RESTORING THE BALANCE

NON-LETHAL PREDATOR CONTROL
A testament to what can be achieved by close cooperation of conservation organizations working together for a common goal.

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The guard dog programme in Africa was pioneered by Cheetah Conservation Fund, Namibia. These guidelines are adapted from the original compiled by this facility. This programme is grateful for their support and input.
Thank you for participating in the National Cheetah Management Project's (NCMP) Turkish Anatolian Programme.

A Turkish breed, the Anatolian Shepherd was bred to protect livestock from wolves and bears. Today these impressive dogs are bred and reared by Cheetah Conservation Fund to serve the farmers of Namibia. Given to farmers at 6 weeks of age, the dogs are raised exclusively with the flock, instinctively protecting them from a variety of predators including cheetah. By deterring predators, this important working relationship removes the need for farmers to trap and shoot this endangered cat.

As a result of the successful Namibian initiative, a trial programme has been launched by the NCMP, to introduce the Anatolian to serve the farmers of South Africa. To give this trial the best possible chance of success it is important to follow the introduction and monitoring processes advised for your dog.

WHAT YOUR ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD CAN DO FOR YOU

An unprotected abundant source of food (your sheep or goats) provides predators with an easily accessible resource, which they do not need to hunt. This food source will encourage predators to your farm and assist in increased successful breeding resulting in the growth of predator populations. Traditional methods of control such as indiscriminate poisoning, hunting and trapping often results in the removal of more beneficial animal such as bat-eared fox, aardvark and raptors. By using this non-lethal method of predator control you will restore the balance to your farmlands and reduce the predator population to a size able to exist on its natural prey.
IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- Always leave your puppy with some sheep or goats from the herd he will be protecting, even if one or two, when the herd leaves for the veldt. The remaining individuals and puppy should be securely kraaled. This is important until the puppy is old enough to travel with your herd to the veldt and take up his duties as protector.
- Do leash your dog every day to maintain sufficient relationship to enable easy husbandry and veterinary care.
- Do not encourage your dog to come to you. The goats or sheep are the family to whom he must bond.
- Do feed your dog a quality dry dog food especially while growing. His optimum health will help him serve you better. Do not feed your dog meat or meat produce, remember he is living with your herd.
- Do not allow your dog to run and play with your herd as he grows. This behavior should be restricted by putting your dog on a light chain and run-line – do not use a drop-stick on his collar as this has been known to injure and kill Anatolian puppies.
- Keep a keen check for illness especially biliary – consult your husbandry manual.
- Follow parasite control protocols – consult your husbandry manual.
- Report any concerns immediately to ................................................

This important partnership between you and your dog requires your interest and investment during his first year of growth. His ability to appropriately guard your flock for many years to come will adequately repay your efforts.
VETERINARY PROTOCOLS

1) Vaccinations

*Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvo Virus, Para-influenza*

- 1\(^{st}\) vaccine at 6-8 weeks
- 2\(^{nd}\) vaccine at 8-10 weeks
- 3\(^{rd}\) vaccine at 10-12 weeks
- Thereafter every 12 months.

2) Ticks and Fleas

*Frontline*

- can be administered from 6-8 weeks
- prevents ticks and fleas
- once every month

*Advantix*

- puppies can only be treated with this from the age of 17 weeks
- prevents ticks, fleas and flies
- once every month

In conjunction with either option, each dog should be fitted with a Preventick collar at 8 weeks of age. Collars must be replaced every 14 weeks and monitored in puppies to accommodate growth.

3) Deworming

Any broad-spectrum dewormer such as *Drontal, Zeroworm, Prazifen or Mediworm*

- first deworming done at 6-8 weeks for new puppies
- dewormer to be administered every 4 months

4) Rabies

*Rabisin*

*Defensor Rabies*

- 1\(^{st}\) vaccination at 12 weeks of age
- 2\(^{nd}\) vaccination 1-9 months later
- Thereafter every 3 years

5) Castration / Spaying

- at six months

Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is very contagious, especially among puppies during stressful periods. Clinical signs include diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss, dehydration and lethargy. It can be prevented by strict sanitation such as removal of faecal material in housing areas and providing clean water regularly. Medical treatment is effective, but early detection is essential.
In Turkey, the Anatolian Shepherd has been used as a livestock-guarding dog for approximately 6000 years.

**The Use Of Livestock-Guarding Dogs**
The concept of using dogs to protect livestock is not new. Namibians have been using dogs for a very long time and have developed small mongrel breeds to help protect livestock.

**How Do I Select A Good Livestock-Guarding Dog?**

Some breeds have been developed for specific functions. For example, the border collies and the kelpies have been bred as herding dogs. The Anatolians, on the other hand, have been developed as guarding dogs. Most mongrels can perform one or the other of these tasks.

Large dogs have an advantage in that they can confront large predators, such as cheetah and leopard. Their loud bark is also a good deterrent to predators. However, certain disadvantages must be considered. The diet of a large, fast-growing breed of dog such as the Anatolian needs more attention and can be more expensive than a smaller breed of dog or mongrel.

Large-breed dogs grow rapidly and therefore require a well-formulated diet that includes pellet food. Mielie meal (porridge) is not adequate and frequently results in bone deformities. A dog with a poorly developed bone structure will be unable to maintain the hard life of a working dog. Larger dogs may also find it tougher to walk over very rocky terrain and if they develop bad behavioural habits such as chasing wildlife, they can do a lot of damage.

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**A potential owner needs to ask:**

- What are the main predators the dog will need to defend the livestock against?

- What function have the available breeds been developed for? (i.e. working, herding, hunting, etc.)

- What are the advantages/disadvantages of the various breeds and their sizes?

- Is the area particularly hot and rocky?

- Is commercial dog food affordable and readily available?
Another problem in Namibia is that large breeds of livestock-guarding dogs are not readily available. Small dogs have the advantage that they may cope with rough terrain and take heat better than larger dogs, as they are usually quite tough. They are easier to feed and easier to obtain than large dogs. A possible disadvantage with smaller dogs however, is that they may be unable to defend livestock against large predators.

Raising And Training A Livestock-Guarding Dog

A few golden rules, and a lot of patience, need to be applied when raising a livestock-guarding dog. A puppy should preferably be obtained from a working livestock-guarding dog, and placed with its new livestock at six to eight weeks of age. The dog should always be with livestock and never left alone in the kraal – even if only two livestock remain with it. A bond needs to be formed between the developing puppy and its livestock.

If the bond formation fails, the dog will probably fail as a livestock-guarding dog, as it will not be motivated to stay with the livestock and protect them. Dogs must be familiarised with other livestock in the area, such as other flocks or herds, horses, cattle, etc. In communal areas this is of particular importance, as livestock share communal water points. If the dog is not familiarised with the neighbours’ livestock, it may “defend” its livestock against them and chase or attack them.

When selecting a livestock-guarding dog, the size of the dog and the environment it will be working in are of importance.

It is very important to familiarise a livestock-guarding dog with all the animals it will encounter while accompanying its livestock. A herder should walk the puppy past or through wildlife and other livestock to teach it to ignore them.

Hunting behaviour in a livestock-guarding dog should not be encouraged. This dog was seriously injured by a warthog.
Dogs also need to be taught not to view wildlife as a threat to their livestock. If they bark at something, it means they are concerned and view the intruder as a threat. If they bark at or chase wildlife or other livestock, they should be reprimanded immediately. Once behaviour such as hunting has been learned, it may be very difficult to correct. A dog that is allowed to chase game will not stay to protect its livestock when it is unsupervised in the veld. Therefore, as the dog develops and matures, its progress needs to be closely monitored so that any undesirable behaviour can be immediately corrected.

Dogs that come home with wounds caused by warthog tusks or antelope horns should be monitored, as those wounds were more than likely caused while the dog was hunting. The time and effort put into raising and training a good livestock-guarding dog will have been wasted if the dog is lost due to hunting injuries. Close monitoring of the dog will also allow the owner and dog to become familiar with one another and develop a working relationship. This allows the owner to be able to handle the dog and inspect it for ticks and injuries, and to treat it when necessary.

Lead training the dog while it is young is also essential. Puppies need to have protection against aggressive livestock, and against being trampled by the flock. A small pen within the kraal should be adequate for this.

When Installing A Run Wire:

The anchors for the wire should be knocked in level with the ground so that the chain does not get tangled. Have the run wire traverse the kraal; Make sure the dog cannot reach a fence and try to jump over it. The dog should be able to reach shade and water; Use a light-weight chain and attach it to the dog’s collar with a swivel clip. The dog should also be familiar with restraint on a lead before attaching it to a run wire, and then observed when first attached to it.
Stages of Development

Children go through defined developmental stages. By certain ages, an infant can be expected to crawl, walk and to begin talking. Puppies go through very predictable developmental stages as well. Between two and four months of age, social bonding takes place, which is why it is critical that puppies are with their own herd by this age. Whatever a dog grows up with is what it will bond to. A dog that has grown up with and bonded to goats cannot later be transferred to sheep. At six months most breeds, such as the Anatolian, go through a playful stage, which can result in livestock fatalities if the dog is not monitored and the behaviours corrected. The dog should be reprimanded and if necessary, kept on a run wire at night. A run wire is preferable to tying the dog up. (See previous page for more information on run wires.)

The Adult Dog

A dog is only as good as its owner. Even an adult dog needs care and monitoring. Large dogs mature later than smaller breeds. Therefore, although they may be the size of adults, it must be remembered that their behaviour will still be that of a young dog, requiring training and patience.

A Dogs Diet

A Successful Dog Owner Should Be:

- Dedicated to making the dog a success;
- Available to monitor the dogs progress;
- Guide the dogs development;
- Willing to invest time and money into the dogs health, welfare and development;
- Have patience and an understanding of the dogs behaviour and needs.
Puppies require adequate milk from their mothers for the first six weeks. If the bitch's milk is poor, puppies should be supplemented with goat milk. When weaning occurs, it should be done gradually between four to six weeks. Puppies are then supplemented with pellet food and goat milk, so that they become less reliant on the bitch. Bone growth is rapid between six weeks to six months, so the calcium content of the diet should be adequate. Large dogs need more calcium than small dogs. Muscle development takes place from three to six months, so protein is important early in the dog's growth. Protein is supplied through pellet food. Feed according to instructions on food supplied by the National Cheetah Management Programme. A growing dog needs more protein than an adult dog. An adult dog requires more energy. A dog that is not fed properly will not work efficiently. Hunger may cause the dog to chase game, or to appear lazy, as it may just want to lie in the shade. Working dogs should be fed a good meal twice a day, preferably in the morning before going out and in the afternoon when returning home. Before going out, the dog should have access to water and not be fed dry pellets or dry porridge. Feeding should be done at the kraal, preferably where the livestock cannot steal it from the dog.
Veterinary Care Of A Working Dog
Dogs, like humans, can only work well if they are healthy. The dog should be inspected every day for ticks, tick-bite wounds and other injuries. These should be treated before they become infected.
A regular vaccination schedule should be followed. Vaccinations build up a dog’s immunity by exposing it to diseases in small amounts.
If a bitch does not have a good immunity, she cannot pass it on to her puppies in their first 6 weeks. Up until this age, the immunity from the bitch is all that protects puppies against diseases. Puppies should receive the 5-in-1 vaccination at least three times, three to four weeks apart, from the age of six weeks. At three months of age they should receive the rabies vaccination. Following the initial series of vaccinations, a dog should receive a yearly booster for rabies and the 5-in-1 combination.
Main Diseases Dogs Are Susceptible To (and Which Should Be Vaccinated Against)
Distemper: Symptoms of this disease include a discharge in the corner of the eyes, slime coming out of the mouth, and the dog becoming thin. Dogs can survive this disease but they become lame and develop wobbly heads.
Parvovirus: The dog can develop bloody diarrhoea, which can lead to death. Dogs are very susceptible to this disease when not vaccinated.
Rabies: This disease is fatal. It is a very serious disease and all dogs should be vaccinated against it at three months, followed by a booster every year.
Livestock-guarding dogs are particularly vulnerable to rabies, because they must protect their livestock against wild predators and scavengers. They therefore have a high risk of being bitten by these animals and therefore a high risk of contracting the disease if not vaccinated.
Symptoms vary from unexplained aggressiveness and a personality change, to salivating and loss of coordination, among other symptoms. Any dog behaving strangely should be treated with caution and taken to a veterinarian. The disease is transmitted via saliva.
If a dog with an unknown vaccination history, or a dog behaving strangely, bites a person, that person should be taken to a doctor immediately, as the disease is fatal to humans.
Adeno virus: This disease affects a dog’s eyes. In severe cases they may go blind.
Leptospira: Symptoms of this disease in dogs include fever, shivering and muscle tenderness, followed by signs such as vomiting and rapid dehydration, together with an increased heart rate. The kidneys are also affected. The disease is eventually fatal if not treated.
Hepatitis: The liver is affected.
**Other Common Ailments**

**Tick bite fever:** Symptoms include a high fever, listlessness and weakness (often interpreted by owners as laziness), anaemia (pale eyelids and gums) and nose bleeds. Pur discharge may occur from the eyes and nose, with eventual collapse and death. Cutting the ends off dogs’ ears does not cure this disease. Some dogs may survive but if tick bite fever is suspected, the dog should always be treated with a full course of tablets, as it is very often fatal.

**Porcupine quills:** Do not just pull quills out, as the barbs may remain in the skin. This results in a festering wound. Push the quill slightly in and then pull out while turning the quill gently.

**Ear infections:** Be careful, when bathing or dipping the dog, not to get the dip too deep in the dog’s ears.

**Worms:** Working dogs should be dewormed regularly. Deworming does not make a dog immune to worms. It only removes current infestations, which is why deworming should be repeated at least every three months.

Any dog coming into contact with the working dog should be dewormed according to the same schedule as the working dog.

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**Symptoms of a severe worm infestation include:**

- A pot belly in puppies – the puppy’s stomach is big and round but the rest of the dog may be skinny
- Vomiting – worms may even be visible in the vomit
- Poor coat – loss of sheen, dry, brittle
- Lethargy and depression (often interpreted as lazy by owners)
- Diarrhoea – worms may be visible in the faeces
**Hyaloma ticks:** These ticks have a very sore bite and result in a chunk of tissue around the bite dying and falling out. These ticks should be removed as soon as possible, to diminish the dead tissue that falls out. Keep wounds clean until they can heal. Be very careful when applying dips and other tick prevention measures. Wear gloves and only use what has been recommended for dogs.

**“Stekk grass”:** Dogs with a lot of hair between their toes may get grass seeds that work their way in between the toes. Trim the hair between the toes if this is a problem, and check daily for seeds.

**Open Wound Treatment**
Clean well and flush with salt water if no other antiseptic is available. Trim any hair around the wound, as it will compact and keep dirt in. Flies may also lay eggs in a wound that is not kept clean. Aerosol wound sprays are very effective.

**Sterilisation [Spay and Neutering]**
A bitch will come into heat every 6 months. Every time she comes into heat, there is a risk she will forget about her livestock and roam to find a mate. She also cannot work effectively when pregnant and lactating. Sterilising working dogs is important, because it may help prevent them from roaming.

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**Health Care In Summary**

Prevent disease rather than trying to cure it.

-Vaccinate, deworm and de-tick your dog.

-Healthy nutrition = Healthy dog.

-Sick or injured dogs should be treated as soon as possible to prevent expensive complications or losing the dog.

-Sterilise your dog to avoid roaming. A guarding dog that is roaming is not protecting your livestock. It also runs the risk of being shot on a neighbour’s farm, in addition to learning bad habits such as chasing wildlife.

-Be informed — the more you learn about the care and training of your livestock-guarding dog, the better its chances of a long, healthy, and productive life, thereby increasing the safety and productivity of your livestock.
Golden Rules for Raising a Livestock Guarding Dog:

Obtain a puppy from a proven working dog. Communities can work together to develop a good line of working dogs by selectively breeding the best ones and then distributing them.

Never separate the dog from its livestock.

The dog should be kept with its own herd. Never move the dog to a new herd or a different type of livestock.

Have patience raising and training the dog.

A dog is only as good as its owner and the care it receives.
RAISING AND TRAINING YOUR ANATOLIAN

The following is intended as a basic guide to raising and training your new livestock guarding dog. Please read this carefully, as well as the additional information you received with your information package. Adhering to the suggestions we have made may mean the difference between the success and failure of your livestock guarding dog.

A. For Herds Kraaled at Night

Early Juvenile Stage 6-16 weeks

Requirements:

1. fenced kraal
2. 8 – 10 lambs that have been weaned
3. mobile shelter for dog
4. leather lead and collar
5. good quality puppy dog food
6. big Y-shaped stick
7. “dangle stick”

This is one of the most critical stages in your dogs’ life. During this period the puppy with bond with whatever species is it placed with – by 16 weeks this critical stage is over. If a puppy has bonded well with its livestock, it will be motivated to always remain with them and to protect them. A failure in the bonding process will result in the dog roaming and not remaining with the livestock.

The puppy will arrive on the farm at 5 – 6 weeks old. Please resist the temptation of keeping the puppy indoors with you. Your guarding dog is there to work! The puppy must immediately be placed in a kraal with 8 – 10 weaned lambs. These lambs will have to spend the rest of their lives with the dog to ensure that there will always be a strong bond between the dog and the herd. The kraal has to be fenced in such a way that the puppy is unable to escape. A shelter should be provided for the puppy inside the kraal to ensure that the puppy can stay out of the sheep’s way and the sheep don’t have access to the puppy’s food.

While the puppy is in the kraal, make sure that he/she gets exposed to everything that he/she would encounter on the farm, e.g. horses, cattle etc. Please make sure that the puppy does not receive any unnecessary human attention. This may lead to the development of a stronger bond between humans and dog than between dog and herd. The puppy needs to be handled from time to time to ensure that, as an adult, the puppy will be used to being handled. This will make it easier to give injections and move the dog.

Play behaviour with lambs may be expected and should be discouraged immediately. Problem times are usually early mornings and evenings.

The puppy should never be left alone, but at all times be accompanied by some members of the herd it will be spending its life with. At the same time through, when the herd comes in at night, keep the puppy in its own pen in the kraal to protect it from the more aggressive livestock.

Decide not which herd it will live with. Moving a dog between herds is very disruptive to the dog and may result in behavioural problems such as roaming. New individuals may be introduced to the herd but a core group that the dog has bonded with must remain.
Feeding:

Feed the puppy a good quality puppy dog food. This is very important since the puppy is growing at a very fast rate at this age. If the puppy gets neglected at this stage, future problems may be encountered. It is also recommended to add a calcium supplement to the food for good bone development. DO NOT FEED THE DOG RAW MEAT. Bones and hooves may be given to the puppy to chew on once the puppy is teething.

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Age 11 – 16 weeks:

Requirements:

1. fenced in camp +/- 2 ha
2. weaned lambs and rest of herd that dog will stay with
3. mobile shelter for dog
4. leather lead and collar
5. good quality puppy dog food
6. big Y-shaped stick
7. “dangle stick”

The puppy has already been on the farm for 4 weeks. By this time a relatively strong bond should have been formed between the puppy and the lambs. The puppy will also start to bark at strange things but will tend to hide between the lambs.

The puppy and his herd of lambs can now be introduced to the rest of the herd in a relatively small camp. The camp should be situated close to the house since the puppy will need supervision. The puppy should be lead all along the camp’s fence line so he/she can get familiar to the area. The puppy should preferably be placed with dry ewes since pregnant ewes might injure or chase the puppy away during the lambing season. The puppy’s shelter can now also be moved to the camp. Place fencing around the puppy’s shelter to prevent livestock from getting to the puppy’s food. By three months the puppy should be accompanying the livestock, preferably under supervision for safety. Basic lead training should also take place at this stage.

If other livestock such as cattle and horses are in close proximity to the dog’s livestock, the dog should be exposed to them. Any barking should be reprimanded, as barking indicates that the dog is viewing them as a threat to his livestock. Frequently walk the dog with its livestock through these animals, until they are accepted by the dog.
In areas with game, the dogs must be taught from an early age that game animals are permitted near the livestock. Failure to apply corrective training at this stage will result in game chasing problems later.

Feeding:

Feed the puppy a good quality puppy dog food. This is very important since the puppy is growing at a very fast rate at this age. If the puppy gets neglected at this stage, future problems may be encountered. It is also recommended to add a calcium supplement to the food for good bone development. **DO NOT FEED THE DOG RAW MEAT.** Bones and hooves may be given to the puppy to chew on once the puppy is teething.

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**Age 16 weeks – 1 year:**

The bond between the dog and his herd should be very strong by now. It is now time to move the dog and his herd to the field, preferably under supervision initially. The dog should be fully lead trained by now. Also move the dog’s shelter to the camp where the herd will be grazing.

Take the dog for walks along the camp’s fence line so he/she can get familiar to the camp. At this stage you will have to monitor the puppy very carefully to detect any undesirable behaviour that may have developed. In such a case behavioural problems need to be corrected immediately in order to eliminate any potential future problems. If other livestock such as cattle and horses are in close proximity to the dog’s livestock, the dog should be exposed to them. Any barking should be reprimanded, as barking indicates that the dog is viewing them as a threat to his livestock. Frequently walk the dog with its livestock through these animals, until they are accepted by the dog.

In areas with game, the dogs must be taught from an early age that game animals are permitted near the livestock. Failure to apply corrective training at this stage will result in game chasing problems later.
Play behaviour may surface again at about 6 months of age. If the puppy is being playful with the livestock reprimand or take steps to ensure it cannot play when not being observed. This can be done by confining the dog to a pen within the kraal, so that it is still surrounded by its livestock. An alternative is to attach the dog to a run wire in the kraal when not supervised and until it out-grows the playful behaviour. A dangle stick can also be attached to the dog’s collar, but this can lead to injuries and should only be done under very strict supervision.

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The use of a run wire

- When installing a run wire make sure it does not run past any obstacles such as trees, posts or fencing. If the run wire is too near the kraal fence, the dog may try and jump over it whilst attached to the run wire and choke itself.
- A lightweight chain, 1 to 1.5 meters long, should be used to attach the dog to the run wire.
- Use a swivel clip to attach the dog to the chain as this prevents the chain knotting.
- The run wire should be as long as possible, preferably running the length of the kraal and including solid reliable shade and access to water.

12 months +

By 12 months the dogs that have properly bonded with livestock should be effective guardians. Note however, a one-year old dog is not yet fully mature and may not yet have the confidence needed to challenge serious predators.

Anatolians are a large breed of dog and as such, mature at the later age of 18 to 24 months. Patience is therefore required in teaching and training until this age.
B. For Herds in Field Permanently:

6 weeks old

Sterilization can already be done at this age. This would prevent any hormonal changes presenting itself as behavioral problems later in his development.

8 weeks old

Puppy is placed with livestock. Placing a puppy younger than 8 weeks is not recommended.

8-16 weeks old

The puppy should be placed with approximately 10 lambs in a small corral close to the homestead. The lambs must be weaned and should not be accompanied by any ewes. This will become the core group of animals the puppy bonds with and it is imperative that they are never removed from his herd. As long as these core animals remain with the herd, the composition of the rest of the herd may change without experiencing any problems. A dog kennel should be placed in the paddock for the puppy to sleep in. The corral should be “dog proofed” to prevent him from leaving the area. This can be achieved by attaching chicken mesh to the fence.

These two months are absolutely essential for the development of the dog in terms of bonding with his herd and would mean the difference between a successful placement and a failure.

Monitoring and disciplining the puppy is also essential during this stage. Monitoring and training should be done by the farmer/owner and should include the following:

- Daily monitoring of the puppy to identify any undesirable behaviour such as playing, biting, chasing etc. The farmer needs to be very attentive to the behaviour and interaction of all animals. During this period the farmer is expected to make a real commitment in terms of his time in order to monitor the puppy adequately. Many problems have been encountered when using herders, such as the inability of the herders to discipline the dogs. It is thus recommended that the farmer fulfil this viral role instead.

- Lead training. The farmer should take the puppy for short walks every day in order to get him accustomed to being walked on a lead. This might be essential for later vet visits or medical treatment and would also provide ample opportunity to introduce the puppy to all other animals and workers on the farmyard. It is important for the puppy to be exposed to these other elements but should not be allowed to interact with them. The puppy is expected to accept these animals and people and not to bark at them, a behaviour that would imply he perceives them as a threat. When barking does occur, he should be told “No” in a firm voice and should be praised when he walks past them without barking. The puppy needs to be completely comfortable being handled by the farmer.

- Feeding. The puppy should be fed twice per day, in the morning and afternoon. High quality pellets can be mixed with “pap” to provide a high protein, high calorie diet. Feeding should be done inside the corral and should be supervised since animals from the herd might try to steal his food.
• Disciplining the puppy when any undesirable behaviour is observed. It is natural for the puppy to display play behaviour, but should be discouraged. It is recommended to reprimand the puppy by pushing him down on his back while voicing a firm “NO!” Beating the puppy is not recommended and should only be used as a last resort when other methods of discipline do not work.

• Corrective training. These may include the use of a run line to restrict the movement of the dog. This method can be used when extreme play behaviour is observed or when the puppy leaves the corral to wander around. When a dog is observed leaving his herd, a weight should be tied to him before walking him back to his herd. This will insure that he makes a negative association with leaving the herd.

16-24 weeks old

During this stage the puppy, together with his core group, is moved to a bigger camp, approximately 3-5 ha in size. The puppy should gradually be introduced to more members of the herd.

If problems are encountered such as animals eating his food or using his kennel, a small paddock can be built around his kennel. This would prevent the other animals from getting to his food or bed, but would still allow him access to his belongings by simply crawling through the fence.

Progress should be assessed on a daily basis and daily monitoring and involvement is still very much expected from the owner/farmer. The farmer should intervene whenever play behaviour is seen and continue disciplining the dog. It is still very likely that behaviour such as nibbling or pulling at wool will be observed, but should be discouraged. Disciplining should never lead to fear of the owner (seen by the dog wetting itself, for example) but it is normal for the dog to show submissiveness such as crawling low or turning on its back.

24 weeks

From this age the puppy should be confident enough to be moved to one of the big grazing camps. It is recommended to start with an “easy camp”. This should be one of the smallest and most level camps available. His kennel can be moved with him. It is recommended to have the farmer continue doing the feeding himself. This allows for the opportunity to monitor and assess the condition of the dog and the general behaviour towards the herd. It is normal for the dog to catch and eat small animals like mice and should not lead to any behavioural problems.

The dog can now be expected to patrol the area and move around within the camp. He should always stay in visual contact with the herd, though, and never wander off too far.

**DIET**

Your Anatolian must be fed twice a day in the kraal only. Feeding should take place in the morning and late afternoon. Only a very good quality food should be fed to the Anatolian. This is a pure bred dog and needs to be looked after well. Only the best is good enough for him.

**NOTE:**

- Mielie pap is not a sufficient diet for a growing and working dog. The puppy should be fed pellet food. At a later stage, mielie pap can be added to the pellets but should not
– Pellet food should be soaked in water before feeding, especially before a dog goes out to veldt.
– Never ever feed your Anatolian raw meat or bones. This may trigger him to become a killer and not a guard dog.

Additional information

Placement of a second dog with an existing herd and guarding dog

On a farm where extensive farming is practiced, one dog should be adequate to guard the first 100-300 sheep, but an extra dog will be needed for every 200 sheep that might be added to the original herd. Where sheep scatter, 2 dogs can be placed with 200 sheep, as to prevent the dog from being overworked.

When more than one dog is needed for a herd, the second dog should only be added to the herd 6 months to a year after the first dog reaches maturity. The first dog should be experienced enough to show the younger dog what to do. After the second dog has been introduced and more dogs are needed, another dog can then be added every 6 months. The dogs should be of the same sex with the second dog preferably not older than 8 weeks.

More than one puppy should never be placed with a herd. This could very possibly lead to undesirable behaviour such as playing with stock and wandering.

When placing the second dog, the following process should be followed:

• The puppy should be placed in a small corral close to the homestead with a group of 8-10 weaned lambs from the existing herd for his initial bonding stage with the livestock. Make sure the fencing is secure and that a kennel is provided as shelter. Since the second puppy is placed with sheep that are used to dogs, they will be far more confident and could act aggressively towards the puppy. Place the kennel at an angle to the fence as to provide a safe escape to the puppy and to also create an area where his food and water can be placed. The puppy will stay in this corral for the first 4 weeks during which time the farmer will monitor and correct any undesirable behaviour and will also lead train the puppy. During the last two weeks of this stage the puppy can be taken out on his lead and collar and introduced to the older dog (also on a lead and collar) at a neutral area away from the livestock.

• From the second month the puppy can be moved to a bigger camp with his existing small herd and more frequent introductions can be made to the older dog. This should still be done under supervision. The puppy can also be introduced to the rest of the herd by walking him through and among the older livestock on his lead. By the end of this month he should be close to 4 months old.

• If the two dogs have accepted one another well over the course of the last two months, the puppy can now be integrated into the rest of the herd. If aggression is seen between the dogs, or the puppy is displaying very playful behaviour, a further month apart is advised. During this month the puppy can be moved again to a bigger camp to increase his workload and confidence with frequent visits to the bigger herd and the older dog.

• By six months the second dog should be fully integrated into the existing herd and should accompany the older dog. The farmer should monitor the dogs very carefully at this stage for any undesirable behaviour such as wandering or aggressiveness. The second dog should be castrated at this stage.
LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS
PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NOTE: Dogs must be handled, collared and lead trained from a young age. This must only take place in the kraal or when in the veld with the livestock. Too much handling encourages a dog-human bond that is not desired, however, the dog must be familiar with wearing a collar and be familiar with walking on a lead to allow future correctional training.

1. Dogs not bonding with livestock

It is essential to place puppies with their livestock herd at between 6 – 8 weeks of age, the younger the better. At CCF, Anatolian puppies are born into life in a kraal, making the transition to a new kraal easier, as they immediately settle down to the familiar and comforting sounds and smells of livestock. This transition is much more difficult for puppies without prior exposure to livestock.

2. Dogs not accompanying livestock or returning to the kraal

Puppies must start going out with livestock early enough, but must not be made to walk too far initially. A tired footsore puppy will resent going out and return as soon as it is not supervised. Puppies not going out early enough (from three months of age) may adopt the kraal as their territory to guard and come back to the kraal without the livestock.

Dog returning home early, a few hours ahead of the livestock must be taken back out immediately and rejoin the livestock. Scolding on return to the kraal, but lots of praise when rejoining the livestock in the veld. Herder supervision during the time that the dog tries to return to the kraal will help correct this behaviour. Keeping the dog on a lead in the veld for a week or two, then off the lead and observed to see that he has learned to stay in the veld with the livestock to the end of the day.

Midday heat may cause dogs to seek shade or return to the kraal. Familiarise the dog with being brushed/groomed from a young age. The winter coat sometimes grows very thick and takes a while to shed during summer. Grooming may assist in these instances.

3. Moving livestock and the dog to new posts

When moving livestock to a new post, some farmers have reported that the dog returns to the original post. The dogs sometimes seem to adopt a particular area as their territory and will return to it despite livestock not being there. Lead-training is essential as the dog can be walked daily with the livestock (in their new camp) by a herder until it learns to stay in the new “territory”.

The dog should be safely put on a run-wire at night to prevent it returning to the old post. Care should be taken to tie the dog carefully as it will strangle itself if not used to being restrained or if the run wire is near a fence the dog can jump over. This should only need to be a short-term measure with care being taken to reassure the dog so that lead-walking/using a run-wire is not perceived as a punishment.

4. Dogs rejecting new additions to the herd

Introducing new stock to the herd requires observation as the dogs sometimes reject new livestock, viewing these as “intruders”. New livestock should be rubbed down with dung from the kraal so that they smell right! It may even be necessary to separate the newcomer/s together with some existing herd members and allow them to integrate for a few days before introducing them to the dog.
5. Dogs and other livestock

The puppy must be exposed to cattle, horses, other herds of small stock, etc., from an early age so that it is taught not to regard these as intruders. The dog should be walked with its own livestock herd close to or through other livestock herds. Barking at other livestock must be discouraged by reprimanding. Praise the dog when it ignores the other livestock. Take care that the puppy is not injured by e.g. aggressive cattle.

6. Relocating livestock guarding dogs to new herds

It is not advised to relocate the dog to a new herd, but should it become necessary to relocate the dog, a core group of the livestock that the dog grew up with should, where possible, be moved with him into the new flock. The same steps must be followed as with Moving livestock to new posts. Where it is not possible to move original livestock with the dog, these same steps should be followed. An adult dog can be relocated successfully, but must be given time to adapt to the new surroundings and a new herd, again, good lead-training and learning to be tied are essential to ensure the dogs safety and successful relocation. Dogs cannot be moved to a different kind of small stock, i.e. Can be moved from goats to goats, but not goats to sheep, or visa versa.

7. Livestock guarding dogs and new-born livestock

Livestock guarding dog’s experiencing the first birthing season should be observed to ensure that they do not get overly excited with the new arrivals and behave calmly. Eating afterbirth is allowed and helps with bonding but play-behaviour must be stopped immediately if it occurs. Sniffing and licking is allowed and should be praised.

8. Dogs playing with and injuring/killing livestock

Special attention must be given to observing puppies from a distance during early morning when play behaviour is most likely to occur. Staff must be briefed and carry out impromptu checks to ensure this behaviour is not going undetected. Once established this behaviour is hard to stop and will result in livestock damage. Puppies not starting to accompany the livestock early enough (three months of age) are more likely to take their energy out in the form of playing.

Dogs playing with livestock can be particularly prevalent at about 3 – 4 months and then again at 6-12 months. Sheep in particular are prone to becoming unwilling playmates, as they tend to run, inadvertently encouraging play-behaviour from puppies. Adult goats tend to tolerate playing less, standing their ground and butting unruly puppies.

It is essential this behaviour is reprimanded at the time and not hours afterwards if damaged livestock is discovered, the dog must associate reprimanding with the undesired behaviour.

If the behaviour persists, the dog can be restrained in the kraal on a run-wire at night when not supervised and until it outgrows the behaviour.

Some literature recommends the use of a dangle stick to correct play behaviour. A dangle stick is attached to the collar when the dog is left unattended in the kraal with the herd. This entails a stick about 30 cm long. It is attached to the dogs collar with a swivel hook and dangles. The device allows the dog to eat, drink etc, but when it tries to run the stick bumps the legs discouraging playful chasing of stock. This can be used on a playful pup for three to four weeks and should be removed when the dog goes out to the veld and when the playful behaviour is outgrown. CCF has
found this dangle stick to be ineffectual and also can cause injury to the dogs’ legs.

9. Livestock guarding dogs and herders

Livestock guarding dogs need not work with a herder, but at least during their first year a herder provides protection and can apply corrective training to the developing puppy. Where no permanent herder is employed to go out with the dog, one may be needed from time to time to apply correctional training. However, an unreliable or aggressive herder will result in the dog being reluctant to stay with the livestock or learning undesirable behaviour such as hunting. Herders used on a temporary basis as required, e.g. when relocating to new posts should ideally be familiar with the dog.

Where herders are used they will play a key role in the success or failure of the dog. Particular care must be taken when employing a new herder, cases have occurred where an excellent working dog suddenly abandons the flock when herders are changed. A new herder that is afraid of the dog or aggressive towards the dog could negatively affect the dogs performance. Herders that have encouraged the dogs to hunt is another problem that has occurred.

10. Socialising with other dogs

Puppies must be familiarised with resident/pet dogs to prevent unnecessary fighting later on, but must not be encouraged to socialise with them at the kraal or away from the kraal at the homestead. The puppy must learn not to let other dogs into the kraal that could damage livestock, so should be introduced to resident dogs outside the kraal away from immediate contact with livestock. Resident/pet dogs may encourage undesirable behaviour such as leaving the livestock and also hunting and should not be allowed to roam freely at night when undesirable behaviour is most likely to occur.

11. Socialising with people

If the dog is not well socialised and familiarised with specific handlers, an untouchable and aggressive dog will be the result. However, it must be emphasised that socialising away from the kraal, e.g. at the homestead, particularly when encouraged by children and domestic dogs, is not recommended as the dog will be encouraged to leave the livestock and seek human contact. Strangers should not be allowed near the kraal and only a limited number of people caring for the dog will help teach the dog not to allow intruders into the kraal, thereby preventing stock theft.

12. Sterilising/castrating dogs

Females will go in search of a mate when coming into heat and should be sterilised to prevent straying. Males will go in search of females and should also be castrated to keep their attention with their flock. Sterilising will not negatively affect work performance but can prevent undesirable behaviour such as wandering.

13. Restraining dogs

Tying the dog on a run-wire is recommended in cases where difficulty is being experienced in stopping play behaviour and wandering at night. Care must be taken when tying the dog for the first time so that it does not strangle itself. Also the run-wire must not reach perimeter fences, thus preventing the tied dog jumping the fence and strangling itself.

Ideally the wire should run along the ground diagonally across the kraal and have access to shade and water at all times. A light-weight chain is recommended as the dogs can chew through cords.
The chain should be at least two meters long and attached to the collar with a swivel clip. It is recommended that the dog be familiarised with a collar and lead-trained prior to tying. This will also facilitate trips to the vet.

14. Hunting game

Puppies that are not taught to allow certain “intruders” such as warthog close to the herd, or that are encouraged to chase game by unscrupulous herders wanting the meat, will become a serious liability and cause a lot of damage to wildlife when maturing. This is one of the most difficult behaviours to stop once established. Close supervision by a trustworthy herder and serious reprimanding of barking at warthog etc is recommended, as barking indicates that the dog regards what it is barking at as an intruder. Also, should a dog kill an animal, the animal or a piece of it can be tied to the collar and left there. This will help discourage the desire to get near that animal again.