



Responsible dog owners

- Always supervise children around dogs. Dog play can become rough and sometimes result in a bite. Constantly monitor children and dogs and never leave babies or children unsupervised around dogs.
- Teach children to stay away from dogs when they are eating, sleeping, guarding or recovering from an illness or accident. Dogs may become aggressive when disturbed in certain situations.
- Always ensure that your fencing or dog enclosure is secure. Keeping your dog confined will greatly lessen the risk to others in the community.
- Desexing your dog may help. Desexed dogs can be far less aggressive and are less likely to stray than those kept entire. Always use a leash when walking your dog in public and treat off-leash areas with the same respect as other public places. If you are going to let your dog run in an off-leash area always make sure that you are watching your pet to monitor and control the situation.



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Responsible pet ownership

Why dogs bite



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Get the facts on why dogs bite

Everyone has the right to feel safe in the community and it is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure the protection of others and keep public spaces safe for everyone to enjoy.

Why do dogs bite or show signs of aggression?

Dogs may display aggression for many reasons such as when they feel threatened, anxious, are teased, or when sick or in pain. Lack of socialisation and exposure to new people, other dogs and animals during a dog's critical learning and socialisation period (8-18 weeks of age) as well as a lack of training can also be a contributing factor leading to displays of aggressive behaviour and biting in dogs.



Preventative measures

When acquiring a new puppy consider enrolling your puppy into a puppy preschool class that focuses on socialisation and allows your puppy to meet new people, children and puppies in a positive, safe and controlled manner. Most Veterinary Clinics run puppy preschool classes, so call your local vet to book your puppy into a class. Your local Vet can also recommend a dog trainer or behaviourist for further training once your puppy graduates from puppy preschool.

The Impact of Dog Attacks

Being bitten or attacked by a dog can produce serious physical, psychological and emotional effects, not only for the person who is attacked but also for the owner of the dog. Even if a person does not get bitten, the threat of the attack can cause lasting trauma. In 2018, 1,200 people were the injured people.



Penalties

Dog owners are legally responsible for attacks by their dogs on a person or other animals. Victims of a dog attack should take steps to obtain the contact details of the owners of the attacking dog in order to formally pursue the issue.

The City strongly encourages reporting of dog attacks. City Rangers will follow up all complaints and reports within 24 hours of the initial report to Council.

A dog that has attacked may be declared a nuisance, menacing, or dangerous dog by Council depending on the circumstances of the attack.

- The dog can be declared a Dangerous dog if it, without provocation, attacked or killed a person or animal, or, has, without provocation, repeatedly threatened to attack or repeatedly chased a person or animal.
- The dog can be declared a Menacing dog if it has displayed unreasonable aggression towards a person or animals, or, has, without provocation, attacked a person or animal but without causing serious injury or death, or,
- The dog can be declared a Nuisance dog if it repeatedly runs at or chases any person, or animal.

Should a dog be declared a dangerous, menacing or nuisance dog, the owner will have to comply with the special conditions for keeping the dog as stipulated by the Companion Animals Act 1998.

In some circumstances Police and City Rangers are empowered to seize dogs declared dangerous or menacing under the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1988*.

Pets in the City

City of Sydney understands the importance of the human/companion animal bond and is committed to supporting responsible pet ownership to benefit the entire community.

Enjoy being a considerate and responsible companion animal owner.