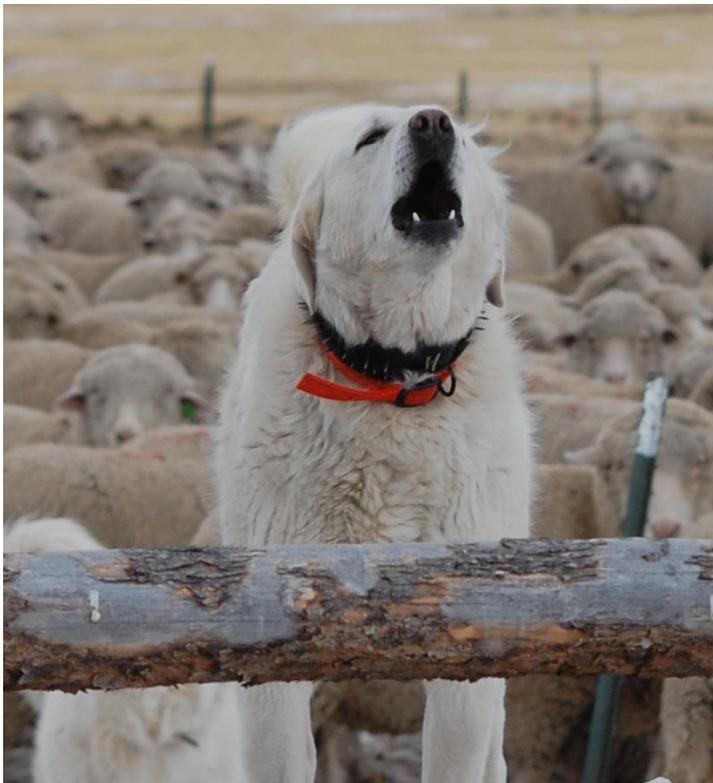


- NOVEMBER 15, 2018 -

# Troubleshooting Livestock Guardian Dog Behaviors



- 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**

Humane Farming Program Director

Email: [lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org](mailto:lmckenna@foodanimalconcerns.org)

Website: [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer)

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.**

# Troubleshooting LGD Behaviors



Food Animal  
Concerns Trust

Jan Dohner  
[www.jandohner.com](http://www.jandohner.com)



# Webinar Overview

- Identifying good and bad behaviors
- Poultry guarding
- Multiple LGDs
- Aggression issues
- Failure to guard
- Barking
- Roaming
- Dealing with neighbors
- Resources



# Good LGDs

## **Good livestock guardian dogs**

- bond well to livestock and stay with the herd
- behave reliably with stock
- exhibit protective behavior against intruders
- establish areas that predators avoid
- remain on premises

## **Problem livestock guard dogs**

- roam beyond fences
- leave the herd unprotected
- behave aggressively toward humans or stock
- are ineffective at deterring predators

# Louise Liebenberg

## Grazerie, High Prairie, Alberta



[www.grazerie.com](http://www.grazerie.com)

# Warning Signs





# Early Warning Signs

- Play bowing to stock
- Mouthing your hand or stock
- Slobbering on the stock
- Disrespectful or rude behavior, barging through or bumping stock
- Excited, stimulated, hyper-attentive



# Escalating Behaviors

- Standing on or mounting stock
- Holding stock with paws or mouth
- Pulling wool, scratching, pawing, chewing
- Herding or pushing stock around
- Cornering or preventing free movement
- Separating one individual/standing over it - often the same animal
- Not allowing stock close to "resources" such as feeders or water



# Corrections

- Sharp timely “no!” for early signs
- At first sign of escalating behavior – remove to prevent repeated behavior
- Change dog’s situation
- Do not stop monitoring/supervising
- Slowly reintroduce situation - tether or remove when can’t observe



# Serious Behaviors

- Staring, stalking, hard focused looks
- Barking at stock
- Biting legs, tails, ears.
- Chasing stock
- Stock that is tired, panting, restless, or uncomfortable when the dog approaches

# Hard stare



# Hard stare, stalking



# Strong eye and stalking



# Pushing and moving stock



LGDs should not herd stock

# Identifying Good Behaviors - Choosing to stay with stock



# Calmness



# Protective



Louise Liebenberg

# Walking calmly



# Nurturing and Greeting



# Staying with stock



# Stock Problems with Young Dogs



C. Urbigkit,  
*The Shepherd Magazine*

- Bouncy lambs / kids engaging dog
- Stock continually butting dog
- Ram trying to mount dog
- Stock bullying dog from his food

# Poultry Guarding



Learning About LGDs Facebook, website, video channel

<https://learningaboutlgds.weebly.com>  
Anna Abney and Jaime Scott

# Multiple LGDs



- Predator pressure
- Number of stock
- Flocking or dispersed stock
- Size and type of terrain
- Husbandry needs
- Other prevention strategies used

# Aggression Between LGDs



- Food aggression
- Resource aggression
- Redirected aggression
- Same sex/littermates
- Personality conflicts



# Introducing a New LGD

## **Prelude**

- Go very slow – 1 to 2 weeks or more
- Kennel out of direct eye contact/not too far away
- Keep 1 to 2 fences between/avoid fence fighting
- Let resident dog see you handle new dog
- Eventually walk on a leash outside of stock area

## **Actual Introduction**

- Quiet time
- One resident dog at a time – younger/opposite sex best
- Outside of stock area/indirect contact first
- Stop at any signs of posturing
- Pen next to stock and resident dog
- Monitor new dog alone with stock
- Supervise new dog with stock and resident dog



# Herding and Pet Dogs

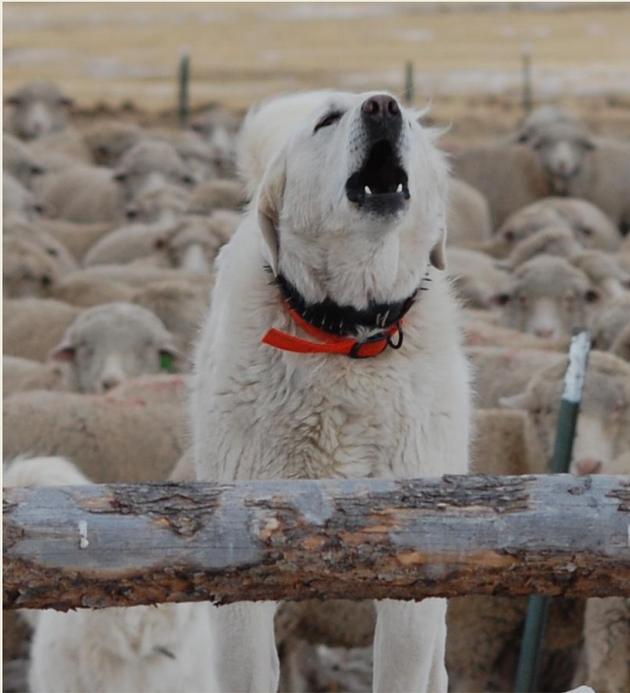
## **Pet dogs**

- Discourage play with pets and visiting dogs
- Don't allow in stock areas except with you
- Good LGD will protect its stock

## **Herding dogs**

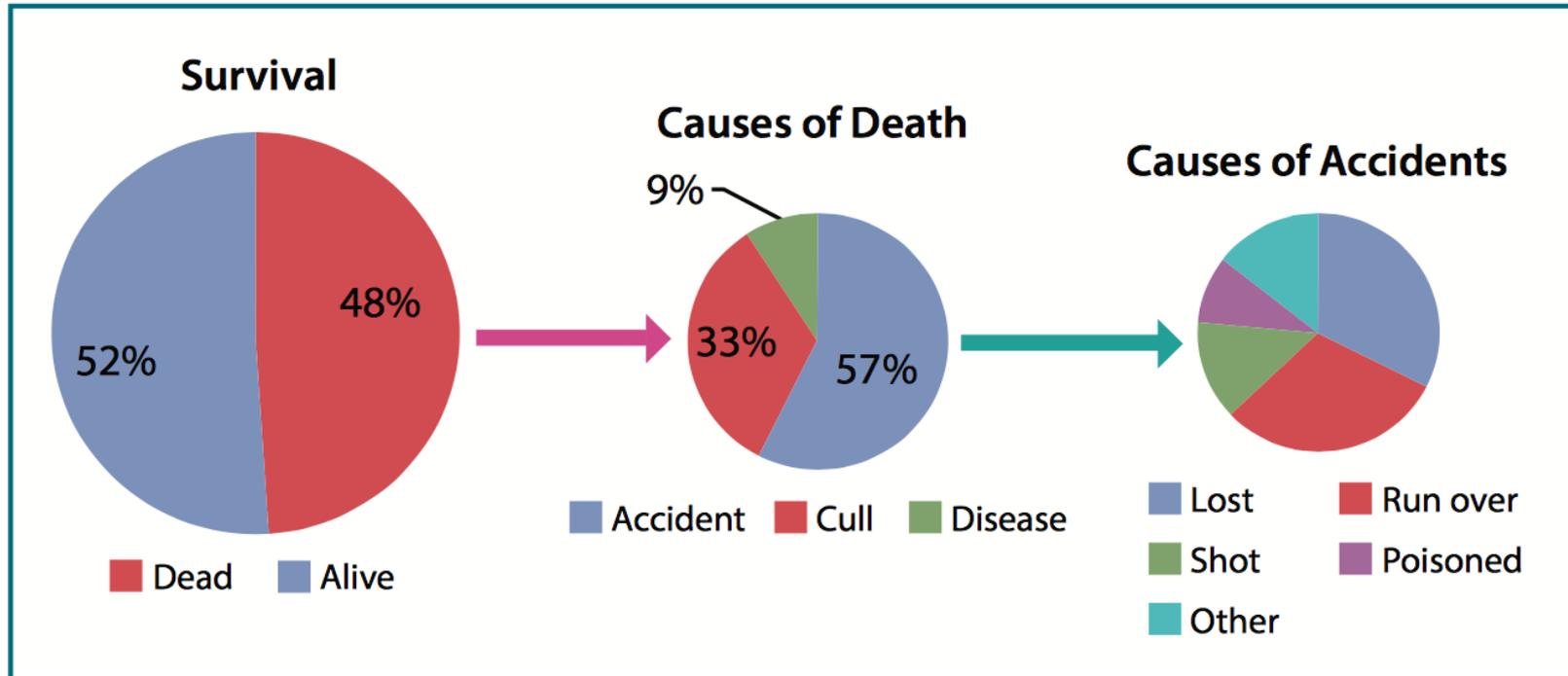
- LGD should tolerate your familiar herding dog when under your control
- Introduce new herding dogs like new LGD
- Avoid stressful situations like shearing, loading, etc
- Will probably not tolerate strange herding dog

# Preventing Aggression Towards Humans



- Establish your leadership/NILF
- Don't make assumptions
- Clear and prominent signage
- Monitor all guests to your property
- Remove dog from stressful situations – shearing, vet visits, etc
- Don't allow petting or teasing through fence

# Roaming



**FIGURE 4.** Six year survival of LGDs and causes of losses. Most accidents would not have occurred if the LGD had not left the grower's property (Lorenz et al. 1986).



# Dealing with Roaming

- If escape, sternly return/time out
- Use electric wire/improve fencing
- Tether, overhead zip line, or kennel until you can prevent
- Never encourage jumping up/over fence
- Remove attractants
- Combat boredom

# Fencing



## Good

- Tightly spaced mesh
- Electric top and scare wires
- Multi-strand electric
- Electric netting
- Invisible fence reinforcement to physical fence

## Needs improvement

- Board or rail
- Barbed wire
- Non electric wire
- Widely spaced wire
- Pipe or board gates
- Not enough height
- Gaps/gates



# Failure to Guard

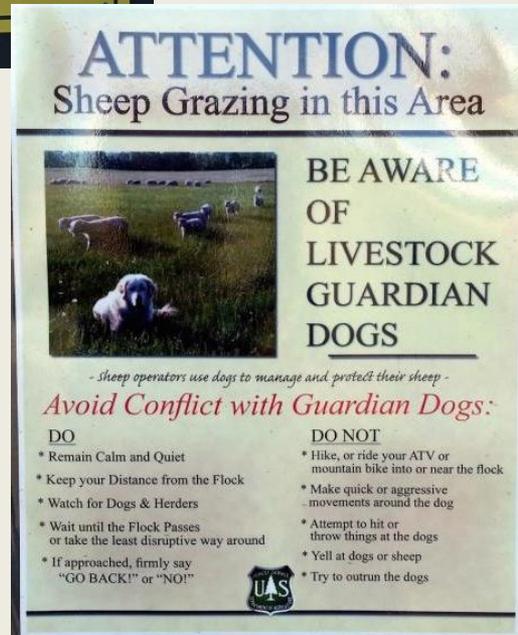
- Overwhelmed by predators or terrain
- Stock bullying dog
- Fearful or lacks confidence
- Roaming
- Focused on littermate or other dogs
- Focused on you
- Overly friendly to strange dogs
- Not bonded to stock
- Aggressive to stock

# Barking



- Decreases with maturity, confidence
- Give them something to do – meaty bone
- Respond with thanks
- Escalate to correction
- Timeout for mindless barking
- Never use bark collar

# Dealing with Neighbors



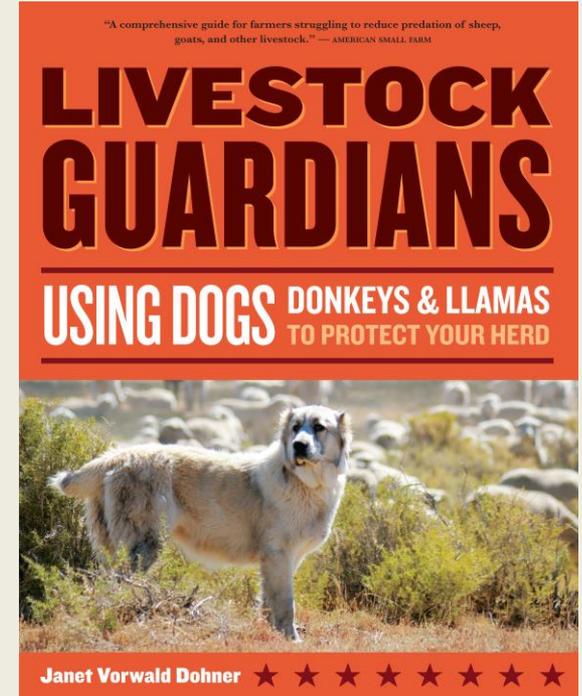
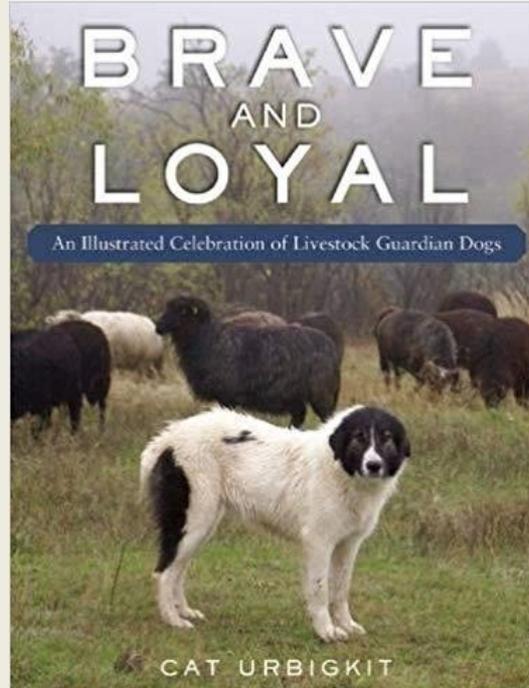
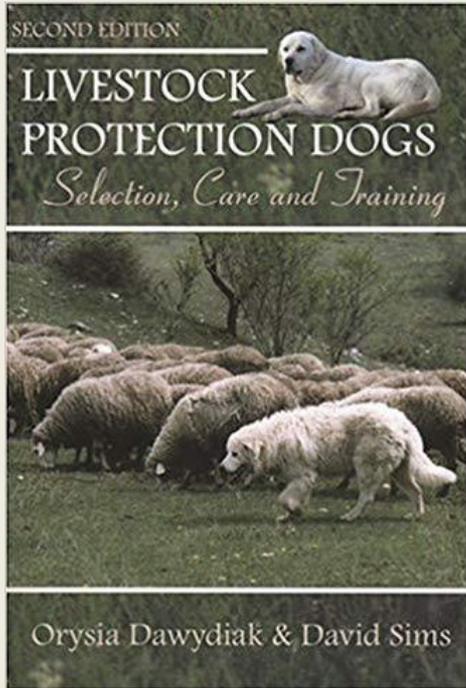
- Inform them personally
- Informative letter
- Signage, tags
- Be a good neighbor
- Right to Farm
- Document issues

# Controversial Tools



- Tethering
- Yokes
- Dangles
- Drags
- E collars
- Spiked collars

# Books



***Livestock Protection Dogs*** – Orysia Dawydiak

***Brave and Loyal*** – Cat Urbigkit

***Livestock Guardians*** – Jan Dohner



# Resources

- **Louise Liebenberg** at Grazerie  
<http://www.grazerie.com/index.php/blog>
- **Learning About LGDs** – Facebook and website, YouTube channel  
<https://learningaboutlgds.weebly.com>
- **Livestock Guardian Dog Education Network**  
<https://livestockguardiandog.weebly.com>
- **LGD.ORG** [www.LGD.org](http://www.LGD.org)
- **Livestock Protection Dogs** – USDA APHIS
- **Texas A and M LGD booklet** (online)
- **Jan Dohner** [www.jandohner.com](http://www.jandohner.com)

# Photo Credits



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# Questions & Answers

Please type your Q's into the chat bar



# Connect with



## Upcoming webinars

- **November 29:** Tax Tips for Farmers
- **December 11:** Direct Marketing Meat & Meat Processing
- **January 7, 2019:** Predator Protection for Poultry
- **January 14, 2019:** Predator Protection for Livestock
- **January 23, 2019:** Creative Leasing for Livestock Farmers

## Grants, Scholarships, Mentorship & More!

- **Fund-a-Farmer Grant applications are due November 28!**
- **Scholarships accepted on an on-going basis**
- **Mentorship program applications available in December**

Sign up for emails @ [foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/](http://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer/)

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