

MYTHS

Only certain breeds of dog will attack.

FALSE!

All dogs can bite regardless of breed, sex, age or size.

'Camp dogs' attack more often than domesticated dogs.

FALSE!

These animals are most likely to attack if you harm or touch them or their owner. Statistics show they attack less often than domesticated dogs.

A dog that attacks animals is always a danger to people as well.

FALSE!

Not all dogs that attack other animals are dangerous to people.

It is normal for a dog to occasionally snap or growl at people.

FALSE!

These are early warning signs of aggression and must be taken seriously. Seek professional advice immediately!

TRAIN YOUR DOG!

Dogs are more likely to bite if they are not socialised, trained or controlled properly.

As a dog owner, be responsible and train your dog from a young age.

Contact the RSPCA on 8953 4430 for training information. They can inform you on puppy classes, obedience classes and behavioural trainers.

All dogs over 6 months of age must be registered with the Alice Springs Town Council.

This information may assist in avoiding dog attacks but is not a guarantee.

Alice Springs Town Council
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Avoiding dog attacks



Contact your local Alice Springs Town Council Ranger for further information.



All dogs can bite!

Identify times and places where a dog may be more aggressive and be aware:

- A dog owner's property or close to it
- While eating
- When playing with a toy
- In a car or on the back of a truck
- With a litter of pups

Supervise dogs with children:

- No matter how good natured the dog is, a dangerous situation could occur
- Children must not hug and kiss dogs
- Teach children to handle animals gently and carefully

Remember to praise and reward dogs for good behaviour - whether it's your own dog or not.

Recognising early signs of aggression

Does your dog tense up, stare, raise its hackles, growl, lift its lips or snap when:

- Eating?
- Someone is near its bed or toys?
- Someone pulls on its collar?
- Ears, paws or belly are touched?
- If picked up or grabbed?

Does your dog lunge at people or other dogs when out walking?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then your dog may be aggressive.

Seek professional advice. Your dog's behaviour is likely to get worse with time, not better. The sooner you seek help, the more easily the problem can be solved.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL SOMEONE IS BITTEN!

How do I handle a dog attack?

Always carry a deterrent - a citronella spray device or even a whistle. A whistle will startle a dog, which is better than nothing.

If you are being attacked:

- Try to remain as still as possible, avoid eye contact, wait for the dog to lose interest in you, then calmly walk away.
- The more you fight off a dog, the more it will want to attack you.

If your dog is being attacked:

- Do not pick up your dog to save it. This will not stop the attack - it will only include you as a target.

