CITY OF HAMILTON - CORPORATE SAFETY GUIDELINE

DEVELOPED BY: CORPORATE WORKPLACE SAFETY SECTION
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APPROVED BY: CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

DOG BITE/ANIMAL ATTACK PREVENTION

PURPOSE:

This safety guideline specifies the general requirements for the prevention of dog bites/animal attacks. Not all dog bites can be avoided, but practicing the safety techniques described below may result in the prevention of serious injury and ultimately a dog bite.

Dogs can be wonderful companions and protectors of your home and family. Their instinct is to protect those around them and their territory. As a worker who has to work on the boulevard or enter the premises to perform a job, you are presenting yourself as an intruder in the dog's territory.

There are many types of dog repellents available on the market today. Their effectiveness is questionable at best as different breed of dogs react differently to them or are not affected by them. The information outlined in the guideline below and a general, careful approach to dogs/animals, as encountered, will provide the best option for the prevention of dog/animal bites.

DOGS BITE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- Instinct to protect property
- Entering their space
- Being startled while sleeping
- Being approached while eating or caring for it's young
- Easily excited by moving objects
- Playfulness

WHAT THE DOG SEES IN YOU:

- Dogs do not sense fear by your smell
- Dogs watch your body movements
- Stiffening up your body, opening your eyes wider, staring directly at the dog and screaming are signs of fear

DOG SIGNALS:

- Growling
- Hair raised (hackles) on back
- Direct stare
- Shaking tail (low or high)
CATEGORIES OF DOGS:
For the most part there are four types of dogs. Size, sex, breed of a dog is not important. Any dog can bite.

1. ATTACK: This dog will obey the owner's commands and will attack if told to do so.
2. GUARD: Every dog has the natural instinct to protect. For the most part this dog will have a direct stare at your movements.
3. FEAR: This dog will bite from behind. They are very nervous placing tail between legs. The fear biter will always try to come from behind.
4. PREY: Movements easily excite this dog. This dog is also easily bored

PREPARATION:

Entering Inside a Premise:
- Hold your toolbox, clipboard or other object in front of you as you approach the door
- Put one foot against the door while you speak with the resident
- Find out the name of the dog for future use
- Ask the owner to lock the dog in a separate room

Dog gets out of the locked room:
- Call the owner and use the dog's name calmly
- Keep an eye on the dog, but do not stare
- Avoid picking up a tool that may appear as a weapon

Inside the property:
- If the dog becomes aggressive to you, don't scream, run, or stare at the dog
- Prepare to leave
- Do not turn your back
- Position yourself so you can turn your body sideways
- Back away until you can reach safety

Dog approaches you:
- Stop what you are doing
- Never run
- Never turn your back
- Never stare
- Use simple commands like NO! DOWN! Or GO HOME!
- Turn your body sideways
- Use your clipboard, jacket, or what ever is available to place in front of you

Dog jumps on you:
- Position your knee in front of you so the dog will hit it first
- Try to knee the dog in the chest

Dog knocks you down:
- Stay down curling in a fetal position placing your hands over your neck and ears. Protect your face. Lay still.
Dog still bites you:

- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water
- Clean and cover
- Seek medical attention
- Report bite to your supervisor
- Keep a detailed record of the event include time bitten, type of dog, general description, location and medical treatment.

**DOG BITE PREVENTION QUESTIONNAIRE**
(PLEASE CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWERS before checking the answer sheet below)

1. **DOGS KNOW YOU’RE SCARED BY:**
   
a) Your smell  
b) Your Eyes  
c) Your Shoulders  
d) Your voice

2. **WHEN YOU SEE A DOG TIED UP, YOU SHOULD:**
   
a) Fell sorry for it and pet it  
b) Leave it alone

3. **WHEN YOU SEE A DOG YOU SHOULD:**
   
a) Let it know you’re the boss  
b) Remain calm and leave it alone

4. **WHICH DOG IS MOST LIKELY TO FEEL THREATENED?**
   
a) One you shake a stick at and yell  
b) One you back slowly away from

5. **RUNNING FROM DOGS WILL CAUSE THEM TO GET EXCITED:**
   
a) True  
b) False

6. **WHICH DOG IS MOST LIKELY TO BITE?**
   
a) Small Breed Dog  
b) Large Breed Dog

7. **WHEN IS A DOG MOST LIKELY TO BITE?**
   
a) Tied up on owners property  
b) Being held by the owner  
c) Running loose on owner’s property

8. **WHEN ENTERING ONTO SOMEONE’S PROPERTY THAT HAS A DOG, YOU SHOULD:**
   
a) Whistle  
b) Rattle the gate, fence and keys  
c) Move slowly, quietly and cautiously not to wake the sleeping dog

9. **QUICK MOVEMENTS:**
   
a) Increase dog bites  
b) Decrease dog bites

10. **STARING DIRECTLY AT THE DOGS EYES WILL:**
    
a) Cause the dog to run away  
b) Challenge the dog for a fight
11. AFTER RINGING A DOORBELL, YOU SHOULD:
   a) Hold the storm door open  b) Hold the storm door closed with your foot

12. IF APPROACHED BY A DOG WHILE YOU'RE IN THE HOUSE, YOU SHOULD:
   a) Stay still   b) Yell for help   c) Talk to the dog   d) Call for the owner

13. MOST PEOPLE BITTEN BY A DOG, KNOW THE DOG:
   a) True  b) False

14. MOST DOG BITES ARE PREVENTABLE:
   a) True  b) False

15. WHO GETS BITTEN MORE OFTEN:
   a) Male   b) Female

16. WHICH AGE CATEGORY IS MORE OFTEN BITTEN? (Number "4" most to "1" least)
   a) ___ under 6 years  b) ___ 7 - 12 years  c) ___ 13 - 17 years  d) ___ 18 & up

17. WHICH AREA OF THE BODY IS MOST OFTEN BITTEN? (Number "4" most to "1" least)
   a) ___ Hands & arms  b) ___ Torso  c) ___ Face  d) ___ Feet & Legs

ANSWERS!

1) b, c, and d; 2) b; 3) b; 4) a; 5) a; 6) a and b; 7) a and b; 8) a and b; 9) a; 10) b; 11) b; 12) a, c and d; 13) a; 14) a; 15) a; 16) 3-2-4-1; 17) 1-4-3-2