Sheep Killed by Pet Dogs Each Year

A plea has been issued to all dog walkers, asking them to keep dogs on leads in the countryside in order to cut down the number of sheep attacks.

As we move into the new lambing season there have already been reports of dog attacks on sheep in some parts of the county with horrific results. To avoid this happening we would urge all dog walkers to take care when exercising their dogs and be mindful of the possible consequences of a loose dog around a sheep flock.

At this time of year ewes are heavily in lamb which raises additional concerns of abortion due to aggravation by dogs and attacks on vulnerable lambs.

In the past letting dogs off leads has proved fatal to sheep, lambs and other animals being farmed but it has also led to dogs being destroyed, due to the vicious nature of the attacks.

As a result, County Durham Local Access Forum is asking dog owners to keep their animals on leads when enjoying the network of paths provided for their enjoyment.