

Reactive or Powerful Dog Safety Plan

Layers of management for dogs who may frighten, injure or escape.

Owner: _____ Dog: _____ Date: _____

Dog and risk summary

Be specific. Avoid labels such as “bad” when a description will help.

■	Known triggers: _____
■	Early warning signs: _____
■	Minimum safe distance: _____
■	Bite or incident history recorded factually
■	Pain and health reviewed with vet
■	Qualified behaviour support contact: _____

Everyday safety layers

No single tool is foolproof. Use independent layers.

■	Secure collar/harness and suitable lead checked before leaving
■	Basket muzzle positively conditioned where appropriate
■	Gates, fencing and doors inspected
■	Dog separated before opening the front door
■	No unsupervised access to children or vulnerable people
■	Walking routes and quiet times planned
■	Emergency exit cue and treat scatter practised

Incident protocol

If control is being lost, create distance without adding conflict. Do not grab fighting dogs with bare hands.

■	Call dog away if safely possible
■	Use barriers and available exits
■	Move bystanders away
■	Seek medical/veterinary help for injuries
■	Record the event while details are fresh
■	Review management before the next exposure

UK legal reminder

The law applies to all dogs, including in private places. A dog may be considered dangerously out of control if it injures someone or makes someone reasonably worried that it might. Check current GOV.UK and devolved-nation guidance.

Important: This plan is not legal advice and does not make a high-risk situation safe by itself. Seek qualified, in-person veterinary behaviour and legal guidance.

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