PREDATORS AND PREDATION MANAGEMENT

WHY??

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Cooperative Extension Service
Tennessee State University
and
University of Tennessee
Phone: 615-963-5539
? WHY?

- Long term monetary effect
- Long term herd stress
- Consumption pattern changes
- Effect on guardians
- Human anxiety
the CONCEPT

- respond aggressively to predators
- display instinctive protective behavior
- remain with and respect livestock specie
- possess confidence / power / stamina
- environmental versatility

the SELECTION

- identify type of predator
- climate / topography
- vegetation type
- genetic heritability
Great Pyrenean
- large and powerful
- great stamina
- dense coat
- quiet confidence
- more people tolerant

Akbash
- short length double coat
- built for speed and stamina
- keen eye sight and hearing
- more aggressive to predators
- forceful independent nature

Anatolian
- shorter, smooth hair coat
- tan with dark points (can be brindle)
- dominant, independent personality
- watchful and possessive
Benefits and Challenges of Livestock Guardian Dogs

**Stay with sheep**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of dogs</th>
<th>Mostly</th>
<th>Usually</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>437</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>763</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
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R.Woodruff

**Effectiveness**

<table>
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<th>Very</th>
<th>somewhat</th>
<th>Not</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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R.Woodruff

**Aggressive to...**

<table>
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<th>somewhat</th>
<th>Not</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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R.Woodruff
Benefits and Challenges of Livestock Guardian Dogs

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<th>Liability</th>
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Selection of Breeding Stock

- Successful guardian in their own right
- Two years of age
- OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals)
- OCD (Osteochondrosis)
SELECTION
of a
GUARDIAN PUP

- Dam and sire are working guards
- Whelped with livestock
- Raised with livestock
- Facilitated to be successful
- Disposition
Introduction of New Guardians
(to an experienced mob)
Introduction of Guardians
(to inexperienced livestock)

- Safe / secure corral area
- Safe / secure adjoining area
- 3 – 4 older, calm ewes or does
- Escape “place”
- Early AM
- Re-evaluate PM circumstances
- DO NOT feed dogs / goats to create protection behavior
**Health Maintenance Program (vaccinations)**

- Annual
  - Parvovirus
  - Rabies
  - Lyme Disease
  - 7 Way (canine distemper, parvovirus, canine coronavirus, parainfluenza, adenovirus Type 2 and leptospira bacterin)
- Monthly
  - Heartworm medication

**Health Maintenance Program**

- Ticks
- Hotspots
- Burrs / Thorns (fibre / feet)
- Teeth
- Ears
- 3rd eyelid
Health Concerns

- Feed on behavioral patterns
- Balanced for energy and protein
- Mineral and vitamin supplements
- NO ruminant animal byproducts in diet

Nutrition

Guardian Options
On Existence

We travel along the road of life:

hardly knowing what we are, yet always daring to be something;
seldom saying what we mean, but never afraid to have meaning;
sometimes failing in our endeavors, though never tempted to cease trying;
seeking satisfaction at every level, yet never defining happiness,
often apologizing for our existence, while realizing that life is its own excuse.

But the real joy of our otherwise insignificant efforts is that we are never
quite satisfied to be on the left, or right, or in the middle of that road.

We are always attempting to change its direction.