

Hot Topic



Dog Bites Can Be Prevented

It is important to understand that ANY dog is capable of biting, regardless of breed or size. Even the nicest dog can snap or bite when injured or afraid. All adults should learn how to keep themselves safe around dogs. Most importantly, dog owners must be responsible for their dogs. Although you may be more worried about bites from wild and stray animals, any animal has the potential to bite. Animals can act unpredictably and bites aren't always provoked. However, an animal is more likely to bite if it's been disturbed, feels threatened, or gets overexcited.

Dog Bite Prevention Tips

- Never try to approach or touch an unfamiliar dog without first asking for the owner's permission. If an owner is not present, do not go near the dog.
- When meeting an unknown dog, allow the dog to come to you. Crouch down or turn to the side. Let him sniff your hand before you pet him.
- Do not put your face close to an unknown dog; this includes "hugs and kisses."
- Understand dog body language - most dogs will show specific warning signs before biting.
- If you are cornered by a dog, remain still and avoid eye contact. Never run and/or scream. When the dog stops paying attention to you, slowly back away.
- If knocked over by a dog, fall to your side in a fetal position, covering your head and face. Remain very still and calm.
- Never approach a dog that is eating, sleeping or caring for puppies. Dog in these situations are more likely to be protective and can become startled.
- Never leave young children or babies alone with a dog for any reason.
- Do not approach, touch or attempt to move an injured dog. Instead, contact a veterinary professional or animal control for assistance.

What If a Dog Bite Occurs?

If a dog bites a person, it's important to act quickly. The dog owner should confine the dog, then immediately assist the victim. The victim should wash the bite thoroughly with water if possible, then seek immediate medical attention. When at work inform your manager immediately, and assess the appropriate first aid required, then administer. Fortunately, dog bites can be prevented if the proper measures are taken.

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