

# Help!

# My dog has bitten someone!

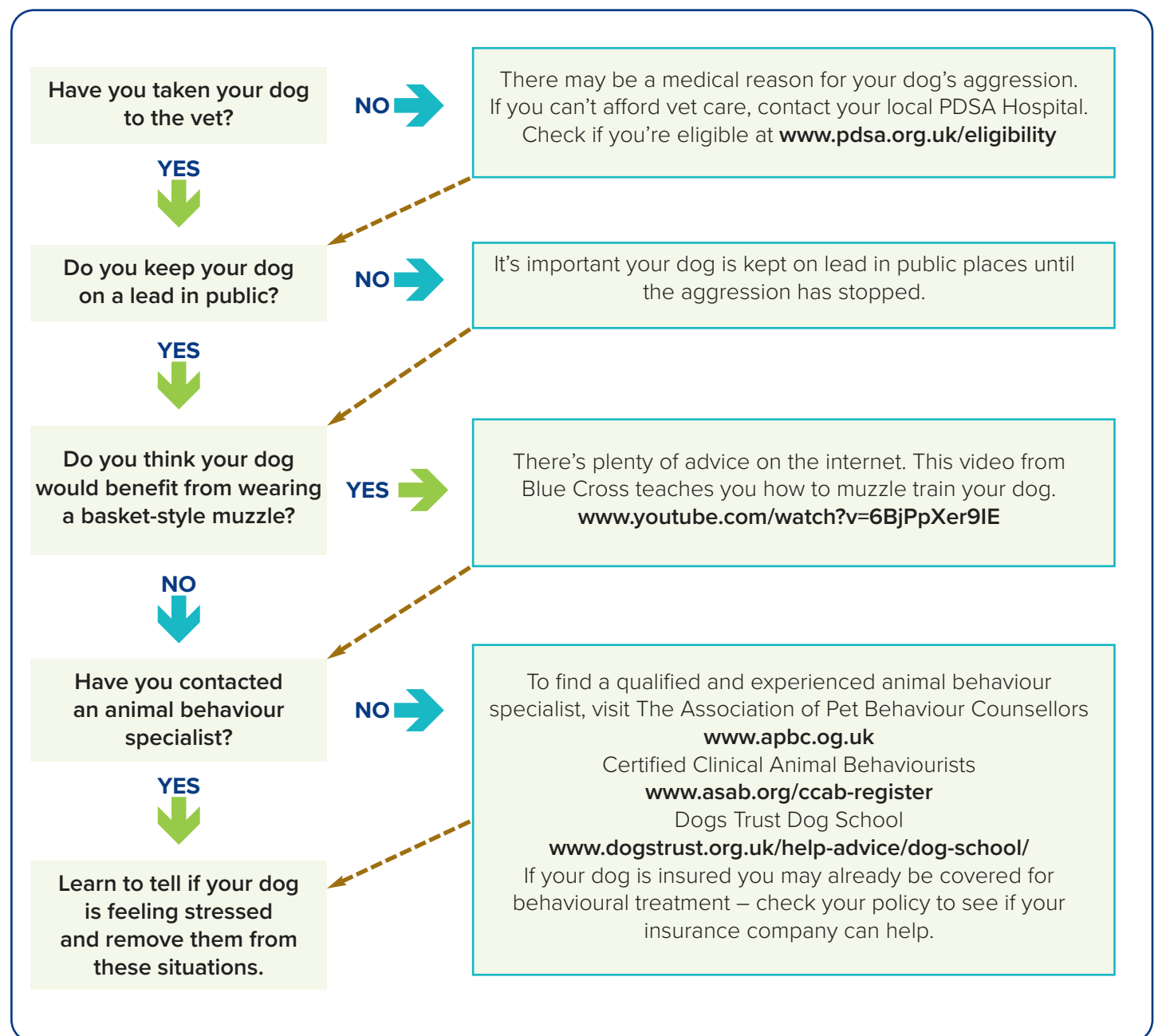
If you're worried that your dog isn't as friendly as you would like to other people, it's important that you, as an owner, know what to do to help them change their behaviour.

**Remember, you CAN teach an old dog new tricks!**

This advice sheet is intended to tell you what to do if your dog has bitten someone.

## 1. Seek behavioural advice

If your dog has bitten someone already, it is very likely that it will happen again if you don't seek help now.



## 2. Report

Your dog may go on to bite somebody else, and its best to prevent this by seeking help now. If you love your dog, you will seek help.

Please be responsible and speak to the Police and/or Local Authority about the incident. Dog Section Officers and Dog Wardens are dog lovers and dog owners themselves and wish to help people live happily with their dogs. They will investigate your side of the story and provide appropriate guidance about what you can do next to prevent another bite from occurring.

Call 101 to report to the police or your local Local Authority contacts are:

**Sefton**                    **0151 934 4035**  
**St Helens**                **01744 676299/676338**  
**Wirral**                    **0151 606 2430**

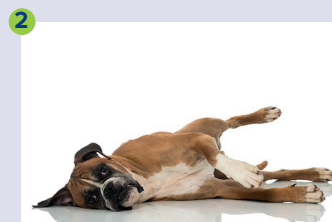
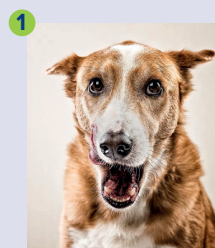
## WHY DO I NEED TO REPORT IT?

- It is now an offence for a dog to bite or make a person feel threatened (the dog does not have to actually bite someone) in both a PUBLIC or PRIVATE place, including inside the dog's home.
- Police and local authorities will investigate and will give helpful advice to prevent it happening again.
- All dog bite data collected from reported bites helps us to understand more about how to prevent bites from happening in the first place.

For useful legal advice about dog bite incidents please see [www.doglaw.co.uk](http://www.doglaw.co.uk)

## DOG RULES

- Dogs prefer to be stroked gently than being kissed and cuddled.
- Learn the body language and communication signs that a dog is unhappy or frightened, for example:
  - 1 Excessive yawning, licking lips, ears lowered, eyebrows furrowed
  - 2 Raising a paw, exposing under belly
  - 3 Crouched, tail low, head low, whites of eyes
- Never leave dogs and children unsupervised.
- Use baby gates to separate dogs from people at times when they're likely to get over-excited.
- Never touch a sick or injured dog or one that is tied up.
- ALWAYS ask the owner before approaching a dog you don't know.
- Never take food or toys from dogs or physically wake them when they're sleeping.
- If you are going to touch a dog then never rush up to a dog; always approach them slowly.
- Approach dogs sideways and avoid staring at them.
- Never try to break up a dog fight with your hands or body.
- Make sure your dog gets used to different people and other animals while young.
- Take your dog to training classes, whatever age they are.



Useful educational resources on dog communication and body language are available here:

**PDSA 'Canine Communication' Schools Workshops** – [www.pdsa.org.uk/education-centre](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/education-centre)

**An interactive app** – [www.dogdecoder.com/](http://www.dogdecoder.com/)

**Blue Cross website** - [www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/be-safe-dogs](http://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/be-safe-dogs)

**Dogs Trust 'Be Dog Smart' Programme** – [www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/free-learning-resources/community-education/be-dog-smart/index.html](http://www.learnwithdogstrust.org.uk/free-learning-resources/community-education/be-dog-smart/index.html)

**The Blue Dog Project** – [www.thebluedog.org/en](http://www.thebluedog.org/en)

**Dr Sophia Yin** - <https://drsophiayin.com/blog/entry/free-downloads-posters-handouts-and-more/>

**RSPCA Understanding dog behaviour** - <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/behaviour/understanding>