

Toolbox Talk

AGGRESSIVE DOGS

Dogs with no previous history of biting can sometimes bite. A breed's reputation, or appearance, is also no guarantee of a dog's behaviour. Family dogs such as labradors, collies and terriers are all known to have been involved in fatal attacks.

The advice outlined below will help you to prevent dog bites.

Signs that a dog is becoming aggressive and may be about to bite includes:

- the hairs on the dog's back rising up
- the dog bearing its teeth
- the dog's ears moving either forward or back against their head
- the dog stares directly at you
- the dog's legs stiffen

Never enter a premises where a dog is loose and hope that it won't bite, report to your supervisor that it is not safe to enter, even the friendliest dog can take a role as guardian and attack

If you are presented with an aggressive dog, you should stand still, with your feet together, your arms placed against your chest, and your fists folded below your neck. Face the dog but avoid direct eye contact because it may interpret it as an aggressive act.

If you have to knock on a door and you suspect that there may be a dog behind it place an item such as a spade between you and the door.

You should not attempt to run away from the dog. By standing still it should lose interest, allowing you to back away slowly.

If a dog jumps on you and knocks you to the ground, you should try to lie still, face down, with your legs together and your fists behind your neck with your forearms covering your ears. Once the dog realises that you are not moving, it should lose interest and move away.

If you are bitten you must receive first aid treatment as soon as possible.

Report any incidents with aggressive dogs to your supervisor.

