

MICHIGAN

If you are the victim of an unprovoked dog bite while in a public place or lawfully on the premises where the attack occurs, you are almost always able to prove liability on the part of the dog owner or person in control of the dog. Therefore, you have the right to act on your own behalf and engage in force to prevent great bodily harm or even death at the time of the dog's attacking you without the fear of being charged for animal cruelty. Once the attack is over the person is required not to retaliate by striking or using deadly force or the person may be charged with animal cruelty or other charges. Any law enforcement officer or person designated with the duty to protect the public also has a duty to act if someone is being attacked by a dog or a pack of dogs. Therefore, if time and circumstances permit they should immediately be called.

Dogs are considered property and dog owners have a duty to protect people from harm. Using a progression of actions up to the level of force matched with the level of aggression to either prevent the attack or stop it. The Dog Encounter Use of Force Chart gives the person the information needed in order to exercise reasonable judgment in the face of a dog encounter or attack. This judgment is based on the dog's body language and behavior during the time of an encounter or attack.

Written by Hector Hernandez 2007