

# Dog attacks - victims

A dog attack is traumatic for both the victim and the dog owner but most can be avoided if dog owners properly manage their pets.

## 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.

## What to do if I am attacked?

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

## What does the City do when a dog attack report is received?

- Make sure that the dog is no longer a threat to the community and that the victim is now safe
- Make contact with the victim or any witnesses to gather all available evidence
- Make contact with the dog owner (if known) and try to mediate an outcome for all parties concerned

Court action may be taken at the City's discretion depending on the circumstances of the attack which may include severity of injuries, quality of evidence and consideration of the animals history.

## Fines and 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](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au) or call the City of Swan on **9267 9267**.