

Information sheet for complainant allegation of a dog attack

What happens during an investigation?

- Council will run a background check on the dog and the dog's owner for previous offence history.
- Officers may do a doorknock of the immediate area for witnesses, and if applicable conduct interviews for statements.
- You will be interviewed and asked to provide a statement and other evidence, such as photographs of injuries, surrounding area and medical and veterinary transcripts. Please complete, sign and return within 3 days.
- The owner/keeper of the offending dog will be asked for an interview to make a statement.
- The interviews will be recorded.

Your role in the Investigation

Your evidence is crucial.

A recorded interview with two Local Laws Officers will take place to determine what happened, or, you will be required to complete a statement form. Photographs will be taken of any injuries that may have been sustained, and, also of where the alleged attack took place and surrounding area. Officers will arrange with you a date and time for you to confirm the statement is true and correct and for you to sign the statement.

To fit in with busy lifestyles, appointments can be made outside business hours, including weekends.

Confidentiality

Your personal details will remain confidential. However, documents relating to the case, such as your Statement, may be made available under the Right to Information Act or if the case is dealt with by Queensland Civil Administrative Tribunal (QCAT). If you are concerned about this, please let the Local Laws Officer handling your case know.

What will happen to the dog?

The dog's history, the severity and location of the attack will determine the level of action. Under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, if there is evidence the dog has attacked, Council may:

- Direct the responsible person to enclose the dog in a secure and safe area; or
- Declare the dog a "dangerous" or "menacing" dog, making the responsible person comply with strict requirements; or
- Seize the dog and impound for the duration of the investigation; or
- Seize the dog and issue a 'destruction order'. Please note that such an order may be appealed Queensland Civil Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

Will the owners be fined?

If there is evidence the dog has attacked, Council may commence prosecution, which carries a maximum court ordered penalty of \$20,000. The owners may also be fined for;

- Failing to register the dog/s,
- For not having the dog/s under effective control in a public place (no leash); or
- Wandering at large,
- Not maintaining a proper enclosure.

Medical and Veterinary Costs

It is not Council's role to recover medical or veterinary costs. This is a civil matter.

If you need more information, please call the Officer listed on this form.

Please note, this information sheet is a guide as to how Council investigates a dog attack complaint.

This is not legal advice.

The Local Laws Officer handling this investigation is:

Name:

Phone: 1300 308 461

