

## Safeguarding children, young people and adults

When anyone attends Queen Victoria Hospital with dog bite injuries, this information must be passed on to the police. Staff will therefore contact the police on 101 or online to share information to allow a risk assessment to be undertaken or ask you to provide a reference number if you have already informed the police.

## Dangerous Dogs Act

In May 2014 changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 came into effect. The act says all dog owners should be responsible for their dog's behaviour with other people and animals. This applies whether you own a large dog breed or a tiny one. Regardless of how placid or friendly your dog is, the Dangerous Dog Act applies to you if you have a dog.

It is against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere in a:

- public place
- private place
- or 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. Even if the dog does not bite but gives a person grounds to feel that the dog may injure them the law still applies.

## Out of control

A dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:

- injures someone
- makes someone worried that they might be injured

## References:

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

**RSPCA** - [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

**National Animal Welfare Trust** - [www.nawt.org.uk/advice/changes-dangerous-dogs-act-advice-owners](http://www.nawt.org.uk/advice/changes-dangerous-dogs-act-advice-owners)

## Safeguarding information for patients attending with dog bites



Please ask if you  
would like this leaflet  
in larger print or a  
different format.

Safeguarding  
Issue 3 – Ref: no. 0566  
Approved by the Patient Information Group  
Print August 2023 – Review August 2026

