



PRÉFÈTE
DE LA RÉGION
AUVERGNE-
RHÔNE-ALPES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



Plan national d'actions loup
et activités d'élevage

Walkers and bikers in the course of your walk, you may encounter **livestock guarding dogs**



WHO ARE THESE LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS?



→ TO AVOID CONTACT WITH THE LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS, WHEN APPROACHING A FLOCK, WATCH FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR!

Keep your distances

The sudden appearance of any strange new object (dog off the lead, walker, biker...) may upset the flock, disturbing its normal progress and thus hampering the work of the shepherd: the livestock guarding dog is instantly on the alert. As you approach, he will come up and sniff you in order to identify you. After having done so, he generally goes back to his flock. Occasionally, he may also try to intimidate you by barking.

- If you come across a herd, **make a wide circle around it** so as not to disturb the animals. Leave the path if necessary.
- **Beware of acting in ways that may seem harmless to you** (trying to feed, pet or photograph a livestock guarding dog, a sheep or a lamb, etc.): the guarding dogs may misinterpret this as an attack!
- If you come face to face with a livestock guarding dog, **behave calmly and passively in order to reassure him**. If you are intimidated, slowly turn away from the dog.
- Please **keep your dog on a lead**: this will avoid any dissuasive action by the livestock guarding dogs as you approach a flock.
- If you use walking sticks, please do not threaten the dogs and keep the tip down.
- When cycling, it is preferable to **get off and walk the bike**.
- **In any case, stop** until the livestock guarding dogs identify you.



← Large signs are posted to indicate the presence of these dogs.
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEM!

DO NOT DISTURB THE FLOCKS!



© Parc de la Vanoise

→ THEIR STORY

The traditional use of the guarding dogs disappeared with the increasingly scarce of large predators in the early century. With the return of wolves, bears, lynx, these dogs are now a valuable help to farmers and shepherds for the protection of flocks. In France, there are mainly Pyrenean Mountain Dogs, Abruzzese Shepherd Dogs, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs and Transmontano Cattle Dog.

→ THEIR FAMILY: THE FLOCK

Born inside the fold, the pup forges strong bonds with the sheep: their relationship is up to a total and mutual acceptance. After which the livestock guarding dog lives permanently in the flock: summer over the pasture and winter inside the fold. These links condition the livestock guarding dog to react instinctively to any intrusion against the flock.



Pyrenean Mountain Dog © M. Barreteau

→ THEIR JOB: PROTECT THE FLOCKS

The livestock guarding dog is autonomous: he goes with his flock and watches over it constantly, day and night, even when the farmer or shepherd is not present. He creates a protective area around the flock, ready to remove any intruder: wild animal, dog off the lead, walker...

Do not confuse him with the herding dog, used to direct or herd the flock: he accompanies the shepherd.



Anatolian Shepherd Dog © DREAL AuRA

→ THEIR ASSET: THE DETERRANCE

The livestock guarding dogs are not trained to attack but to deter: their stoutness and barking keep predators away. Once they sense danger, the livestock guarding dogs instinctively deter predators by placing themselves between their charges and any intruder. They also alert nearby shepherds to any disturbance. If the intruder does not take into account, they can then go up to the confrontation.