

FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE:



April 16, 2018

In April, the United States Postal Service promotes National Dog Bite Prevention Week, a public service campaign that offers safety tips and emphasizes the need for increased owner responsibility in the prevention of dog attacks.

Nationally, the number of carriers attacked by dogs has gone down over the years. This is because of greater cooperation from dog owners, stricter leash laws, and increased efforts to education letter carriers and the public about dealing with the problem.

Within the *(name Post Office)*, there have been *(number)* of dog attacks since the beginning of the year. *(This is up or down from previous year or if none, we are thankful no employees have been injured because of a dog attack).*

My concern is not only for our employees, but with the general population as well. Here are three critical points to remember:

- If a letter carrier delivers mail or packages to your front door, place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door. Dogs have been known to burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners should keep the family pet secured.
- Parents should remind their children and other family members not to take mail directly from letter carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may view the letter carrier handing mail to a family member as a threatening gesture.
- The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority. If a letter carrier feels threatened by a dog, or if a dog is loose or unleashed, the owner may be asked to pick up mail at a Post Office until the letter carrier is assured the pet has been restrained. If the dog is roaming the neighborhood, the pet owner's neighbors also may be asked to pick up their mail at the area's Post Office.

Please be a responsible pet owner to ensure the safety of all of our citizens. Educate children on how to behave around dogs – whether the family pet or a loose one. Together, we can safeguard all from unnecessary and potentially devastating dog attacks.

Thank you for your help with this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Title
Post Office or District Office