

“I want a working-line dog...”

As breeders, this is one of the requests we hear most often.

People see a Malinois climbing up to a third-floor balcony, a German Shepherd sprinting back to its owner to perform a perfect “down” command, a Kangal or Akbash moving a flock without a shepherd, or a setter completely obsessed with birds — and their expectations are shaped by these videos.

But the truth is, most people who make these requests live in cities, genuinely love animals, yet barely have enough time for themselves, let alone a high-drive working dog.

Those who don’t understand what a true working-line dog is capable of when it’s not given a job often pay for this choice with high costs — and sometimes serious emotional consequences. When you leave a high-prey-drive dog without an outlet, it may start chasing its own shadow. When you bring home a protection-line dog without any real “threat” to handle, it will create its own job. When your Kangals or Akbash dogs won’t stay in your beautiful yard and instead jump the fence to frighten the neighbor’s animals, you may mistakenly think the problem is your dog’s “bad temperament.”

Unfortunately, social media is mostly a stage built for clicks — and these theatrics severely distort the supply–demand balance by creating unrealistic expectations.

People want a dog that is “hard” and protective, yet tolerant of the neighbor’s children. A dog that loves sheep, but calmly hangs out in a yard with no sheep. A dog that’s a perfect hunter, yet never touches the chickens at home... Even for humans, meeting such contradictory expectations would be difficult — yet we expect our dogs to manage it effortlessly. In today’s world, this is where breeders struggle the most: Trying to satisfy a demand when the original purpose of the breed no longer exists...