

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT **Your safety around dogs**

09 May 2017

This safety alert has been issued to remind you of the precautions to take to reduce the risk of dog bite incidents when working on DHA sites.

The key to preventing the potential of being bitten by a dog—or having a tenant's dog escape through an open gate—is to request the tenant restrain their dogs at the beginning of an appointment, whether for quotation purposes or when completing work.

Everyone plays a role in preventing dog bites.

Do a risk assessment before starting work

- Ask tenants if they have a dog(s).
- Ask them to restrain their dog(s) by tying them up or locking them in the garage or house.
- If the tenant refuses, suggest returning at another time when the dogs can be restrained or removed from the location.

Not so fun facts

- Dog bites are the most common bite injury.
- Around 13,000 Australians attend emergency departments every year for treatment of a dog bite.
- Almost 1,400 Australians are hospitalized each year from a dog bite.
- Children aged 4 to 9 have the highest rate of serious injury, particularly facial injuries.
- Between 4 to 25 per cent of dog bites become infected. Deeper wounds, puncture injuries, crush wounds and wounds on the hand may increase the risk of infection.
- All dog breeds can bite—it is not limited to restricted breeds.

If you are chased, menaced, attacked or bitten by a dog

- Report the incident to whs@dha.gov.au
- Report the incident to your local council.
- If you are injured, wash the bites out immediately with clean water, seek medical attention and call an ambulance if you need to. You may need treatment to prevent infection.



Report all incidents to DHA
Phone **139 DHA (342)**