

Pastoralism and guard dogs

During your hikes, you may encounter a herd accompanied by one or more guard dogs. There are a few rules to follow.



Pastoral farming

The pastoral farming practiced in the Alpes-Maritimes is of the extensive type: the herds graze on large areas where they exploit the natural herbaceous resource. The herds are moved regularly according to the seasons to find the grass needed to feed the animals and then give the vegetation time to grow back.

The breeders are either owners or tenants of areas where their herds graze and as such have exploitation rights. Pastoralism is a traditional and heritage activity. It has an important social and economic function in mountain areas.

Pastoral practices also play a fundamental role in the maintenance of open landscapes, diverse ecosystems and habitats of protected species and actively contribute to the prevention of forest fires.

Guard dogs

To protect their herds against attacks from predators, breeders and shepherds are encouraged to use guard dogs whose function is to ward off potential dangers by dissuading any intruder from approaching the herd.

During your hikes, you may encounter a herd accompanied by one or more guard dogs.

In all cases: largely bypass the herd, when possible avoid crossing it.

When facing a protection dog: stop while it identifies you, remain calm, do not threaten it, do not pet it.

If your pet dog is allowed in the space you frequent, keep him on a leash. In any case, never hug your dog.