

## After an attack

There are many things for a dog owner to consider after an attack including:

- has the dog has shown signs of aggression before?
- has the behaviour of the dog changed lately?
- has the dog's behaviour become a problem?
- has it been alleged to have been involved in a previous attack incident?
- is your yard appropriate for the dog?
- can your yard be adequately secured to prevent the dog escaping?
- can you ensure your dog is muzzled, on a leash and under the control of a competent person when in public?
- can you ensure your safety and the safety of your family, friends and general public?.
- could you comply with the conditions if the dog was declared a dangerous dog?
- should your dog be surrendered to Council?



If the dog has been involved in an attack and Council declares it to be a dangerous or menacing dog, strict conditions must be complied with. The ranger may provide these conditions to you or you may request them.



## For more information

Should you have any questions or require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Council's Regulatory Services on (02) 4974 2000 or the ranger who initially attended to this matter on:

*Promoting responsible pet ownership*

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# Regulatory Services Alleged dog attacks



For more information  
[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)



## What to do if your dog is alleged to have been involved in an attack?

You have been advised by:

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a ranger with Newcastle City Council, that your dog is alleged to have been involved in an attack.



Section 16 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 provides that an attack is where a dog rushes at, attacks, bites, harasses or chases any person or animal (other than vermin), whether or not any injury is caused to the person or animal.

## What should you do if a dog attack is being investigated?

### Secure your property

If your dog escaped from your yard, identify how this occurred:

- check for holes along the fence line or gate where the dog could crawl under.
- remove anything from near the fence line or elsewhere that the dog could have used to jump over
- check existing locks on gates or doors. Consider making all gates self closing and self latching.

If you do not know how the dog escaped, consider placing the dog on a chain, long enough for the dog to access food, water and shelter.

### Address the dogs behaviour

There are many different organisations that specialise in dog behaviour and can be found in the yellow pages or online. Simply look up dog training in Newcastle or seek advice from your vet or the RSPCA.



## What action could Council potentially take?

The enforcement options available to Council will depend upon the evidence obtained during the investigation.

### If evidence is obtained that establishes your dog was responsible for the attack incident, action may include a:

- warning
- caution under the Fines Act 1996
- penalty infringement notice (fine)
- notice of intention to declare your dog a nuisance
- nuisance dog declaration
- notice of intention to declare a dog menacing
- menacing dog declaration
- notice of intention to declare a dog dangerous
- dangerous dog declaration
- prosecution in Court
- combination of any of the above.

### Council will consider:

- circumstances and seriousness of the attack
- the nature and extent of injuries sustained by the victim(s)
- the behaviour of the dog
- breed
- the role of the dog and whether the dog was provoked.

