



If Your Dog Attacks

If you are the owner of a dog, you are legally responsible for their actions. Dog attacks are not only frightening for all involved, but can result in serious injury to people and animals.

Be proactive

There are simple steps you can take to minimise the risk of your dog attacking a person or other animal.

- ✓ Ensure your dog cannot leave your property, if fencing a yard is not an option due to renting or financial difficulty you are still required to provide an enclosure to contain it.
- ✓ The majority of dog attacks are committed by wandering or unrestrained animals.
- ✓ Leash laws are in effect in Longreach Regional Council, so always walk your dog on a lead when in a public place to ensure you have full control.
- ✓ Supervise children around dogs – particularly when the dog is sleeping, feeding or recovering from injury or illness.
- ✓ Train and socialize your dog to reduce its chance of aggression while in public areas.

Penalties

There are significant penalties for allowing your dog to attack a person or other animal. This includes in instances when an attack occurs because of an owners failure to contain their dog allowing it to wander at large.

Dog attack maximum penalties as of July 2018 are:

- ✓ Deliberately causing the death of or grievous bodily harm to a person. \$39,000.00 (*if found guilty of setting the dog to attack the person or animal*).
- ✓ Causing death or grievous bodily harm to an animal - \$13,000.00
- ✓ If the attack causes grievous bodily harm to a person or animal - \$6,500.00
- ✓ Other lesser attacks on a person or animal - \$2,600.00
- ✓ In addition to these penalties your dog may also be seized and destroyed.

The dog's owner's ramifications:

- ✓ You may also be fined for breaches of Local Law, e.g. leash laws and wandering at large.
- ✓ You can be prosecuted in Court resulting in convictions and heavy fines.
- ✓ Your dog may be declared as dangerous or menacing, resulting in higher registration fees.
- ✓ You may be required to build fencing or containment and bear all the associated costs.
- ✓ You may have to place a regulated dog tag on your dog at all times.
- ✓ You may have to post approved warning signage at all entry points to your property.
- ✓ Depending on the circumstances you may also face Police actions.
- ✓ If your dog is declared as dangerous or menacing and escapes, it can be seized and destroyed immediately under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.
- ✓ You can also face civil action and be sued for other damages. These costs may include vehicle damage if the dog being at large causes an accident, or medical and veterinary expenses.