

TAKE CONTROL

Being Hit or Bitten by an Animal

This information bulletin was produced to assist in the prevention of workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes, and assessing and controlling risks, employers and workers can take control of their own health and safety in the workplace.

Risk indicators in the workplace

Some things to look for include:

- animals behaving nervously, such as shaking;
- activities occurring close to animals which could be considered unpredictable or frightening to the animal (for example, sudden approaches, sharp noises and flapping materials);
- animals behaving aggressively, such as snarling or gnashing teeth;
- lack of suitable protective clothing and equipment (for example, in areas where there are likely to be snakes);
- working close to mobile animals, such as fish and cows;
- working close to dangerous animals, such as crocodiles and jellyfish;
- animals with blocked access to their young;
- animals rushing for food or water;
- hurt or sick animals

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- animal restraining devices are available and used;
- employees do not handle animals on their own if the conditions suggest more than one person is needed;
- employees have been trained in the safe approach and handling of the animals they work with;
- employees have been trained in interpreting animal behaviour and body language, as well as in their own body language when handling animals;
- employees wear suitable protective clothing;
- suitable equipment is available to ward off threatening animals;
- barriers are used between the animals to be worked with and people;
- animals are not mistreated or kept unfed or without clean water.

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 38 Hazard identification and risk assessment

Other useful resources available include:

[Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources](#) (RDPIFR)

[Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association](#)

NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.

For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or visit www.worksafe.nt.gov.au