirational story of survival, loyalty, family and an insight into what makes dogs tick. To follow is an excerpt from this unique Australian dog story.

It was a warm Sunday evening at the end of March 2009 and the sun was setting over the coral reefs and hundreds of tropical islands dotting Australia's north Queensland coast. On the small island of St Bees, thirty-odd kilometres offshore of Mackay, a small crew of national park rangers and research scientists looked out across the beachfront and saw a dog. Or rather, the silhouette of a dog, a mid-sized wolfish one, trotting along the shoreline. The dog was outlined against the giant orange sun and the darkening ocean, its head hung down and forward, its tail straight out behind.

'There it is,' ranger Steve Burke said to scientist Bill Ellis.

'Lone dog in the wild,' Bill replied.