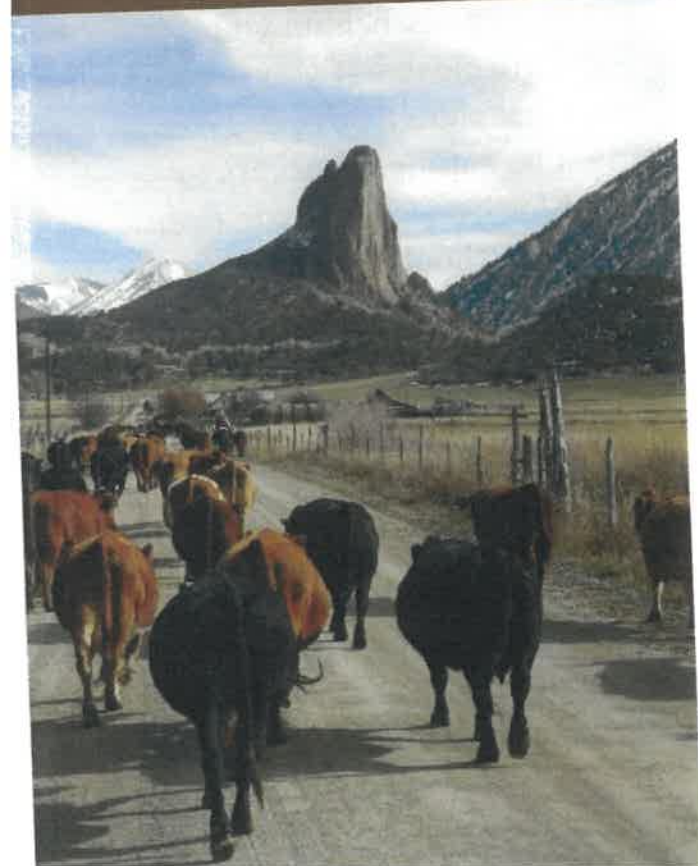




Great Pyrenees Dog

Livestock Guardian Dog



How to Navigate Through a Livestock Drive in Colorado

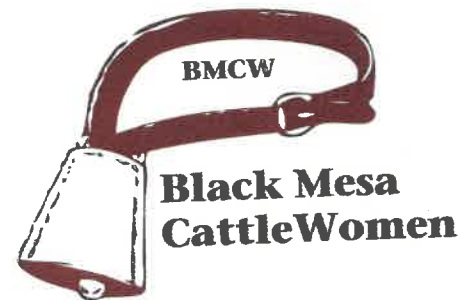
Cattle & sheep crossing or traveling along the same roads or highways as you is common in Western Colorado, especially in the spring & fall when they are being driven to and from their summer pastures. Many roads in Colorado cross lands used for cattle and sheep ranching. Often the best way to move livestock to different pastures is to use the roadways. Here are several tips that can ensure a safe trip for you, the livestock being moved, the herders and their dogs.

- Most importantly, **SLOW DOWN!** When livestock are on the road even 10 m.p.h. may be too fast.
- Pay attention to the flag vehicles, herders (on foot) and riders. These people will help guide you through. Watch out for the working dogs.
- Slowly weave in and out amongst the herd. If you are one of several cars, stay close to the car in front of you. Get through the entire herd and past all herders before accelerating to cruising speed.
- Don't honk a horn or otherwise harass the cattle or sheep.

- If you have a dog, keep it calm and quiet in your vehicle.
- Photos are welcome, however please don't get out of the vehicle to take pictures.
- Slow down and follow these recommendations. You should be safely back on your way in a few minutes. Thank you for your patience.



Sponsored by:



Welcome to Colorful Colorado!



Dogs Worrying Stock

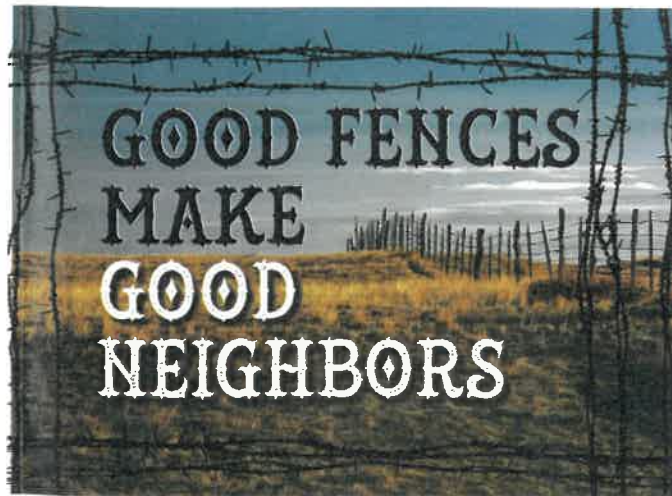
According to Colorado State Statute section 35-43-126 (<https://codes.findlaw.com/co/title-35-agriculture/co-rev-st-sect-35-43-126.html>), any dog found running, worrying or injuring sheep, cattle, or other livestock may be killed, and the owner or harbinger of such dogs shall be liable for all damages done by it. Ranchers have the right to protect their livestock. Be sure your pet stays on your property and is under your control at all times.

Livestock Guardian Dogs

The use of livestock guardian dogs is popular among ranchers as a non-lethal method of managing predators. Do not disturb working livestock guardian dogs by feeding them, putting your hands or body through or against their enclosure or fence or entering areas where they are working.

Colorado Fencing Law

According to Colorado State Statute 35-46-102 (<https://codes.findlaw.com/co/title-35-agriculture/co-rev-st-sect-35-46-102.html>), Colorado livestock owners are NOT required to fence their livestock in. If landowners want to keep livestock off their property, they must fence the livestock out. Before removing a perimeter fence, ask why that fence was there. The statute defines a "lawful fence" as a "well constructed three barbed wire fence with substantial posts set at a distance of approximately twenty feet apart, and sufficient to turn ordinary horses and cattle with all gates equally as good as the fence."



Sharing Public Lands

The beauty of our mountains is greatly enhanced by the open spaces of the landscapes in the valleys below. These lands include working livestock ranches, many still owned and operated by the descendants of the original families who settled these lands in the late 1800s.

An interdependency exists between the mountains' resources and the valley's ranches. During the summer months, livestock graze in the mountains while the valleys below produce hay necessary for winter feeding. Summer range on public lands is managed under a federally administered grazing permit system.

Ranchers are knowledgeable, invested stewards of our public lands and members of the community. Domestic livestock improve vegetation by removing wildfire fuels as they graze and by scattering and planting seeds. Wildlife, as well as the livestock, benefit from water provided by ranchers both on public and private lands.

Biking and Hiking

- If you encounter cattle or sheep, or riders when biking or hiking, give them some space. Your calm demeanor will give them a chance to move along with no conflict.
- Get out of the line of sight of the herd and communicate with the rancher on where to stand.
- Have your dog under control. Cattle and sheep perceive a dog as a predator.
- Leave gates open that are open and close gates behind you if you find them closed. If you close gates that should be open, you might be cutting off access to water for livestock. If you open gates that should be closed, you might cause the livestock to return to a pasture that has already been utilized.
- Share the trail. Public lands are mandated as multiple use lands. Ranchers rely on grazing public lands for their sustainability. The recreating public benefits from the ranchers maintaining the infrastructure for the benefit of ALL animals.