



Dog Bite Prevention

For parcel delivery drivers and couriers, encountering an aggressive dog is a very real safety concern. 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs each year, and 800,000 of those are serious enough to require medical treatment. In fact, dog bite victims account for up to 5% of all emergency room visits.

So, it makes sense for all parcel delivery drivers and couriers to know what to look for when they encounter a dog and how to respond.

WHAT CAUSES DOGS TO BITE

In most cases dog bites are not caused by “bad” dogs, but by irresponsible dog owners. Dog can be prone to bite if they are eating, injured, sick, or if they feel threatened, or are protecting children.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

The Humane Society of the United States urges anyone who sees a dog exhibiting the following behaviors to move to a safe distance away.

- Pulled back head and/or ears
- Tense body
- Stiff tail
- Wrinkled brow
- Yawning
- Rolled eyes so the whites show
- Flicking tongue
- Intense stare
- Backing

If a dog is considered a threat, notify a supervisor and curtail delivery to the customer until the dog is restrained.

IF A DOG ATTACKS

If a dog attacks, stand still and use the package as a shield (between you and the dog). Do not turn your back and run away. If you are knocked down, curl into a ball, protecting your neck and ears with your arms. Lie still and play dead. If the dog bites, do not pull away.

If you are bitten, wash the wound well with soap and water, and report the incident both to your supervisor and to animal control.

IF YOU SEE A STRANGE DOG

(WHAT TO DO)

- If the home owner is present, remain a safe distance from the dog and call out to the owner.
- Put a package or other object between you and the dog.
- Face the dog.
- If the dog approaches you, stand still and remain calm. When the dog starts to leave, slowly back away.
- Report loose dogs to animal control.

IF YOU SEE A STRANGE DOG

(WHAT NOT TO DO)

- Do not hand a package directly to a customer, especially a child, in the presence of a dog, as the animal might observe that as a threat.
- Do not try to pet the dog.
- Do not swing your arms when walking.
- Do not stare at the dog.
- Do not run away.
- Do not yell or make a lot of noise, tease or throw things at the dog.

REMEMBER

- NEVER assume that a dog will not bite.
- Do not show fear.
- Keep your eyes on the dog.
- Stand your ground.