



## 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**