

Microchipping and Lifetime Registration

The Companion Animals Act, 1998 as amended by the Companion Animals Amendment Act, 2005 requires all dogs to be permanently identified (microchipped) and lifetime registered (registration required from 6 months of age). Microchipping and registering your dog ensures you have the best chance of your dog being returned to you if it goes missing.

For more information on Companion Animal laws refer to Council's Companion Animal Law brochure available from Council offices or by telephoning (02) 4732 7543.

Examples of penalties for offences under the Companion Animals Act, 1998 as amended by the Companion Animals Amendment Act, 2005 are:

On-the-spot Penalty Offences

Dog attack	Penalty exceeds \$500
Dog not on a lead	Penalty exceeds \$160
Animal not permanently identified	Penalty exceeds \$160
Animal not registered	Penalty exceeds \$160
Not pick up your dog's faeces in a public place	Penalty exceeds \$270
Penalties for dangerous dog and restricted dog	Exceeds \$1,300

Court Imposed Penalties

Dog attack	Up to \$5,500 (max)
Dog attack - Dangerous or Restricted dog	Up to \$33,000 (max)
Breach any condition of keeping a restricted breed dog or declared dangerous dog	Up to \$16,500 (max)
Breach Nuisance order	Up to \$1,650

Need more information?

If you would like to know more about animal related services by **Penrith City Council** contact the **Animal Services section** on (02) 4732 7543.

For information on the **Companion Animals Act** visit the Companion Animals "Chip In" page at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

If your cat or dog is missing check the following:

Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

10 Mulgrave Road, McGraths Hill
Telephone (02) 4577 4435
(Opposite Windsor High School)

Animal Welfare League

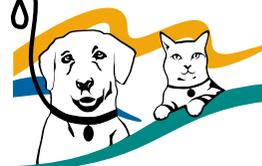
(02) 9606 9333

RSPCA

(02) 9709 5433

Local Vets

ANIMAL SERVICES

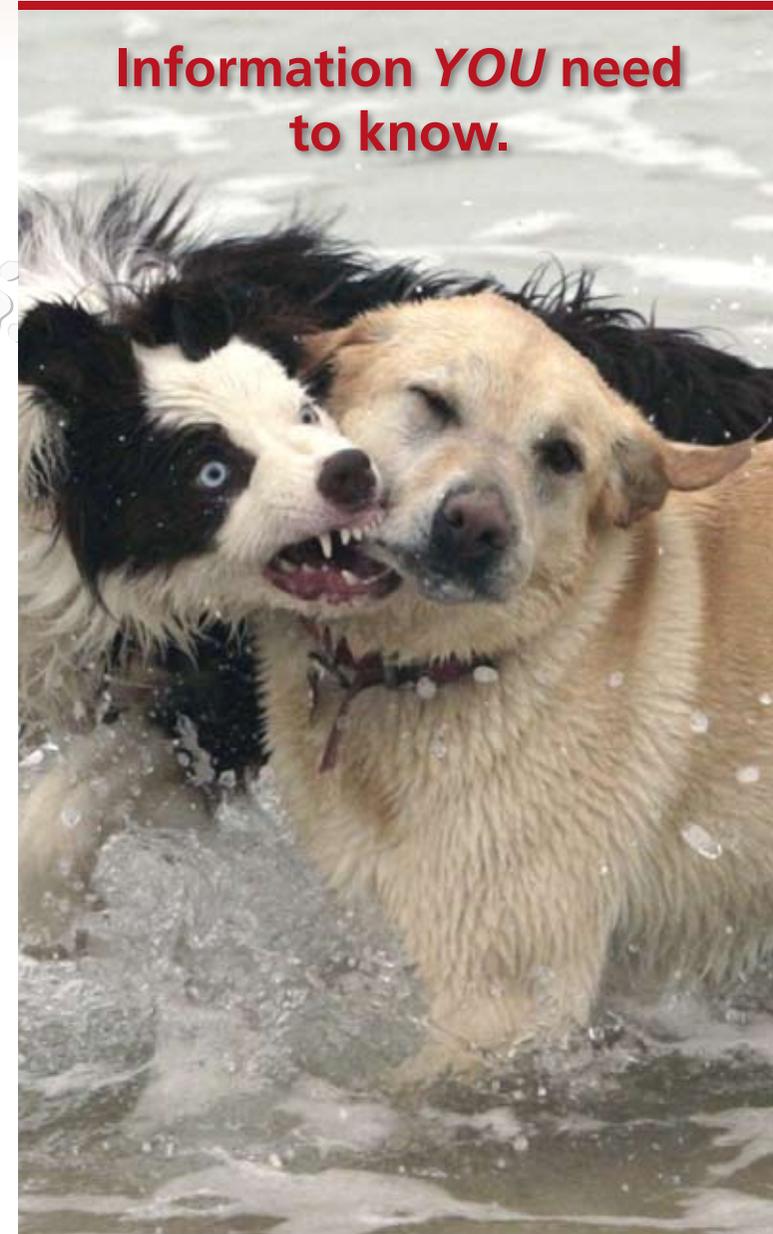


PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

If you find an animal and cannot find its owner within a short period of time, contact **Council's Animal Services section** on (02) 4732 7543. **After hours (02) 4732 7777**
www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

Your guide to **DOG ATTACKS** within the **PENRITH COUNCIL AREA**

Information *YOU* need to know.



What is a Dog Attack?

A dog attack is defined under Section 16 of the Companion Animals Act, 1998, as amended by the Companion Animals Amendment Act, 2005 as:

"If a dog rushes at, attacks, bites, harasses or chases any person or animal (other than vermin), whether or not any injury is caused to the person or animal".

What type of dogs attack?

There is no single type of dog that attacks. It is important to understand that ANY dog can attack or bite. Whilst it is true that certain breeds have traits that give a dog a lower threshold to biting or attacking, it does not mean

all dogs of this breed or breeds will attack or bite.

The media portray certain breeds as aggressive giving the mis-conception that all other breeds are safe. When the truth is that ANY dog can and may bite, even the loving family pet.

Who is most likely to get attacked by a dog?



Bite injury to ear of sheep.

Research shows that many people who are attacked by a dog, actually know the dog they are attacked by.

Approximately two thirds of all bites involve the family dog or a dog known to the victim. Young children are the most common victims with bites to the head and neck area.

Animals such as cats, rabbits, other dogs and stock often find themselves victims of attacks by roaming dogs.

What do you do if you are attacked by a dog?

1. If you or another person have been injured, seek medical attention urgently. If an animal has been injured, transport the injured animal to the nearest Vet as soon as possible. Even minor wounds (on people or animals) can easily become infected without immediate attention.
2. Report the attack to the relevant authorities as soon as possible. Either NSW Police or Council.

Penrith City Council – Animal Services
(02) 4732 7543

Penrith Police
(02) 4721 9444

St Marys Police
(02) 9677 5099



Bite to persons thigh

The Police or Council will investigate all complaints of attacks by speaking with any witness who can give a statement. It is important that the witness can clearly explain the details of the incident. Therefore it may be useful to write down the details as soon as possible to ensure you don't forget.

Who is responsible for medical bills or veterinary bills?

The law states that the owner (or person in charge) of an attacking dog is liable for damages in respect of bodily injury to a person, damage to property of a person (including clothing) and/or veterinary bills in respect to injury (whether or not fatal) to another animal caused by a dog attacking or chasing it.

What happens if your dog attacks a person or animal?

Owners (or person in charge) of an attacking dog could face on-the-spot penalties infringements (see over for details) or prosecution in Court and be banned from owning a dog. Council may declare the dog to be dangerous which means the owner MUST comply with strict guidelines on how the dog is kept i.e. purpose built enclosure, desexed, muzzled when out of enclosure etc. Owners of dangerous dogs who attack again may be liable for considerably higher penalties for the second offence i.e. maximum 2 years in jail.

In some circumstances Council may seize a dog that has been involved in an attack, even if the dog is back on its own property.

The owner (or person in charge) of an attacking dog is responsible for the cost of all damages the dog causes to persons, property or animals.



Fatal crush injuries to Maltese dog.

How do I Prevent my dog attacking?

It is important to remember that ANY dog can attack even the loving family pet.

Do supervise your dog with children under 10 years of age. Even your own dog with your own kids.

Do ensure your dog cannot escape from your property. Roaming dogs are often involved in attacks out the front of or near-by to their property.

Do socialise your dog as a puppy with lots of new and different people and other animals.

Don't encourage your dog to attack other animals or people, even in play.

Don't play roughly with your dog. This encourages animals to play rough with humans and bite.

