OUT ON THE RANGE

Horses, dogs and bovines in Montana.

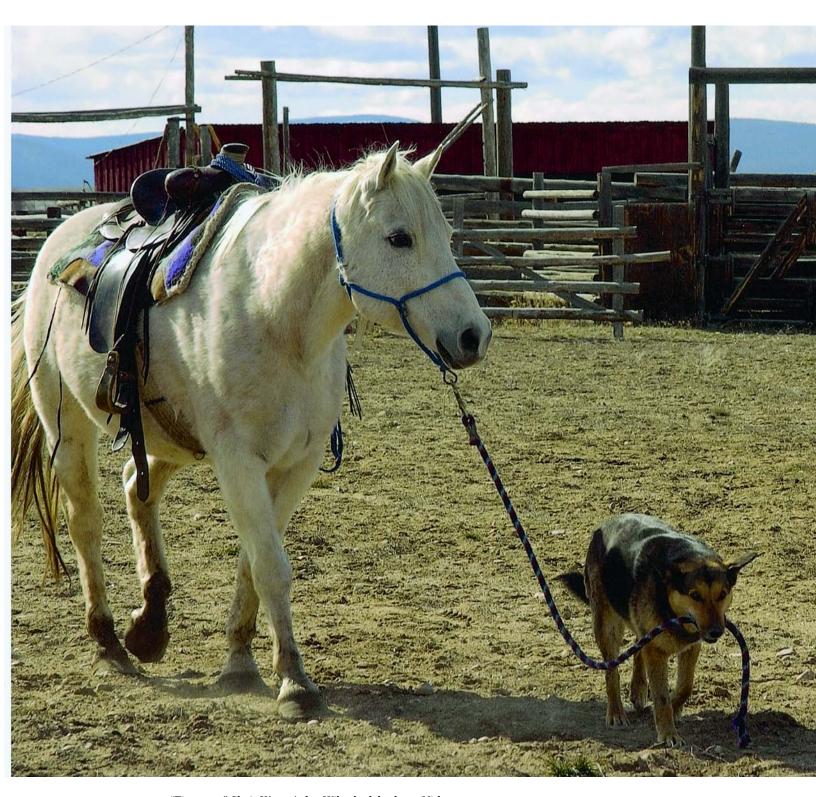
Words & photos © Cynthia Baldauf

Around the sorting pens on some days, dogs outnumber cowboys four to one. With attentive eyes trained on their masters, there's no doubt who belongs to whom.

Both horses and dogs are vital members of a cowboy's team. Moving 800 head of cattle 10 miles can be a grueling trip without dogs. The thicker the willows, the more essential the dogs are for keeping the cattle together and keeping them moving.



"What next?" Fred Hirschy's dogs lie in the sorting pen, waiting for the next command. Strowbridge Ranch, Wisdom, Mont.



"Time to go." Gloria Weaver's dog, Wiley, leads her horse, Nicky, to the corral after a long day of branding, Wisdom, Mont.