



AM I LIABLE FOR MY PET?

In principle, yes. In Québec, it is the *Civil Code* that deals with harm caused by a pet's actions. The article of the *Civil Code* is very clear to that effect and the rules for pet owners are strict.

Whether the situation involves an injury, such as a bite, or other damage caused to a person, another animal or an object, the pet owner is required to repair the injury or damage, regardless of whether the pet was under his custody or someone else's custody or whether the pet had strayed or escaped.⁽¹⁾

The owner or the person who has custody of the pet is deemed to be liable for the damage suffered by the victim, without the victim having to prove a fault. To avoid liability, the pet owner must prove superior force, the fault of the victim or the fault of another person. For example, the pet owner will have to prove that the victim provoked the pet or did not take the necessary precautions.

Furthermore, there need not be physical contact between the victim and the pet. If the victim suffers harm caused by the pet's actions, this is enough to allow the victim to institute proceedings against the pet owner.

If your pet has injured someone or if you have been bitten by an animal, consult a legal aid lawyer to find out your rights.

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⁽¹⁾ Art. 1466 C.C.Q.

* The information provided in this document is not a legal interpretation.

The masculine gender has been used to designate persons solely in order to simplify the text.