

Practical Precautions when visiting a property



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Contractors working with the Whangarei and Kaipara District Councils
providing Animal, Noise, By-Law and Parking Management.

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Practical Precautions when visiting a property

If possible advise the dog owner of your visit and ask them to confine the dog.

Check for signs of a dog before walking on to a property, bones, dog poo or a kennel.

When entering a property, rattle the gate or make a noise. If there is a dog it gives you the chance to meet it before entering the property.

Let the dog come to you rather than pushing yourself on the dog.

Do not reach towards a dog's head it is a dominant gesture and some dogs are punished by being hit in the head area.

Never think that a dog that is tied up cannot get to you. Chains can break and may be longer than you think. Dogs are also more aggressive when tied up.

Never lean over a dog or hold direct eye contact. It is a dominant stance and may prompt an attack.

Take a wide berth when walking around corners to avoid startling any dog that may be hiding there.

If approaching a doorstep where a dog is resting give it plenty of room to escape.

A frightened cornered dog will come out fighting. If the owner is about and if you are concerned with the dog's behavior ask that it be tied up.

Do not panic or run unless you are sure you can beat the dog to a place of safety.

Running can trigger an attack. When knocking at a door, step well back as there may be a dog inside which could rush out and bite before the owner can stop it.

Examples of Dog's Postures, Relaxed Body Posture & Alert Body Posture

Alert

Tail straight out

Ears forward

Stands tall on toes

Ears up but not forward

Head high

Corner of mouth relaxed

Groveling movements

Offensive Threat Posture Active Submission

Ears forward

Hackles up

Nose wrinkled

Corner of mouth forward

Tail up and stiff

Stands tall and forward on toes

Corner of mouth back

Body lowered

Ears back

Pupils dilated

Wrinkled nose

Defensive Threat Posture

Ears back

Licking

Body lowered

Tail Tucked

Corner of mouth back

Practical Precautions

Standing side on to a dog is a lot less threatening than head on.

Beware of a bitch nursing pups, she will protect them with her life and will be a lot more aggressive than normal.

Do not take any risks, all dogs will bite despite what the owners say.

Do not presume you are safe because the dog's tail is wagging, that's not the end that hurts.

Use steady well co-ordinated movements when handling dogs. The smoother and slower you move the less the dog will feel threatened.

Where possible make your entrance in a vehicle, dogs are used to seeing their owners and friends arrive this way.

Offering food is an excellent way to befriend a dog.

Be wary of a dog behind you, most attacks occur this way.

Leave a door ajar in case a hurried departure be required.

If threatened by a dog, walk backwards out of the area, keeping the dog in front of you.

If possible put something between you and the dog.

If the dog is the nervous type (runs away barking) ensure that you leave an escape path for the dog. Remember that most bites occur out of fear.

Avoid animals that are feeding, as most dogs will attack to defend their food.

Laying a Complaint

If you are bitten, attacked, rushed at or frightened by a dog we need to know the following:

Time and date of incident.

Exact location of incident, e.g. house number.

Address of dog and any witnesses.

Description of dog colour, breed, size, collar, etc.

Owner's response if any.

If bitten - we will may require a statement from the victim.

Take photographs of injuries the day of the attack and two days after the attack.