

Public Service Announcement

May 20, 2014

City of Edmonton

Dog bites are no woofing matter

Dogs can be a valuable addition to any family but, on occasion, they can chase, attack or bite people and other animals. Every day people are exposed to the risk of a dog attack, particularly postal delivery workers, meter readers and children. Recovery from a severe dog bite can take months or even years and these victims can be left with permanent scarring, both physically and emotionally.

National Dog Bite Prevention Week runs from May 18-25, 2014 and the City of Edmonton's Animal Control Unit, in partnership with Canada Post, the Edmonton Humane Society and DOGSPA.W, is reminding dog owners that they need to be responsible for their pets at all times.

Under City bylaws, dog owners are required to prevent their dogs from chasing, attacking or biting other people or animals. To prevent bites and attacks from occurring, dog owners should:

- Put their dog on a leash when outside
- Keep the dog controlled at all times, especially in designated off-leash areas, multi-use trails and around children
- Exercise the dog appropriately and keep it healthy and vaccinated
- Avoid putting their dog in situations where it might be prone to bite or attack
- Remember that a dog can chase, bite or attack another dog or person regardless of its size, so it's important to learn to recognize the warning signs
- Be conscientious of service workers who may need to enter their property, such as mail delivery workers or meter readers
- Get appropriate dog training from qualified dog trainers
- Ensure their dog is licensed

Residents are also encouraged to educate their children about how to be safe around dogs. This includes being cautious and not approaching strange dogs, treating all dogs with respect, asking permission from the dog's owner before petting the dog, and not petting dogs through fences.

For more information on responsible pet ownership, including how to prevent dog bites and what to do during an attack, residents can visit edmonton.ca/pets.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/pets or call 311

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