

PREVENTING DOG ATTACKS



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All dogs must be registered with Council from the age of three months.

RECOGNIZING DANGER SIGNS

There are certain times and places when a dog is more likely to be aggressive. By being aware of these danger zones, you may avoid being bitten, or if you are a dog owner, you may be able to prevent your dog from attacking someone else. If you have a dog which is aggressive, you should seek professional advice before someone is injured.

DANGER ZONES INCLUDE:

- ◆ **On the dog owner's property.** The dog may react aggressively to people that it considers as intruders.
- ◆ **Close by its owner's property.** The dog may not recognize the boundary fence or footpath as being the limit of its territory.
- ◆ **In a car or on the back of a utility.** The dog may consider the vehicle to be part of its territory and attack anyone who goes near the vehicle. If the dog is sitting in the car, don't leave the window down enough for it to lunge out and bite someone.
- ◆ **At a local park where the dog usually walks and urinates to mark its territory.**
- ◆ **When walking on a leash.** Some dogs may be protective of their owners and become aggressive to people or dogs walking by.
- ◆ **When the dog is near its owner or its owner's children.** If someone touches the owner, the dog may think that the person is threatening the owner and attack.
- ◆ **When the dog is grabbed or pulled by the collar.**
- ◆ **When the dog is nervous or feels cornered and can't run away.**
- ◆ **When the dog has a bone or toy, or is near its bed or food.**

SUPERVISING DOGS WITH CHILDREN

Dogs and small children should never be left together unsupervised. No matter how good natured the dog is, a dangerous situation could develop if the dog is hurt (i.e. tail pulled), frightened, cornered or feels threatened.

Children must not hug or kiss dogs. Many bites to children's faces are a result of the child trying to hug or kiss the dog.

Children must be taught to handle animals gently and carefully.

Adults supervising dogs with children should be aware of potentially dangerous situations:

- ◆ When the dog is feeding.
- ◆ When the dog is nervous or excited.
- ◆ When the dog is unwell or in pain.
- ◆ When the dog has a litter.
- ◆ When two dogs are playing or fighting together.
- ◆ When visiting children are with the dog.
- ◆ When children play in or near the dog's bed.

Your dog may need to be trained to wear a muzzle for safety if you are at all uncertain of how the dog will react to children.

Remember to praise the dog for good behaviour. Obedience training will help you to control your dogs behaviour.