



INFORMATION SHEET NO. D03

DOG ATTACKS

Dog attacks and bites are becoming too common, particularly involving young children. Council strives to prevent and reduce the number of dog attacks and dog harassment cases, but co-operation from dog owners and members of the public is necessary.

While educating children and adults on how to behave around dogs is the most effective way to reduce the risk of dog attacks and bites, it is imperative dog owners take full responsibility for their dog. Serious dog ownership leads to a reduction in serious dog attacks.

The Dog and Cat Management Act contains offences for which the owner responsible for control of the dog can be fined. If your dog attacks a person or an animal, severe consequences could result.

Did you know?

- Each year dogs bite more than 100,000 Australians
- two out of three bites occur from a dog known to the victim
- almost 50% of all serious dog bites occur in children under 10 years of age, with the most common victims being between one and four years old

How to avoid an attack

Dog attacks can be avoided and prevented by:

- choosing a breed that is suited to your family lifestyle and environment
- always supervising children and babies near dogs
- teaching your children appropriate behaviour when around dogs
- giving your dog obedience training
- ensuring your dog is exercised regularly
- ensuring your yard is secure and the dog cannot escape
- socialising your dog with other dogs and people

Strange dogs

Strange dogs wandering the streets can be dangerous. Do not approach the dog. If the dog approaches you, stand very still, do not stare the dog in the eye and keep quiet and calm. Do not run or scream as this may cause the dog to chase after you. If these actions are taken the risk of being harassed by a dog is greatly reduced.

Children and dogs

Always make sure young children are supervised around dogs. If the dog is not properly trained, it may snap at, or even bite a young child whom it perceives as a threat, or who wants to play rough. Once permission has been given from the owner, extend the back of the hand towards the dog and allow the dog to approach and sniff the hand.

*Please note the information contained herein is intended as a guide only.
Further clarification may be obtained by contacting the Council on 8525 3200.*