







# ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER?

As a dog owner, there are a number of things you must be aware of and adhere to:

-  If your dog bites somebody, whether it is a child, a postman or a visitor to your home, this is an aggravated offence and you may be prosecuted and sent to prison for up to five years.
-  If your dog bites an assistance dog e.g. a guide dog, this is also an aggravated offence and you can be prosecuted and sent to prison for up to three years.
-  Fines and compensation are unlimited for aggravated offences.
-  If your dog is dangerously out of control you may be prosecuted, face up to six months in prison, a fine of up to £5,000 and be liable for compensation up to £5,000.
-  From 6 April 2016 it is compulsory for all dogs in England and Wales to be microchipped.
-  You must report all bites to the police, regardless of how serious they are, to avoid any future attacks.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We see an increase in dog bites during the summer months. We also see a lot of bites occurring in the home between the hours of 3-8pm.

If you're worried about the behaviour and health of your dog, contact your local vet for advice or alternatively visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk) or [www.bedogsmart.org.uk](http://www.bedogsmart.org.uk) who can also offer advice and support.



fighting crime  
protecting communities

If you have concerns regarding the behaviour of a dog that isn't yours, contact police on **101** or **999** in an emergency. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.