

How to prevent dog attacks in the home

The problem:

- Most serious dog attacks (resulting in hospitalisation) occur in the home.
- Children under 5 years are the group most at risk of dog attack, followed by children 5–9 years.
- Children are more likely to be hospitalised due to dog attack than due to a car accident.
- Most children are bitten by their own dog, or by a dog they know, when playing with, patting or feeding it.

The solution:

- Active supervision is the key. Never leave young children (particularly children under 5 years of age) alone with dogs.
- Train and socialise your dog. Understand a little about dog behaviour.
- Don't allow children to play roughly, tease or corner dogs, or hug dogs around the neck.
- Teach kids the warning signs of a frightened or angry dog, and what to do if confronted by an aggressive dog (see the card "How to prevent dog attacks in the community").
- Teach kids when to leave dogs alone. eg when dogs are asleep, feeding, unwell, with pups, tied up, not with owner, in a car, behind a fence/gate.

Don'ts for dogs



Don't tease



Don't disturb when sick



Don't approach angry dogs



Don't cuddle face to face



Don't disturb when sleeping



Don't disturb when feeding



Don't approach frightened dogs



Don't allow dogs near parties



Don't disturb when with pups



Don't climb on fences

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.

Published by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, January 2016.

© The State of Victoria 2016.

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Authorised by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resource
1 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000.

ISBN 1 74106 729 4

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

vic.gov.au/pets