



DISTRICT COUNCIL of TUMBY BAY

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A DOG ATTACK

What to do if a dog attacks

After a dog attack, you should seek medical or veterinary treatment as a priority.

When safe to do so, you must report the attack to your relevant council. You can contact our Animal Management Officer on 0429 882 070.

Report the incident ASAP

Like all serious incidents, time is a critical factor in dealing with dog attacks. This is especially important if the offending dog is wandering at large and still poses a risk to the public or other animals. To help council investigator(s), please try to gather the following information before contacting us:

- The date, time and exact location of the attack. If you're not sure, use your GPS equipped smart phone to check on a map or take photo of the site and surrounds.
- A description of the offending dog - registration disc, name tag, breed, colour, sex, markings, collar size and colour or if possible take photos of offending dog.
- A description of the owner – name, address, contact phone number (if possible), male or female, (approximate) age, hair (colour, length short or long) and description of clothing worn.
- If a car was involved and the offender drove away with the dog, description of the car (registration number, make, model, colour).
- A description and photographs of any injuries and location on your body or your pet's body. (Provide copies of your medical certificates, doctor and or veterinary bills as evidence.)

What happens when a dog is reported?

- Authorised Council investigator(s) may ask for or take a statement or affidavit from you.
- Photos may be taken of any injuries to yourself, or your animals or birds.
- The dog's owner may be contacted (if they can be located) to get their side of the incident.
- Investigator(s) would seek witness statements and all other evidence available.
- Investigator(s) would assess the circumstances and evidence and make a decision for action.
- Keep all the parties informed of the proceedings along the way.

Who is responsible?

You are responsible for your dog's actions.

Under the **DCMA 1995 S 44**

1. A person who sets on or urges a dog to attack,
2. It is an offence for a dog to attack, harass or chase a person, another animal or a bird owned by a person.

[Find out more from the Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995](#)

Depending on the severity of the attack, councils may:

- issue a warning.
- impose an on the spot fine of \$315 (\$750 - Dangerous or Prescribed Breeds).
- take direct court action (in more serious cases).
- impose a control order (Nuisance, Dangerous Dog, Menacing Dog, or Destruction Order).

The maximum penalty for a dog attack is \$2,500 (standard or non-standard dog) or \$5,000.00 for a Dangerous or Prescribed Breeds.

If you have any questions contact us on 08 8688 2101.

Preventing dog bites

Dogs bite for many reasons.

The most common reasons being;

- a) fear,
- b) pain,
- c) confusion (when mixing with people and other dogs).

Ignoring signs of aggression can result in serious injury to you, a member of your family, your pet(s) or others.

You can discourage biting by:

- socialising your dog from an early age so that it learns how to mix with other dogs and other people in public.
- avoiding situations that may cause your dog to become nervous or anxious.
- training your dog - obedience classes help you learn about your dog, its body language and how you can communicate with it.
- desexing your dog, research shows that on average an entire dog is more aggressive (note that desexing dog(s) will be mandatory (with exemptions) from 1 July 2018).
- asking your vet for advice if your dog shows signs of aggression towards people or other animals.

For more information on being a good dog owner, visit the [Dog and Cat Management Board website](#)