

Are Livestock Guardian Dogs Right For Your Herd?

Protecting our goats can be a challenging job at times. Good fencing helps keep the goats contained and predators out, but sometimes that is not enough. Maybe a livestock guardian dog is the answer to your problems. There are several breeds of dogs that are traditionally used to guard livestock. In the United States they are Great Pyrenees, Anatolian Shepherds, Akbash and Maremma. Other less common breeds are Kormondor, Kuvasz and Tibetan Mastif. As a rule these dogs are large and slow to mature, sometimes taking 2 ½ – 3 years to grow into adulthood. They need discipline, supervision, a firm hand and someone who is capable of being the “alpha” of the pack. You cannot just buy a puppy and turn it loose in the goat pen and expect good results!! Training your puppy is an ongoing pursuit. Expect to spend quite a lot of time with your pup, but you will find the rewards are great when your gangly puppy turns into a valuable member of your farm operation.

An excellent site with links to various breeds, a wonderful library of articles and personal stories is <http://www.lgd.org/>

Another resource is this link: <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/livestck.html>

Check out these resources if you think a guardian dog might be the answer to your predator problems!!