



Loss Control Insight

FAQ - DOG BITES

1. *What can an employee carry to best protect themselves from aggressive dog attack?*

Education and experience will be the best line of defense. The employee who has been in field for any amount of time has confronted thousands of dogs and now has learned to read the dogs movements and temperament. The experienced employee has learned to use what is around him to safely get out of the yard or get to the vehicle.

There are products sold such as the “dog stick” or ‘The Umbrella that can be used to give the employee time to get out of the yard. The Dog Stick can be used to give the dog a place to bite and the employee can be pulled to safety. The Umbrella is excellent if the dog has any sight sensitivity; this means the dog fears the popping action of the umbrella.

2. *Is there anything on the market today that a company can purchase that will stop all aggressive dogs?*

No! There is nothing that will stop all aggressive dogs. Even police officers are challenged to stop aggressive dogs. We often heard headlines that read “Officer attacked after shooting attacking dog several times” or “SWAT team takes out Pit Bullbarely”. This means that you are off better to have something in your hand to keep between you and the attacking dog.

3. *Does pepper spray work?*

There are a couple of problems; it can't be used when it is windy, and the employee has a greater chance that the spray will disable them. There have been several cases of a dog being sprayed, the dog then runs into house and the children pet the dog, then get the spray into their eyes. It should never be used as the employee's first line of defense. If spray doesn't work or the employee misses the dog, there will be nothing in the hand of the employee to stop the dog. Pepper Spray works on about 70% of the dogs out there, the other 30 percent will go through it. It is better to use this as a tool rather than your first line of defense. Put something in the employee's hand to keep the dog away.

4. *Do the ultrasonic devices work?*

Many have been tested and found them to be ineffective on most dogs. Remember, these devices will only work if the dog has a sensitivity to sound and is submissive in nature. Avoid using a device that won't be effective on all dogs so it is important to put something in the employee's hand that can be used on all dogs, not just sensitive dogs.

5. *Are dogs aggressive towards the employee's because of the uniform?*

Many employees feel that dogs hate the uniform and are aggressive towards them because of it. The truth is, dogs react to the professional way the employee approaches the home. The employee shows no familiarity with the residence and people who live there. This behavior makes the dog suspicious. When a dog's suspicion rises, so does their aggression. The employee feels the need to protect or defend himself and may spray or hurt the dog. Now, the aggressive dog's reaction to future employees is a learned behavior. The dog has had a negative experience with someone wearing a uniform, this dog won't forget. (Sprayed, stepped on, startled, etc)

6. *Are dogs colored blind?*

No, dogs can see primary colors (red, yellow, & blue). Cornell University concluded that they are not color blind as once thought.

7. Which are more aggressive, female or male dogs?

Male dogs are more aggressive; the female can be extremely aggressive especially when protecting their young but males on a whole are more aggressive. The majority of the police/military dogs are male. The male dog produces testosterone that will make him more aggressive than the female.

8. Why are chained dog dangerous?

A chained dog is only as secure as the chain holding him. Remember that you will not know whether a chained dog is dominant or submissive. How many of you have seen dogs that you would swear if they break their chain they would attack, but instead you are surprised when the dog runs in the other direction. A chained animal must make you believe that he is a killer (you won't know if is or isn't). This is the submissive dog's way of keeping you away from him. The dominant dog is showing what he really is.

9. Are all Pit Bulls and Rottweilers aggressive?

No, all of these dogs are not aggressive. There are many Pits & Rotts that are fantastic family pets and see no one as an enemy. The main reason you hear so much about the Pit Bull and Rottweiler is because of the damage they inflict when they do attack. There are good and bad in all breeds.

10. Would a dog come through a plate glass window?

Yes, Dogs do not know a glass window is glass. When the dog hits the glass hard enough it will break. Most dogs are hurt and have even been killed. If you are approaching a house where the dog is hitting the glass, be careful! If the window is above you try to avoid walking under that window.