

Letter of Introduction
to local Animal Control Agency:

Hello, my name is _____ . I have a working farm located at

I utilize livestock guardian dogs to reduce my personal herd/flock losses from both wild predators and domestic predators. The dogs are up to date on their vaccines, and under the care of _____ for all Veterinary needs. The dogs are not abandoned, abused, nor neglected. They are fed, vetted, and cared for.

I understand that not everyone understands what a livestock guardian dog is, and that this may precipitate the occasional report to your office regarding my dogs. I hope this information will serve as a basis for further research and help you to interpret common reports you may receive regarding other local livestock guardian dogs.

Please do feel free to contact me with any questions () -

I would be happy to give you a tour of my farm with an appointment so you may see the shelter, water, food, etc. that my dogs (and other animals) have here.

I have also listed a local/regional LGD rescue contact if I am aware of one, to help you with possible LGDs impounded in the future.

Thank you for your time and your service to the community.

Sincerely,

Livestock Guardian Dogs

The common reasons behind calls to local Animal Control organizations

What is a Livestock Guardian Dog?

An LGD is a special breed type of dog that is literally made to protect livestock from predation. They have been bred for this purpose for thousands of years. See next page for examples of common LGD breeds.

Why do they live outdoors? (Report: Abandoned dog, Dog with goats, No shelter)

LGDs live outdoors with their livestock because that is where their job is. The predators will not be dissuaded from taking a lamb if the dog is up in the house or locked up in the barn. They need to live and be with their livestock at all times.

Why are they out in the elements? (Report: No Shelter)

These dogs do have shelter available, though they may opt against using it. It is common to see these dogs sleeping in a snow bank in subzero temps, leading to calls of cruelty to your local Animal Control.

What is on their neck? (Report: Yoked collar, Dragging a log or tire, Huge collar)

LGDs of various ages and points of training may have different training tools on their collars. It is not uncommon for a young, energetic pup (under 24 months) to have a drag attached to their collar. This is a self-correcting tool, slowing them down and avoiding spooking the livestock they are bonding with. Yoked collars prevent roaming under/through fence lines.

Another tool, usually for larger dogs, is a large, spiked collar. These are common in areas with large apex predators and are helpful for protecting the neck of the LGD from a predator.

Why aren't they home? (Report: Roaming dog)

While their job is to protect their livestock, some LGDs try to expand territory to protect the neighbor's sheep or simply push local wild predators further from their own property lines. LGDs at large are not recommended, but are also not rare. If you find a large (100+ lb) double-coated dog wandering in a rural area, try telling it to go home, or if you are able to pick it up, stop by a few local farms before going back to the shelter. You'll save yourself some frustration and paperwork.

LGD Common Breeds

Big White Dogs (BWDs)

Great Pyrenees- French, Longer coat, white or badger marked, double rear dew claws.

Maremma- Italian, medium coat, smaller frame than Pyrs.

Akbash- Turkish, short to med coat.

Kommondorok- Long, corded/matted coat (Neglect calls common)

Turkish Breeds

Anatolian Shepherd Dog- Encompasses all Turk LGDs. Includes tan, black mask, brindle, pinto (White w/ marked sections) and white coloration.

Akbash- White

Kangal- Karabash (Tan, black mask)



Rare Breeds of LGDs

Karakachan, Spanish Mastiff, Pyrenean Mastiff, Sarplaninac, Central Asian Shepherd Dog, Kuvasz, and many more.

Helpful Tip: If you have a 100+ lb outdoor dog come into the shelter, react poorly to confinement indoors, and show overt signs of kennel stress, including fear aggression, please contact a local LGD rescue or LGD owner like myself for help.

My Contact Info

Local/Regional Rescue:
