

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM DOG BITES

Important information for Families

DOG BITES CAN BE PREVENTED

Dogs are amazing animals. The right dog, well cared for, is a wonderful companion. However, dogs have an instinct to defend their territory, whether that is space, food or a toy - and any dog may bite if it is threatened, angry, afraid or in pain. Families can reduce their chances of being bitten when they understand how dogs behave and how to behave around dogs. Dog bites can be prevented.

The 3 Most Important Things to Teach Children

1. **DOGS DON'T LIKE HUGS AND KISSES.** Teach your children not to hug a dog or kiss a dog on the face. Hugging a dog and face-to-face contact are common causes of bites to the face. Instead, teach children to scratch the dog on the chest or the side of the neck.
2. **BE A TREE if a strange dog approaches – and BE STILL LIKE A LOG if knocked over by a strange dog.** Screaming and running excite a dog and can make it more aggressive. Trees and logs are boring, and the dog will eventually go away. This works for strange dogs and the family dog when it gets too frisky or aggressive.
3. **NEVER TEASE A DOG** – and never approach or disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, is hurt or has puppies.

For more information
on DOG BITE PREVENTION

doggone safe
www.doggonesafe.com

The 2 Most Important Things Parents Can Do

1. **Supervise.** Don't assume your dog is good with children. Supervise children at all times when interacting with a dog, even the family dog. If a toddler must interact with your dog, you should have your hands on the dog too. If visiting children are bothering your dog, put the dog away or send the children home. Even if your dog is great with kids and has never bitten, why take the chance?
2. **Train your dog.** If you have a dog, train it to enjoy the presence of children using positive methods and never allow rough play or chasing games between child and dog. Take your dog to obedience classes where positive reinforcement is used. Never pin, shake, choke, roll a dog over or hold a dog down to teach it a lesson. Don't allow children to punish your dog. Dogs that are treated this way may become aggressive toward smaller family members.

Things to Consider Before You Get a Dog

- Dogs with histories of aggression are inappropriate in households with children.
- Be sensitive to cues that a child is fearful or apprehensive about a dog. If so, delay acquiring a dog.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it.
- Spay / neuter your dog. Neutered pets are calmer and less likely to be aggressive.
- Immediately seek professional advice from veterinarians or animal behaviorists if your dog develops aggressive or undesirable behaviours.
- Involve the entire family in training the dog and learning how to positively reinforce good behaviours.



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For more
information
on RABIES