

# **Dog Safety**

## **For you and your dog**

**Why am I here today?** To help you all learn how to safely act around animals and try to give you some things to remember if you are around a dog that may bite you - so that you won't get bitten.

Almost ALL dog bites are avoidable (4.7 million bitten a year) -  
For every 100 people bitten, 60 of them are children.  
(Arrange the kids into a 60/40 split)

Most people are NOT bitten by a strange dog.  
They are bitten by a family pet that they know or by a friend's family pet.

What can you do to avoid a dog bite:

1. Never try to play with a dog who is eating.
2. Always ask the owner if you can pet a dog. If the owner says yes, hold your hand out with it turned down and let the dog sniff you - then pet it on top of the head only.
3. Never try to pet a dog you don't know.
4. Never run from a dog
5. Never hit a dog.
6. Don't poke at or throw things at ANY dog.
7. Don't put your face close to an animal unless you really know the animal - and then, NEVER do this if the dog is eating or playing with a toy.
8. NEVER walk up to a dog from behind.
9. Do not stick your hand through a crate, fence or pen to pet a dog.
10. NEVER tease an animal.
11. Do not try to ride a dog like a horse.

What should you do if you are being approached by a strange dog?

1. NEVER try to pet a strange dog.
2. Do not look at the dog, look up at the sky.
3. Put your arms straight at your side or slowly cross them over your chest.
4. Walk very slowly backwards -NEVER RUN, and DO NOT turn your back to a dog.
5. If the dog tries to go behind you, SLOWLY turn with it so that it cannot get to your back.

If you are actually being attacked by a dog:

1. DO NOT RUN - the dog will think it is supposed to chase you.
2. DO NOT scream if you can help it.
3. Fall to the ground & curl up in a ball, use your hands to cover your ears and face.  
OR  
Fall to the ground, on you stomach, use your hands to cover your ears and face.
4. DO NOT move, stay as still as you can.

If someone else is being attacked by a dog:

1. DO NOT try to help or grab the dog.
2. Get an adult.
3. Call 911 - especially if there is no adult around.
4. From far away, try to tell the person what to do. DO NOT get close to them.

How can you keep your dog safe?

1. TRAIN YOUR DOG - all dogs should be taught how to: Come, Sit, Stay and what NO means.
2. Make sure your dog gets all of its shots every year.
3. Make sure your dog has identification - a microchip with tag, or a collar with tags.
4. ALWAYS use the proper leash and collar for your dog.
5. ALWAYS walk your dog on a leash or in a fenced in area.
6. NEVER encourage your dog to fight or attack something.
7. NEVER leave your dog in a closed car.
8. ALWAYS make sure your dog has plenty of fresh water and is fed daily.
9. NEVER let your dog go near a strange dog, especially if it is not with its owner.
10. NEVER let your dog chase cars.
11. Put dangerous things like cleaners and soaps up where the dog cannot get them.
12. NEVER feed your dog anything that you are not 100% certain is ok for them.
13. Give your dog a special place that they can go to be alone (a crate is good for this). If your dog is in its special place, do not let anyone disturb them.