

# Celebrity Dog Profile

## Jack and Jason

**"He's the best mate and I can't imagine life without him."**

Jack is a 9-year-old Kelpie-x-Dingo who lives in Marrickville with his human companion Jason Hodges. Jack's a hard working dog - holding down two jobs. Both Jack and Jason regularly appear on Channel Seven's renovation style program, 'Auction Squad', and morning show, 'Sunrise'. Jack also accompanies Jason on-site to residential landscaping jobs throughout the Willoughby area.

Jason procured Jack from a friend up around Tamworth as Jason says, "He was the runt of the litter and his future was uncertain, so I took him. He's the best mate and I can't imagine life without him". It's clear on meeting these knock-about boys that they have a strong bond. When they turn up to the Urban Animal offices, Jack waits patiently outside before Jason invites him in. He's a very well trained dog and won't cross a street without Jason's command.

I ask Jason what's the best thing about a dog like Jack and he's quick to answer. "Meeting people-all kinds of people. They just stop and chat and ask questions about Jack. Give him a pat, that sort of thing. On a landscaping job, he just amuses himself by finding balls and things to play with. On one job alone he kept finding tennis balls-he's ball mad. Each ball he found I would put on top of one of those Cyclone fences. By the end of the day there were 19 all lined up. He also loves to drop a ball into my parents swimming pool and he'll watch it just drift on top of the water until it reaches the other side of the pool. He'll then race to the other side, pick it up and start all over again."

As Jason tells me this I glance over and see Jack intently staring into a bucket of water. He's found a dog toy in the backyard and is now bobbing it on top of the water. You can see by this dog's intense, quivering concentration, this game could last a long time.

I ask Jason what's the worst thing about Jack. "I miss him when I have to travel. The worst time was when I lost him for ten days when he was only two. It was the Easter weekend, one where it just bucketed down with rain. I was on a job and distracted because I was trying to get my tools into the back of the Ute, especially my electrical tools undercover. Jack normally hangs around the Ute but by the time I was finished he was nowhere to be found. I didn't know what to do so I just drove around and around the Lane Cove area. It was the worst ten days of my life-I did 1100 to 1200 kilometres in those ten days just looking for him. We made up around 500 posters with a large picture of Jack appealing to anyone who had seen him to give me a call. I rang the local rangers and police department every day to see if anyone had found Jack, by the end of it I knew them all on a first name basis.



Action Squad's Jason Hodges with his Kelpie-x-Dingo, Jack

Then I got a call from a lady in the area who said she had seen Jack and she was crying because he had been hit by a car. She gave me the location on Epping Road and she said that it was bad. I was distraught knowing the worst and my apprentice had to drive me to where he was-I just couldn't have driven myself. There he was in the gutter not moving-it was awful I was crying and so my apprentice went over to check him out. Then he shouted to me "Looks like Jack but it can't be-Jack doesn't wear a pink collar!" I'm not sure if I cried even more with the relief that it wasn't Jack or that here, dead, was somebody else's loved dog.

Finally I got another call from a woman who had sighted Jack on Longueville Road, up by the Billy Blue School of Art. Turns out that Jack had been hanging at a house in that area during the day and then making his way up there in the evenings. The students had been feeding him. He was really lethargic and didn't have the same enthusiasm jumping into the back of the Ute. His stomach was bloated so I took him to my local vet. Turns out that he had put on 2 and a half kilos over ten days, being fed by the students and others. Jack had been living the good life! My vet reckoned that Jack's temporary lack of enthusiasm was due to being pissed off at me for losing him."

Jason believes Jack knows the difference between weekdays versus weekends. He's ready to go off to the job during the week but apparently he can get pretty moody on the weekend if Jason has a lay-in or leaves without him for social events that Jack can't attend. This media mutt doesn't need much preparation for his on air or off-air work. Most mornings he beats Jason to the Ute for their drive to Willoughby. Despite Jack's celebrity status, success and being continually recognised hasn't changed him much. One celebrity benefit is that Jack rides in the passenger seat in the Ute rather than on the back.

It sounded like Jack was pretty dedicated to his role both in front of the camera and on site so we checked in with some of Jack's other co-workers and here's what they had to say:

"He doesn't do much but considers himself the Foreman on any job and never complains." - Josh Whitby, Hodges Landscaping and Design

"Jack sits and watches my chooks at home when Jase comes over to do jobs on my garden. He wouldn't hurt them he's just intrigued by them. My kids love him to come over as he plays ball with them. He's extremely obedient and Jase has taught him well not to go near the road or cross it without Jase. He is the perfect dog, being half dingo he doesn't bark! On an 'Auction Squad' make over, he ran over my painted wallpaper that I had left drying. He's now immortalised, I eventually forgave him." - Candy Day, Interior Designer, Auction Squad

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Candy Day, Interior Designer, Auction Squad**



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