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**For farmers,
smarter living
through
guardian**



dogs, fencing, and 'fladry'

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Source: [Cosmos Magazine](#)



Livestock guardian dog breeds,
such as Maremma, are often

consider themselves part of a livestock herd and so protect their herd from threats. Farmers have struggled for millennia to protect their livestock from wolves, lions, bears, and other large carnivores. It's expensive and time-consuming for farmers, governments and related agencies. Many current approaches have led to dramatic reductions or the complete [loss of some apex predators](#) from many regions of the globe.

Despite these substantial costs and their long history, we have remarkably little understanding of what methods best reduce livestock attacks



A recent [synthesis study](#), led by Lily van Eeden, Ann Eklund, Jennie Miller, and Adrian Treves with a total of 21 authors from 10 countries, found that there's a worldwide dearth of [rigorous experimental studies](#) testing the effectiveness of interventions to protect livestock from carnivores.

Where studies do exist, results were mixed. Some management interventions did reduce livestock losses, some made little to no difference, and some resulted in *increased* livestock losses. This means that for some methods, farmers would be better off doing nothing at all than using them.





Poor evidence, poor outcomes

There are three main non-lethal methods that are effective in reducing predation of livestock. The scant evidence is cause for concern. Aside from financial waste, preventable livestock attacks cause economic, emotional, and social costs for farmers. And both livestock and carnivores may be left maimed and suffering by human failures to separate the two sets of animals.

Too often, studies and management programs measure success based on money spent or saved, numbers of community members who contributed, or carnivores killed. None of these factors necessarily mean...

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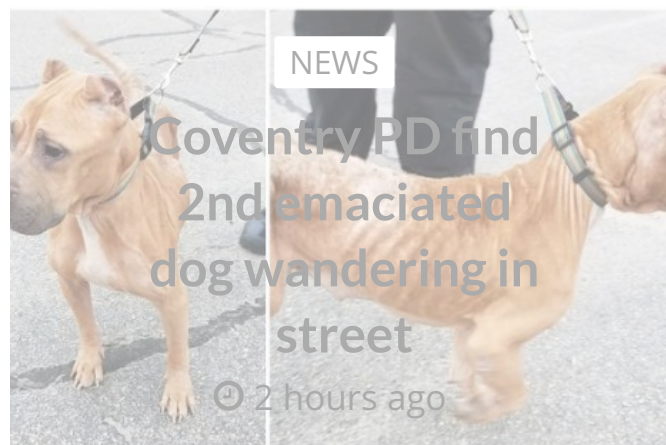
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Editor for @DogCoutureCNTRY | Love my outdoors yoga | Family, friends and of course puppies dogs. Go figure! social media geek at heart community manager. [Follow @JessicaGoldb](#)



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