

## Outline of Council's Dog attack/harassment investigation procedure

*Please note that due to the unique nature of each incident, steps may at times be taken out of this specific order if it is required.*

1. Council receives phone call/correspondence regarding an alleged dog attack/harassment incident
2. Council ensures that if the dog allegedly involved in the attack/harassment is out wandering at large, that it is detained to ensure public safety. In cases of serious attacks where there is a lack of confidence that the dog will not put the public in further danger, Council may seize the dog allegedly involved pending further investigation and may detain the dog for up to 7 days before deciding to return the dog to the owner or issuing an intention notice for an Order.
3. Council undertakes investigation of the site of the attack and gathers details of any witnesses.
4. Council obtains details from the complainant and arranges an interview in order to take a formal statement to assist with the investigation.
5. Council arranges to take formal statements from any witnesses to the alleged attack/harassment.
6. Council attempts to determine ownership of dog involved in the alleged attack.
7. If owner can be determined, Council provides dog owner with an opportunity to be interviewed in relation to the alleged attack/harassment.
8. Council undertakes further investigation as required including obtaining photographs and medical/veterinary reports as evidence if available/applicable.
9. Council's investigation officer provides Council management with a recommended course of action in accordance with Alexandrina Council's enforcement policy. A final decision is made on an outcome.
10. Correspondence is sent to the owner of the dog allegedly involved in the attack/harassment informing them of the outcome of Council's investigation and enforcement action undertaken if required.
11. Correspondence is sent to the complainant informing them of the outcome.
12. Information regarding the incident and outcome are sent to the Dog & Cat Management Board.