



National Sheep Association

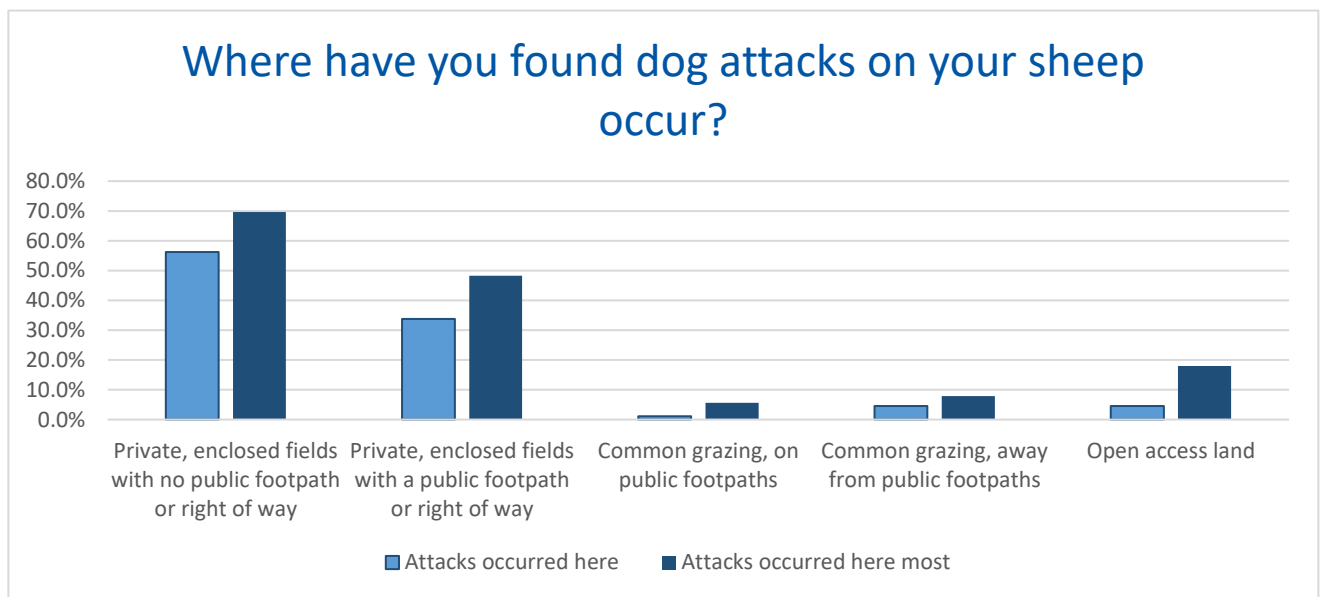
Sheep Worrying by Dogs Survey (May 2017)

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

On average, how many sheep worrying incidents have you experienced in the last year?

The average number of sheep worrying attacks farmers affected experiences in the last year was 7 incidents. Several respondents reported more than 100 cases.

Where have you found dog attacks on your sheep occur? (Of these, where have attacks on your sheep occurred the most?)



70% of respondents said they found dog attacks take place in private, enclosed fields with no footpath. Other common sites for attacks taking place are private, enclosed fields with a public footpath or right of way and open access land.

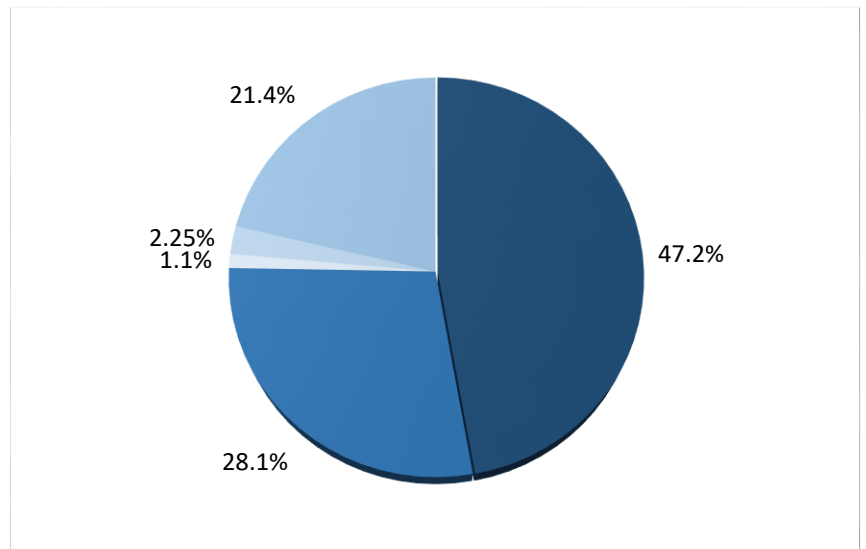




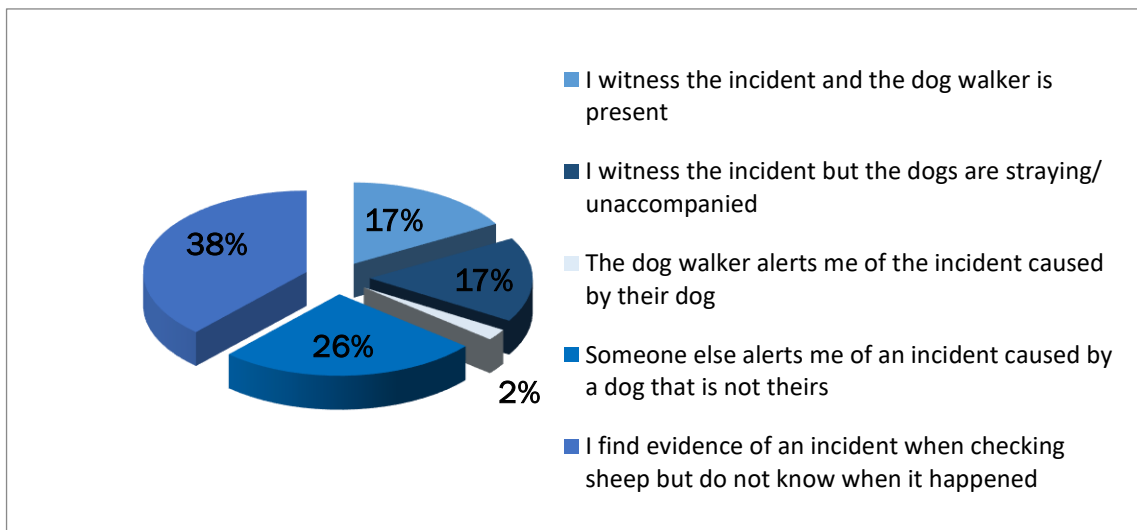
National Sheep Association

How many dogs are usually involved in an attack? [Tick 1]

The survey revealed that most dog attacks are carried out by single dogs. 47% of people contributing to the results reported this number. 28% of contributors stated that the attacks usually involved 2 dogs.



What is the most common scenario for attacks on your sheep?

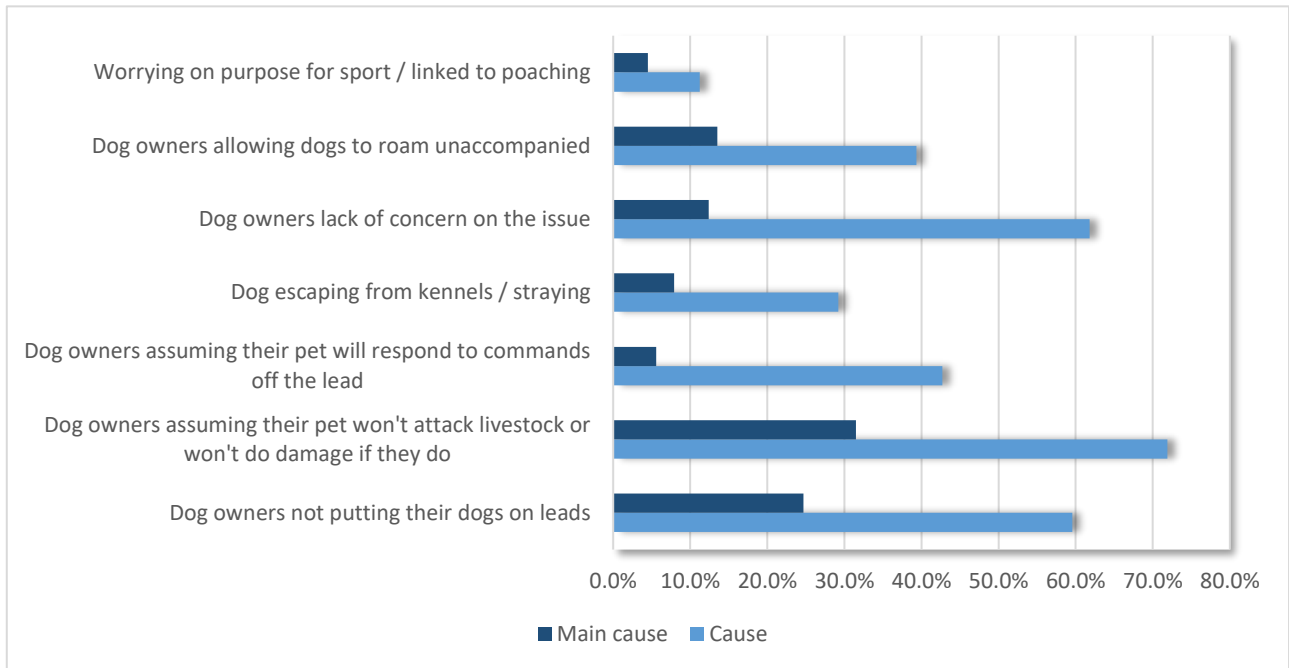




National Sheep Association

What do you consider to be the main causes of dog attacks on sheep on your farm

(Of these, which of these causes do you think is behind most attacks on your farm)



72% of respondents to the survey felt dog owners assumed their pet would not attack livestock or cause any damage if they did. 62% felt that dog owners simply had a lack of regard or concern on the issue. 60% felt attacks occurred because dog owners did not keep their dogs on a lead.

On average, how many sheep have been killed in a single attack?

On average 4 sheep are killed per dog attack, however some farmers reported 30-40 killed each time



your business your future



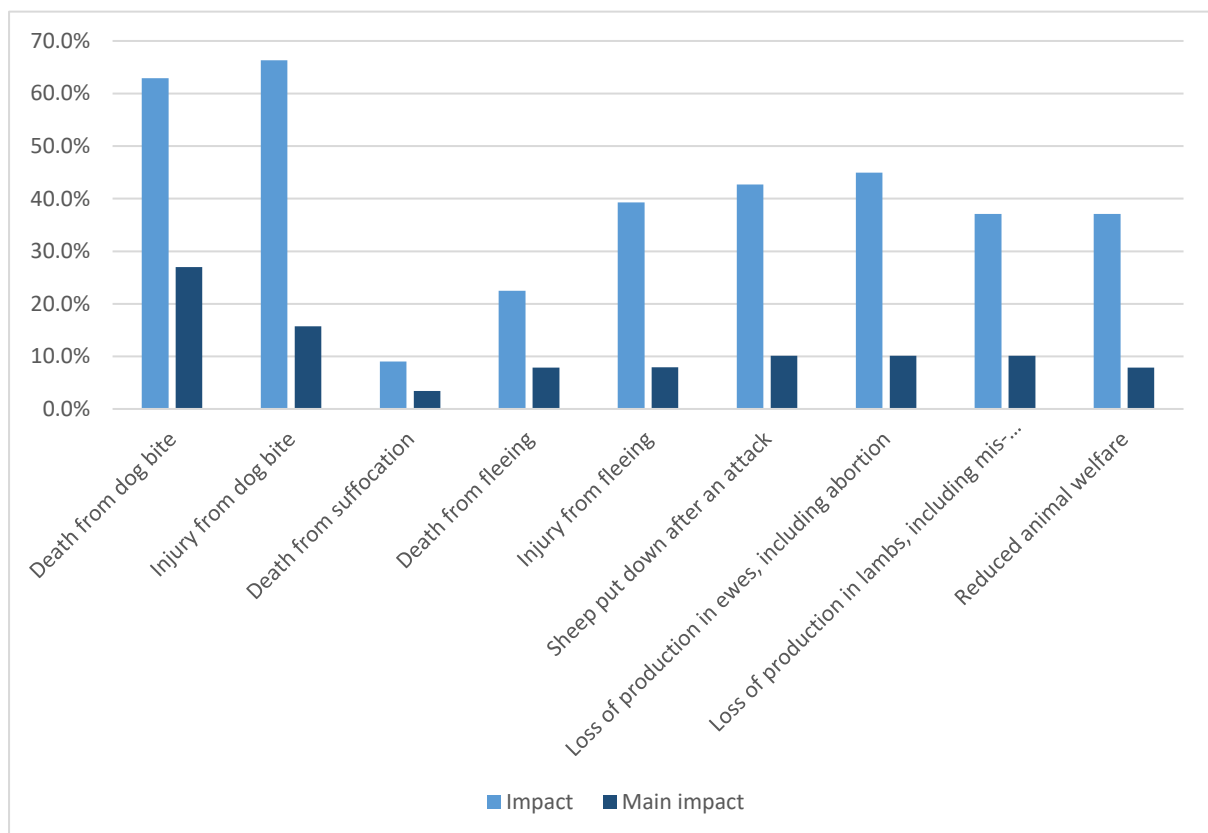
National Sheep Association

On average, how many sheep have been injured in a single attack?

On average 8 sheep are injured per dog attack, however some farmers reported more than 20 injured per attack

What kind of impacts / injuries do you find occur as a result of dog attacks?

(Of these, which do you consider to be the most common impact?)

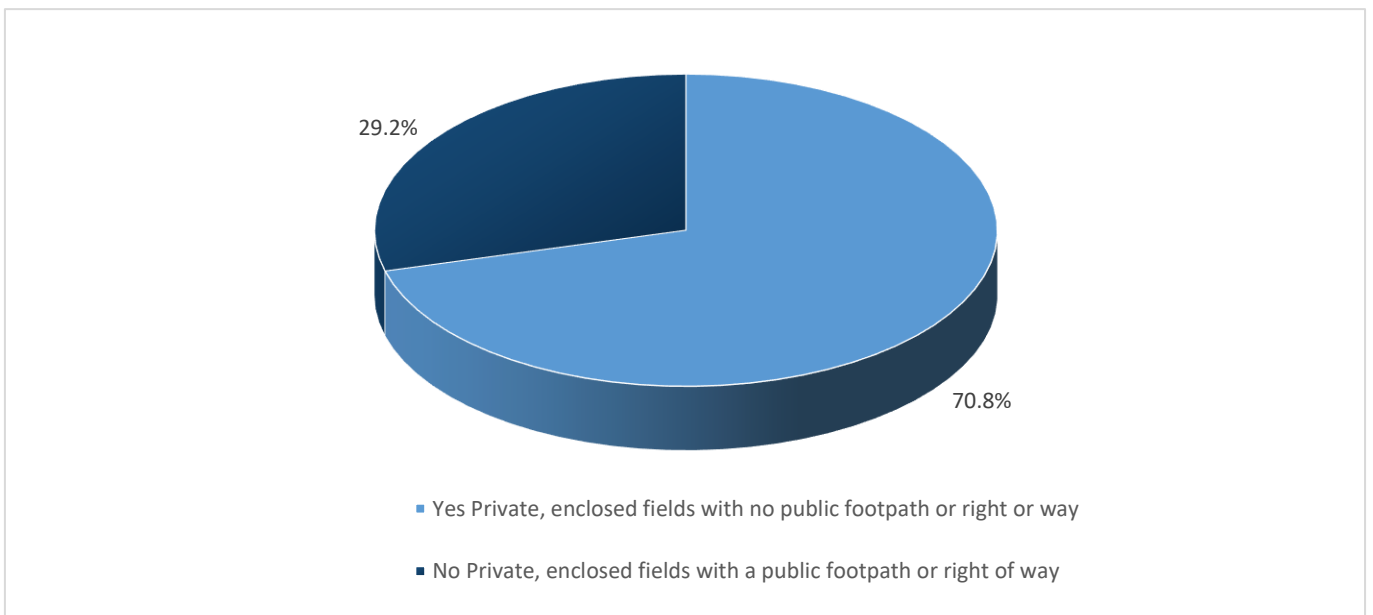


your business your future

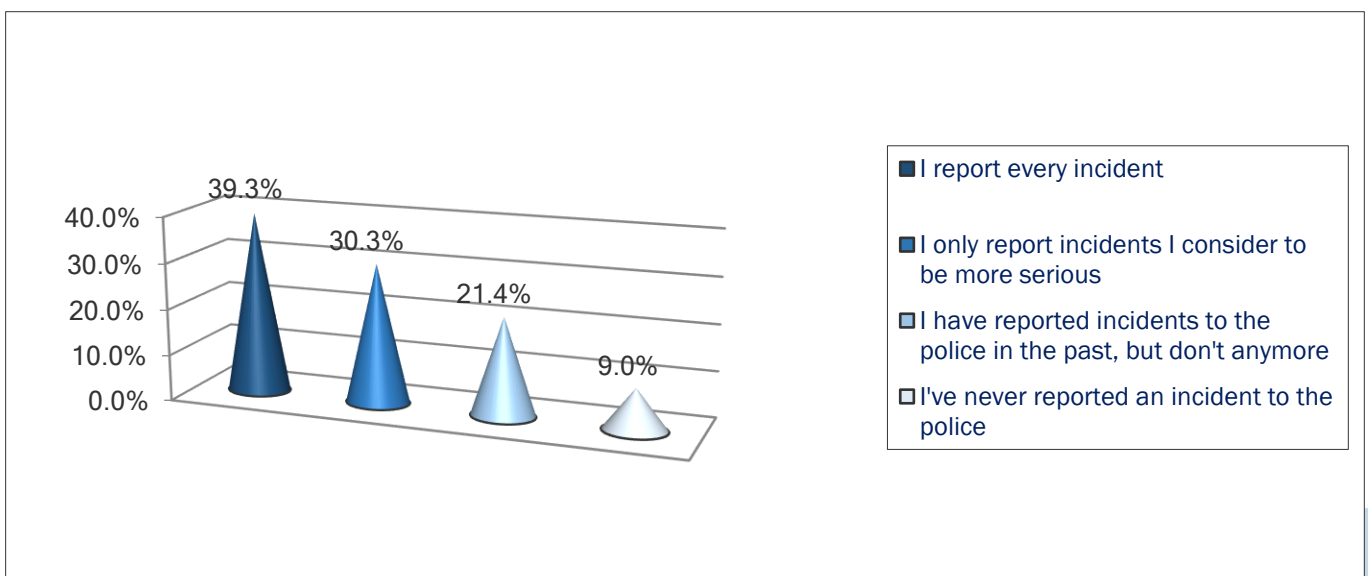


National Sheep Association

Do you display warning signs asking the public to keep their dog on a lead around livestock?



Do you report sheep attacks to the police?





National Sheep Association

If you have reported an incident to the police, what was the outcome or what is the most common outcome?

18% of respondents said they were given a crime reference number and 17% said they were given a crime incident number as a result of reporting a sheep attack to the police

If you have reported an incident to the police, how would you rate the response? 0 = no response 10 = very helpful.

An equal 10% of respondents rated response from the police at 10 and at 0. 10% also ranked police response at 8, with 8% ranking it at 2 at the other end of the scale.

What positive activity on sheep worrying is being conducted by your local police force?

15% of respondents said a Rural Crime Team or Rural Crime Officer had been appointed in their area, but almost the same percentage (14%) were not aware whether this had been set up their region or not. Just over half (52%) said they did not think any positive activity was taking place in their area.



your business your future



National Sheep Association

So what can be done?

What activity(s) do you think would help reduce sheep worrying incident? [Tick all that apply]

21% of respondents said displaying sheep worrying signs all year round would help reduce the problem, with 15% saying these should only be displayed when sheep are in the field. 10% said they thought an active Rural Crime Team in their area would reduce the problem.



your business your future