

POSTMASTER



June 15, 2012

SUBJECT: DOG OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

TO: POSTAL CUSTOMER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

The Postal Service is charged with the responsibility of providing consistent and reliable mail service. However, as an employer, we are also dedicated to the well-being and safety of our employees. Last year, nearly 5,600 Postal Service™ employees were victimized by dogs resulting in unnecessary pain and inconvenience to our employees as well as enormous cost to the Postal Service.

As information, dog bites, regardless of the extent of damage, are traumatic experiences and constant hazards to our letter carriers. Some of these attacks resulted in the need for extended rehabilitative leave as well as costly and painful medical treatment. We have taken preventive measures, both internally and through community efforts, to keep our neighborhoods safe for everyone.

Our letter carriers are armed with a pepper-based repellent spray that is supposed to stop, at least temporarily, a dog attack. The repellent has been accepted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Pesticides Regulation Branch and has been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is not only a safe and effective way to reduce bites, but it is also a humane method of controlling animals. Each year we host National Dog Bite Prevention Week to share useful tips on how to avoid being bitten and how to be a responsible dog owner.

We recognize that suspension of mail delivery is a serious matter and is taken only when absolutely necessary. While our overall goal is to provide the best possible delivery of your mail, we must also be mindful of the welfare and safety of our employees. Therefore, we instruct our letter carriers to avoid entering an area where in their judgment there is a threat of injury or attack by an animal. Suspended mail delivery will resume as soon as the Postal Service is confident the animal is no longer a menace.

In summary, it is the dog owner's responsibility to control his/her dog and to comply with community ordinances concerning dog ownership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Sanghera".

Raj Sanghera

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