

# TIP SHEET: DOG ATTACKS ON GUIDE DOGS

## BACKGROUND

When a guide dog is attacked by another dog, it puts both guide dog and human in immediate danger. For someone who is visually impaired and relying on the services of a guide dog, sudden disorientation may result in life-threatening injuries. Also, guide dogs that have been attacked may be so traumatized that they can no longer provide service.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

As a veterinarian, you see the physical impact of the attack when a guide dog user brings in his or her guide dog. A dog attack on a guide dog is a crime and should be reported by the victim to law enforcement. (*California Penal Code section 600.2.*) Make sure that the guide dog user understands the severity of the problem and recommend that a police report be filed.

“ California has laws pertaining to dog bites and dangerous dogs, and veterinarians can help officers enforce these laws by encouraging guide dog owners to file a police report when a guide dog is wrongfully injured or killed. ”

—Dean Henricks, DVM, president, CVMA

“ Any attack on a guide dog should be taken very seriously... If the police are called right away, officers have a better chance of engaging and holding the dog owner responsible. It is critical that we have the participation of all veterinary services working with the police to better serve the victims. ”

—Officer Sherry Hicks, Vicious and Dangerous Dog Unit-SFPD

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions regarding dog attacks on guide dogs, visit us on the Web at [www.guidedogboard.ca.gov/resources/index.shtml](http://www.guidedogboard.ca.gov/resources/index.shtml), or contact your local police department.



This tip sheet was produced by the State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind, the San Francisco Police Department, and the California Veterinary Medical Association.

