

Measures for Preventing Dog Bites

- Realistically evaluate environment and lifestyle and consult with a professional (e.g., veterinarian, animal behaviorist, or responsible breeder) to determine suitable breeds of dogs for consideration.
- 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 and, if so, delay acquiring a dog.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it. Use caution when bringing a dog or puppy into the home of an infant or toddler.
- Spay/neuter virtually all dogs (this frequently reduces aggressive tendencies).
- Never leave infants or young children alone with any dog.
- Properly socialize and train any dog entering the household. Teach the dog submissive behaviors (e.g., rolling over to expose abdomen and relinquishing food without growling).
- Immediately seek professional advice (e.g., from veterinarians, animal behaviorists, or responsible breeders) if the dog develops aggressive or undesirable behaviors.
- Do not play aggressive games with your dog (e.g., wrestling).
- Teach children basic safety around dogs and review regularly:
 - Never approach an unfamiliar dog.
 - Never run from a dog and scream.
 - Remain motionless when approached by an unfamiliar dog (e.g., “be still like a tree”).
 - If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (e.g., “be still like a log”).
 - Never play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
 - Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
 - Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
 - Do not disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
 - Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
 - If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.