



Animal bites, especially dog and cat bites, occur frequently and are a serious public health problem.

Animal bites can result in psychological trauma, transmission of various diseases including rabies, localized infection of the wound, permanent scarring or disfigurement, or death.

Between 500,000 to 1 million people require medical attention annually in the United States, and it is estimated that about a dozen people die each year as a result of dog bites.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that:

- Half of all children under the age of 12 have been bitten by a dog.
- Children make up approximately 60% of all dog bite victims.

What Can You Do To Prevent Bites?

There are 2 areas that you can look at to help prevent dog bites:

- The dog's behavior
- The child's behavior

DOG BEHAVIOR

- Look at the dogs body language.

- Is the tail wagging?

A wagging tail does not always mean that the dog will be friendly.

- Look at the dogs ears. Are they relaxed and in a natural position? Or are they pinned back?

-Is the dog staring really hard?

Staring is a sign of aggression

or dominance. Don't try to stare or make eye contact.

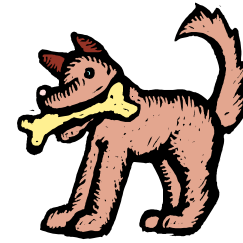
-Is the hair on the back of the dog's neck and base of its tail standing up?

This is usually a sign of aggression or agitation.

CHILD BEHAVIOR

- Never let children pet little puppies while the mother dog is around unless they have help from the owner.
- Never let them pet a dog that is eating or near its food dish. Have the child ask permission from owner before giving any treats to the dog.
- Dogs have toys just like kids do. Don't let a child try to take toys away from a dog.
- Never allow a child to tease or try to pet a dog that is inside of a fence, or tied up. They can be very protective of their home.
- Never allow children to pet a sleeping dog, or one that is injured. It may be scared.
- Never allow children to get between two dogs that are fighting.
- Never let a child try to pet two dogs that are playing together.
- Always have children ask permission before petting a dog that is being walked on a leash, and always have them pet the dog gently.
- Never let a child pat the dog on the head or pet the dogs back end.
- Never let a child pull a dog's hair, tail, ears, or legs.

- If you see a "Beware of Dog" sign do not let a child go near or pet the dog.



DO'S and DON'T'S

DON'T'S

If a strange dog comes up to you or a child:

DON'T RUN! - Even the slowest dog can outrun the fastest human.

DON'T MAKE QUICK OR SUDDEN MOVEMENTS! - Quick or sudden movement may scare the dog, causing it to bite.

DON'T TRUN YOUR BACK ON THE DOG!

DON'T STARE AT THE DOG! - Staring is a sign of aggression or dominance.

DO'S

If a strange dog comes up to you or a child:

DO! - If a dog is sniffing at you or a child, let it sniff your hand or the child's hand, with fingers in a tight fist.

DO! - Try to walk or move away VERY SLOWLY!

DO! - Try to get someplace safe.

DO! - Have children tell an adult about the dog once they are safely away from it.

If a child thinks a dog is going to bite them teach them to put their hands over their face, like playing a game of "Peek-a-Boo". This will help to protect their face and throat.

If a child gets knocked down by a dog, teach them to curl up into a ball, and put their arms and hand in the "Peek-a-Boo" position. Have them hold as still as possible and not make any noise. If the dog moves away have them keep still for a little while longer until the dog is out of sight. Once the dog is gone they can get up and go someplace safe and tell an adult.

REMEMBER!!!!

- Breeding and size have nothing to do with a dog's potential to be a danger.
- Any dog, mutt or purebred, small or large can bite if provoked.
- Rottweilers and pit bulls are perceived as aggressive or dangerous, but Chihuahuas and poodles can be just as dangerous!

Animal bites, especially those to children need to be reported immediately! For bites that require medical attention the doctor's office is required to report any information related to the bite to the local health department, police department, sheriff's office, or animal control agency.

To report an animal bite, contact your local police department, the sheriff's office, or animal control agency.

DOG BITE PREVENTION



For more information, please contact:

Weld County Sheriff's Office
Animal Control Unit
1950 "O" Street
Greeley, CO 80631
970-356-4015 ext. 2849
970-304-6468 fax

Presented By:
Weld County Sheriff's Office
Animal Control Unit.