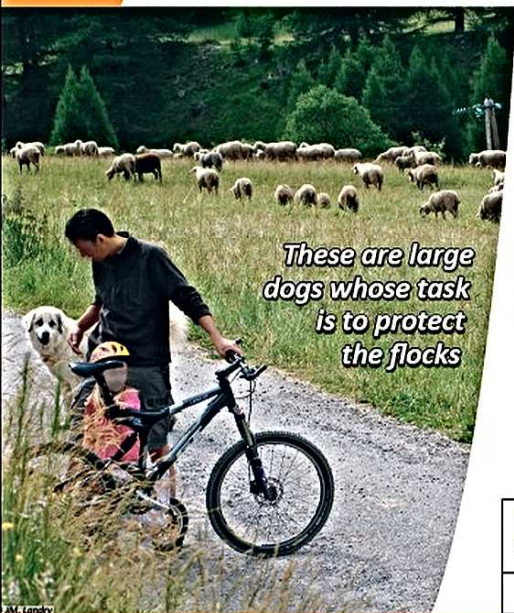




Walkers and bikers
in the course of your walk,
you may encounter

LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS



*These are large
dogs whose task
is to protect
the flocks*



Direction régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



© Anne de la Nouvelle

To avoid contact with the livestock guarding dogs, when approaching a flock, watch for your behavior !

← KEEP YOUR DISTANCES →

The sudden appearance of any strange new object (dog off the lead, walker, biker...) may upset the flock, disturbing its normal progress and thus hampering the work of the shepherd: the livestock guarding dog is instantly on the alert. As you approach, he will come up and sniff you in order to identify you. After having done so, he generally goes back to his flock. Occasionally, he may also try to intimidate you.

☞ If you come across a flock, make a wide detour around the area where the animals are grazing or resting: your consideration in not disturbing the flock will be appreciated by the breeders and the shepherds.

☞ Beware of acting in ways that may seem harmless to you (trying to feed, pet or photograph a livestock guarding dog, a sheep or a lamb, etc.): the guarding dogs may misinterpret this as an attack!

☞ If you come face to face with a livestock guarding dog, behave calmly and passively in order to reassure him. If you are intimidated, slowly turn away from the dog.



Berger d'Anatolie © S. Ramsay

☞ Please keep your dog on a lead: this will avoid any dissuasive action by the livestock guarding dogs as you approach a flock.

☞ If you use walking sticks, please do not threaten the dogs and keep the tip down.

☞ When cycling, it is preferable to get off and walk the bike.

☞ In any case, stop until the livestock guarding dogs identify you.

Large signs are posted to indicate the presence of these dogs.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THEM !

DO NOT DISTURB THE FLOCKS !



Their story

The traditional use of the guarding dogs disappeared with the increasingly scarce of large predators in the early century. With the return of wolves, bears, lynx, these dogs are now a valuable help to farmers and shepherds for the protection of flocks. In France, there are mainly Pyrenean Mountain Dogs, Abruzzese Shepherd Dogs and Anatolian Shepherd Dogs.

Their family: the flock

Born inside the fold, the pup forges strong bonds with the sheep: their relationship is up to a total and mutual acceptance. After which the livestock guarding dog lives permanently in the flock: summer over the pasture and winter inside the fold. These links condition the livestock guarding dog to react instinctively to any intrusion against the flock.

Their job: protect the flocks

The livestock guarding dog is autonomous: he goes with his flock and watches over it constantly, day and night. He creates a protective area around the flock, ready to remove any intruder: wild animal, dog off the lead, walker... Another type of dog is used to lead or gather the flock: the sheepdog who goes along the shepherd.

Their asset: the deterrence

The livestock guarding dogs are not trained to attack but to deter: their stoutness and barking keep predators at bay. Once they sense danger, the livestock guarding dogs instinctively deter predators by placing themselves between their charges and any intruder. They also alert nearby shepherds to any disturbance. If the intruder does not take into account, they can then go up to the confrontation.



Pyrenean Mountain Dog