

Amid an increasing number of dog attacks on livestock in recent weeks, the Formentera Department of Rural Affairs wishes to remind pet owners of a municipal ordinance requiring them to accompany, leash and, when appropriate to an animal's temperament, muzzle pets when on the public thoroughfare.

The reminder, which has been posted on information boards and in agricultural areas on the island, points to fines ranging from €30 to €15,000. The notice also highlights legislation defining canines which "possess a distinctly aggressive character or have been aggressive towards people or other animals" as "potentially dangerous".

Department chief Josep Marí said the dog attacks were the source of great disturbance for local livestock farmers, "not only in terms of the animals that have been slain. There is also the distress of knowing property barriers have been breached and members of your herd have been hurt". "I'm asking for responsibility from those pet owners who perhaps aren't cognisant of the repercussions that letting your dog off the leash can have", Marí continued. "Livestock and dogs can coexist without problems if we follow the rules."

The island's government is asking people who see unaccompanied dogs to report them to the pound by calling 630 08 31 28. Lastly, Councillor Marí praised livestock owners, which he described as "small farmers who protect hometown traditions and safeguard the local landscape".

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**Communications Department
Consell de Formentera**