

# Me and My Half dog

## **Vic Farrons' co driver**

Vic Farron RFT Express

Not really half a dog

## Me and My Half Dog

I thought it was time to tell you a little about myself, and of course my half dog. The dog is not really a half a dog; it's just that I have him for about half a week while my son works. I sometimes think my son bought the dog, a Border Collie because he thought I needed more exercise in my supposed retirement. Unfortunately because of pressure of work, my first contract run starts at 4-30 a.m. five days a week, and invariably I have to take up some of the excess work load that comes in, which tends to be every day. Tomorrow for instance on top of the first contract I have two other long distance deliveries, which if I don't manage to combine the two loads, it will mean calling in the temp drivers and hiring another vehicle. All our vehicles are fully booked for tomorrow, and all the office staff are out on the road again. The subcontractors are taking a lot of the excess workload, but I am still ringing round trying to place loads. Unfortunately a lot of our high profile clients insist they have the same driver every time, which complicates things.



I complain about the pressure, but I do occasionally manage to put in 8 or 10 hours a day in the office during the week, and use the weekend to clear up all the work I haven't managed to do during the week. Which brings me back to the dog, he is a Border Collie, [sheep dog,] and came straight from the farm as a pup. He has the inbuilt attitude that he must be on the go all day, he requires a lot of exercise, fortunately I live and work in the proposed new Bradford Silicone Valley, and we have the River Aire and a nature reserve within a quarter of a mile, which is convenient for lunch time exercise for both of us, with the moors just a short drive away where I can give him a good run.

He has always travelled in the van with me from being a pup, he is now quite an accomplished back seat driver. He will sit up and watch the road, in towns as soon as he sees a speed camera, his paw goes on my arm to warn me. He uses the same technique when he sees the brake lights coming on from vehicles in front of us, and even if he spots a bend in the road. His favourite trick is when we are on the motorway, if we are in the overtaking lane and he thinks we are going too fast, up comes the warning paw and he looks at me, then the speedo until I reduce speed. Unfortunately with him being a sheep dog, by nature he wants to be outside all the time, and he hates the heater being switched on in the van, which means that all this winter I have had to drive with the windows open. If you see a driver in the middle of

winter, with the windows wound down and wearing a thick Hi Vis coat, gloves, scarf and hat, you will know it's me. I do get my own back though; the dog has his own HI Vis vest which he has to wear.

*[Article by Vic Farron, RFT Express](#)*