



POSTAL NEWS

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U.S. Postal Service Releases Annual Dog Attack City Rankings *Delivery Scanning Technology Linked to Decrease from 2016*

SAN DIEGO — The number of postal employees attacked by dogs nationwide reached 6,244 in 2017 — more than 500 fewer than 2016. Today, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is showcasing technology that alerts mail carriers of potential attacks while releasing its annual list of cities where the most dog attacks were recorded. The organization also highlights safety initiatives to help protect its employees and offers tips to pet owners.

“We’re encouraged by the decrease in dog attacks,” said U.S. Postal Service Safety Director Linda DeCarlo in San Diego, where postal employees suffered 46 attacks — the fifth ranked city in 2017. “The totals are still too high, but we’re confident that with continuing education and dog bite prevention training, along with advancing technology, we can keep more people safe and keep attacks trending downward.”

Enhancing Employee Safety

DeCarlo highlights USPS safety measures that alert mail carriers to dogs on their delivery routes. The Package Pickup application on usps.com asks customers to indicate if there are dogs at their addresses when they schedule package pickups. This information is provided to carriers on their delivery scanners which send alerts if an unleashed dog is reported in a delivery area.

“The scanners that our carriers use to confirm a customer’s delivery include a feature for them to

indicate the presence of a dog at an individual address,” said DeCarlo. “This information is particularly helpful for substitute carriers who fill in for regular carriers on their days off.”



DeCarlo is in San Diego Thursday, April 5, to kick off National Dog Bite Prevention Week, which runs Sunday, April 8, through Saturday, April 14. The Postal Service, joined by the [American Humane](#), [American Veterinary Medical Association](#), [Insurance Information Institute](#) and [State Farm Insurance](#), is driving home the message that dog bites are a national issue and education can resolve the issue.

Half of the 4.5 million Americans bitten by dogs annually are children, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

DeCarlo gave the following tips and encouraged sharing them using the hashtag **#preventdogbites**. A video on dog bite prevention tips is available on the Postal Service's YouTube channel.

- If a 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. Some dogs 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 carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may view the person 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 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 carrier is assured the pet has been restrained. If a 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.

[American Humane](#), the country's first national humane organization, estimates that more than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year with 800,000 seeking medical attention for these bites — more than half of them being children.

“Two-thirds of the injuries occurring in children four years or younger are to the head or neck region, and studies have also shown that the greatest percentage of dog-bite fatalities occurred among children and unsupervised newborns left with dogs — something that should never occur,” said Mark Stubis, chief communications officer, American Humane. “To help, American Humane

offers a free online booklet, '[Pet Meets Baby](#),' with valuable information on introducing a new child to a home with a pet — or a new pet into a home with a child available for families with children."

Insurance company State Farm reports that in 2017, it paid more than \$132 million as a result of 3,618 dog-related injury claims. The average cost paid per claim was \$36,573. "State Farm is also one of the few insurance companies that does not exclude homeowner or renter insurance coverage because of the breed of dog owned," said Heather Paul, State Farm public affairs specialist. "The company reinforces that responsible pet ownership and educating children about how to safely interact with dogs is key to reducing dog bites."

"Veterinarians see firsthand the needless heartbreak a dog bite can cause," said Dr. Mike Topper, AVMA President. "We know that dog bites are not a breed-specific issue and that any dog can bite. We also know that most bites can be prevented through [education](#). Your veterinarian and the AVMA have extensive [resources](#) designed to keep your pup, no matter what their breed, a happy, healthy member of your family and community."

2017 Dog Attack Rankings by City

A total of 6,244 postal employees were attacked by dogs in 2017. The top 30 city rankings are below. Some cities share the same rankings as they experienced the same number of attacks.

	Office City	Office State	CY-17	CY-16
1	HOUSTON	TX	71	62
2	LOS ANGELES	CA	67	80
3	ST LOUIS	MO	52	31
4	CLEVELAND	OH	49	60
5	SAN DIEGO	CA	46	57
6	BALTIMORE	MD	44	36
6	SAN ANTONIO	TX	44	42
7	COLUMBUS	OH	43	39
8	DALLAS	TX	40	41
9	LOUISVILLE	KY	39	51
10	CHICAGO	IL	38	46
11	DENVER	CO	35	47
12	LONG BEACH	CA	32	22
12	DETROIT	MI	32	48
12	KANSAS CITY	MO	32	30
13	OAKLAND	CA	28	23
13	SEATTLE	WA	28	31
14	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	27	43
14	CHARLOTTE	NC	27	33
14	PHILADELPHIA	PA	27	40
15	SAN JOSE	CA	26	21
15	FORT WORTH	TX	26	33
16	MIAMI	FL	25	15
16	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	25	44
16	ROCHESTER	NY	25	11
16	CINCINNATI	OH	25	24

16	TOLEDO	OH	25	18
17	PHOENIX	AZ	24	35
17	SACRAMENTO	CA	24	30
17	PORTLAND	OR	24	41

The Postal Service 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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Media Contacts

Media are encouraged to contact [local USPS spokespersons](#) to conduct interviews or follow letter carriers on their rounds. Related contacts: American Humane, Mark Stubis, marks@americanhumane.org, 202.677.4227; American Veterinary Medical Assn., Sharon Granskog, sgranskog@avma.org, 847.285.6619; Insurance Information Institute, Janet Ruiz, janetr@iii.org, 212.346.5545; and, State Farm Insurance, Heather Paul, heather.paul.jaw8@statefarm.com, 309.766.0922.

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