



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2025

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Woodridge, VA, Letter Carrier George Hinton encounters a dog on his delivery route.

U.S. Postal Service Releases Dog Bite National Rankings National Dog Bite Awareness Campaign starts June 1

WASHINGTON — Incidents involving dog attacks on Postal Service employees rose to more than 6,000 cases last year. As part of the 2025 USPS 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 its employees.

The month-long campaign begins on Sunday, June 1. This year's theme is "Secure Your Dog, Keep Deliveries on Track." Spread news of the campaign with the hashtag **#dogbiteawareness**.

"The best way to keep safe from dog attacks is to recognize and promote the responsibility of pet ownership, such as teaching your dog appropriate behavior and commands and not allowing your dog to roam freely. All dogs — regardless of breed, size or age — have the potential to bite," said Leeann Theriault, USPS employee safety and health awareness manager. "Dog bite attacks on postal employees are preventable. The most important message for our customers to remember during the 2025 USPS National Dog Bite Awareness Campaign is keep your dog secured and away from the carrier as the mail is being delivered. Help ensure the safety of everyone in our communities."

Dog Owners Can Help With Safe Mail Delivery

Many of us are dog lovers, but few of us are dog experts. Even dogs that have never shown signs of aggression can react in ways their owners don't expect. They can act without warning on their instinct to protect their owners and their owners' property. Dogs may attack not only to defend their territory, but

also when they feel startled, anxious or unwell. It's not just about bad or aggressive dogs — it's about unpredictable moments.

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.

Keep your dog in a separate room or area away from the door when the mail carrier comes to your house. If you go outside, close the door firmly behind you and make sure it is secured so your dog doesn't slip out or bust through it unexpectedly. If you are outside with your dog while mail is being delivered, make sure your dog is secured away from the mail carrier and on a leash. Never accept the mail from your mail carrier in the presence of your dog.

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

Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery and See the Mail on Your Electronic Device Before It Arrives

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

The Cost of a Dog Attack

When a postal employee suffers an injury from a dog attack, it can cost the dog owner thousands of dollars because they could be responsible for medical bills, lost wages, uniform replacement costs, and pain and suffering for the employee.

"Customers may not consider their dog a danger to others, however, to a letter carrier like me, all dogs can be considered a threat when delivering the mail," said Jonah Helfrich, a Blue Bell, PA, letter carrier. "I was recently delivering mail and a dog barged through a door and bit me on the wrist, which required me to seek medical treatment. I strongly encourage all dog owners to take precautions to make sure their dog is secure when mail is being delivered."

Mail Carriers Know How to Deliver Safely

Mail 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.

Mail 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.

Mail 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.

Mail Delivery Could Be Suspended Because of Unsecured Dog

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.

Cities and States With the Most Dog Attacks in 2024

For the 2024 dog attack rankings in your specific city or town, contact your local Corporate Communications representative at about.usps.com/newsroom/media-contacts/local.htm.

These 38 cities comprise the top 20 localities with the greatest number of dog bite incidents:

2024 Dog Bite/Dog Incident Data			
	CITY	# of DOG BITE/DOG ATTACK	Top 20 cities by number
1	LOS ANGELES, California	77	1
2	HOUSTON, Texas	65	2
3	CHICAGO, Illinois	57	3
4	ST. LOUIS, Missouri	47	4
5	CINCINNATI, Ohio	44	5
6	DALLAS, Texas	43	6
7	KANSAS CITY, Missouri	40	7
8	CLEVELAND, Ohio	40	7
9	SAN DIEGO, California	35	8
10	DENVER, Colorado	34	9
11	SAN ANTONIO, Texas	32	10
12	PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania	32	10
13	DETROIT, Michigan	32	10
14	COLUMBUS, Ohio	32	10
15	MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota	30	11
16	INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana	26	12
17	PHOENIX, Arizona	25	13
18	MEMPHIS, Tennessee	25	13
19	OMAHA, Nebraska	24	14
20	LOUISVILLE, Kentucky	24	14
21	ROCHESTER, New York	23	15
22	TOLEDO, Ohio	21	16
23	SACRAMENTO, California	21	16

24	EL PASO, Texas	21	16
25	SAN FRANCISCO, California	20	17
26	OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma	20	17
27	MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin	20	17
28	ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico	20	17
29	STOCKTON, California	18	18
30	OAKLAND, California	18	18
31	YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio	17	19
32	SALT LAKE CITY, Utah	17	19
33	PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania	17	19
34	MIAMI, Florida	17	19
35	DES MOINES, Iowa	17	19
36	ST. PETERSBURG, Florida	15	20
37	FORT WORTH, Texas	15	20
38	BIRMINGHAM, Alabama	15	20

Here are the 10 states with the greatest number of dog bite incidents:

2024 Dog Bite/Dog Incident Data			
	STATE	# of DOG BITE/DOG	Top 10 States
1	California	701	1
2	Texas	438	2
3	Ohio	350	3
4	Illinois	344	4
5	New York	322	5
6	Pennsylvania	316	6
7	Michigan	231	7
8	Florida	210	8
9	Missouri	207	9
10	North Carolina	169	10



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 169 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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