

CITY OF BELMONT

Preventing Dogs Attacks

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Recognising Danger Zones

There are certain times and places where a dog is more likely to be aggressive.

By being aware of these danger zones you may avoid being bitten or if you are a dog owner, you may be able to prevent your dog from biting someone else.

If you have a dog which is aggressive you should seek professional advice before someone is injured.

Danger Zones Include:

- On the dog owner's property. The dog may react aggressively to people it considers as intruders.
 - Close by the owner's property. The dog may not recognise the boundary fence or the foot path as being the limit of its territory.
 - In the car or on the back of a utility or truck. The dog may consider the vehicle to be part of its territory and bite anyone who goes near the vehicle. If the dog is sitting in the car don't leave the window down far enough for the dog to lunge out and bite someone.
 - At a local park or street where the dog regularly walks and urinates to mark these areas as its territory.
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 - When being walked on a leash some dogs may be protective of their owners and become aggressive towards people or dogs walking by.
 - When the dog is near its owner or the owner's children. If someone touches the owner, the dog may think that the person is threatening the owner and bite.
 - When the dog is grabbed or pulled by the collar.
 - When the dog is nervous or feels cornered and can't run away.
 - When the dog has a bone or toy or is near its food or bed.

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Supervising Dogs With Children

Dogs and small children should never be left together unsupervised. No matter how good natured the dog is a dangerous situation could develop if the dog is hurt, frightened, cornered or feels threatened.

Children must not hug and kiss dogs. Many bites on children's faces result from the child trying to hug a dog.

Children must be taught to handle animals gently and carefully.

Adults supervising dogs with children should be aware of potentially dangerous situations:

- When there is food around.
- When the dog is nervous or excited.
- When the dog is unwell or in pain.
- When the dog has a litter of pups.
- When two dogs are playing or fighting together.
- When visiting children are with the dog.
- When children play in or near the dog's bed

Your dog may need to be trained to wear a muzzle for safety if you are at all uncertain about how the dog will react to children.

Remember to praise and reward the dog for good behaviour. Obedience training will help you to control your dog's behaviour.

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