



POSTAL NEWS

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National Media Contact: Mark Saunders
202.268.6524
C: 202.320.0782
mark.r.saunders@usps.gov

Los Angeles: David Walton
david.walton@usps.gov
858.674.3149
C: 858.716.7867
usps.com/news



U.S. Postal Service Releases Annual Dog Attack City Rankings *Safety and Prevention Measures Highlighted*

LOS ANGELES — The number of postal employees attacked by dogs nationwide reached 6,755 in 2016 — more than 200 higher than the year before. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) released its annual ranking of top dog attack cities today, highlighted safety initiatives to help protect its employees and offered tips to pet owners.

“Even good dogs have bad days,” said U.S. Postal Service Safety Director Linda DeCarlo in Los Angeles, where postal employees suffered 80 attacks — more than any other city in 2016. “Dog bite prevention training and continuing education are important to keep pet owners, pets and those who visit homes — like letter carriers — happy and healthy.”

Forty cities make up the top 30 dog attack city rankings (see chart below).

Enhancing Employee Safety

DeCarlo highlighted USPS safety measures that alert letter carriers to dogs on their delivery routes. The Package Pickup application on usps.com asks customers to indicate if there are dogs at their addresses when they schedule package pickups. This information is provided to letter carriers on their delivery scanners, which also can send real-time updates if an unleashed dog is reported in a delivery area.

“The scanners that Postal Service letter carriers use to confirm a customer’s delivery include a feature for carriers to indicate the presence of a dog at an individual address,” said DeCarlo. “This information is particularly helpful for substitute carriers who fill in for regular carriers on their days off.”

DeCarlo was in Los Angeles to kick off National Dog Bite Prevention Week, which runs Sunday, April 9 through Saturday, April 15. The Postal Service, joined by the [American Humane](#), [American Veterinary Medical Association](#), [Insurance Information Institute](#) and [State Farm Insurance](#), is driving home the message that dog bites are a national issue and education can help prevent dog attacks.

Half of the 4.5 million Americans bitten by dogs annually are children, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

DeCarlo gave the following tips and encouraged sharing them using the hashtag [#preventdogbites](#).

- If a letter carrier delivers mail or packages to your front door, place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door. Dogs have been known to burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners should keep the family pet secured.
- Parents should remind their children and other family members not to take mail directly from letter carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may view the letter carrier handing mail to a family member as a threatening gesture.
- The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority. If a letter carrier feels threatened by a dog, or if a dog is loose or unleashed, the owner may be asked to pick up mail at a Post Office until the letter carrier is assured the pet has been restrained. If the dog is roaming the neighborhood, the pet owner’s neighbors also may be asked to pick up their mail at the area’s Post Office.

2016 Dog Attack Rankings by City

A total of 6,755 postal employees were attacked by dogs in calendar year 2016. The top 30 city rankings are comprised of 40 cities as more than one city experienced the same number of attacks.

Rank	City		2016
1	LOS ANGELES	CA	80
2	HOUSTON	TX	62
3	CLEVELAND	OH	60
4	SAN DIEGO	CA	57
5	LOUISVILLE	KY	51
6	DETROIT	MI	48

7	DENVER	CO	47
8	CHICAGO	IL	46
9	INDIANAPOLIS	IN	44
10	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	43
11	SAN ANTONIO	TX	42
12	PORTLAND	OR	41
13	DALLAS	TX	41
14	PHILADELPHIA	PA	40
15	COLUMBUS	OH	39
16	BALTIMORE	MD	36
17	PHOENIX	AZ	35
18	CHARLOTTE	NC	33
18	MEMPHIS	TN	33
18	FORT WORTH	TX	33
19	ST LOUIS	MO	31
19	SEATTLE	WA	31
20	SACRAMENTO	CA	30
20	KANSAS CITY	MO	30
21	BUFFALO	NY	28
22	BROOKLYN	NY	27
23	ST PAUL	MN	26
24	NEW ORLEANS	LA	25
25	CINCINNATI	OH	24
26	WICHITA	KS	23
26	OAKLAND	CA	23
27	LONG BEACH	CA	22
27	FLUSHING	NY	22
28	SAN JOSE	CA	21
28	LAS VEGAS	NV	21
28	AKRON	OH	21
29	OKLAHOMA CITY	OK	20
29	RICHMOND	VA	20
30	FRESNO	CA	19
30	WASHINGTON	DC	19

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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Media Contacts

Media are encouraged to contact [local USPS spokespersons](#) to conduct interviews or follow letter carriers on their rounds. Related contacts: American Humane, Mark Stubis, marks@americanhumane.org, 202.677.4227; American Veterinary Medical Assn., Sharon Granskog, sgranskog@avma.org, 847.285.6619; Insurance Information Institute, Loretta Worters, lorettaw@iii.org, 212.346.5545; and, State Farm Insurance, Missy Dundov,

missy.dundov.sg5r@statefarm.com, 309.766.7087.

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