



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DOGS OWNERS



There have recently been a number of concerns raised by local farmers and landowners regarding dog walkers not keeping their dogs under control when crossing their land and not picking up after their dog.



When using a public footpath you and your dog(s) need to keep to the line of the footpath and the dog should either be on a lead or under close control. When crossing a field with livestock in it is strongly advised that the dog is kept on a lead.

Warwickshire Police sometimes receives calls from farmers, landowners and members of the public reporting farm animals being chased by dogs.

Dogs can savage and kill sheep, larger animals such as cattle and horses can be seriously injured.

As well as the animal welfare, the impact this can have on a rural business can be devastating. Not only does the farmer incur expensive veterinary costs, but for pregnant animals there is the risk of aborting.

It is important that dog owners are aware of current legislation which states (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953: "If a dog worries livestock on any agricultural land, the owner of the dog, and, if it is the charge of a person other than the owner, that person also shall be guilty of an offence under this Act." Penalty - The maximum fine £1,000. Section 9 of the Animals Act 1971 provides that the owner of livestock, the landowner or anyone acting on their behalf, is entitled to shoot any dog if they believe it is the only reasonable way of stopping it worrying livestock.

We want everyone to work together, be responsible and considerate so that everyone, including our dogs can enjoy the lovely countryside that we live in.

### **If you are walking your dog in the countryside:**

- Do not allow your dog to enter a field on its own and keep it under your control at all times.
- Keep your dog on a lead when crossing through fields that contain livestock. However don't hang onto your dog if you are threatened by cattle, let it go as the cattle will chase the dog.
- Stick to public right of ways.

### **When at home:**

- Make sure you know where your dog is at all times.
- Ensure that your property is secure and that your dog cannot escape day or night.

If you know your dog has previously chased or attacked sheep then take responsible measures to prevent it happening again.

### **Dog Poo**

Please also pick up after your dog and take it home or put it in the nearest bin, don't leave bags in hedges or at the side of a field. It is appreciated that this can be quite a long way away, but it is really important that you do so.

Dog mess and the bags can contaminate the land and be potentially fatal or cause serious health problems to the farm animals grazing in those fields and wildlife. If your dog messes in an arable field, that crop could be used for either human or animal consumption.



**THANK YOU**