



Area Address  
Area Address  
AREA TOWN  
Area Postcode

Tel:  
Date



Dear Headteacher

I am writing to ask for your support in raising awareness of the increased risk of dog attacks our postmen and women face over the school holidays.

In raising awareness, we may go some way to preventing future attacks and reducing injuries to our postal workers.

**If you could share the following information with your pupils during an assembly and their parents via the school newsletter or website, before your school breaks up for the holiday, it will help us to reduce this risk and keep our post people safe during this period.**

Here are a few bullet points that highlight the current issues we face:

- There were over 1,900 dog attacks on Royal Mail postmen and women across the UK in 2022-23, that's at least five postmen or postwomen attacked every day.
- 47% of these are **attacks happened when the customer opened the door to get a signature for a delivery.**
- Lots of dog attacks occurred when dogs **were left alone in the garden or not supervised** when our postal worker was delivering
- Some of these attacks **led to permanent and disabling injuries.**
- All dog attacks can have **life changing consequences** for our colleagues even where the physical injury does not look severe.

We know that even the most placid of dogs can behave differently if they see someone they do not know approaching their home. If a dog is feeling poorly it can sometimes react in ways that we do not expect. A dog's loyalty and protective nature - reasons why we love them so much - can mean they aren't always friendly to visitors.

**So, our ask of your children and their parents is to follow the top tips below to keep their post person safe:**

- If the post person has an item of mail or a parcel for you, before you open the door, please make sure your dog is secure in another room, or behind a gate, just until we've delivered, and don't worry if it takes a minute to do it - we will wait!
- If you have a back or side garden, please make sure your dog can't get loose and gates and doors are closed.
- Sometimes dogs snatch mail from the letterbox and they can cause injuries to the post person's fingers, as well as themselves. If you can, please consider fitting an external mailbox or letter cage to the back of your door.

You can find more top tips on our website, which you can access through this link: <https://www.royalmail.com/personal/dog-awareness> or via the QR code below.

**If you have any good ideas on how we might reduce dog attacks at Royal Mail, please send an e-mail with your suggestions to: [nicholas.burns@royalmail.com](mailto:nicholas.burns@royalmail.com).**

We are also running a competition for the best drawing which shows the things we can do to keep our post person safe, the top three winning entries will be displayed on the dog awareness page of the Royal Mail website. Please send your submissions, along with your name, age and the details of your school to:

Nicholas Burns  
Plymouth Mail Centre  
Breakwater Road  
Oreston  
Plymouth  
PL9 7XX

**The closing date for entries to be received is 10/03/24.**

Below is an A4 poster that I hope you will be able to display in your school. This information is not only useful during the school holidays but also throughout the year.

If you would like us to attend your school to talk further about this issue then please contact xxxxxxxx

Thank you so much for all your help and support on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,

Royal Mail



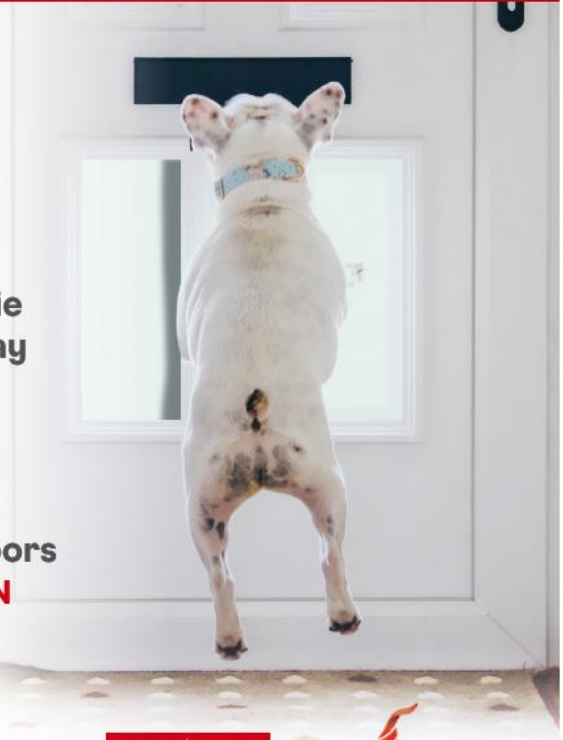
# DID YOU KNOW?



37 Royal Mail employees a week were attacked by dogs in 2022/23. That's a total of **1,916** posties – with some suffering permanent and disabling injuries.

## Please help us prevent attacks on our posties:

- **SECURE YOUR DOG** in a different room when the postie arrives
- **NEVER OPEN THE DOOR** to a postie when your dog is not secured away
- **INVEST IN A LETTER CAGE OR EXTERNAL DELIVERY POINT** to stop bites through the letterbox
- If your dog is running loose outdoors on your premises **YOUR MAIL CAN BE SUSPENDED**



For more information, please visit [royalmail.com/dogawareness](https://royalmail.com/dogawareness)

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Following changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in May 2014, an owner or/and a person in charge of a dog, can be prosecuted if that dog attacks anyone, *in any place* in England, Wales or Scotland. Royal Mail can commence a prosecution if the police have failed to do so.