



## National Sheep Association

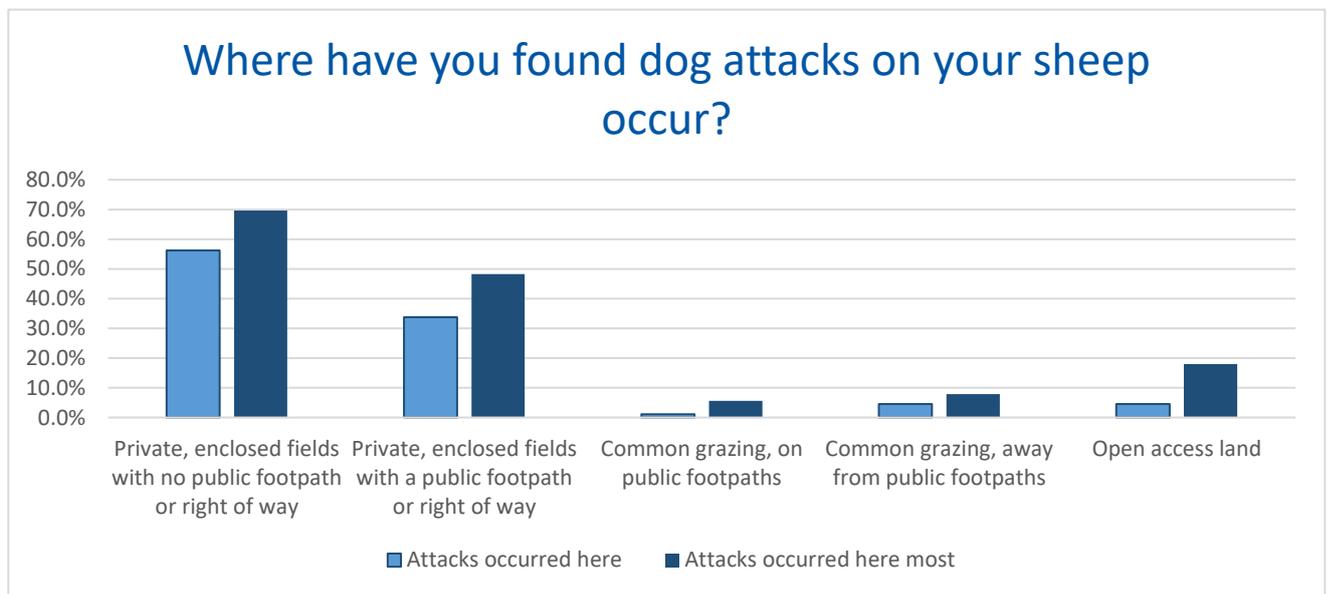
### Sheep Worrying by Dogs Survey (May 2017)

89 survey responses from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

### On average, how many sheep worrying incidents have you experienced in the last year?

*The average number of sheep worrying attacks farmers affected experiences in the last year was 7 incidents. Several respondents reported more than 100 cases.*

### Where have you found dog attacks on your sheep occur? (Of these, where have attacks on your sheep occurred the most?)



70% of respondents said they found dog attacks take place in private, enclosed fields with no footpath. Other common sites for attacks taking place are private, enclosed fields with a public footpath or right of way and open access land.

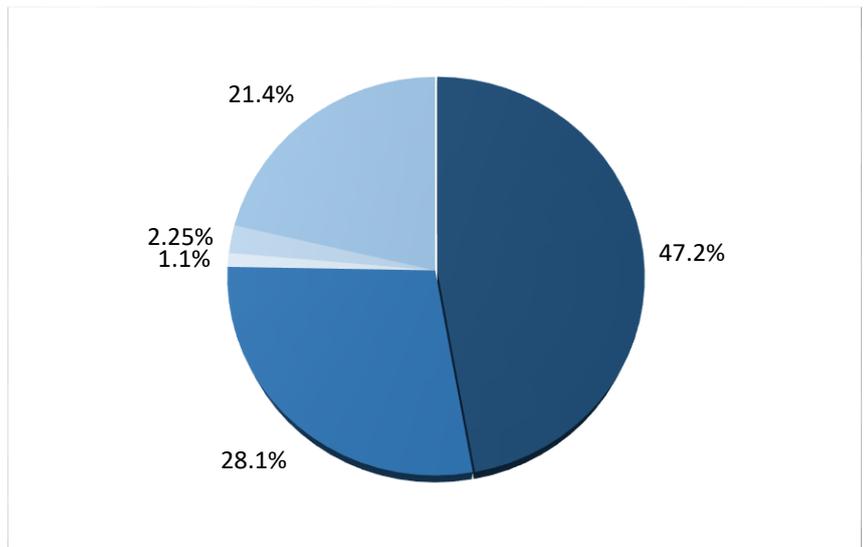




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### **How many dogs are usually involved in an attack? [Tick 1]**

The survey revealed that most dog attacks are carried out by single dogs. 47% of people contributing to the results reported this number. 28% of contributors stated that the attacks usually involved 2 dogs.



### **What is the most common scenario for attacks on your sheep?**

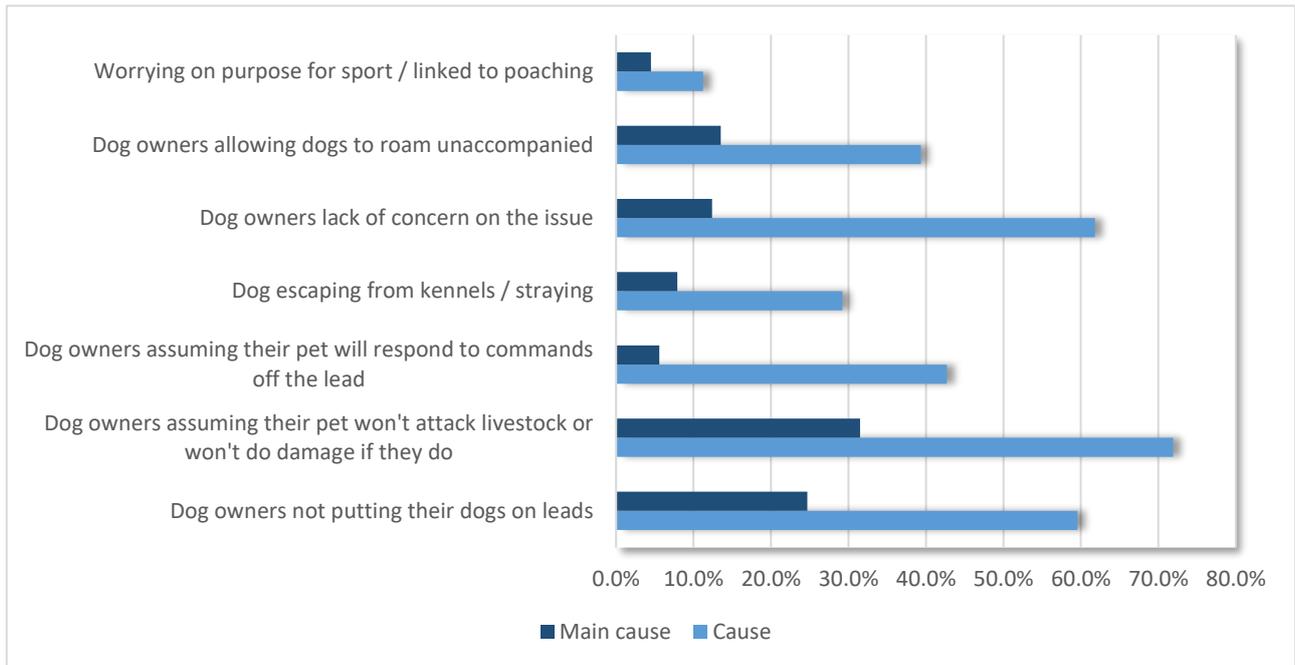




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## **What do you consider to be the main causes of dog attacks on sheep on your farm**

**(Of these, which of these causes do you think is behind most attacks on your farm)**



**72% of respondents to the survey felt dog owners assumed their pet would not attack livestock or cause any damage if they did. 62% felt that dog owners simply had a lack of regard or concern on the issue. 60% felt attacks occurred because dog owners did not keep their dogs on a lead.**

### **On average, how many sheep have been killed in a single attack?**

*On average 4 sheep are killed per dog attack, however some farmers reported 30-40 killed each time*



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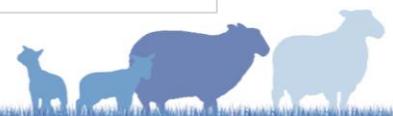
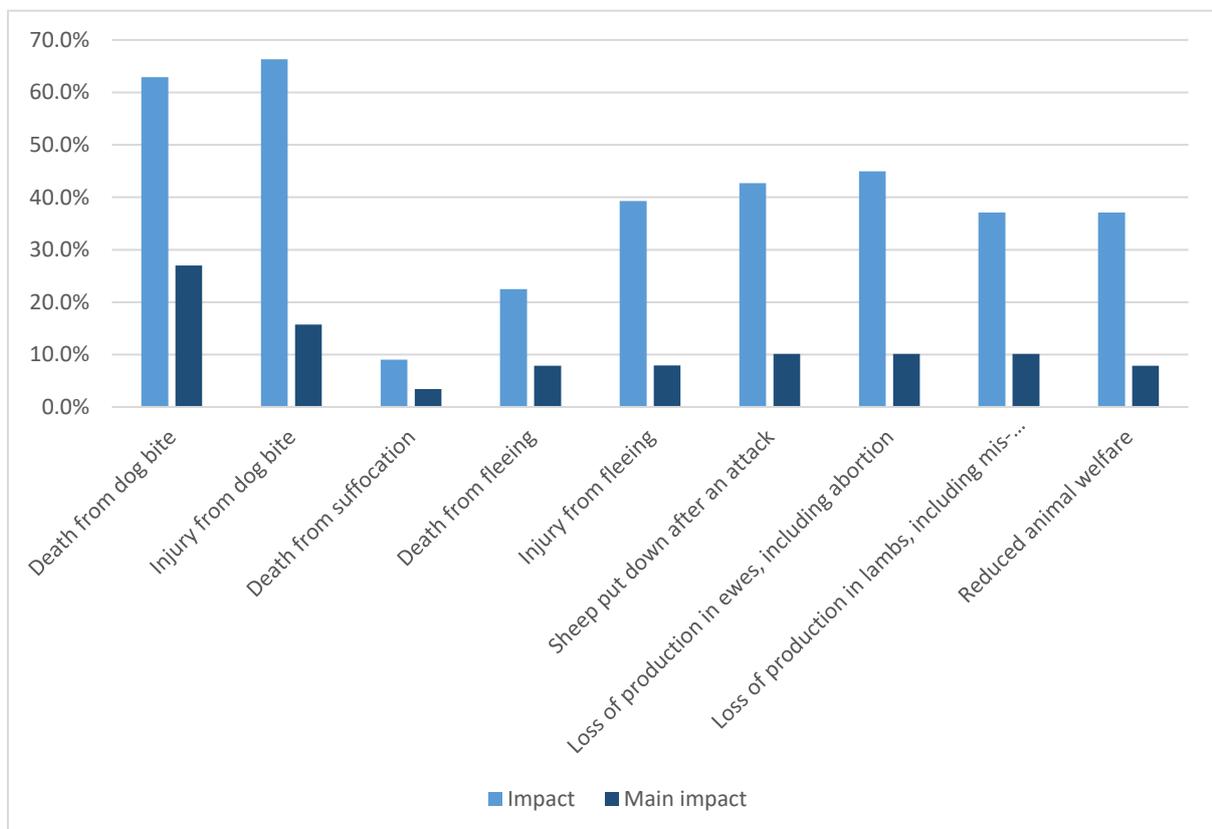
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## On average, how many sheep have been injured in a single attack?

*On average 8 sheep are injured per dog attack, however some farmers reported more than 20 injured per attack*

## What kind of impacts / injuries do you find occur as a result of dog attacks?

(Of these, which do you consider to be the most common impact?)

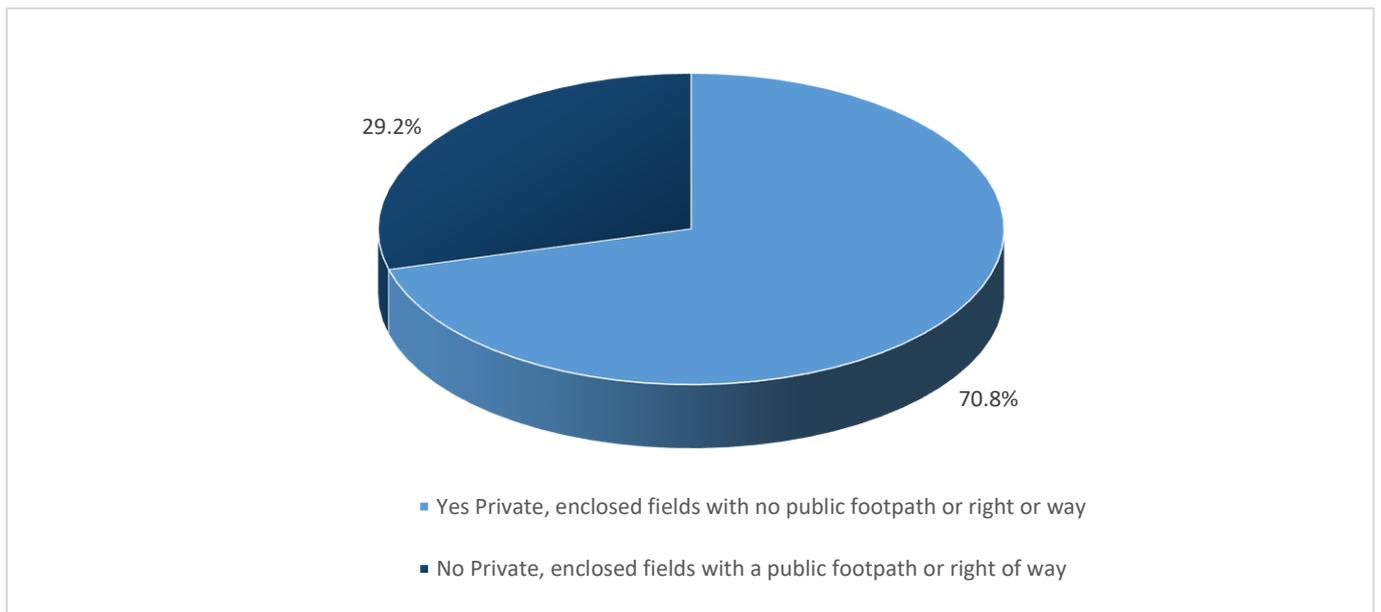


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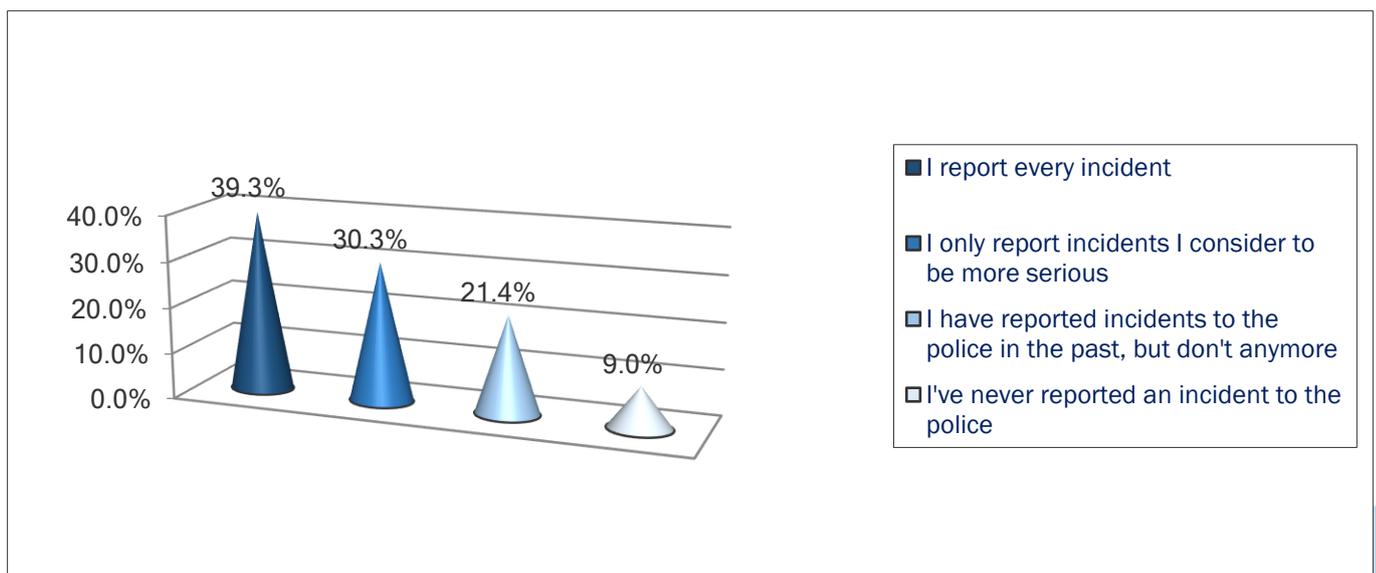


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## Do you display warning signs asking the public to keep their dog on a lead around livestock?



## Do you report sheep attacks to the police?





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## **If you have reported an incident to the police, what was the outcome or what is the most common outcome?**

*18% of respondents said they were given a crime reference number and 17% said they were given a crime incident number as a result of reporting a sheep attack to the police*

## **If you have reported an incident to the police, how would you rate the response? 0 = no response 10 = very helpful.**

An equal 10% of respondents rated response from the police at 10 and at 0. 10% also ranked police response at 8, with 8% ranking it at 2 at the other end of the scale.

## **What positive activity on sheep worrying is being conducted by your local police force?**

15% of respondents said a Rural Crime Team or Rural Crime Officer had been appointed in their area, but almost the same percentage (14%) were not aware whether this had been set up their region or not. Just over half (52%) said they did not think any positive activity was taking place in their area.



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## So what can be done?

### **What activity(s) do you think would help reduce sheep worrying incident? [Tick all that apply]**

21% of respondents said displaying sheep worrying signs all year round would help reduce the problem, with 15% saying these should only be displayed when sheep are in the field. 10% said they thought an active Rural Crime Team in their area would reduce the problem.



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