

# Dog Bite Prevention





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#### **Statistics**

[Sources: MTRMA]

MTRMA members over the last 24 months have

sustained 12 dog bite incidents. These 12

incidents total at \$105,169.79 Incurred Cost with

an average of \$8,764.15 per claim.



Although "Dog Bites" are one of the leading injuries to delivery drivers, preventing dog bites are the responsibility of EVERYONE within a company, NOT just management and NOT just employees





### **Dog Bites**

Dogs bite to protect territory

Ex: Driver entering yard to place package on porch.

Dogs bite when threatened.

Ex: A mother has puppies and is scared.

Dogs bite when startled or scared

Ex: The gate slams loudly after the driver enters the yard.

Dog bites can result in serious injury, and possibly even death.



# **Preventing Dog Bites**

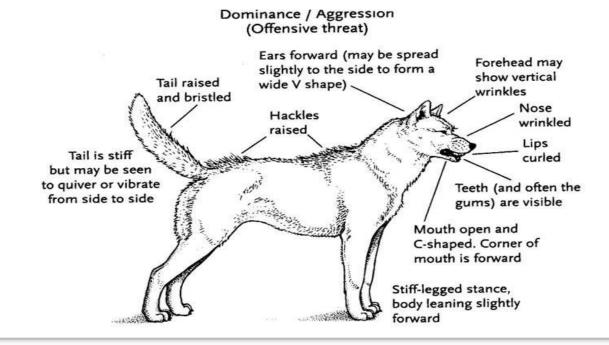
- Evaluate the yard for signs and evidence of a dog
- Develop an escape route that directly leads to safety
- If a dog is present verify that it is <u>restrained</u>
- Anticipate that even restrained dogs can escape
- If faced with a dog, do not look it in the eyes





## **Aggressive Signs**

- Aggressive dogs can exhibit physical characteristics as shown below.
- These provide warning signs but not all dogs will exhibit these before an attack.





#### **Prevention Tools**

- Dog Treats may distract an aggressive dog and allow the individual time escape.
- Dogs associate these treats with kindness and may deescalate the situation.





#### **Prevention Tools Cont.**

- Dog Safe Spray a strong but dog safe spray that deters a dog from attacking.
- Dog Spray should be utilized due to dogs sensitive nose, human orientated pepper spray would severely harm the dog. Found at http://bulliray.com/







#### **Prevention Tools Cont.**

- Ultra Sonic Noise as shown below.
- Ultra-Sonic Noise fobs can emit ultra sonic noise up to ~20 feet safely deterring a dog from attacking.





#### **Prevention Tools Cont.**

- Bulli Ray Bite stick and barrier device (Heavy duty umbrella) as shown below.
- These provide a barrier between the employee and the attacking dog.
- Found at http://bulliray.com/







# Dog Do's

- Look for "Beware of Dog" signs
- Look for toys, leashes and beds
- Use packages as a barrier
- Be Alert
- Utilize dog reats to deter
- Utilize dog deterrents such as bite sticks or ultra sonic noise

- Plan an escape route
- Stay Calm
- Communicate to the owner to restrain dog
- If injured, call 911 to obtain a police report



# Dog Don'ts

- Don't Make sudden movements
- Don't Assume that it is a friendly dog
- Don't Panic
- Don't act aggressive to the dog

- Avoid Eye contact
- Make loud noises
- Turn your back to the dog
- Risk the delivery if it is unsafe
- FORGET TO COMMUNICATE
  the exposure to an aggressive
  dog



#### **Near Misses**

- You have a "close call" with a dog but are not injured
- Dispatch must be notified
- This address must be marked and communicated "Dog, High Risk"
- Contact owner and indicate that deliveries cannot be completed with an unrestrained dog
- Communicate the near miss with dispatch



# **Dog Bites**

- 1. Get to a safe location
- 2. Call emergency medical assistance if needed
- 3. Notify Law Enforcement and OBTAIN police report
- 4. Cover your wounds and apply pressure to reduce bleeding
- 5. Notify your supervisor and company safety resource



# **Documenting an Incident**

- 1. Document the following in the
  - Date
  - Time
  - Address
  - Reason for failed delivery
  - Any communication with resident regarding the dog
  - Mark address as "CAUTION DANGEROUS DOG" in company APP



# Communicating an Incident

- Employer shall provide drivers with resources to identify hazardous stops pre-delivery
- 2. This includes "DANGEROUS DOGS"
- 3. Employees shall document these addresses and dogs
- 4. Employer shall communicate these high risk addresses to <u>ALL</u> drivers on that route or FUTURE drivers on route
- 5. Employer shall conduct trainings, tool box talks and risk reminders to high light key learnings from incidents and near misses.



#### Summary

- Dog bites can result in potentially life threatening injuries
- For employees these can be life changing and for employers very costly.
- Implementing safe work practices and controlling hazards can help lead to fewer dog bites within your company.
- Utilizing these Do's & Don'ts can potentially reduce dog bites

