



# SAFETY



# CONVERSATION



**Topic: Working Around Dogs**

## WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN

In this safety conversation we will discuss what considerations and precautions to take when working in an environment with dogs. We will also discuss what action you should take if you are bitten or attacked by a dog in the workplace.

## HOW IT WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR JOB

Following this conversation, you will:

- Know where you may expect to come across dogs in the workplace
- Understand what safety precautions to take
- Know what action to take if you have a bite or are attacked whilst at work

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Whilst Compass Group generally doesn't permit dogs in the workplace it is becoming more common with some of our clients and customers. For this reason, it is important to understand what is and what is not acceptable.

The safety and wellbeing of our team members is vital, and we want you all to feel safe at work. Team members who are carrying out building or office cleans are most likely to come across dogs in the workplace. If you are being asked to work in area where dogs are present with their owner, then you are within your rights to ask the owner to remove the dog from the area or have the dog put on the lead whilst you complete your duties.

If the owner refuses to either remove or restrain the dog to allow the task to be completed, then you can refuse to work in the area. You should report the incident to your supervisor or line manager as soon as possible and you should agree a suitable time to complete the task.

If during your working day or tasks, you come across a dog that is unattended by its owner and running free, you must not to enter the area and must report the incident to your supervisor or line manager.

Under no circumstances should Compass staff play with, pet or interact with client pets whilst at work, nor must dogs be allowed:

- to run free around areas that are shared by client and Compass staff
- in food production and storage areas
- to jump onto food counters / tables

Remember that service dogs or seeing eye dogs are allowed in all premises where appropriate. If service dogs are carrying out checks in kitchens food preparation should cease until checks are completed.

If you are bitten, attached or feel threatened by a dog whilst at work report the incident to a supervisor or manager

Carry out basic first aid to treat any bite wounds by:

- cleaning the skin around the wound with warm water
- removing any objects such as teeth, hair or dirt from the wound using running water
- gently squeezing the wound so it bleeds slightly (unless it's already bleeding) – this can help reduce the risk of infection
- press a dry dressing firmly onto the wound to stop the bleeding
- after cleaning the wound, gently pat it dry and cover it with a clean dressing



## BE MINDFUL

- Check your surroundings and work areas for dogs if you know that dogs are regularly in the area
- Consider the equipment you are using and tasks you are doing around dogs; loud noises may startle them causing them to bark or bite
- Do not approach dogs to stroke or pet them even if they are friendly

## SPEAK OUT

- Notify your supervisor or manager as soon as possible if you are not comfortable working around pets
- If there is a dog left unattended, preventing you from doing your job, report this to your manager as soon as possible

## GET INVOLVED

- If you spot something that doesn't look safe or one of your team feels unsafe report it

## YOUR VALIDATION

- What should you do if a dog is left unattended / unsupervised in your area of work?
- What should do if you are bitten?

## MORE INFORMATION

- Workplace Risk Assessment
- HSE Website
- Client Dogs Policy



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share

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