

Dogs in the Community: What Should You Do To Prevent Bites?

Materials for activities: Stuffed animal dog on a leash

Slide 1: Title Page

- Today we are going to learn: How to safely meet an owned dog and what to do when a dog comes up to you.

Slide 2: Are All Dogs the Same?

- How many of you have dogs? Are all dogs like yours? Are all dogs friendly?
- Today we are going to talk about what you should do if you come across dogs in your neighborhood, parks or other places away from home.
- What can you do to prevent getting bitten?

Slide 3: Dog bites: Let's prevent them!

- Many people are bitten by dogs each year
- Half of children are bitten at least once by the time they are 10 years old.
- Have any of you been bitten by a dog? Was it your dog or someone else's?
- Most people are bitten by their own pets, but we are going to talk today about how to prevent being bitten by dogs outside of your home

Slide 4: Why do dogs bite?

- What are some reasons why dogs may bite? Dogs bite when:
 - They are scared, cornered, and can't get away
 - When you get too close to their yard or territory. Remember, they can run out of the yard if the fence is open. They can also reach over or through the fence.
 - When you go into their yard/space.
 - They see someone going by. Some dogs like to chase people on bikes, skateboards or if they are running by.
 - The dog feels threatened

Slide 5: What to do if you see a dog walking with an owner?

- You are walking on the sidewalk and see a person walking their dog coming toward you. What do you do?
- 1) Avoid them and let them pass. Make sure to leave several feet between you and them when you pass them.
- 2) Or ask if you can pet the dog.

Slide 6: How to meet and owned dog

- If you choose that you want to meet the dog, follow these steps:
- 1) Step 1: Always ask the owner if it is okay to meet the dog. Not all dogs are friendly or like to be petted.
 - If the owner says it is ok, approach the dog slowly, and then stop before getting to the dog and leave distance between you and the dog
 - Crouch down to the dog's level

Slide 7: How to meet and owned dog Step 2

- 2) Step 2: If the dog is still okay, extend your hand a few inches away from your body and towards the dog.
 - Let the dog come to you and sniff you

Slide 8: How to meet and owned dog Step 3

- 3) Step 3: If the dog is still okay and not backing up or cowering, slowly and gently pet the dog on the chest, shoulders, or back.

Slide 9: How to meet and owned dog:

- If the dog moves away for cowers, do not pet the dog
- Do not reach over the dog's head or pet the head
- Never pull the ears or tail

Slide 10: Let's Review: How to Meet an Owned Dog

- Step 1: Always ask the owner
- Step 2: Let the dog approach you and sniff you
- Step 3: If the dog is still okay, pet the dog on the chest or shoulder gently and slowly

Slide 11: Remember

- Only go up to dogs that are on leash with an adult
- Always ask first before going up to a dog
- Let the dog approach you and sniff you
- If the dog is okay, slowly pet it
- Stay calm and talk quietly
- When you leave, walk away slowly, never run

Slide 12: What do you do if there is a loose or stray dog near you?

- 1) STAY AWAY
 - Don't go up to it, try to pet it or touch it. It might bite.
- 2) DO NOT RUN AWAY!
 - If you run away, it is more likely to chase you
- 3) If it comes up to you- Act like a tree
 - Stand still
 - Hands in a fist up near your chin or side
 - Look down at your roots – in other words, our feet - or at the sky - not at the dog

Slide 13: Act Like a Tree

- Stand still and look down at your feet. Do not look at the dog

- Fold your hands together
- Plant your feet on the ground and stay still
- Activity: Have each student act like a tree

Slide 14: What if the dog jumps on you and knocks you down?

- BE A ROCK
 - Curl up
 - Tuck your head down
 - Use your hands to cover the back of your neck.
- Activity: Have each student be a rock

Slide 15: What have we learned?

- Now let's practice what we have learned.
- Using a stuffed dog with a leash, have one student act the part of the owner and the other one asking to pet the dog
- Have the students show how to be a tree
- Have students show how to be a rock.

Slide 16: Questions

- Does anyone have any questions?