



REPORTING A DOG ATTACK

If you, or your pet, has been attacked by a dog, or you have witnessed an attack, contact Council immediately to enable us to respond and investigate.

During office hours please call 1300 007 662 and speak to a Community Safety Officer or alternatively afterhours call the same number and select the applicable number to be transferred to the emergency After Hours Officer on Call.

COMMUNITY RIGHTS

We are all aware of the need to protect our community from the danger and fear of dog attacks. People have the right to feel safe in our community. It is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure their pet doesn't bite or act aggressively towards other people or animals. Public areas should be safe for people to enjoy.

Dog attacks are not only frightening for all involved, but often result in serious injury to people. Dog attacks on other animals are also very common and again can cause serious injury or at times be fatal.

REPORTING AN ATTACK

When an attack occurs it is extremely important to contact Council immediately on 1300 007 662 – even if it is outside of business hours.

Reporting an attack as soon as it occurs ensures we can secure the dog and gather important evidence/information to assist in the investigation.

Any delay in reporting makes it harder for Council to investigate the issue because:

- Witnesses can't be located
- The offending dog and dog owner can't be located
- The extent of injuries cannot be documented
- There can be a lack of medical evidence.

When reporting an attack please provide the following information if known to the Officer:

- Time and location of the attack (provide a landmark or cross street if applicable)
- Are the dogs still at the location – if not, do you know where they are from?
- Number, breed (if known) and description of the dog/s
- Witness details.

PENALTIES

There are significant penalties for allowing your dog to attack a person or another animal.

The owner may be:

- Fined for breaches of the Local and State Laws
- Prosecuted in court resulting in convictions and heavy fines
- Required to pay higher registration costs in excess of \$300 annually
- Required to build an enclosure to strict guidelines
- Display Regulated Dog signage and other conditions required under legislation

The dog may be:

- Seized for the length of the investigation
- Regulated as Dangerous or Menacing (this can include desexing)
- Destroyed, if the attack is found to be serious.



REPORTING A DOG ATTACK

HOW DOES COUNCIL RESPOND TO AN ATTACK?

Dog attacks in Queensland are investigated under the *Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008*.

When a report is received:

- A Council officer will be dispatched to the location and secure the dog if possible.
- The investigation will commence and the process will be explained to all parties involved.
- The officer will go to the property where the dog lives to secure the dog and inspect its enclosure and speak to the owner if possible.
- The owner can surrender the dog or voluntarily provide the dog to Council, while the investigation is carried out.
- Council may seize a dog from the property and impound it for the course of the investigation if it may prove to be a community safety risk.
- Photographs will be taken of any injuries.
- The person reporting the attack and/or the victim will be asked to provide:
 - A statement of the incident
 - Any photos of injuries taken by them or another person
 - Any medical or veterinary reports
- Officers will speak with any witness and obtain detailed statements of the incident.
- On completion of the investigation the outcome is communicated to the owner and an update provided to the complainant/victim.
- Recommended actions from the report are carried out.
- If the matter goes to court, the officer will organise a formal interview with the victim and any witnesses. The victim and witnesses may be required to attend a court hearing.

BE PROACTIVE

You can help prevent a dog attack by:

- Always exercising your dog on a lead
- Preventing your dog from wandering by providing an adequate enclosure and/or fencing
- Always supervising children around dogs – particularly if a dog is sleeping or feeding
- Training and socialising your dog.

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

