

VICTIMS OF DOG ATTACKS

All residents and visitors of the Isaac region have the right to use public land without fear of being attacked by a dog.

Any dog attack on a person and/or animal should be reported to Isaac Regional Council on 1300 47 22 27.

It is a serious offence to encourage a dog to attack, harass or chase another person and/or animal under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008. Severe penalties and orders can apply to offending dog owners.

Who is legally responsible for a dog?

Dog owner/s, or the person in control of the dog at the time, are legally and financially responsible if their dog attacks or bites another person and/or animal/s. For example, if you are caring for somebody else's dog when it attacks another person and/or animal, you may be held liable for related costs.

Dog owners are also potentially liable if your dog attacks a person or animal outside your property or even if it attacks someone trying to get to your front door. You are also liable if your dog attacks someone who has been invited on to your property.

When should you report a dog attack?

If you or someone else, or your dog and/or another animal have been attacked by a dog, you should report the attack to Isaac Regional Council or the Police as soon as possible.

It is important that you remember as many details as possible about the attack and the dog/s description, so Council has more information for the investigation.

Who investigates and enforces the laws relating to dogs?

Dog attacks are very serious and authorised officers of Council may seize the dog/s and hold it while they investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

The provisions of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, enables authorised officers of Council, to take proceedings on behalf of Council and the victim against the offending dog owner that has allegedly offended against the Act

What does the investigation process entail?

Once a victim of a dog attack has contacted Council, an officer will attend and speak with the victim regarding the incident. The officer will also need to gather as much evidence about the attack including a detailed description of the dog/s that attacked, time, date, location of where the attack took place, where it lives and the owner, where possible.

If it is determined that an attack has taken place, authorised officers will conduct an investigation that may include the victims statements, medical reports, photographs and other evidence gathering. The alleged dog owner given the opportunity to respond to the allegations involving their dog/s. After all the evidence has been gathered, a decision will be made on whether the matter will be resolved by issuing infringement notices, compliance paperwork, Regulated Dog Declaration or Court proceedings.

What is the prosecution process?

If a Regulated Dog Proposal (Dangerous & Menacing) is issued to the offending dog/s owner, the owner has the ability to request a review of a Regulated Dog Proposal within the provided timeframe. If the review is successful then the matter is finalised. If the proposal stands it will progress to a Regulated Dog Declaration.

The Owner may again review the Regulated Dog Declaration within the provided timeframe, if the review is successful then the matter is finalised. If the Declaration stands the owner has one final review available to them through the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

It is the responsibility of the owner commence proceedings at QCAT within the provided timeframe. If no proceedings are commenced the dog remains a Regulated Dog and the owner is bound by the provisions of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 in relation to the keeping of a Regulated Dog and their responsibilities as the owner of a Regulated Dog.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU | 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27)

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