



# Uniform Dog Attack Data (UDAD)

## A Uniformed Dog Attack Collection Survey for the Bylaw Enforcement Profession in British Columbia

In British Columbia, there is no uniform tracking of dog attacks, reporting procedures or best practices in place to ensure consistency and quality control of data collection related to dog attacks. Without standardized and consistent dog attack reporting and sharing of information between agencies, bylaw services departments, the public, and media will continue to rely on inconsistent and inaccurate data and information.

It is important for dog attack reports to be accurate and complete, as this information is critical for public safety issues, dog bite evaluations, community education, dog attack prevention, and policy review and implementation. This is especially true for Pit Bulls and pit bull types/mixes that are facing controversial breed specific legislation (BSL) in several local governments in British Columbia.

### Uniform Dog Attack Data (UDAD) Collection

The Licence Inspectors' and Bylaw Officers' Association (LIBOA) cooperates with local government bylaw services throughout the province. The UDAD Survey was created by the association with input from participating members. The Survey has been designed to measure the reported incidence of dog attacks in BC and incident characteristics.

The UDAD Survey uses an "incident-based" reporting system, meaning that a separate statistical record is created for each incident. For each incident, detailed information is collected on the event, victim dog, and accused dog. No personal identity information related to victims or subject dog owners are included in the Survey.

Data from the UDAD Survey is intended to provide vital information for dog attack analysis, community education, resource planning, and training for the bylaw profession. The Association and local governments may use the data to assist in decision making, legislative initiatives, provincial standards, and for comparisons between other communities and bylaw services departments. The data collected may also be used by the public, media, academics and researchers to examine the data.

As the UDAD Survey data collected are provided by partnering local government bylaw services departments, the data only reflects reports that come to the attention of bylaw services departments and do not reflect a count of all incidents that occurred in British Columbia. It must also be noted that some dog attacks are never brought to the attention of bylaw services.

Adjustments to the UDAD Survey may be made in response to suggestions and commentary from participating bylaw services departments, which are intended to improve the quality and usability of data collected through the Survey. UDAD Survey changes should be considered when examining trends in dog attack statistics.

### Reporting

The UDAD Survey is intended to capture reported incidents from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, commencing in 2022. Participating bylaw services departments are to record each investigated incident and submit the Survey to the Association by January 31, of the following year. The Association will compile received data and share with bylaw services departments in the province. The UDAD Survey will be posted on the Association's website for membership and public viewing. The Association will address questions from the public, media or other bodies related to the Survey that is posted on the website.

## Questions

### **When should we begin recording investigated incidents?**

The Association respectfully requests that recording of investigated incidents commencing from the begin of January of 2022, including incidents that were reported from January 1 to date of document receipt.

### **Can our department use more than one spreadsheet?**

Each participating department is to utilize a single spreadsheet. Should there be more than 100 investigated incidents, then an additional spreadsheet may be utilized.

### **What is considered an “attack” that should be recorded?**

Any investigated incident that includes at least a minor injury as defined on the Survey.

As this is a new uniformed tracking document, it is expected that questions will arise. The Association and participating bylaw services departments can address questions throughout the year before the UDAD Survey is shared with the Association or other participating members.

The current contacts regarding this initiative are:

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Please email all three contacts when sending correspondence.

Thank you,



Steffan Zamzow  
Vice President, LIBOA