



Case  
Study

## The Cost of Dog Bites

To help companies understand the cost associated with dog bites we talked with a large organisation where a portion of their workers are required to enter premises where dogs may be present. They informed us that dog bites, though not their highest risk, are still of considerable concern. Below are the costs surrounding dog bites in the past year.

**Organisation details:** 7,500 staff based through out NZ. 5,000 of the staff are required to do field work

**Time period:** October 2015 to November 2016

**Reported bites in the field:** 15

**Medical costs:** \$23,000

**Number of days of work missed:** 137

On top of the medical cost the organisation also had the cost of paying the worker that were off sick and the cost of a replacement. It is important to remember that the medical costs for dog bites are not just the physical costs, but quite often the cost of psychological help also.

Due to different pay scales we have used three standardised options, the minimum wage, the average wage and the higher end of the pay scale in the organisation's industry.

**Costs based on minimum wage: (\$15.25 per hour)**

Cost of sick pay- \$16,714 Cost of replacement - \$16,714 Medical costs - \$23,000

**Total cost to the company: \$56,428 (average \$3761.86 per incident)**

**Costs based on Statistic NZ average ordinary time hourly earning (\$29.01 per hour)**

Cost of sick pay - \$31,794 Cost of replacement - \$31,794 Medical costs - \$23,000

**Total cost to the company - \$86,588 (average \$5772.53 per incident)**

**Costs based on higher wage bracket for the industry: (\$47.51 per hour)**

Cost of sick pay- \$52,060 Cost of replacement - \$52,060 Medical costs - \$23,000

**Total cost to the company - \$127,120 (average \$8474.66 per incident)**

This costing does not include any fines or reparations should action be taken against the company by the appropriate authority.

*Definition of Worker according to WorkSafe - includes employees, labour hire employees, contractors, interns and volunteers.*