

# DOG ATTACKS

## FAQ's for victims of a dog attack



Isaac Regional Council acknowledges that dog attacks can occur for many different reasons. Dog attack matters are considered to be serious and council actively investigates all reports of dog attacks and aggressive dogs.

### What is a dog attack?

A dog attack is defined as an attack, or act in a way that causes fear to, a person or another animal.

The *Animal Management (Dogs and Cats) Act 2008* prescribes that a person must not allow or encourage a dog to attack, or act in a way that causes fear, to a person or another animal.

### What to do if involved in a dog attack

If you, someone else, your dog and/or another animal have been attacked by a dog:

- Do not try to break up the dog fight with your bare hands.
- To shock the dogs into breaking apart pour/tip water from a water bottle over the dog's heads or use a hose to wet their body (do not point the hose at the dogs' mouth as this could cause drowning)
- Keep calm with the other dog owner,

and swap details if it is safe to do so and focus on each other's and your pet's health.

- Seek medical/veterinary treatment immediately. Your dog may have internal injuries
- Contact council immediately to report the incident.

### Does the owner of the attacking dog have to pay for my medical bills?

Who is responsible for the medical or veterinary bills is a civil matter and you will need to obtain independent legal advice.

### Victim Rights

Being attacked may cause serious physical, psychological and emotional effects, for both the owner and the person attacked. The victim has the right to take civil action against the dog owner at any stage.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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### What will Council consider during investigations?

All circumstances surrounding the incident will be considered including the circumstances leading up to the event. The investigation will include obtaining an account of the incident from all relevant parties involved in the matter. The investigating officer will contact the;

- complainant and/or victim;
- the witnesses
- the dog owner/s (if known)

to arrange a time to interview to collect formal statements and evidence. Medical reports and photographic/video evidence may also be obtained. This evidence will determine what course of action will be taken. The length of an investigation may vary depending on the complexity of the case and staff resourcing. Council will keep you informed by providing updates on the progression of the case.

### How you can assist Council

Without supporting evidence the ability for Council to action the matter is limited. You can assist Council by:

- Taking photographs of any injuries to you or your pet (do not do this if it will

cause you additional distress).

- Taking photographs of the scene.
- Obtaining copies of medical records

### Key elements to recall

- Date, time, and location of the attack
- Description of the dog, such as colour, breed, size and specific identifying features
- Details of dog owner
- Details surrounding the incident including the circumstances leading up to the event

### What action could Council take?

Council's action will depend on the type of offence that has been committed and the severity of the incident. If evidence is obtained that establishes your dog was responsible for the attack incident, action may include a:

- Warning
- Penalty Infringement Notice (Fine)
- Notice of intention to [declare the dog](#) either menacing or dangerous
- a combination of any of the above.

All persons involved will be advised of council's decision at this stage.

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