Dogs attack sheep

By Nonie Stava
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Lambs attacked ... Graham Stone cleans up in the aftermath of a dog attack last Thursday.

A Kialla East sheep producer shot and killed a dog as it mauled his flock of about 120 sheep early last Thursday morning.

Two other dogs involved in the incident were later seized by City of Greater Shepaprton rangers who sought destruction orders.

The attack comes after a spate of dog attacks on sheep in the Kialla East area last spring and summer.

Owner Graham Stone said about 20 sheep, mostly prime lambs, died as a result of the attack and another seven or eight would not reach potential.

He said compensation had been sought for the the lambs that were valued about $60 each.

"I had six attacks last year but this was my first for the year," Mr Stone said.

"One attack was very similar to this, but they killed a lot more adults.

"I've still got sheep I'm nursing from when a flock of about 200 was attacked."

He described the dog he shot as a black labrador and the others seized by rangers as a brown pointer cross and a dog about the size of a kelpie.

Council sustainability and environment manager Greg McKenzie said two of the dogs belonged to the same owner.

"Owners will be issued fines for dog at large during the day, dog at large at night, dog causing nuisance and where appropriate, failing to register," Mr McKenzie said.

He said two other attacks happened in the area on July 9 and 11.

"We seized two dogs on the evening of the 11th, we believe they were responsible for the attack that day, and they have been destroyed," Mr

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McKenzie said.

"We believe there's been five dogs involved over the three instances.

"We just hope this means the end of attacks in the area.

"The animal control officers have put in a substantial amount of time; we've put in about 350 man hours."

More than 30 lambs and five rams have died after being mauled to death by dogs in Naringaningalook over the weekend.

Farmer Charlie Thomas said the dogs, believed to be ridgeback crosses, killed stock valued about $5000.

The same dogs are believed to have attacked flocks at other farms in the area a week earlier.

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