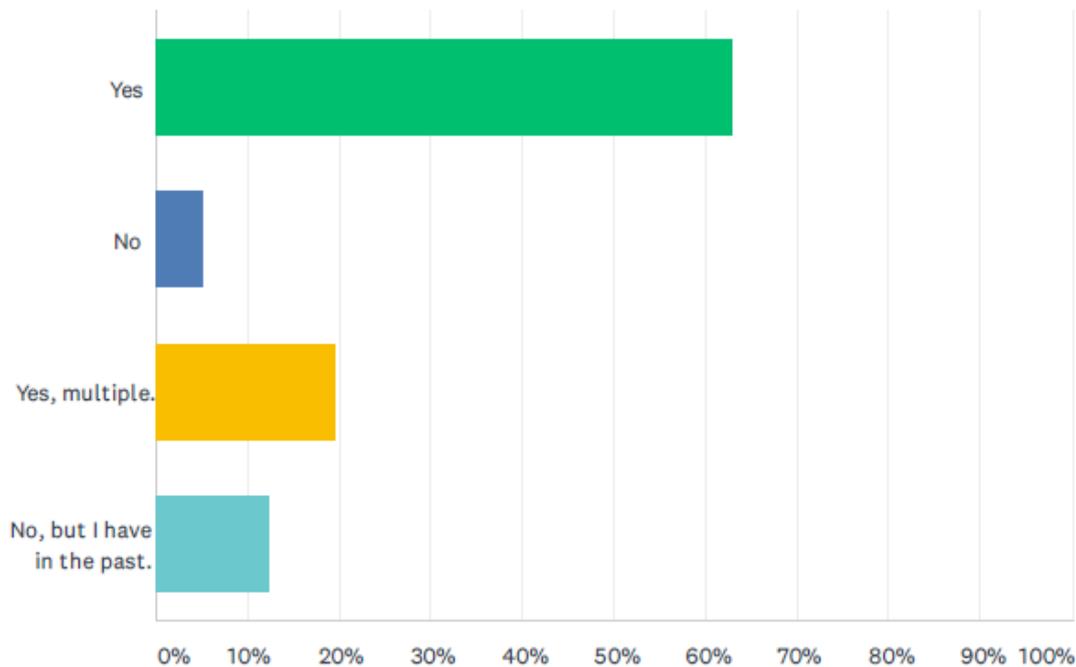




National Sheep Association

NSA Sheep worrying by dog's survey 2020

1. Have you experienced a dog worrying incident in the past 18 months?



In total, 94.85% of respondents said they had experienced dog worrying on their farm. Of this some 63% was in the previous 18 months. Just 5% said they had never experienced dog worrying.

2. What was the severity of the incident?

The majority of incidences resulted in loss of life, with 49% reporting a sheep death, and 10% reporting the incident had led to lambs being aborted.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lives lost (excluding lambs miscarried).	49.46%	46
Lambs miscarried.	9.68%	9
No animals killed but some seriously injured and requiring costly medical attention.	13.98%	13
No animals killed or seriously injured but some animals seriously shaken up.	26.88%	25
TOTAL		93

3. Can you provide some details of the attack/s?

(Answers selected as representative)

- 'One young Hogg had leg ripped open. Another occasion dogs chased in lamb ewes some subsequently aborted. Another occasion two dogs attacked weaned fat lambs/ewe lamb replacements equalling 3 deaths on this occasion.'
- 'Tup lamb attacked by a terrier, back leg badly bitten and bites to neck and side. it would have been much worse if not stopped by another dog walker who reported it to me.'
- 'Poachers dog got into sheep at 1.30 am and mauled a pedigree Hampshire in lamb around the head and throat so she subsequently had to be put down.'
- 'Golden lab got in amongst field of in lamb ewe. Spaniel got in amongst field of heavily pregnant ewes. Lurcher chased ewes whilst they were in with the tup.'
- 'Single dog (Staffordshire Bull Terrier, chased a flock and separated a single ewe, chased it out of field through woodland and then onto a road where it then attacked the ewe causing severe injuries needing euthanasia.'
- 'An elderly gentleman had entered an area of parkland and released his dog which proceeded to chase the sheep.'
- 'Pair of terriers (ongoing problem) running through field of hoggets', no physical damage, but hoggets' very distressed.'

4. Can you provide an estimated figure of financial loss?

Respondents provided a figure, responses ranged from £0 - £10,000 in severe incidences. The average cost of a dog worrying attack was £1134.

5. How did the incident make you feel?

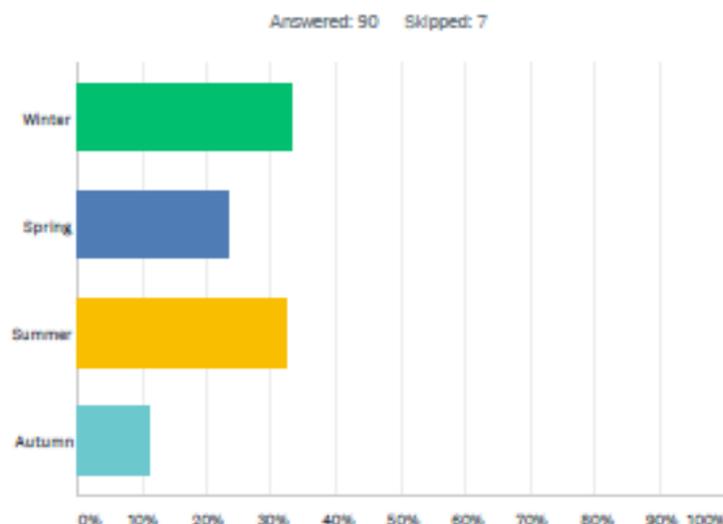
Respondents provided nouns to describe their feelings. This word cloud represents the words provided. The larger the word, the more frequently it occurred.



6. What time of year do you find most attacks occur?

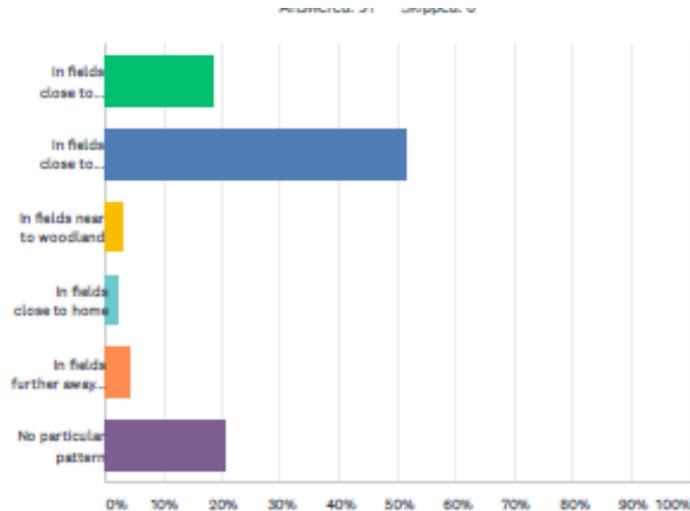
Respondents said most attacks occurred in Winter (33%), followed by summer (32%) with Spring only representing 23%.

Q6 What time of year do you find most attacks occur?



7. In what areas do attacks most commonly occur?

There is only a 2% difference between attacks occurring away from the farmstead and those close to. With 51% saying the most common place for an attack was in fields close to footpaths.



8. Have you changed the way you work in an attempt to prevent incidents? If yes, please provide details.

70% of respondents said they have changed how they farm due to dog worrying attacks, this includes building tougher fencing along footpaths, to disusing some badly impacted fields.

9. Do you report every incident to the police?

Out of 89 respondents, just 38% they report every attack with 24% saying they never report any attacks.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes, every time.	38.20% 34
No, I never report them.	23.60% 21
No, but I do report the more serious incidents.	38.20% 34
TOTAL	89

10. How would you rate the police response (1 poor – 10 excellent)?

Police response was given an average response of 3/10.

11. If possible, please share some details of the police response, and the name of the police force.

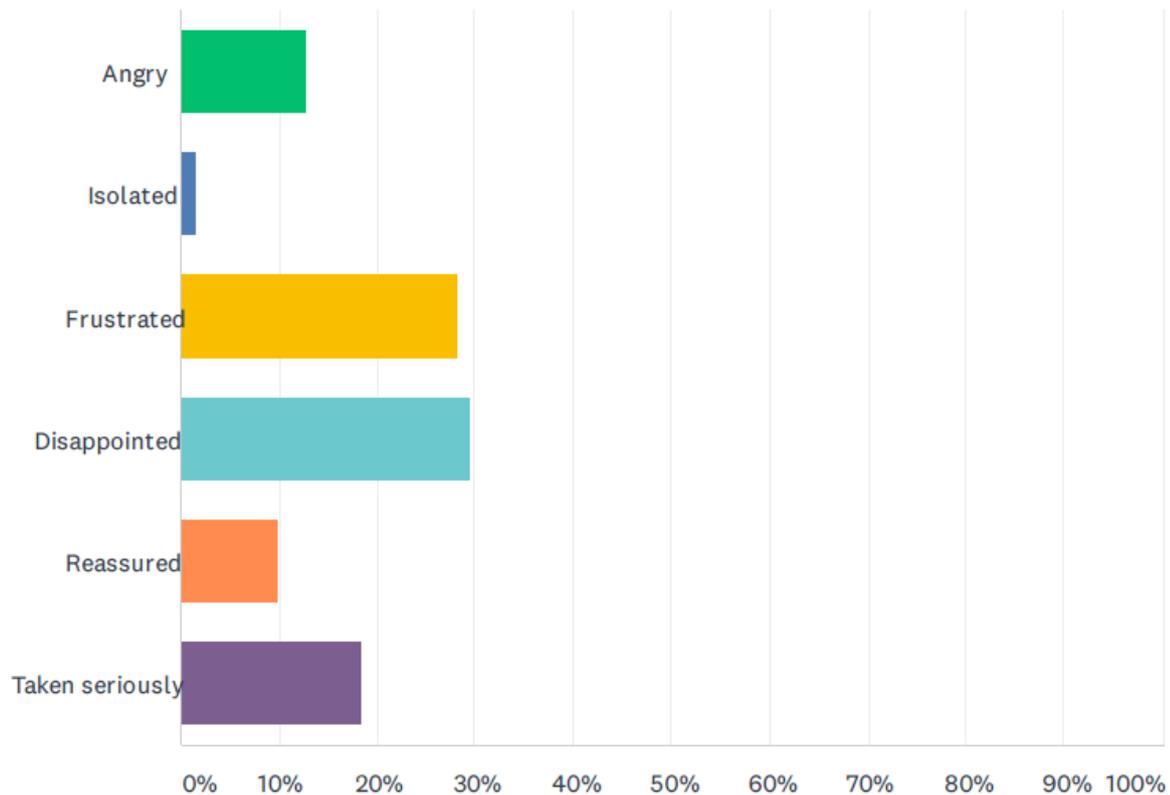
- 'Historic incident police sympathetic but not prepared to take any further action, since that time a dedicated rural officer much more on the case!'
- 'Police really tried to avoid recording the incident and refused to attend because we don't have CCTV. They sent a Crime Prevention Officer who gave us some useful advice and repeatedly told us that we needed CCTV. She then insisted on coming to our house and wandered about telling us that we needed CCTV everywhere there as well.'
- 'Slow response. Lack of knowledge. Uninterested in pressing charges.'
- 'I have started to report every time now. the police 'care' but don't have time or power to do much. Burnley do now have a rural/wildlife contact who i have met and she does seem genuinely interested in trying to support us... though whether she will be able to ever be available when we 'need' her will depend on her other demands at the time (we won't be priority I felt the individual officers cared but they were told there was nothing they could do.'
- 'A lot of police are regular citizens rather than farmers so that is where their loyalties sometimes lie.'
- 'They don't know how to deal with the incident as they can't be watching every dog, they understand the frustration, but they say they can't do a lot, especially as dog owners don't own up and we don't also see the attacks ourselves.'
- 'Department were fairly swift in response and were fully supportive towards me dog had long gone so not much could be done but they did send a tweet to raise awareness of the specific incident.'

12. Based on your experience, how likely would you be to report an incident again in the future?

Of those who did report incidences 41% said they were very likely to report again based on their experience. 25% said they would be likely, while 7% said it would be unlikely and 8% saying it was very unlikely.

13. How did your police experience make you feel?

Positive responses from the police were recorded from 28% of respondents, however, the remaining 72% registered negative feelings from the police response with a 30% feeling disappointed and 28% feeling frustrated.



14. Do you have any further comments to add?

(A selection of responses that are broadly representative of all submitted)

- 'Legislation needs tightening up to give farmers more rights over what happens to the dogs responsible.'
- 'Dog owners do not believe it is an offence.'
- 'The police have more important crimes to solve. there needs to be more pressure put on dog owners to act responsibly. Dog sanctuaries need to educate potential owners on the risks to livestock and the consequences of their actions.'
- 'More publicity and education to the general public should be done.'
- 'Most dog owners are responsible and caring - it's just the very few that spoil it. Population density is increasing as is dog ownership so these attacks will only increase in number.'
- 'Dogs worrying sheep should be shot at the scene and the action widely reported, dogs are then kept under control.'
- 'Although police response isn't great, I report because build-up of incidents is vital to push for future action. What I would like is for dogs to have to be on leads in fields and for automatic removal of unaccompanied dogs from their owners.'
- Big problem with the public is thinking only aggressive dogs cause problems. An overexcited spaniel can cause miscarried lambs without any ill intent.