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Prevention of sheep worrying in the UK: Rethinking the approach

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1 Discussion point

2 Prevention of sheep worrying in the UK: Rethinking the approach

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14 Introduction

15 Livestock worrying occurs when dogs attack or chase livestock, and also describes
16 dogs simply being at large in a field containing livestock (Dogs (Protection of
17 Livestock) Act, 1953). Under this act if a dog worries livestock the person in charge
18 of the dog is guilty of an offence and may risk prosecution. Owners may also be
19 liable to pay compensation to farmers for livestock deaths or injuries (Animals Act,
20 1971). Farmers may also shoot dogs which are attacking or chasing livestock
21 (Animal Act, 1971). Worrying can have a significant impact on livestock as pregnant
22 ewes may abort lambs and worrying can cause significant injury, mis-mothering,
23 suffering and even death (Phythian et al., 2011; National Sheep Association, 2016).
24 From the farmer's perspective, attacks on livestock also cause various problems

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