

Dog Bite Prevention

As many as 1 million people annually experience serious dog bites. And, more than 334,000 people require emergency room treatment each year. These facts help us understand the potential for danger when DAQ employees go about their regular duties performing compliance inspections or investigating citizen complaints.

A recent incident occurred when a dog approached an environmental engineer while investigating a citizen's complaint. The dog became angered and confronted the engineer. Its owner contained the dog and the engineer was not harmed. This prompted a review of the DAQ guidance for dog bite prevention. As a result the following safety guide has been prepared on Dog Bite Prevention and dog repellent has been made available as a standard item.

Dog Bite Preventive Measures

Generally, dogs may be present in most residential areas. Whether on the street, walking along the sidewalk, or entering private property, there is a chance that dogs may be present. While it's true that the vast majority of dogs won't bite, even the cuddliest, fuzziest, sweetest pup can bite if provoked.

If you enter an area where you suspect or see a dog, the following tips may reduce your chances of being attacked by a dog:

- Don't run past a dog. Dogs naturally love to chase and catch things. Don't give them a reason to become excited or aggressive.
- Never disturb a dog that's caring for puppies, sleeping or eating.
- If a dog approaches to sniff you - stay still. In most cases, the dog will go away when it determines you're not a threat.
- If a dog threatens you, remain calm. Don't scream. If you say anything, speak calmly and firmly. Avoid eye contact. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly until the dog is out of sight. Don't turn and run.
- If the dog continues the attack after your preventive measures and you feel you can not escape, use Shock Dog Repellent. Aim and spray the dog repellent in the face. Dog repellent is not injurious to dogs, but will cause them to retreat. This will allow time for you to get to a safe place.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your head and neck. Protect your face.
- If a dog bites you - treat the wounds immediately. Contact the authorities and tell them everything you can about the dog: the owner's name, if you know it; color of the dog; size; where you saw it; if you've seen it before, etc. These details may help animal-control officers locate the dog.

Dog Repellent Now Available

Dog repellent is now available for all field employees. The container comes with a clip for attaching to the belt for easy carrying. Request a supply by sending an e-mail with the quantity required to rick.shores@ncmail.net.