

## Health, Safety & Security Advisory – Safety around Dogs

### ***What is this about?***

This advisory aims to give clear guidance to HNZC employees and contractors for safety around dogs.

We are committed to ensuring our staff and contractors are kept safe while on the job. All staff and contractors should be aware of the hazards associated with dogs and how to keep yourself safe around dogs while carrying out business activities.

### ***Planning your visit***

- **Do** check to see if there are dogs present on the property prior to making the visit.
- **Do** ask the tenant to ensure that the dog is restrained when you arrive.

### ***If a dog approaches your vehicle***

- **Do** try and attract the attention of the owner by sounding the horn or phoning the property.
- **Do** stay in the vehicle until you feel it is safe to step out.
- **Do** return to the property at a later time, if it is safe to leave the vehicle.

### ***As you approach the property***

- **Do** scan the area for dogs as you approach the house.
- **Do** be aware of your surroundings and ensure you have an escape plan and a clear escape route.
- **Do** make a habit of rattling gates and fences and waiting to see if there is any response.
- **Do** check for signs of a dog before walking into the property (e.g. bones, toys, chains or ropes, kennels, feeding bowls or dog excrement).
- **Do** always approach the front of the property first and knock on the front door.
- If approaching a doorstep where a dog is unrestrained give it plenty of room to escape. A frightened or cornered dog will come out fighting.
- If no one is home then return to the property at a later time.
- **Don't** enter the rear of the property.

### ***If a dog approaches you on the property***

- **Do** not panic and run. Running can excite dogs and trigger an attack.
- **Do** stand still, side on to the dog.
- In most cases the dog will “sniff you out” and you will be able to retreat.
- **Do** walk slowly and calmly away from the dog and return to your car.
- **Don't** ever hold direct eye contact with a dog. This is a dominant stance and may prompt an attack.
- **Don't** touch the dog.

### ***What should I do if I am attacked by a dog?***

- **Get to** a safe place.
- **Apply pressure** to the wound with a clean towel to stop the bleeding.
- **Wash** the wound gently with soap and water.



- **Apply a sterile bandage** to the wound if possible.
- **Seek immediate medical attention** for dog wounds at your local Accident and Emergency clinic or hospital. Wounds may become infected if left untreated. The doctor will prescribe a course of antibiotics to prevent infection from developing. A Tetanus booster shot may be given depending on when you had your last Tetanus vaccine.
- **If any symptoms of infection appear** such as redness, swelling, warmth, increased tenderness or oozing of pus from the wound or signs of a fever, then you should immediately go back to your doctor for treatment.
- **Always report the dog attack to the proper authority - your local Council Animal Control Team.** Dog laws state that dogs are not allowed to attack or bite any person or other animals. The owner of the dog that offends under these circumstances can be liable for a written warning, a fine and in serious incidents the dog will be seized by Animal Control Officers. The matter may be taken before the Court and in addition to fines the Court may order the destruction of the dog.
- **Always** report the incident to the Health, Safety and Security Team.

## Dog Body Language

### Examples of Dog's Postures

