



## Residents Information on Dog Attacks



## **RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP STARTS WITH YOU**

Dog attacks can be traumatic experiences for all involved. It is the duty of the Shire to Investigate Dog attacks and to take action accordingly under the *Dog Act 1976* dependent on the circumstances involved.

Responsible dog ownership is the key in preventing dog attacks. If not properly controlled, held or contained, dogs, may behave according to instinct and it is not possible to prevent or predict all attacks.

The Shires Community Safety Rangers will investigate all reported dog attacks. It is therefore important to report all attacks. This will enable Rangers to:

- Begin to compile evidence to determine if a breach of the *Dog Act 1976* has been committed
- Prevent repeated attacks by the dog/s concerned

Rangers have training and equipment to handle dogs of all sizes and temperament.

## **TYPES OF DOG ATTACKS?**

There are two types of dog attacks:

1. Dog Attack or chase on a person or animal causing injury. Any serious or life threatening injury to a person/s immediately call 000.
2. Dog Attack or chase on a person or animal without causing injury. Such as rushing towards you and or aggressively barking.

## **WHAT WILL RANGERS DO**

When there is a report of a serious dog attack, a ranger will attend to ensure the attacking dog/s have been restrained and/or contained, if necessary a seizure notice may be completed and the attacking dog/s impounded.

If seized, the dog/s are taken to the pound facility where it is impounded and cared for by the rangers:

- This does not necessarily mean that your dog will be euthanised/put down or that the Shire will approach a magistrate to authorise that.
- This is to ensure no further danger to the community remains and the investigating ranger can gather evidence of the attack.
- If the ranger is not satisfied that the attacking dog/s can be properly contained, it won't be released back to the owner until they can demonstrate the dog/s can be properly contained.
- Seizure and Impoundment of your dog will incur fees and charges



Once the ranger is satisfied that no further danger to the community exists, and the dog/s are effectively contained, the ranger will begin to gather evidence, which may include all or some of the below to establish the circumstances leading up to, during and after the attack;

- Statements from the individuals involved
- Witness statements if the attack was seen by others
- Victim impact statements
- Photographs/CCTV footage
- Medical reports of persons injured
- Vet reports of animals injured
- Recorded prior history of the attacking dog/s
- Behavioural assessment of the dog/s
- Observations by the rangers when interacting with the dogs on a daily basis if the dog/s concerned have been impounded

### **CONSIDERING THE EVIDENCE/ACTION**

Once all the evidence is collected, a case file is assembled. The case file allows the investigating ranger to consider the evidence and recommend a course of action. Further review is carried out by management on the recommendation to ensure the appropriate course of action is taken, or if higher consequences are needed such as a prosecution.

If decided that a prosecution is warranted, the case file goes to the Shires solicitors for further comment and action.

Recommendations and actions could include:

- Education
- Caution
- Infringement
- Prosecution
- Dangerous Dog Declaration
- Euthanasia of the Dog

We acknowledge the importance of communication with those involved in or directly affected by the attack. Therefore, the Shire is committed in keeping all who were involved up to date with the available information or decisions. If you have any questions about your particular case please call the number given to you by the attending ranger.



## WHEN AND HOW DO I REPORT A DOG ATTACK?

### IMMEDIATELY

#### **During work hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)**

Contact the Community Safety Team on **9290 6629**. This is regardless of how minor it may be. If you are calling about a dog attack currently in progress or of a serious nature the ranger will attend and call as soon as possible. For other attacks of a minor nature you can expect a call within 30 minutes by the ranger.

#### **Afterhours/Weekends and Public Holidays**

The Shire provides an after hour's service to the community on a priority basis by calling the same number above **9290 6629**.

Your call will go to an after hour's service, who will contact the on call ranger. Any dog attack in progress or an attack that has caused a serious injury to a person or animal is treated as a priority, the ranger will attend and call you back as soon as possible. Other attacks of a minor nature you should receive a call within 30 minutes from the ranger.

Dog owners are responsible and liable for all actions taken by their dog/s. To avoid being involved in any form of attack ensure the following:

- Your dog/s are properly contained within your property and not able to escape
- Your dog is on a leash at all times when in public, unless in a designated Dog Exercise Area (conditions apply)
- You have a proper means to hold or tether your dog when in public.
- Be aware of your surroundings and be able identify changes in your dog's behaviour to avoid an attack.

More information can be found on the Shires website:

**[www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au)**

under Safety & Rangers or scan the QR code below.



**Safety & Rangers - Shire of Mundaring**

Thank you

