



NOTICE TO ALL DOG OWNERS

Unfortunately a dog got into the sheep enclosure at Ketton Quarry NR on Sunday morning and attacked one of the flock. She is alive but injured and the rest of the flock is understandably very spooked. The dog was chasing them about for around 20 minutes in hot weather which has affected them badly too.

"The flock of sheep at Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve are the best lawnmowers! The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust manage a small flock of native sheep to maintain the reserve's calcareous (limestone) grassland. We have the sheep's grazing efforts to thank for the wonderful wildflower and invertebrate array we see at this time of year.

These wonderful animals are both sensitive and vulnerable, particularly to disturbance by dogs. This weekend, a dog attacked one of the flock and she has been injured. Thankfully, she survived the attack, but we now need to monitor her closely to ensure that she doesn't develop an infection. The rest of the flock were very distressed too, having been chased by the dog in hot weather for over 20 minutes, which puts their health at risk - sheep can die of shock.

LRWT take the welfare of their livestock very seriously and ask that members of the public walking their dogs on the nature reserve have them on a lead at all times and monitor their behaviour closely. Free running dogs also disturb native wildlife, and their uncollected waste is both a hazard and an unwanted enrichment to this biologically sensitive, protected nature reserve.

We hope that taking responsibility and being compassionate to our livestock and wildlife means an incident like this can be avoided in the future. Thank you for your cooperation."

Many thanks for your help and do let me know if you have any questions.

Sarah

LRWT

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