

#RealNewForest

I've seen a dog chasing a pony. What should I do?

Call the Police. Please note as much information as possible on the dog, its owner and any vehicle, and the animal being chased.

Worrying livestock on grazing land is a criminal offence under the **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953**. Worrying includes chasing or attacking an animal, whether it is a sheep, cow or pony. The court can order for the dog to be destroyed, for the dog to be muzzled or kept on a lead, and for the owner to be fine and forced to pay compensation to the livestock owner.

Since 2014 it has been a criminal offence for a dog to be "out of control" in a public place under the amended **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**. They can be prosecuted not only if the dog actually injures someone or makes them worried about being injured, but also if it attacks someone's animal or makes the owner worried about the risks of trying to stop an attack on their own animal.

In the New Forest we also benefit from specific **byelaws** under which dog owners can be prosecuted. On the Crown Lands managed by the Forestry Commission the [byelaws](#) make it an offence for any dog to be out of control, giving its staff the power to demand that a dog is put on a lead. The [National Trust byelaws](#) prohibit any dog that is not under "proper control" and annoying or disturbing any person or animal.

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