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*Wildlife Research*

### Supplementary Material

#### **Still a good dog! Long-term use and effectiveness of livestock guardian dogs to protect livestock from predators in Australia's extensive grazing systems**

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*Questions are only to be asked if they are relevant to an individual's situation.*

- Back in 2008/9, you told me you were using livestock guardian dogs to protect livestock. Are you still using guardian dogs for predator control?

If yes, go to page 3

- ***If no:***
  - Why not?
  - How long have you used guardian dogs in total?
  - What happened to your dog(s)? (cause of death/age at death/rehomed?)
  - Do you think that in general your LGDs became more effective/less effective/or stayed equally effective once they operated on your property for a longer time?
  - Do you think older dogs lose effectiveness over time?
  - Are you still running –*type of livestock indicated in first survey* - ?
    - *Ask for numbers of stock and size of property*
  - You indicated in 2008/2009 that your predators were – *type of predator(s) mentioned in the first survey*-, are they still your main predators?
  - *If still running stock, (or other type of stock), how many livestock are you losing to predators now (in the past year, or per year)?*
  - *If still running stock (or other type of stock), what predator control are you using now?*
    - How much time/effort/finances does this cost?
    - How does this compare to the dogs?
  - Compared to 2008/2009 is there more or less regional predator control in your area? Has that affected predation on your property?
  - Have any neighbours or others in the vicinity adopted the use of guardian dogs since the last survey? How many? How far away from you?
    - Do you think this was a result of your use of guardian dogs, or for some other reason?

- Would you ever get guardian dogs again, or recommend them to other people?
- What are the main advantage and disadvantage of guardian dogs?

- **If yes:**

- Are they still the same dogs as in 2008/9, or are they different ones (*get history of changes in dogs, new dogs' ages/sex etc, cause of death of old dogs, age of death*)
- In 2008/2009 you indicated you ran your dogs – *free-ranging/fenced, separate/in groups, with -type of livestock mentioned in first survey-*, do you still run your dogs this way?
  - *If so, double check with participant the total number of owned stock, number of stock the dog(groups) are working with, number per dog(group) and sizes of areas they are working on.*
  - *If not*
    - How do you manage your dogs now? (in groups/separate, fenced/free-ranging, size of area they are working on, no. of livestock they are working with per dog(group), number of dogs per group )
    - How many livestock do you own, and how many are the LGDs guarding?
    - Why did you change their management?
- You indicated in 2008/2009 that your predators were – *type of predator(s) mentioned in the first survey-*, are they still your main predators?
- How much stock are you losing to these predators at the moment (in the last year, or on average each year)?
- Do you think that in general your LGDs have become more effective/less effective/or stayed equally effective between now and the first survey?
- Do you think older dogs lose effectiveness over time?
- Are you using any other predator control methods apart from the dogs?
  - Which ones?
  - How much are these costing in terms of time/effort/financially?
- Compared to 2008/2009 is there more or less regional predator control in your area? Has that affected predation on your property?

- In 2008/2009 you indicated you trained your dogs – *bonding/training method they described in the first survey* -. Do you still do this, or has this changed?
  - *If changed:*
    - Why did you change this?
    - How do you train them now?
- How much time/effort/finances are you spending on your dogs (*per day/week/year*)?
- Have any neighbours or others in the vicinity adopted the use of guardian dogs since the last survey? How many? How far away from you?
  - Do you think this was a result of your use of guardian dogs, or for some other reason?
- Would you recommend guardian dogs to other people?
- What are the main advantage and disadvantage of guardian dogs?