



POSTAL NEWS

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Gaithersburg, MD, letter carrier Hugues Pointe Jour takes a protective stance against an approaching dog.

U.S. Postal Service Releases Dog Bite National Rankings National Dog Bite Awareness Week Starts June 4

WASHINGTON — More than 5,300 Postal Service employees were attacked by dogs while delivering the mail last year. Aggressive dog behavior is a common safety concern USPS employees face. To keep its workers safe, the organization is providing important information on how dog owners can be good stewards for safe mail delivery as part of its annual National Dog Bite Awareness Week public service campaign.

The campaign runs Sunday, June 4, through Saturday, June 10. This year's theme is "Even good dogs have bad days." Spread the news of the campaign with the hashtag **#dogbiteawareness**.

"When letter carriers deliver mail in our communities, dogs that are not secured or leashed can become a nemesis and unpredictable and attack," said Leeann Theriault, USPS employee safety and health awareness manager. "Help us deliver your mail safely by keeping your dog secure and out of the way before your carrier arrives."

Pet Owners Can Help Support Safe Mail Delivery

Mail carriers know all dogs can bite, even those perceived as nonaggressive. Dogs are generally protective of their turf and dog owners have an important responsibility to control them to ensure safe mail delivery.

Most people know the approximate time their letter carrier arrives every day. Securing your dog before the carrier approaches your property will minimize any potentially dangerous interactions.

When a letter carrier comes to your home, keep dogs:

- Inside the house or behind a fence;
- Away from the door or in another room; or
- On a leash.

Pet owners also should remind children not to take mail directly from a letter carrier as the dog may view the carrier as a threat to the child.

Inform Yourself, See the Mail Before It Arrives

By using Informed Delivery, a free USPS service, customers can digitally preview incoming mail and packages from a computer, tablet or mobile device. More than 52 million customers have enrolled since it was launched in 2017. Sign up is at informedelivery.usps.com. This service can help dog owners anticipate when their carrier will arrive.

“When our mail carriers are bitten, it is usually a ‘good dog’ that had not previously behaved in a menacing way,” said USPS Occupational Safety and Health Senior Director Linda DeCarlo. “In 2022, too many aggressive dogs impacted the lives of our employees while delivering the mail. Please help us reduce that number by being a responsible pet owner who secures their dog as we deliver the mail.”

The Victims

Many attacks reported by letter carriers came from dogs whose owners regularly stated, “My dog won’t bite.” Dog bites are entirely preventable. One bite is one too many.

Being Attentive While Delivering

Letter carriers are trained to observe an area where they know dogs may be present. They are taught to be alert for potentially dangerous conditions and to respect a dog’s territory.

Letter carriers are trained to:

- Not startle a dog;
- Keep their eyes on any dog;
- Never assume a dog will not bite;
- Make some noise or rattle a fence to alert a dog if entering a yard;
- Never attempt to pet or feed a dog; and
- Place their foot against an outward swinging door to prevent a dog from escaping.

If a dog attacks, carriers are also trained to stand their ground and protect their body by placing something between them and the dog — such as a mail satchel — and to use dog repellent, if necessary.

Even though postal officials ask customers to control their dogs, bites still happen and may result in injuries to carriers and costly medical expenses for dog owners. Please heed the above best practices to help stop dog bites and protect your mail carrier.

“Recently, I was delivering to a customer’s mailbox and was nearly bitten by their large aggressive dog,” said Swain Lowe, a letter carrier in Manassas, Virginia. “Despite the dog being behind a fence, it still managed to jump over and charge me. Thankfully, I was aware of it and remembered not to run but to turn and use my satchel as a shield to prevent what could have been a terrible bite.”

Carriers have tools to alert them to dogs on their routes. A dog alert feature on carriers' handheld scanners can remind them of a possible dog hazard, and dog warning cards may be used during mail sorting to alert carriers to routes where a dog may interfere with delivery.

Lastly, when a carrier feels unsafe, mail service could be halted — not only for the dog owner, but for the entire neighborhood. When mail service is stopped, mail must be picked up at the Post Office. Service will not be restored until the aggressive dog is properly restrained.

2022 Dog Attack Rankings by City

The top 20 ranking are comprised of 36 cities, as some cities reported the same number of attacks. For 2022 dog attack data in your specific city or town, contact [your local USPS public relations representative](#).

Calendar Year 2022			
City	State	2022	Rank
HOUSTON	TX	57	1
LOS ANGELES	CA	48	2
DALLAS	TX	44	3
CLEVELAND	OH	43	4
SAN DIEGO	CA	39	5
CHICAGO	IL	36	6
ST. LOUIS	MO	34	7
KANSAS CITY	MO	33	8
PHOENIX	AZ	32	9
SAN ANTONIO	TX	32	9
DETROIT	MI	30	10
PHILADELPHIA	PA	28	11
LOUISVILLE	KY	26	12
COLUMBUS	OH	23	13
MINNEAPOLIS	MN	22	14
MILWAUKEE	WI	22	14
CINCINNATI	OH	22	14
CHARLOTTE	NC	21	15
MIAMI	FL	21	15
INDIANAPOLIS	IN	21	15
TOLEDO	OH	20	16
BATON ROUGE	LA	20	16
MEMPHIS	TN	19	17
SAN FRANCISCO	CA	19	17
PITTSBURGH	PA	19	17
DENVER	CO	19	17
AKRON	OH	19	17
BUFFALO	NY	18	18
DAYTON	OH	18	18

FORT WORTH	TX	17	19
LONG BEACH	CA	16	20
STOCKTON	CA	16	20
JACKSONVILLE	FL	16	20
OKLAHOMA CITY	OK	16	20
EL PASO	TX	16	20
BALTIMORE	MD	16	20

Top 10 Dog Bite States:

State	2021	2022
CA	656	675
TX	368	404
NY	239	321
PA	281	313
OH	359	311
IL	226	245
FL	201	220
MI	244	206
MO	161	166
NC	126	146

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Please Note: The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, dependable, and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 165 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, [Delivering for America](#), to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America's most valued and trusted brands.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to fund its operations.

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