

Biting and Aggression



PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY – DOG AGGRESSION IS TOO FREQUENT

All dog owners hope their pet won't show aggression towards other animals or people, but it can and does happen for many reasons. It is often a sign of irresponsible ownership and always against the law! Pet owners are always responsible and legally liable for the actions of their animals.

RESIDENT INFORMATION

We are all aware of the need to protect our community from the danger and fear of dog attacks.

People have a right to feel safe in the community and it is the responsibility of pet owners to ensure the protection of others and to keep public areas safe for people to enjoy.

Aggressive animals have no place in public areas unless under close and direct supervision (see the Leashes and Exercise Fact Sheet).

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

- Always supervise children around dogs. Dog play can become rough and may sometimes result in a bite. Constantly monitor your children when a dog is around and never leave babies or young children alone with a dog.
- Keep children away from a dog if it is sleeping, feeding (especially when chewing a bone) or if recovering from an illness or injury.
- Always check to see that the fencing or dog enclosure is secure. Keeping the dog confined will greatly lessen the risk to others in the community.
- Always use a leash when walking a dog in public and treat off leash areas with the same respect as other public areas. If the dog is going to run in an off leash area, always make sure that the pet is watched to monitor and control the situation.
- There are additional special responsibilities for owners of **Restricted Dogs** and owners should contact council or access the council website for details.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

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 attacking dog.

Even if the victim is not bitten, the threat of the attack can cause lasting trauma. Think how you would feel if you were the victim?

PENALTIES

There are laws to prevent dog attacks, and should a dog attack a person or another animal, the owner could be fined and may also lose their dog.

Once a dog has attacked, the council may list the animals as a "Menacing Dog" or a "Dangerous Dog" and the owner will have to comply with the special conditions listed in the State Legislation Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008.

When a dog is classified as "Menacing" the owner must:

- Identify the dog by a microchip implant,
- Have an identifying tag with the words "Regulated Dog",
- Display a sign advising of a Menacing Dog on the premises,
- Maintain the dog's registration with council at all times,
- Provide and maintain a proper fence or enclosure to prevent the dog from escaping, as set out in the general conditions for keeping a Menacing Dog,
- The dog must only be kept at the place stated in the registration notices as the address for the dog,



When a dog is classified as “Dangerous” the owner must:

- Identify the dog by a microchip implant,
- Have the dog desexed within 3 months of the date the dog is declared as a “Dangerous Dog”,
- Ensure the dog is always muzzled in a public place,
- Display a sign advising of a Dangerous Dog on the premises,
- Maintain the dog’s registration with council at all times,
- Provide and maintain a proper fence or enclosure to prevent the dog from escaping, as set out in the general conditions for keeping a Dangerous Dog,
- The dog must only be kept at the place stated in the registration notice as the address for the dog.

NUISANCE DOGS

Nuisance dogs are another major issue for the community.

“Nuisance” includes where an animal is unrestrained when away from the owner’s premises, barking excessively, wandering at large or attacking.

Council has the ability to seize any animal causing a nuisance three or more times within a twelve-month period.

MORE INFORMATION & CONTACTING COUNCIL

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please call Council’s Customer Service Centre on 1300 878 001.

Alternatively a range of Fact Sheets along with information regarding Local Law No. 2 can be accessed by visiting the Townsville City Council website www.townsville.qld.gov.au and following the links to animals.

