

Education in the community and schools

[00:10] - Rochelle Dean

A significant part of the animal management officer's role is education of the community. That's working with a dog owner in regards to what their requirements are under the act as a responsible dog owner, and it's also working with the community on how they can be safe around dogs and understanding dog's behaviour. And this in turn prevents attacks. What we see as a good dog owner is one that has registered and microchipped their dogs. It is also an owner that is meeting the welfare needs of their dogs. This is food, water and shelter for the dog and meeting its health requirements. Another area is that the dog owner must confine their dog to their property or when not on their property, that it is under the control of the dog owner.

[01:02]

People that are going on to properties in order to do their work are another great area for animal management officers to do education. This is teaching them the signs of dogs on property, territorial aggression within the dog and also how to get off a property safely if the dog does show aggression.

[01:27] - Ken Thomas

Educating our children is really, really, really important because they're the ones that are going to grow up to be our future dog owners. And if we can educate them on not only how to be safe around dogs as children, but to be better dog owners as adults, then it really, that is a good move, and it starts now as kids. We go into the schools and try and teach these kids how to be safe around dogs.

[01:58]

So if we can teach our kids to be safe around dogs, then we can possibly prevent those children from being bitten by those dogs.

[02:17]

Catchy messaging when we're doing school education talks, as that's supplied by the New Zealand Institute of Animal Management Officers go a long way to allowing our kids to better understand the message that we want to deliver. For example, one of the catchy tunes is: "if the dogs on its own, leave it alone".

[02:34] - Rochelle Dean

To help our community understand their responsibilities as dog owners, we organise community events. This brings dog owners into one space where they can learn around what registration means, de-sexing dogs, microchipping and also being safe around dogs.