

Site/Facility Visits & ANIMAL ATTACKS

NUMBER OF PETS IN THE U.S. BY RANKING



Dogs are the third most popular pet in the U.S.
Over 36 percent of households own at least one dog.

BIGGEST THREAT TO INSPECTORS: DOGS

While many dogs are friendly, intelligent, and obedient, some dogs can be aggressive due to irresponsible pet ownership, lack of



education and training, and irresponsible breeding. While pit bulls cause most fatal dog bites, all dogs can be dangerous.

NEARLY 1 IN 5 people bitten by a dog requires medical attention.



Dog bites can lead to pain, injury, nerve damage, infection, and, in rare cases, **DEATH**



18% OF DOG BITES become infected with bacteria.



OVER 60 kinds of bacteria live in dogs' mouths.



Did you know?

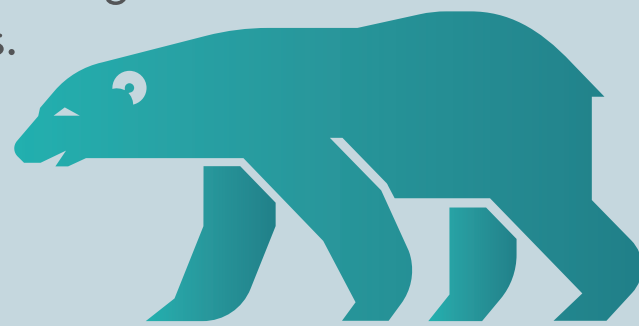
Dogs are the largest, most aggressive, most territorial animals that you're likely to see.

FAST FACT

Louisiana Black Bear may live up to 20 years. Adult males weight 150-350 pounds, and females weight 120-250 pounds.

OTHER POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER DURING A INSPECTION:

raccoons, snakes, rodents, bats, spiders, skunks, opossums, bees, fire ants, alligators, bears, and coyotes.



ANIMAL ATTACK PREVENTION

ASK THAT ANY PETS BE REMOVED FROM THE INSPECTION SITE.

Asking that pets be removed rather than simply secured behind a fence or in another room is the best way to keep both you and the animals safe. A pet-free property also allows you to perform a full inspection rather than one limited to animal-free zones.



Even if dogs have been domesticated since approximately 33,000 years ago, their primal instincts remain active to this day.

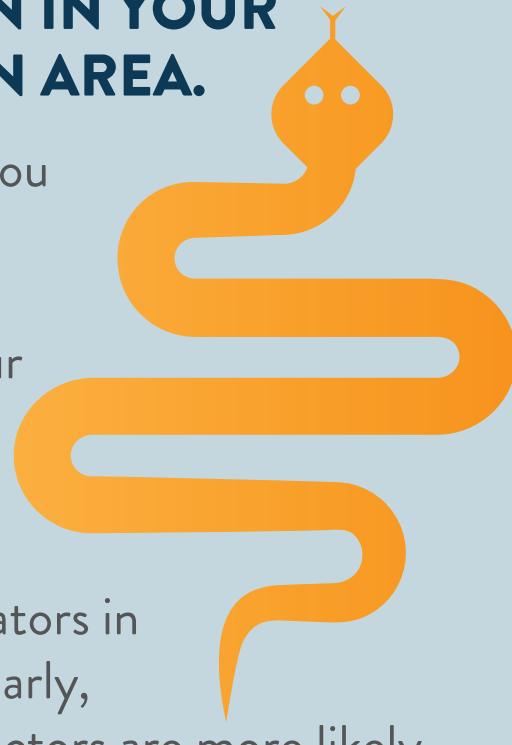
A bonus: Even if the pet isn't dangerous, having no pets onsite absolves you of any responsibility the site/facility tries to put upon you to look after their pet.

Q: What if a site/facility refuses to remove their pet?

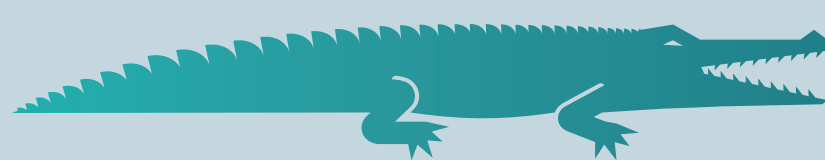
A: Try explaining that the inspection cannot take place until the property is pet-free. Be sure your contact your immediate supervisor to keep them informed of the situation.

KNOW WHAT WILDLIFE IS COMMON IN YOUR INSPECTION AREA.

What animals you may encounter onsite often depends on your location. While Florida inspectors may encounter alligators in backyards regularly, California inspectors are more likely to stumble upon snakes. Look up what types of wild animals are prevalent in your inspection territory. Then, learn what signs—like footprints or feces—may indicate such animals are nearby.

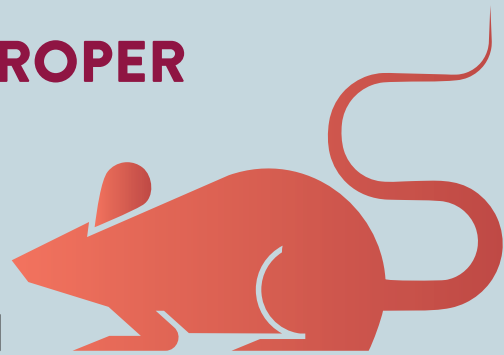


Be aware of your surroundings. Familiarize yourself with what is there and what signs to look for.



WEAR THE PROPER CLOTHING.

Protective gear—such as pants, boots, gloves, and masks—can protect you from surprise critters.

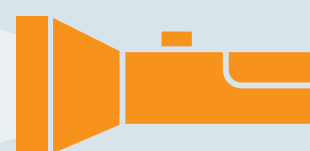


Dress properly for your inspection and try to cover as much as possible.

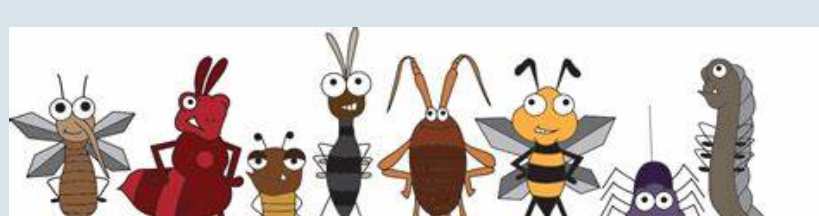


Before entering a space where there's potential for animals, look really closely and use an ultra-bright flashlight to make sure the area your inspecting appears to be clear before venturing in.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION.



Before inspecting the intricate details of the site/facility, get an overview of your inspection site. Do not enter a new area without scanning it for animals first. Before inspecting the site/facility, check where wild animals are more likely to reside, you may consider giving potential critters the opportunity to leave by making noise before you enter. Once you have established that the area is safe, continue to inspect defensively just in case there are animals present that you were unable to see in your initial search.



IF YOU DO ENCOUNTER AN ANIMAL, PROTECT YOURSELF AND LEAVE.

If you do encounter an animal, do not approach it and do not continue inspecting that area. Even if there is quite a distance between you and the animal, it is not worth risking your safety to complete that area of the inspection. It's better to disclaim the area in your report and offer to return to re-inspect the area once it's clear. Notify your supervisor.

If an unfamiliar dog approaches you:

- Stand still and remain calm with the side of your body facing the dog
- Don't panic or make loud noises
- Avoid direct eye contact with the dog
- Slowly raise your hands to your neck with your elbows in

If a dog attacks you:

- Create a barrier between you and the dog with your jacket, bag, or other available items
- If bitten, resist the urge to pull away from the bite, which can make the injury worse
- If you're knocked down, curl into a ball with your head tucked in and your hands over your ears and neck
- Once the dog loses interest, slowly back away to safety

When you arrive to a site/facility and hear a dog on the other side and whether it sounds like a shih tzu or a rottweiler—do not go any further.

SAFETY