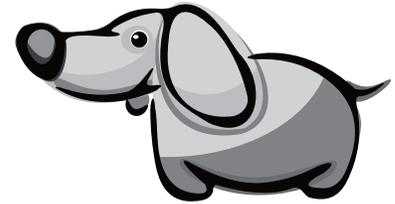


dog bite prevention



How big is the problem?

- 4.5 million Americans are bitten by dogs each year
- 1 in 5 dog bites results in injuries that require medical attention

Who is most at risk?

- **CHILDREN:** The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest in children ages 5 to 9 years and children are more likely than adults to receive medical attention for dog bites
- **ADULT MALES:** Among adults, males are more likely than females to be bitten.
- **PEOPLE with dogs in their homes:** Having a dog in the home is associated with a higher incidence of dog bites. As the number of dogs increases, so does the number of bites.

How can dog bites be prevented?

Dog bites are largely preventable and adults & children can learn how to reduce their chance of being bitten.

Before you bring a dog into your household:

- Consult your veterinarian to learn what breeds of dogs might be the best fit for your home.
- Dogs with histories of being aggressive are not suitable for homes with children.
- If your child seems fearful of dogs, wait before bringing a dog into your home.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it.
- Be cautious about bringing dogs into homes with infants or toddlers.

Once you decide to bring a dog into your home:

- Spay or neuter your dog, this may reduce aggressive tendencies.
- Never leave infants or young children alone with a dog.
- Don't play aggressive games with your dog.
- Properly socialize and train any dog entering your home. Teach the dog submissive behaviors.
- Immediately seek professional advice if your dog shows signs of aggression.

Safety Tips for Children

To help prevent children from being bitten by dogs, teach the following basic safety tips and review them regularly.

- Do not approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Do not run from a dog, or scream.
- Remain very still when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still.
- Do not play with a dog without adult supervision.
- Never pet a stray dog.
- Tell an adult if you see a stray dog.
- Tell an adult if you see a dog behaving strangely.
- Avoid looking a dog directly in the eye.
- Never disturb a dog who is eating, sleeping, or caring for puppies.
- Always let a dog see and sniff you before petting it.
- If a dog bites you, immediately tell an adult.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention