

Dog attacks - owners

As a dog owner, you are legally responsible for how your dog behaves. By managing your dog correctly, you can prevent it from attacking people and animals.

Dog attack

The *Dog Act 1976* interprets an “attack” to be aggressively rushing at or harassing any person or animal; or biting, or otherwise causing physical injury to, a person or animal; or tearing clothing on, or otherwise causing damage to the property of, the person attacked; or attempting to attack, or behaving in such a manner toward a person as would cause a reasonable person to fear injury.

How to prevent your dog attacking people and animals

- Never allow your dog to wander unsupervised
- Install secure fencing and regularly check it
- When out keep your dog on a leash

When in any public place in Western Australia, your dog must be tethered or on a leash unless the place is a designated dog exercise area. You may exercise your dog off the leash in designated dog exercise areas, however, as an owner you are still fully responsible for the control and behaviour of your dog.

Keep your dog and family safe. Allowing your dog to wander puts its health at risk and can even endanger yours. Every year hundreds of pets are shot, poisoned and impounded for attacking people and livestock. Other roaming dogs die from snake bite or traffic accidents. Those that do return often bring back diseases that could be passed on to their owner’s family or other pets.



Be a responsible dog owner

Dogs need more than food and water; they have to be trained, controlled, vaccinated, registered and exercised.

What to do if I am attacked?

If you, or someone you observe, are threatened or attacked by dogs, call the City of Swan on **9267 9267**. If serious or life threatening injuries are sustained call **000** or seek the required medical attention.

Fines & penalties

As a dog owner you can be fined up to \$10,000, or even be charged with manslaughter, if your dog attacks.

For additional details, please visit the City's website www.swan.wa.gov.au or call the City of Swan on **9267 9267**.