



POSTAL NEWS

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Linthicum Heights, MD, letter carrier T.J. Jackson shows how mail carriers can use their satchel to protect themselves from aggressive dogs.

U.S. Postal Service Releases Dog Bite National Rankings National Dog Bite Awareness Campaign Starts June 2

WASHINGTON — Incidents involving dog attacks on Postal Service employees rose to more than 5,800 cases last year. As part of the USPS 2024 National Dog Bite Awareness Campaign, the organization is offering crucial information on how dog owners can be good stewards for safe mail delivery and ensure the safety of our employees.

The campaign begins Sunday, June 2, and runs through Sunday, June 9. This year's theme is "Don't let your dog bite the hand that serves you." Spread the news of the campaign with the hashtag **#dogbiteawareness**.

"Letter carriers are exposed to potential hazards every day, none more prevalent than a canine encounter. All it takes is one interaction for a letter carrier to possibly suffer an injury," said Leann Theriault, USPS Manager, Employee Safety and Health Awareness. "The U.S. Postal Service consistently encourages responsible pet ownership. The national dog bite campaign is an effort to promote dog bite awareness to keep our customers, their dogs, and letter carriers safe while delivering the mail."

Dog Owners Can Help With Safe Mail Delivery

Letter 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.

Stay Informed, 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 the service was launched in 2017. Sign up is at informedelivery.usps.com. This service can help dog owners anticipate when their carrier will arrive.

Consequences of a Dog Attack

According to the most recent information available from the Insurance Information Institute, the average cost per insurance claim for a dog bite is \$64,555. When a postal employee suffers an injury, the owner could be responsible for medical bills, lost wages, uniform replacement costs, and pain and suffering for the employee.

Staying Focused on 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:

- Make a non-threatening noise or rattle a fence to alert a dog if entering a yard;
- Never startle a dog;
- Keep their eyes on any dog;
- Never assume a dog will not bite;
- 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 a customer’s dog is friendly to most people, it can always have a bad day,” said letter carrier Tara Snyder. “I know, from experience, even when a dog is in the house, customers need to make sure their door is secure so their dog can’t push it open and bite the letter carrier.”

Letter 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 must be used during mail sorting to alert carriers to addresses where a dog may interfere with delivery.

Holding the Mail

When a carrier feels unsafe, mail service can be stopped. Until the carrier feels safe enough to restart delivery, the mail will have to be picked up at the dog owner’s local Post Office. If a carrier feels a house

or neighborhood is unsafe to deliver the mail and there is no way to inform residents their mail service has been suspended, the residents would have to contact the supervisor at their local Post Office for more information. The residents would also have to pick up their mail at the Post Office until it is safe to resume delivery. If a dangerous dog issue is not resolved, owners can be required to rent a Post Office box to receive mail.

2023 Dog Attack Rankings by City

The top 20 ranking consists of 30 cities, as some cities reported the same number of attacks. For 2023 dog attack data in your specific city or town, contact [your local USPS public relations representative](#).

Calendar Year 2023			
City	State	2023	Rank
LOS ANGELES	CA	65	1
HOUSTON	TX	56	2
CHICAGO	IL	48	3
ST. LOUIS	MO	46	4
CLEVELAND	OH	44	5
SAN DIEGO	CA	41	6
DALLAS	TX	39	7
CINCINNATI	OH	38	8
PHILADELPHIA	PA	34	9
COLUMBUS	OH	33	10
KANSAS CITY	MO	32	11
INDIANAPOLIS	IN	30	12
MEMPHIS	TN	29	13
LOUISVILLE	KY	28	14
MINNEAPOLIS	MN	27	15
ALBUQUERQUE	NM	26	16
SAN ANTONIO	TX	26	16
SACRAMENTO	CA	26	16
MILWAUKEE	WI	23	17
DAYTON	OH	23	17
FORT WORTH	TX	23	17
MIAMI	FL	21	18
DENVER	CO	21	18
OMAHA	NE	21	18
BUFFALO	NY	20	19
SAN FRANCISCO	CA	20	19
LONG BEACH	CA	19	20
TULSA	OK	19	20
PORTLAND	OR	19	20
DETROIT	MI	19	20

Top 10 Dog Bite States:

State	2023	2022
CA	727	675
TX	411	404
OH	359	311
PA	334	313
IL	316	245
NY	296	321
FL	193	220
NC	185	146
MI	183	206
MO	180	166

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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, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to 167 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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