

# Biting and aggression



Pet owners may hope their pet won't show aggression towards other animals or people but it can and does happen for many reasons.

**Pet owners are responsible and legally liable for the actions of their animals.**

## Community rights

People have a right to feel safe in our community and public areas should be safe for everyone to enjoy. Aggressive animals have no place in public areas and should always be under the close and direct supervision of their owner or responsible person.

**Pet owners must ensure their dog does not bite or act aggressively towards other people or animals.**

## Responsible pet ownership

- **Always supervise** children around dogs as play can become rough and may result in a bite/nip.
- **Keep children away** from a dog if it is sleeping, feeding (especially chewing a bone) or recovering from an illness or injury.
- **Ensure your fencing** or dog enclosure is secure to reduce the risk to others in the community. Your enclosure should not allow your dog to escape into other yards or public spaces.

- **Always use a leash** when walking your dog in public and treat off-leash areas with the same respect as other public areas. Dogs must be monitored in off-leash areas so owners can control the situation.
- Ensure your pet has been appropriately **trained and socialised**.

## Impact on victims

Being bitten, threatened, or attacked by a dog can produce serious physical, psychological and emotional effects, not only for the person who is attacked but also for the owner of the attacking dog.

**Restricted dog breeds are strictly prohibited from being kept within the Bundaberg Regional Council local government area. Contact Council for more information.**

## Penalties

Local laws are in place to deal with attacks and menacing behaviour by dogs. Should your dog attack a person or animal or instil fear or apprehension in a person, you could be in breach of those laws wherein Council may seize your dog, issue you with fines or commence a legal prosecution for more serious matters. Proven complaints may result in your animal being listed as a 'regulated dog' and the necessity to comply with special conditions listed in the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.