



CITY OF
TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better

PREVENTING DOG ATTACKS

Dog attacks are frightening for all involved and often result in serious injury. They can be prevented in most cases by ensuring your pet interacts safely with other people and their animals.

Dogs can become aggressive if they feel threatened by the behaviour of other people or animals, or if they are spooked by loud noises or unexpected actions. Attacks are also more likely to occur when dogs are roaming unsupervised – either because they have escaped from their yard or they are allowed to run free when going for a walk.

Be proactive and a responsible pet owner

You can help prevent dog attacks by:

- Ensuring your dog stays at home
- Walking your dog on a lead whenever you are out in public
- Having effective control of your dog in public, or when using dog off-leash areas or shared public spaces
- Attending dog obedience or dog behaviour classes
- Supervising children around dogs, particularly if the dog is sleeping, feeding

City of Tea Tree Gully 571 Montague Road Modbury 5092

T (08) 8397 7444 **E** customerservice@cttg.sa.gov.au **S** [facebook.com/CityofTeaTreeGully](https://www.facebook.com/CityofTeaTreeGully)

or recovering from injury or illness

- Teaching your family including your children how to interact safely with dogs by modelling the desired behaviour.

If approached by a dog you don't know

- Stand still and do not run, as the dog may chase
- Be quiet, curl fingers inwards and keep arms down by your sides
- Look away from the dog, not into its eyes
- Wait for the dog to go away
- Report the incident.

What should I do in a dog attack situation

These simple suggestions may help in the event of a dog attack. However it's important to note that all dog attacks are different and these actions may not stop a dog attack from happening.

- DO NOT RUN. Running from a dog presenting with aggressive behaviour could activate the dog's hunting instinct and cause it to chase you and drag you down as if you were its prey. Move calmly and with purpose but do not ignite the dog's interest with sudden movement.
- Yell at the animal in a strong, loud, deep voice. This is a key command technique in control of animals both domestic and wild. In the wild the alpha animal in the pack is the loudest and strongest. Using your voice to present yourself as the alpha in an attack scenario may be all that is required to deter an attack from taking place.
- Using objects in your environment can also be of assistance in preventing an attack or minimising the risk of injury in an attack.
- If a dog latches on to you in an attack DO NOT FIGHT THE BITE. Resisting the bite by pulling away from the dog may cause the dog to thrash and pull back, this can in turn create a far worse injury. If you do find yourself in this situation try to remain as calm as possible, call for assistance or try to break the dog's concentration with a loud noise such as a whistle to get it to release.

Your dog and children

Studies show that children who own pets have higher self-esteem, improved social skills and are more popular with their peers. Pet ownership can create a number of positive opportunities for children to develop a sense of responsibility and caring for others, establish a daily exercise routine and develop friendships.

Children's natural behaviours (including running, yelling, hitting and darting movements) can put them at a greater risk of dog bite injuries, as can pulling the dog's fur.

Always supervise children as bites tend to occur when they are playing, patting or disturbing the dog while it is sleeping or eating. The proximity of a child's face to the dog increases the risk of facial injuries.

What to teach your child:

- Never approach a strange dog without permission from the owner
- If allowed by the owner, stroke the dog's back but avoid touching the dog's head
- Do not approach a dog when it is sleeping or eating, or if it is caring for puppies
- Approach a dog slowly with the back of the hand extended
- Curl fingers inwards and allow the dog to sniff
- Stand still like a fence post if approached by a strange dog and do not squeal or jump
- Avoid eye contact with the dog
- Leave a dog alone if it lifts its lips, growls, backs away or raises the hair on its back.

If you require more information or wish to report a dog attack, please contact the Compliance Team on 8397 7313 during office hours or 1300 405 536 outside of business hours.