



## Dog bites.

In May 2014 changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into effect & says all dog owners should be responsible for their dog's behaviour with other people and animals. Whether you own a large breed dog or a tiny one and however placid and friendly your dog is, the Dangerous Dogs Act applies to you.

It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, e.g.:

- in a public place
- in a private place, e.g. a neighbour's house or garden
- in the owner's home

The law applies to all dogs.

Generally if a dog bites a person, it will be presumed to have been 'dangerously out of control', however even if the dog does not bite, but gives the person grounds to feel that the dog may injure them, the law still applies.

### **Out of control**

Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:

- injures someone
- makes someone worried that it might injure them

A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if:

- it injures someone's animal
- the owner of the animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal

### **BSUH Safeguarding children & Young People.**

As a result of children and young people attending this hospital with injuries following a dog bite, the BSUH hospital safeguarding children team have approached the Police to ask for guidance on reporting the incident.

Although most dogs are well behaved, the Police have advised us that, if a child has been injured, **all** dog bites need to be reported,

Staff will therefore contact the Police on 101 and discuss the situation.

### **References (2015)**

[www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/overview](http://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/overview)

[rspca.org.uk/insights/2014/05/14/how-the-changes-to-the-dangerous-dogs-act-affect-you-and-your-dog/](http://rspca.org.uk/insights/2014/05/14/how-the-changes-to-the-dangerous-dogs-act-affect-you-and-your-dog/)

[www.nawt.org.uk/advice/changes-dangerous-dogs-act-advice-owners](http://www.nawt.org.uk/advice/changes-dangerous-dogs-act-advice-owners)