



## PUBLIC PROTECTION FROM DOGS

Each year thousands of area residents are bitten or attacked by dogs. Many bite victims are substantially injured and children sustain the majority of injuries. As a result of these incidents, owners are often subject to administrative action and may also incur criminal and/or civil liability.

Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that their animals do no harm or endanger the health or safety of people or their animals. Since most biting or attacking incidents occur on or near the owner's premises, they are normally preventable if reasonable and common sense precautions are taken.

Owners should not assume that their dog will always act predictably in unusual circumstances or with unfamiliar people. In such situations, there is a greater risk of dogs biting or attacking people and therefore additional precautions are recommended. These situations include any dog that has previously demonstrated defensive or protective tendencies or that is roaming in a pack, protecting pups, tied or chained, left in a vehicle, or kept in an area frequented by children.

Any person owning or having custody or control of a dog must at all times prevent the dog from attacking, biting, or injuring any person engaged in a lawful act, and from damaging or interfering with the lawful use of property (SDCC Section 62.669.1).

### **Reporting of Bites**

All persons bitten and the parents or guardians of minor children bitten, as well as any person owning or having custody or control of a dog (or other animal of a species subject to rabies) that bites a person, must promptly report the incident to the Department of Animal Services (SDCC Section 62.615[b]). This is necessary so that such animals can be temporarily isolated (as required by law) in an approved place and manner (oftentimes at the owner's residence) and observed for at least 10 days for any symptoms of rabies. This requirement applies whether or not the biting animal has been vaccinated against rabies.

### **FALLBROOK ANIMAL SANCTUARY DOG BITE POLICY**

The dogs should never be allowed to be close enough to bite anyone. The dog walker has to remain focused and in charge at all times. If someone is interested in a dog, they should come to FAS to check the dog out during an adoption time. That way it is in a controlled, comfortable environment for the dog.

If there is an incident, you need to get all their information and contact whomever is in charge at FAS right away. If you have a camera phone, please take a picture of the bite. Bites can be like fish stories, the more they are told the bigger they become. If there is a break in the skin, they will have to see a doctor and we need to file a report with Animal Control and quarantine the dog.

*Our first responsibility is to protect the dog. If there is an issue with the dog, we can get it trained. If it has already progressed to having a "bite history" we could end up being forced to kill the dog. None of us want that.*

**No FAS affiliated person(s) shall make any comment(s) regarding these types of incidents to the press, family of the injured person, or anyone else including any attorney without the advice and authorization of our own counsel.**

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Volunteer Name

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Date