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HAVE YOUR SAY: Brimbank's dog danger days

LOCAL NEWS 3 JUL 12 @ 09:09AM BY CAITLIN RYAN

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DOG attacks are happening weekly, with at least one reported each week to Brimbank Council.

A total 37 dog attacks have been reported to the council since January 1.

>> Do you have any experiences with dog attacks? Tell us below.

One of the latest attacks was in Hillside on June 17, when a three-year-old girl was mauled by an Alaskan malamute.

The toddler was taken to the Royal Children's Hospital with facial injuries and the dog, a family pet, has since been put down.

In the 2010-11 financial year there were 96 reported attacks.

These were both attacks against people and against other dogs.

Of those, there were 47 emergency department visits and 36 hospital admissions.

The most tragic recent attack resulted in the death of St Albans girl Ayen Chol.

The four-year-old died on August 17 last year after a pit bull strayed into the family home in Lahy St.

A St Albans man was later charged with eight offences under the Domestic Animal Act.

The council was unable to provide details on how many attacks had resulted in court action, fines or convictions, or dogs destroyed.

Regulations and Compliance executive manager Josie Scarfo said to pull out such information was "difficult and time consuming".

But Ms Scarfo said compared to the previous financial year, there had been fewer attacks to June 30.

>> Do you have any experiences with dog attacks? Tell us below.

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