

Keith Marcus:

Everyone loves their dog. No one thinks their dog does any wrong. But we found that a lot of times, people have dogs that are not under control, dogs that are mean, dogs that are vicious, dogs that just should not be out in public. When a person has been bitten by a dog, it's important to call an attorney right away. I say that because when injuries, accidents, dog bites, any kind of accident probably happens, we want the information right away. We want to be on the scene as much as we can. We want to be talking to people while it's fresh in their minds. We want to be talking to neighbors while it's fresh in their minds. So, our goal is to try and get involved right from the beginning, right from the get go of when a dog bite occurs, so then we can talk to certain people, talk to our clients and get pictures of their injuries. We will talk to their owner, find out who their homeowners insurance is. Once we have homeowners insurance, then we will deal with them from that point on.

George Naylor:

Dog bite cases in Virginia can be a little tricky sometimes because every dog gets one free bite under Virginia law, which means we have to prove, not only that the dog attacked our client, but also that the dog has previously attacked somebody else or another animal, another companion animal. It's always very important to do that investigation early on and find out if animal control have had any other reports of similar instances.

Keith Marcus:

While there is a one free bite rule, it doesn't mean that someone doesn't have a claim because the dog has never bitten before. I tell people that all the time because we can prove many times if the owner knows that the dog is one to be somewhat aggressive at his behavior, then that's enough for an owner to use reasonable care to other people who come on their property. So, don't let that be a deterrent to people who do get bitten by dog, they still might have a case. Insurance companies, they will, a lot of times, try and solve those. Because we do it right, we get all of our docs in the room, all our information straight, we can be very successful. [To just have 00:01:55] a dangerous dog is a terror, it really is.