



Dog Attacks – what to do when dogs turn bad

What should the victim do?

- Seek medical treatment as required.
- Contact Council immediately to report the incident.

What are the victim's rights?

The victim has the right to investigate civil action against the dog owner at any stage.

What Council will do...

Once the incident has been reported to Council, a Compliance Officer will investigate the alleged attack under the guidelines of the *Animal Management (Dogs and Cats) Act 2008* and collect the following information:

- Interviews from the victim, witnesses and dog owner.
- Statements and Statutory Declarations from the victim, witnesses and dog owner.
- Photo evidence of injury to the victim from the incident.

Please note that all persons involved in the investigation process may need to support the information that they provide in a legal proceeding.

On completion of the investigation the Compliance Officer will make a recommendation and take appropriate action. The dog may be regulated if the evidence supports this decision, which may include a declaration of the dog being menacing or dangerous.

All persons involved will be advised of Council's decision at this stage.

What are the penalties?

The dog may be declared menacing or dangerous depending on the circumstances of the attack.

Requirements for a dog that is declared menacing under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*:

- The dog must be implanted with a Prescribed Permanent Identification Device.
- The dog must wear a collar with an attached identifying tag at all times.
- The dog must, unless there is a reasonable excuse, be usually kept in a childproof enclosure.
- A sign must be placed at or near each entrance to the premises where the dog is usually kept to notify the public.

Additional requirements for a dog that is declared dangerous:

- The owner must ensure the dog is desexed within 3 months after declaration unless desexing is likely to be a serious risk to the dog's health.
- A relevant dog must not be in a public place unless it is muzzled; and under the effective control of a responsible person who is only controlling the declared dog.

What are the dog owner's rights?

- Surrender the dog to Council;
- Ask for a review or request further information (within 14 days after proposed declaration);
- Appeal the decision (within 21 days after review);
- Refer to Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal at any stage (no later than 28 days after appeal).

**For more information please contact
Council's Customer Service Centre on the below details**