

PAWS FOR THOUGHT...

HOW TO KEEP YOU, YOUR DOG AND YOUR VISITORS SAFE.



Never leave young children unsupervised with a dog regardless of its size, breed or temperament. Any dog can behave in an unpredictable manner and the risk is not worth the potential consequences.



Make sure your dog has somewhere safe and comfortable to go to when you have visitors, as these events can overwhelm them.

If you're expecting the post or any deliveries, make sure your dog is out of the way and secure elsewhere in the house or secure in your garden.

Many dog attacks happen when you open the door to sign for parcels. Before answering, put your dog in another room and teach children to do the same, especially when they're at home during school holidays.



Consider installing a letterbox cage if your dog has a tendency to attack your mail. If it is not practical to secure your dog during the day, consider installing an external mailbox on the edge of your property.



Everyone should ensure their dog is microchipped and that the details on the microchip are up to date. Your dog must also wear a collar and tag with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it. Maximum fine for failure to comply is £5000.

*If you are worried about your dog's health or behaviour, contact your local vet for advice and support. If you have concerns about a dog's behaviour that is not yours please contact **101** or anonymously through **Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111**.*

BEING A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER...

As a responsible dog owner there are a few things you must be aware of and consider for everyone's safety.



It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, including in a public place, in a private place, for example a neighbour's house or garden and in the owner's home or garden.



If your dog is out of control you may be prosecuted, face up to six months in prison and be given a fine of up to £5000.



If your dog bites somebody, in or outside of your home, you may be prosecuted and sent to prison for up to five years for causing injury and up to six months where no injury has been sustained.



The court also has the power to order the dog to be destroyed, disqualify you from owning or keeping dogs and order you to pay substantial compensation to the victim.



If your dog bites or injures an assistance dog (e.g. a guide dog), you can be sent to prison for up to three years or fined.



If your dog attacks or is deemed to be a danger to Royal Mail staff, delivery to your address or your area may be at risk of suspended deliveries. In all cases of dog attacks on postal workers, Royal Mail will seek prosecutions via the police or if need be, private prosecutions.



If you rent your property, failure to keep your dog under control may leave you in breach of your tenancy agreement.



You must report all dog bites to the police, regardless of how serious they are via 101 or 999 in an emergency.

***YOUR DOG IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY,
THE SAFETY OF THOSE AROUND YOU RELIES
ON YOU AS AN OWNER TAKING ACTION.***

