

- NOVEMBER 1, 2018 -

# A Deeper Dive into Livestock Guardian Dogs



- PRESENTED BY -  
Jan Dohner

- HOSTED BY -

**FACT**  
Food Animal Concerns Trust

# Introductions



**Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)** is a national nonprofit organization that advocates for the safe and humane production of meat, milk, and eggs.



## **Larissa McKenna**

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FACT's services for livestock and poultry farmers include:

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grants**
- **Conference scholarships**
- **Free webinars**
- **Humane Farming Mentorship Program**

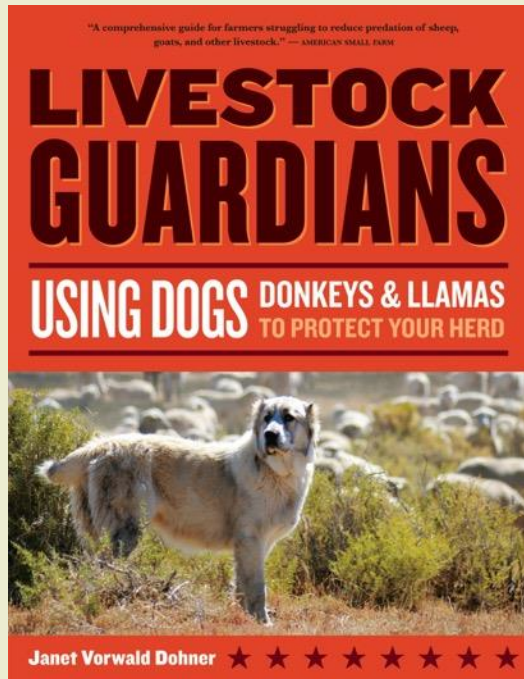
# Our Presenter



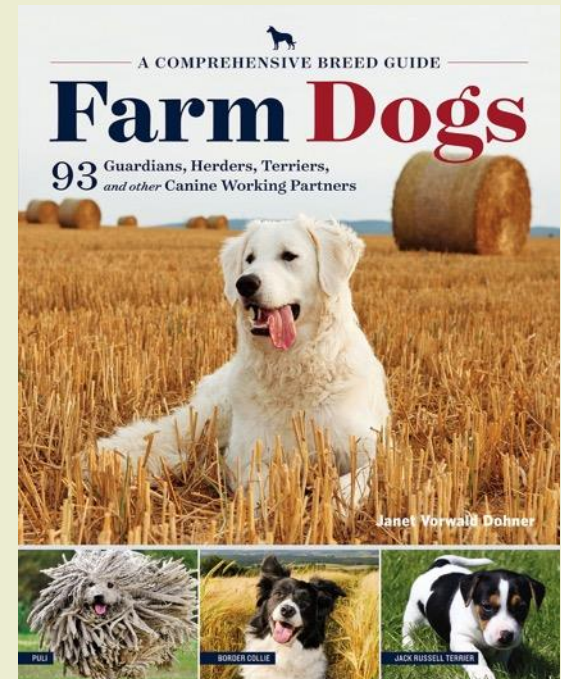
Jan Dohner

*Author of *Livestock Guardians: Using Dogs, Donkeys and Llamas to Protect Your Herd & The Encyclopedia of Animal Predators.**

# A Deeper Dive into Livestock Guardian Dogs



Jan Dohner  
Jandohner.com



Food Animal Concerns Trust, 2018



# Webinar Overview

## LGDs

- Development and common traits
- Breeds
- Crossbred dogs

## Handling and training

- Misunderstandings and misconceptions
- Find and select puppies and adults
- Rescue and re-homing
- Bringing a new dog home
- Different ways to raise a working LGD

# Livestock Guardian Dog History



# Livestock Guardian Dogs - LGD



- Protective
- Reactive
- Independent
- Dominant
- Low energy level
- Low prey drive
- Slow to mature
- Roaming
- Barking
- Appearance/Size

# LGD Homelands – Western Europe





# LGD Homelands – Central Asia into Tibet





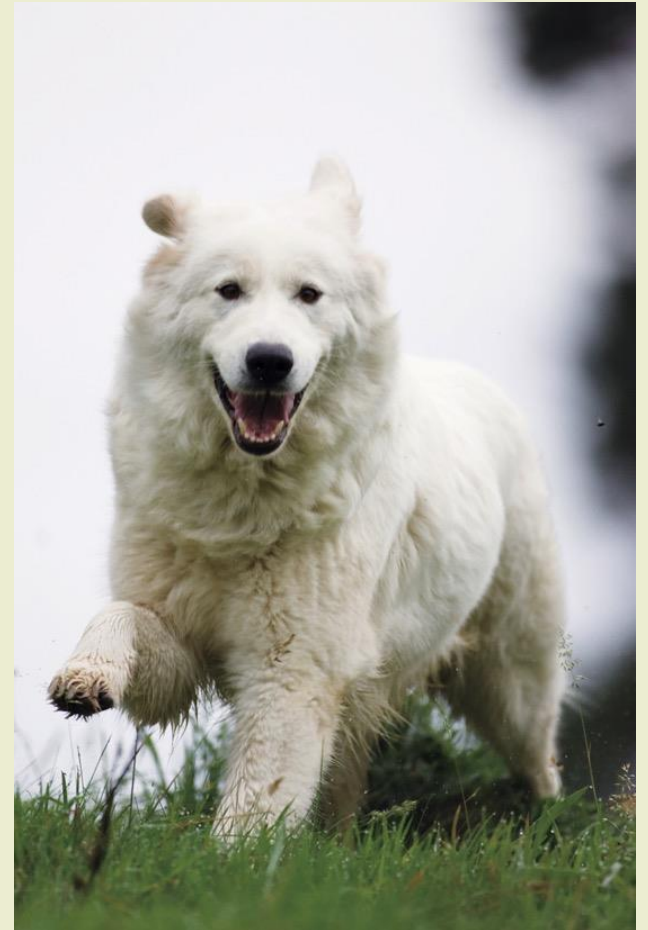
Great Pyrenees

# Spanish and Pyrenean Mastiffs



Estrella Mt Dog

# Maremma Sheepdog



# Kuvasz and Komondor





Tornjak



Slovensky Cuvac



Polish Tatra

# Karakachan



# Sarplaninac



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



# Akbash and Kangal Dog





Central Asian Shepherd  
Caucasian Ovcharka

# Tibetan Mastiff



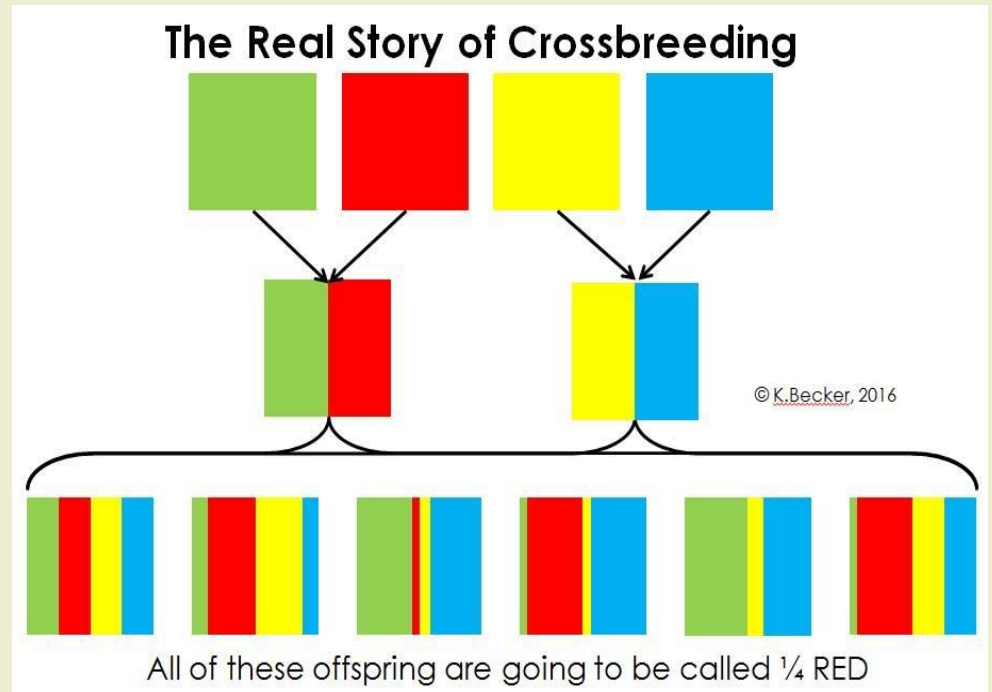
# Working Partners



# Acceptable Working Crosses



LGD x LGD only



# Misconceptions



- Little or no human contact
- Natural guardians - need no training
- Can easily guard poultry
- Ruined if kills a chicken as a young dog
- Bond to stock - don't need fences
- Only bad LGDs roam
- No differences between LGD breeds
- Crossbred with non-LGD breed is fine

# How to Find an LGD



Good sources –

- Breed clubs
- References from folks with good working dogs
- Rescue or rehoming - evaluate why in rescue



# Red Flags

- Craig's list or similar ads
- Cheap
- No proof of parents or knowledge of their breeds
- No health screening
- Feral, mistreated, starved, young, or ill parents
- Internet seduction



# How to Select a Puppy



# Puppy Observations

- Activity level
- Prey/chase drive
- Temperament
- Pain threshold
- Reaction to stock



# Two at Once ?



# Rehomed or Rescue Dog



# Positive Signs in a Rescue



- Good working dog from a farm
- Rehabbed by an experienced LGD person/breed club
- Originally came from good breeder
- No serious behavioral issues
- Living outdoors
- Low activity level
- Good reaction to stock.

# Avoid These Adult Rescues



- Completely unknown background
- Feral
- Serious stock failures
- Aggressive toward people or stock
- Serious behavioral issues
- Unhealthy, lame, unsound

# Bringing Home an LGD puppy



- Role
- Housing
- Training and socializing
- Other family or farm dogs
- Fencing

# Bonding





# Raising a Puppy in Different Situations



- Established flocks guarded by LGDs
- Older reliable mentor dog
- Active shepherding/supervision
- Supervised visits/observation

# Bringing Home an Adult LGD



- Secure pen
- Time
- Build relationship calmly
- Treat like new puppy at first – supervise/observe
- Be cautious during breeding or birthing seasons for first year

## Great Pyrenees Tricks



**SIT**



**DOWN**



**SHAKE**



**ROLL OVER**

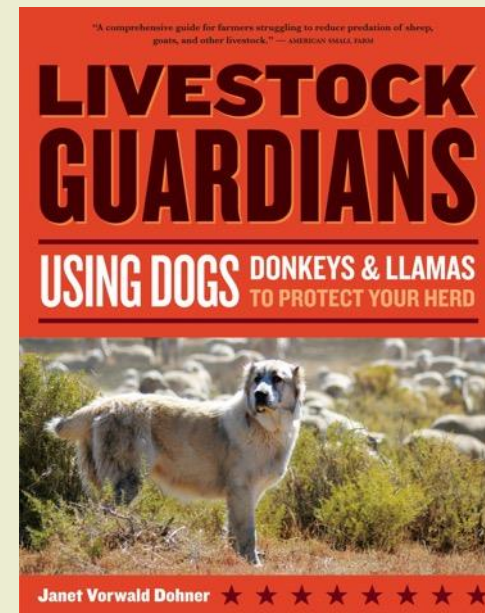
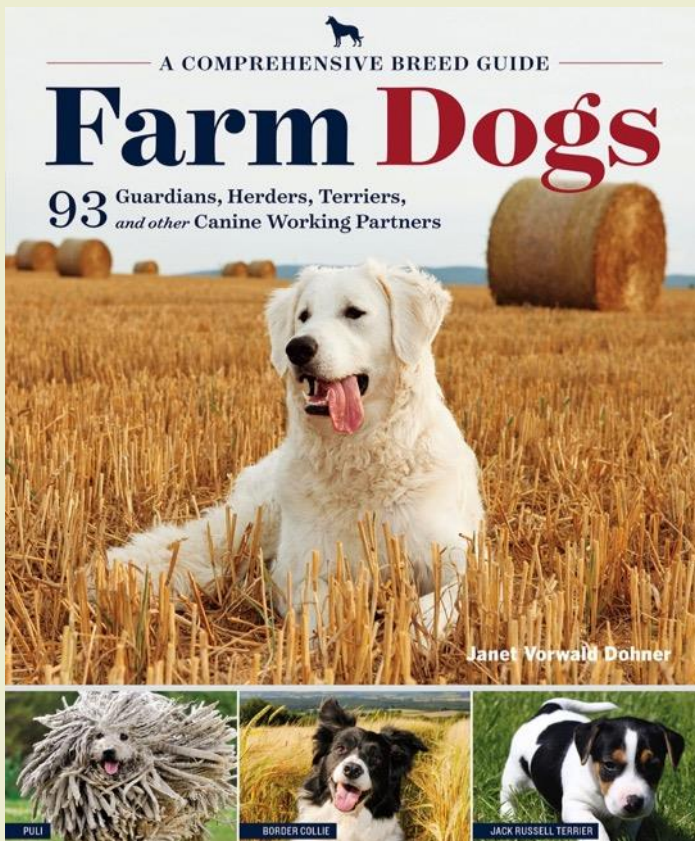


**FETCH**

**STAY**

Next webinar – Troubleshooting  
LGD Behaviors

# Farm Dogs: 93 Guardians, Herders, Terriers, and other Canine Working Partners



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# Photo Credits



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# Questions & Answers

Please type your Q's into the chat bar



# Connect with



## Upcoming webinars

- **November 8:** Tax Tips for Farmers
- **November 15:** Troubleshooting LGD Behavior (Part 3)
- **December 11:** Direct Marketing Meat & Meat Processing
- **January 7, 2019:** Predator Protection for Poultry
- **January 14, 2019:** Predator Protection for Livestock

## Grants, Scholarships, Mentorship & More!

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grant applications are available!**
- **Scholarships accepted on an on-going basis**

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