**What To Do When:**

**Your Dog is Attacked**

**Avoiding an attack**

* Where possible avoid areas where you know dogs are off leash.
* Alert by-law officers or police about dogs who are off-leash or left unattended.
* If you sense an issue ahead, turn around and avoid it by going another route. It can be frustrating, but you and your dog's safety is more important.

**Dealing with an attack.**

* Do your best to get your dog away from the other dog. If possibly get your dog behind something to block him.
* If there are bystanders ask for help

**Immediately after the attack**

* Ask bystanders to help assess the health of your dog (and yourself if necessary)
* If you or your dog are injured, call 911. Even if only your dog was hurt. You are one unit and if your dog is impaired, you are as well. Call the police and inform them you and your guide dog have been attacked.
* Get as much information as you can about the dog and owner.
* Get your dog checked over by your veterinarian even if they seem to be okay.
* If you do not need to call the police the attack should still be reported to animal services.

**Advice from Police in reporting a dog attack**

* Get names of police officers or by-law officers in case you need to follow up.
* If your province/municipality has specific guide dog laws around attacks, keep a copy in your wallet/purse and show it to officers in case they are unaware.
* A report should be filed either by the police or animal control.
* If you believe proper protocol was not followed, the appropriate follow up is to contact the respective Chief of Police.

**Getting help recovering after a dog attack**

* Contact your guide dog mobility instructor or trainer; someone who is familiar with you and your dog and your history. It will help to have someone who understands your relationship to listen to you.
* It may be beneficial to speak to a mental health professional or social worker if you feel that memories of the attack are affecting you (e.g., avoiding going out with your dog, avoiding the place of the attack, difficulty sleeping etc.).
* If you have any tips to share about how you have dealt with the emotional issues resulting from the event, you can help empower others by:
	+ Educating the public about leash laws.
	+ Informing the public about dog attacks through media.
	+ Writing letters to the editors of local newspapers.
	+ Meeting with representatives of local law enforcement or animal control agencies.

If you have information to share or would like to request a tip sheet on another topic, please contact victoria.nolan@cnib.ca.