



### Reporting a Dog Attack

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Dog attacks are investigated under Queensland's *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* not Council's Local Laws. As a result a more formal process is required when Officers investigate.

When an attack occurs it is extremely important that you contact Council immediately on **(07) 4658 4111** - even outside business hours. Reporting an attack immediately gives Council the best chance of securing the dog and gathering much needed evidence.

#### **Why delayed and late reporting makes investigation difficult:**

- Witnesses may not be located, especially if they are travellers who may have left town.
- The offending dog and dog owner may not be located.
- The extent of injuries may not accurately demonstrate the severity of the attacks.

### When a complaint is received:

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- ✓ A Council officer will speak to the person reporting the attack to identify the parties involved and gather initial details.
- ✓ The officer will go to the attack location, or property where the dog lives, to secure the dog and inspect its enclosure.
- ✓ The officer will speak to the owner if present; at this point the owner may voluntarily surrender the dog to Council.
- ✓ If the owner wishes to retain their animal, the Council officer will seize and hold the accused dog for the duration of the investigation under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

#### **Why do officers seize the accused dog?**

This is primarily for public safety, to ensure that animals suspected of an attack are prevented from wandering at large for the duration of the investigation.

#### **The victim or witnesses to the attack will be asked to provide:**

- ✓ A detailed statement in person by attending Council's Local Laws Office.
- ✓ Photographs of injuries to be taken either by the officer or another person.
- ✓ Any medical/veterinary reports and receipts.
- ✓ If the matter goes to court, the victim and witnesses will be required to attend the court hearing.
- ✓ If the victim is a child, the parent or guardian will be required to give a statement and sign a release allowing the minors injuries to be photographed in the parent or guardians presence.

#### **What if a victim or witnesses refuses to assist Council after reporting?**

Council cannot proceed without adequate evidence - this generally means that no offence can be proven and as such no further actions can be taken.