

**Police Scotland
1 King Street
Ayr
KA1 0BU**

DOG WORRYING (DISTURBING) SHEEP IS A CRIME

This letter is to bring to your attention an increase in the number of sheep worrying reports received in the Ayrshire area. As lambing time approaches, Police Scotland has taken the decision to contact your community to highlight the seriousness of this crime and the penalties it incurs.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, the penalties for worrying livestock are:

A Criminal Record and a fine of up to £1000

and

The possibility of your dog being destroyed.

If a dog worries livestock on any agricultural land then the owner and, if different, the person in charge is guilty of an offence. The legislation relating to this is contained in the Dogs Protection of Livestock Act 1953. Worrying can be defined as:

- Attacking livestock
- Chasing livestock in such a way as may reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering to the livestock or abortion or diminution in produce.
- Being at large, not otherwise under close control or on a lead, in a field or enclosure where there are sheep

Unfortunately this can sometimes lead to the dog being destroyed in order to protect livestock, which I am sure is never a situation that any livestock owner wants to find themselves in.

Further information for dog owners can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

Signed

Eileen Taylor
Area Commander