



DOG ATTACKS ARE 100% PREVENTABLE

Frightening for all involved, dog attacks often result in serious injury to people, and can be fatal for animals.

As our residents have a right to feel safe in our community, it is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure their pet does not bite or act aggressively towards other people or animals.

If you are the owner of a dog, you are responsible for their actions.

MY DOG WOULD NEVER DO THAT

Most dog owners believe their dog would never hurt anyone. But like people, dogs can become aggressive if they feel threatened by the behaviour of other people and animals or are frightened by a loud noise or unexpected action.

Dog attacks are most likely to occur if dogs are wandering. This is usually because they have escaped from their yard or they are not on a lead when being exercised.

You can help prevent a dog attack by:

- Always exercise your dog on a lead
- Prevent your dog from wandering by providing an adequate enclosure and/or fencing
- Always supervise children around dogs – particularly if a dog is sleeping or feeding
- Train and socialise your dog.

SECURE YOUR DOG AT HOME

Most dog attacks happen when dogs escape from their home and wander through the community unsupervised.

Dog owners are responsible for ensuring their dog cannot escape their yard and that their pet does not cause distress or injury to people by rushing at or attacking through your fence.

FENCE REQUIREMENTS

Local Law No 2 (Animal Management) 2011 states that:

A person who keeps an animal must maintain a proper enclosure to prevent the animal from escaping the person's property.

This means that you must stop your dog from getting over, under, through or around your fence and to ensure they cannot attack people by protruding, under over or through the fence.



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TIPS TO KEEP YOUR DOG AT HOME

Dogs are more likely to escape their yard if they are bored or looking to mate - this can happen even if you are at home. They can also be anxious when left alone.

Here are some simple steps you can take to keep your dog at home.

Boredom/Anxiety

- Give your dog toys or items to keep them entertained
- Play with and exercise your dog daily
- Socialise your dog by organising time with other dogs or by attending obedience classes
- Make sure your pet has adequate food and water for the day
- Leave the radio or TV on tuned to a channel with lots of talking
- Leave a piece of clothing or item that has your scent on it
- Provide your dog with access to a section of your home that has your smell.

Mating

- Desex your dog (your annual registration will be cheaper)
- If your dog is on heat, you will need to take extra precautions to ensure it does not escape the yard.

WALK YOUR DOG ON A LEAD

It is compulsory to walk your dog on a lead whenever you are outside of your own property. This includes taking your dog to and from a vehicle or walking to and from a park or public space.

Unfortunately, many people let their dog off the lead when out in public, thinking that their dog will stay by their side. Even if your dog is well behaved it can act out of character if it feels threatened, scared, over excited or is on heat.

Ensuring your dog is on a lead (under effective control) means you act immediately if your dog starts to display threatening behaviour or aggression.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about Animal Management and Responsible Dog Ownership please contact the Community Safety Team by calling Council on 1300 007 662 or by visiting www.maranoa.qld.gov.au

