



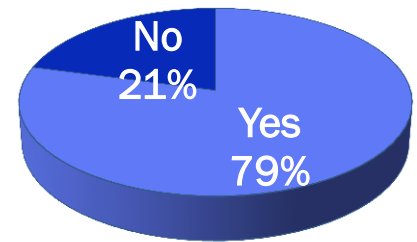
## National Sheep Association

### Sheep Worrying by Dogs Survey (March 2014)

580 survey responses from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

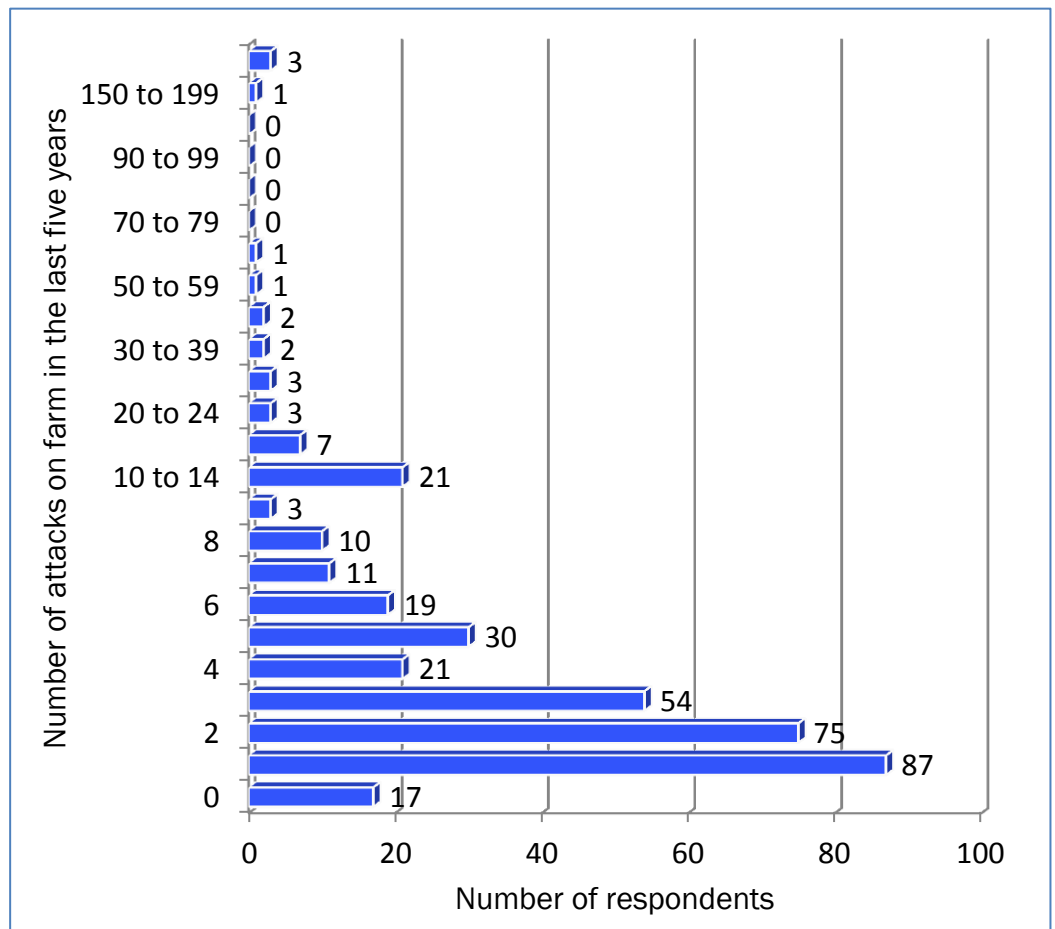
#### Have you ever had sheep attacked by dogs on your farm?

- 79% of farmers who answered the survey had had sheep attacked by dogs on their farm.



#### How many times have you had sheep attacked by dogs on your farm in the last five years?

- The average respondent had had one attack on their farm in the last five years
- 32% of respondents had had five or more attacks on their farm in the last five years
- 12% of respondents had had ten or more attacks on their farm in the last five years
- Three respondents had had 200 or more attacks on their farm in the last five years



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
 A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.  
 Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).





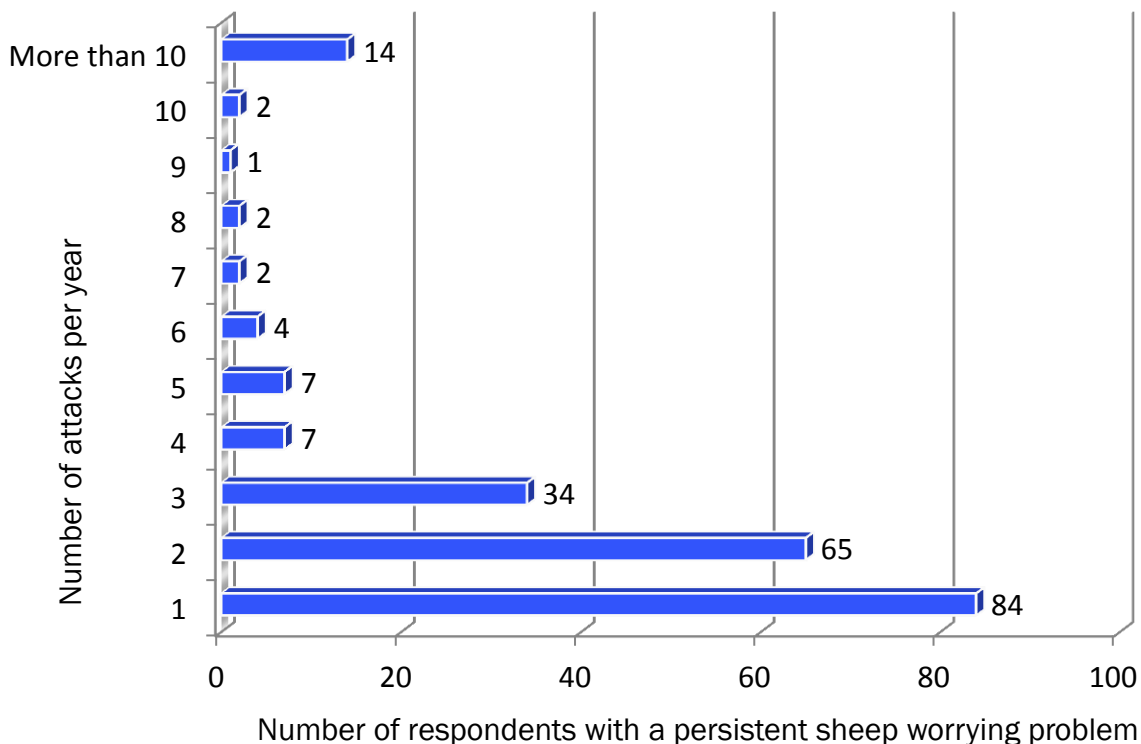
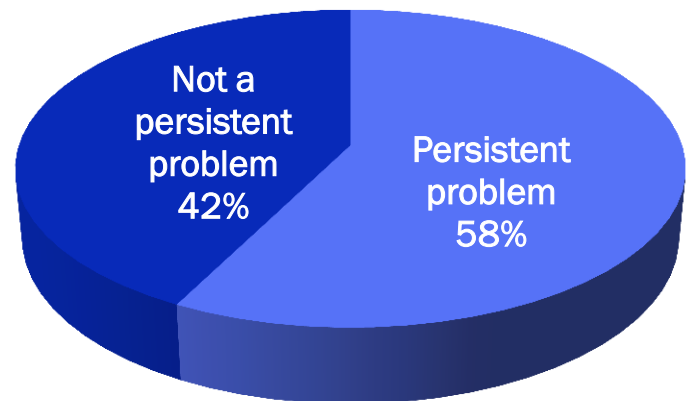
## National Sheep Association

If this is a persistent problem on your farm, how many times a year do you experience attacks?

- 58% of respondents described sheep worrying as a 'persistent problem'

Among respondents who described sheep worrying as a persistent problem:-

- The average respondent experiences one attack per year
- 14% of respondents experience five or more attacks a year?  
7% experience 10 or more attacks each year



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.  
Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).



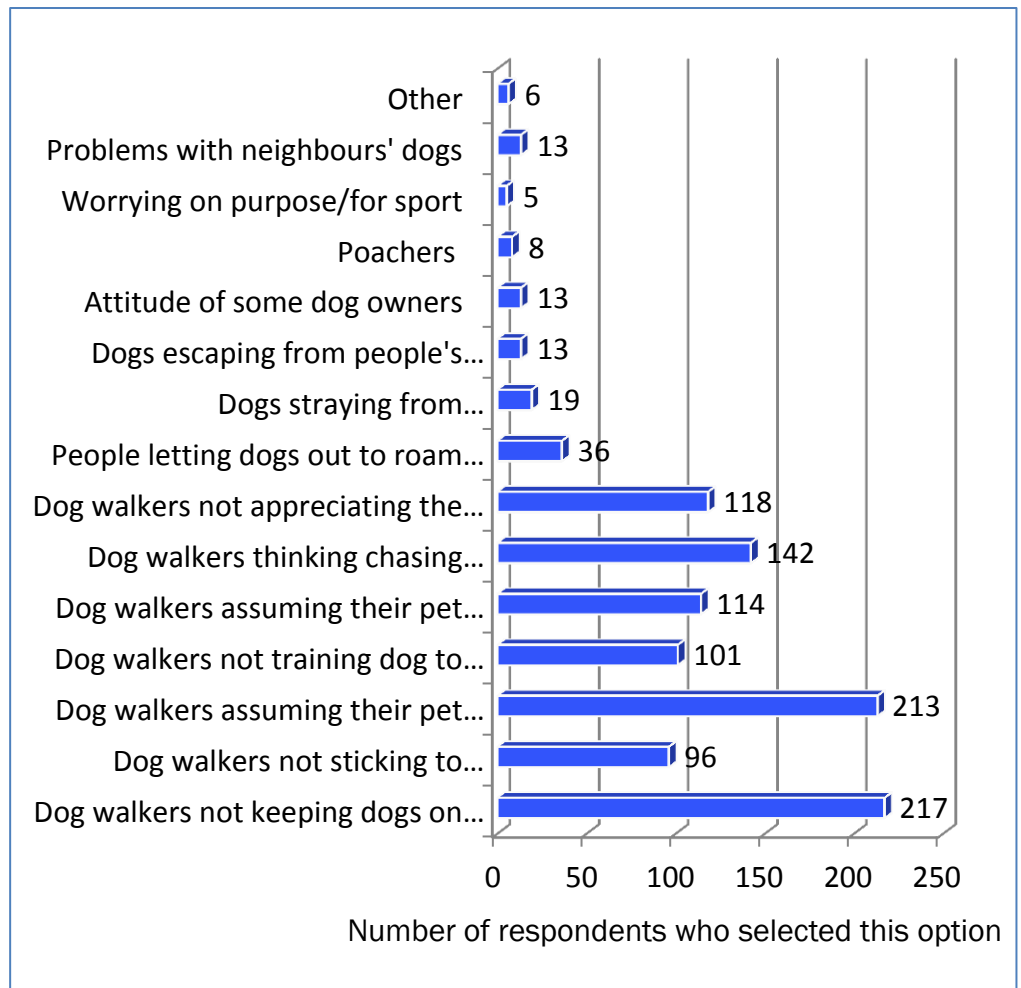


## National Sheep Association

### What do you consider to be the main cause of dog worrying on your farm?

The five causes selected by the most respondents were, in order:

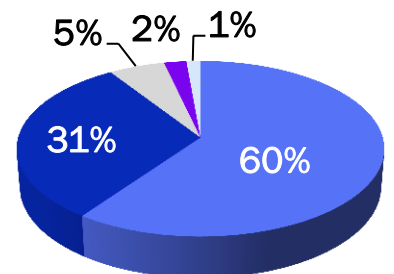
1. Dog walkers not keeping their dogs on leads (58% of respondents selected this option)
2. Dog walkers assuming their pet will not attack stock (55%)
3. Dog walkers thinking chasing stock does not do any damage (36%)
4. Dog walkers not appreciating the financial value of livestock (30%)
5. Dog walkers assuming their pet will respond to command once they begin to chase stock (30%)



### Thinking of your most recent attack...

#### ...where did your most recent attack occur?

- 60% of attacks occurred in private fields with no footpath
- 31% of attacks occurred in private fields with a footpath
- 5% of attacks occurred on common/open access land
- 2% of attacks occurred in a private field with footpath running alongside it / in adjacent field
- 1% of attacks occurred in other places, including the farmyard and lambing shed



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
 A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.  
 Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).

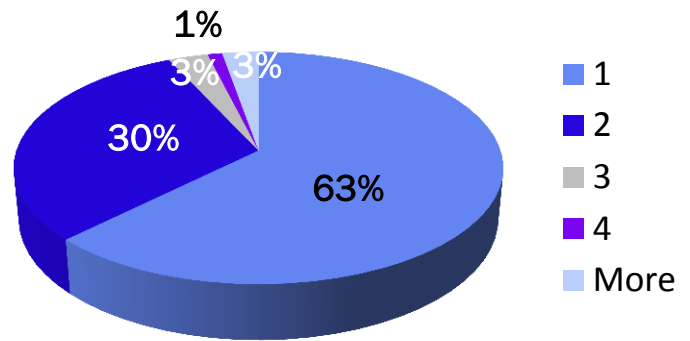




## National Sheep Association

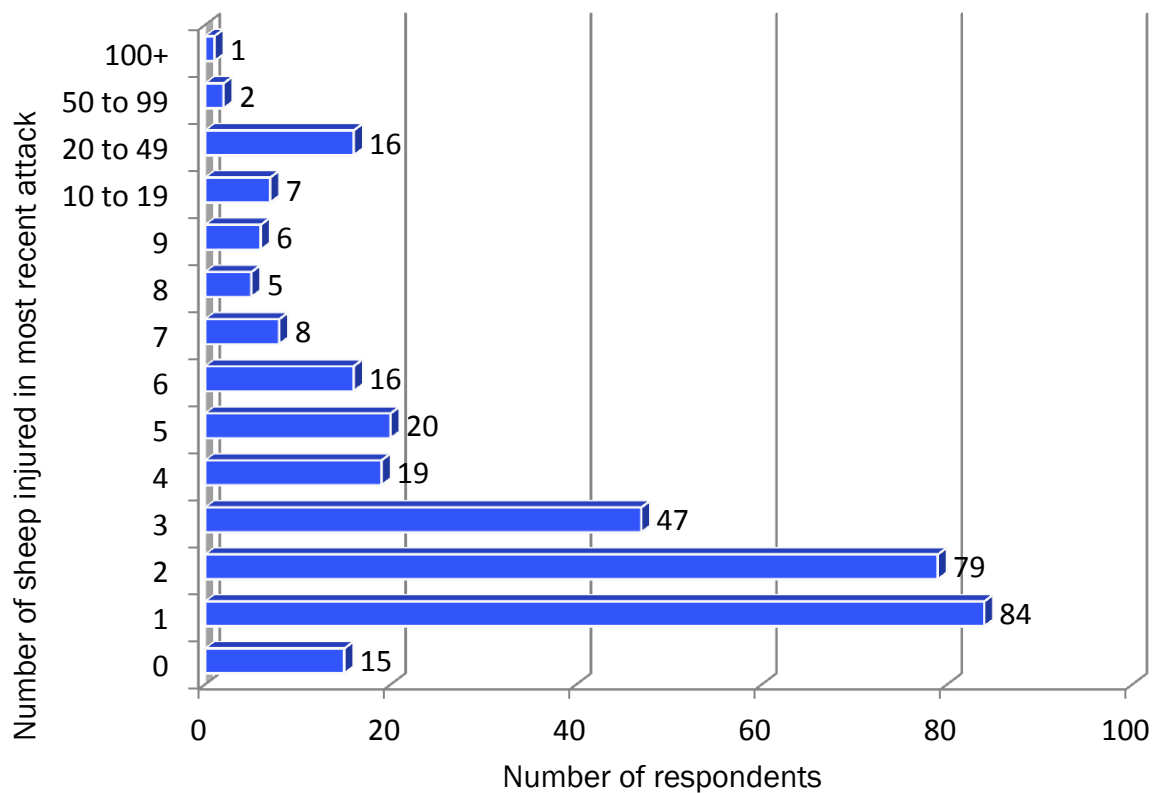
### ...how many dogs were involved?

- The average attack involved one dog
- 37% of attacks involved two or more dogs
- 3% of attacks involved more than four dogs



### ...how many sheep were injured?

- 96% of attacks led to at least one sheep being injured or stressed
  - 14% of attacks resulted in ten or more sheep being injured or stressed
- There was one report of two-hundred sheep being injured/stressed in a single attack



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
 A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.  
 Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).

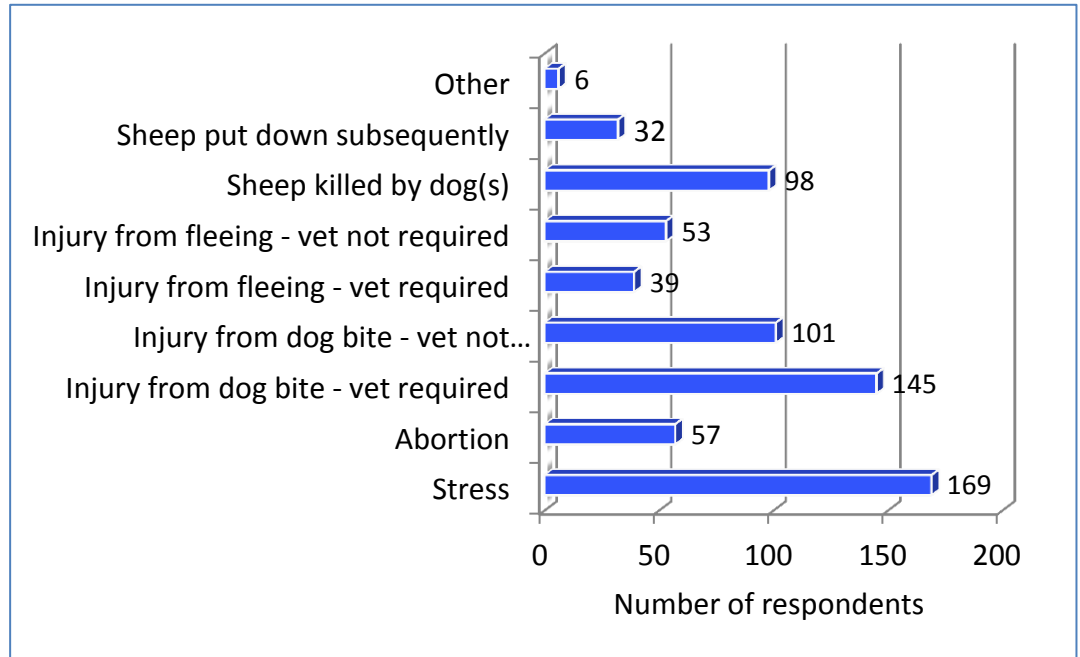




## National Sheep Association

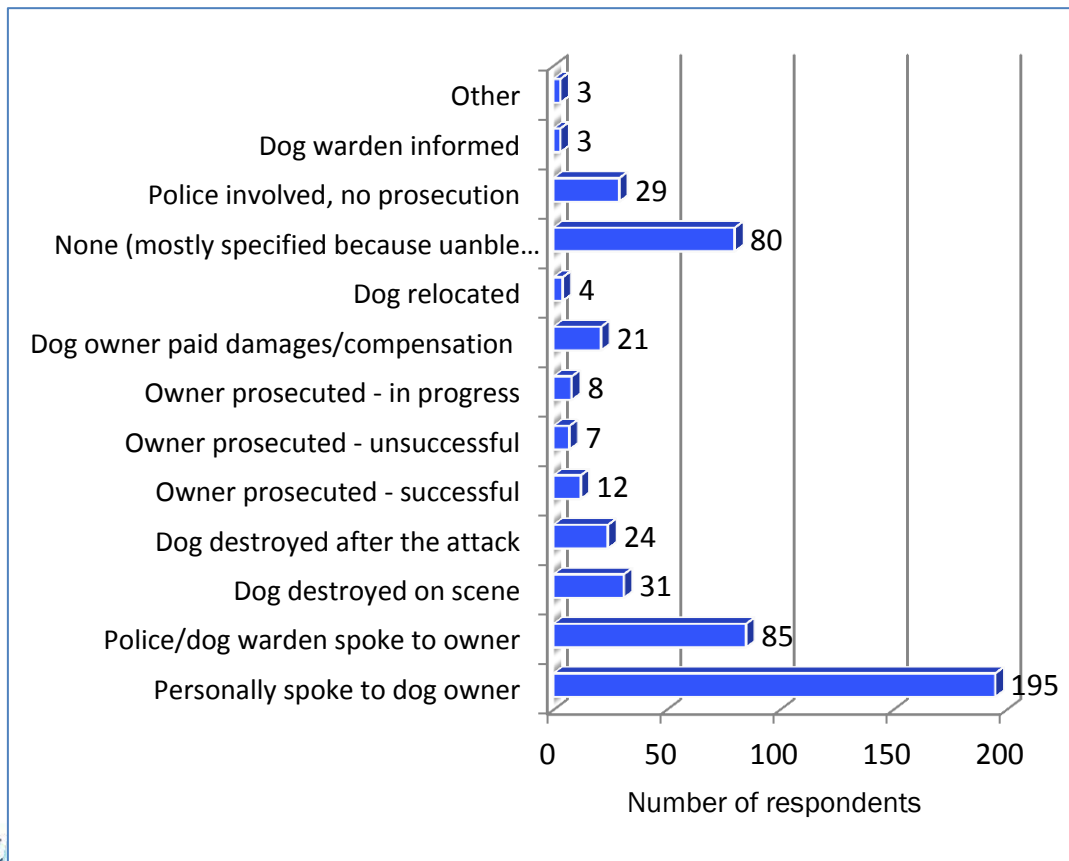
### ...what kind of injuries were caused?

- 36% of attacks resulted in the death of at least one sheep – 27% of attacks resulted in at least one sheep being killed during the attack and 9% resulted in at least one sheep being put down after the attack
- 63% of attacks resulted in invisible injuries - 47% of attacks resulted in stress and 15% resulted in known abortion
- 40% of attacks resulted in dog bite(s) requiring a vet



injuries - 47% of attacks resulted in stress and 15% resulted in known abortion

- 40% of attacks resulted in dog bite(s) requiring a vet



### ... was there any follow up from the attack?

The most common response was the farmer speaking to the dog owner personally (54% of attacks resulted in this)

The second most common response was that the police and/or dog warden spoke to the owner (24% of attacks)



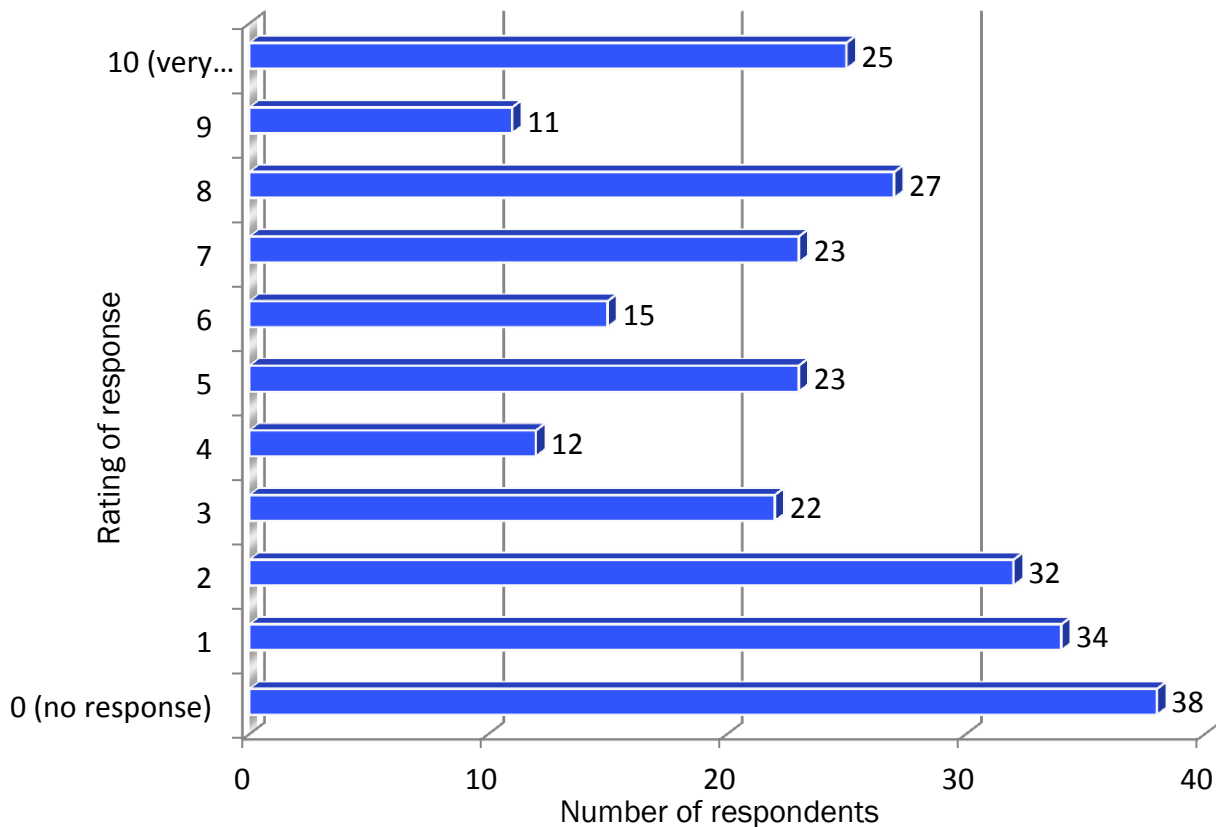
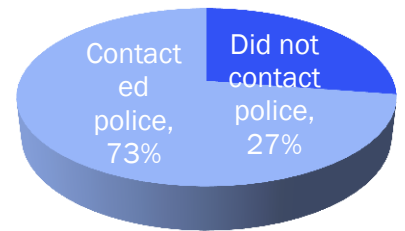


## National Sheep Association

- In 15% of attacks, the dog(s) was destroyed as a result – in 9% of attacks the dog(s) was destroyed on the scene and in 7% of attacks the dog(s) was destroyed after the attack
- 7% of attacks resulted in prosecution of the dog owner/the person in charge of the dog; 63% of these prosecutions were successful

...on a scale of 0 (no response) to 10 (very helpful), how would you judge the response of the police?

- 73% of respondents contacted the police about their last attack



The average rating of the response of the police was 4, although all possible ratings were given



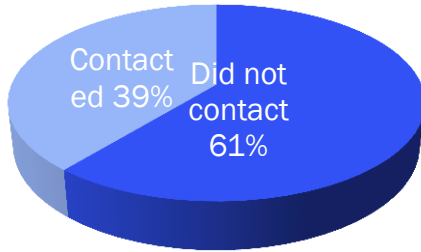
Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.  
Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).





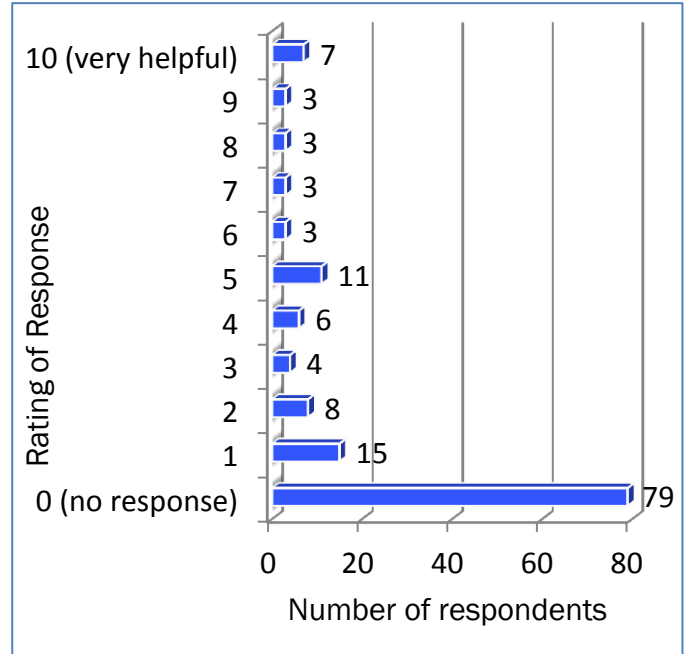
## National Sheep Association

...on a scale of 0 (no response) to 10 (very helpful), how would you judge the response of the dog warden?

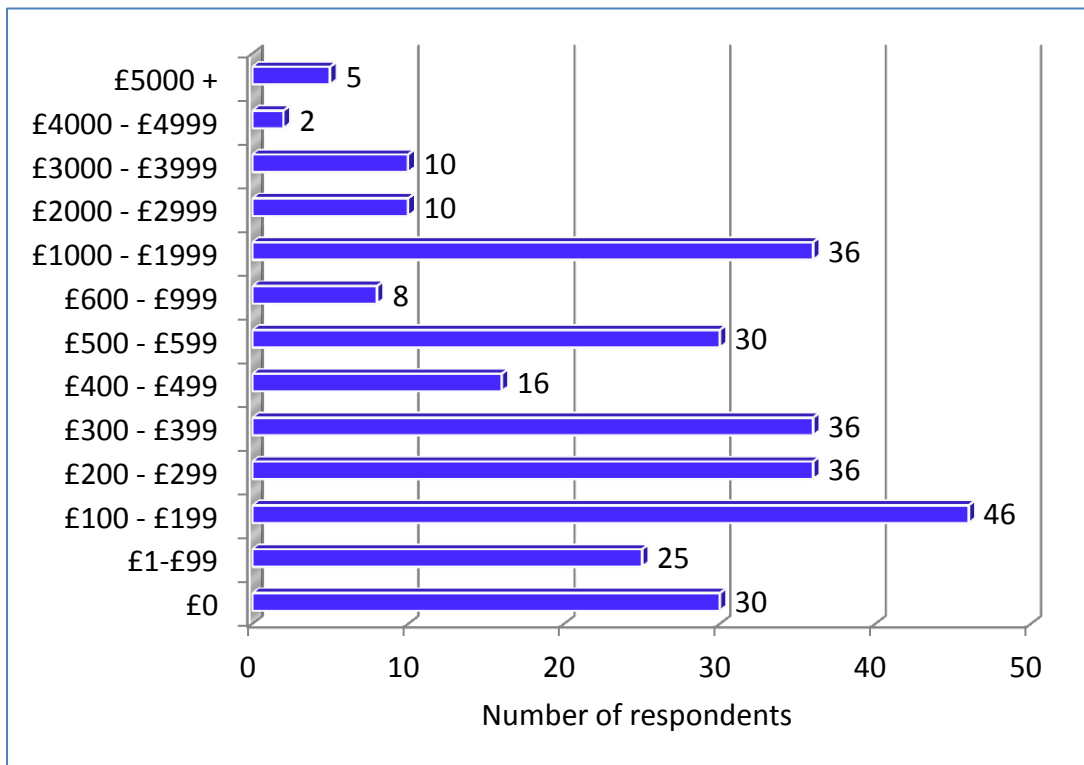


Only 39% of respondents contacted their local dog warden about their last attack (see left), although it must be considered that not all areas have a dog warden

The average rating of the response of the dog warden was 3 (see right)



...what was the financial cost of the attack to you?



The most frequent associated cost of a single attack (24% of respondents) was £200-£399

21% of attacks had an associated cost of £1000 or more

There was one report of a £10,000 incident



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker  
 A company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No 37818.  
 Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853).

