

How to prevent dog attacks in the community

Dog owners:

- Confining dogs to their property could prevent 80% of dog attacks in public places.
- Your yard must have a closed gate, escape proof fencing, and visitors must have safe access to the front door.
- All dogs can be territorial. Most dog attacks in public occur on the footpath or road in front of the dog's property.
- You can be fined if your dog isn't securely confined, or if it rushes at or attacks a person or animal. Under certain circumstances, if your dog kills or endangers the life of someone, you can even be jailed.

Know what to do if approached by an aggressive dog:

- Stand still; don't run.
- Keep your hands by your side.
- Stay quiet; try not to make any noise.
- Avoid eye contact with the dog; look at the ground.
- Once the dog has lost interest, slowly back away.



responsible
pet ownership



Stand still



Keep hands down



Stay quiet



Avoid eye contact

Know how to approach dogs safely:

- Always get permission from the owner to pat his/her dog.
- Approach the dog from an angle, rather than directly from the front or rear.
- Slowly extend the back of your hand with your fingers curled under, and allow the dog to sniff.
- Stroke the dog on the side of the chest, the shoulders or under the chin (not on top of the head).
- Don't continue patting the dog if it backs away or doesn't sniff your hand.



Walk up slowly



Ask permission



Allow dog to sniff



Stroke the dog

For more information, visit www.vic.gov.au/pets

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, TTY 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

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