SAFE OVER SUMMER

Aggressive Animals

Working in facilities management can bring us into contact with **domestic or wild animals** — dogs, birds, possums, snakes, or even aggressive wildlife in outdoor areas.

Aggressive or territorial animals can **bite, scratch, chase, or cause panic**, leading to injuries or falls. Understanding how to anticipate, assess, and respond to animal risks keeps everyone safe and avoids unnecessary harm to the animals themselves.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot

- **Residential or tenancy visits:** dogs or cats reacting to strangers entering property.
- **Grounds maintenance or waste areas:** magpies, swooping birds, snakes, or stray animals.
- **Service ducts, plant rooms, and ceiling spaces:** nesting birds, rodents, or possums startled by movement.

Discuss / Share:

Have you been confronted by an aggressive animal while working?

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Critical Controls

- **Plan ahead:** confirm with occupants or site reps that animals are restrained before arrival.
- **Stay alert on approach:** listen and look for signs of animals before entering yards or rooms.
- **Keep a safe distance** and use barriers or vehicles for protection if needed.
- **Avoid sudden movements or loud noises** that may provoke animals.
- **Report and record all animal incidents or near misses** through Zero Harm channels.

Discuss / Share:

What early warning signs do you look for when entering a property?