
What should I do if my dog bites someone?

Restrain the dog immediately. Separate it from the scene of the attack. Confine it.

Check on the victim's condition. Wash wounds with soap and water. Professional medical advice should be sought to evaluate the risk of rabies or other infections. Call 911 if paramedic response is required.

Provide important information: Your name and address, and information about your dog's most recent rabies vaccination.

Report the bite to Animal Control. An officer will assist you in filing a report. If your dog does not have a current rabies vaccination, it may be necessary to quarantine your animal.

If you are the bite victim:

If your own dog bit you, confine it immediately and contact Animal Care and Control. You will need to provide current rabies vaccination information.

If someone else's dog bit you, contact Animal Control and tell them everything you can about the dog. Try to provide the owner's name, color and breed of the dog, size, where the dog is located, and if you have seen it before.

**IF YOU ARE BITTEN BY A DOG,
CONTACT ANIMAL CONTROL
IMMEDIATELY: 343-8119**

Dogs are wonderful companions. By acting responsibly, owners not only reduce the number of dog bites, but also enhance the relationships they have with their dogs. To learn more about the joys and responsibilities of pet ownership, contact Animal Care and Control.



Anchorage Animal Care and Control
4711 Elmore Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

To report a bite: 343-8119
Main Line: 343-8122
www.muni.org/animal

Information provided by:
State Farm General Insurance Company Home Offices:
Bloomington, Illinois, www.statefarm.com
American Veterinary Medical Association, www.avma.org



**“Don't Worry,
They Won't Bite.”**

How to keep people AND dogs safe!



While it is true that most dogs don't bite, even the cuddliest, fuzziest, sweetest pup can bite if provoked.

From nips to bites to actual attacks, dog bites are a serious problem. Dog bite victims requiring medical attention in the United States number 500,000 to 1 million annually. Countless more bites go unreported and untreated.

Over 500 dog bites are reported in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Dog bites are not caused by “bad dogs”, but by careless or irresponsible owners and people who do not know how to be safe around dogs.

Fortunately, there are steps we can take as parents and pet owners to prevent this problem.



Who's being bitten?

Children make up more than 60% of all dog bite victims. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates half of all children 12 and younger have been bitten by a dog.

The elderly and home service people—like mail carriers and meter readers—also are high on the list of frequent dog bite victims.

What's a dog owner to do?

Carefully consider your pet selection. Before and after selection, your veterinarian or animal care and control center are resources for information about behavior and suitability.

Make sure your pet is socialized. Start as soon as possible. Expose your puppy to a variety of situations a little at a time and under controlled circumstances. Continue that exposure on a regular basis as your dog gets older. For older dogs, enroll in an obedience class. If you're not sure how your dog will react in a situation, be cautious. Don't put your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.

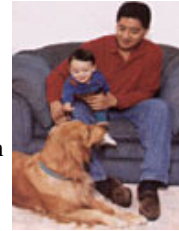


Train your dog. Training builds a bond of obedience and trust between pets and people. Don't play aggressive games like wrestling or tug-o-war with your dog.

Don't let your dog view or use children as toys. Letting your dog "play bite" or tug on kid's clothes can escalate very quickly to more dangerous behavior.

Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and preventable infectious diseases. Parasite control is important to how your dog feels and behaves.

Never leave kids unattended with your dog. Dogs and kids are unpredictable. When unsupervised, kids tend to try what they have been told not to do (like pulling tails). Toddlers and babies can look like prey animals to a dog (and they usually smell like food). Supervision can prevent a tragedy for both the child and the dog.



Neuter your pet. It's a fact: neutered dogs are less likely to bite. Be a responsible pet owner. License your dog with Anchorage Animal Care and Control. Obey leash laws.

Keep your dog home. Dogs tend to get into trouble when they run loose. They can get hit by cars, teased or abused by people, or picked up as a stray. Keeping them safely contained in a fenced yard or inside your home will go a long way to preventing them from biting someone.

Be alert. Know your dog. You naturally would be alert to signs of illness, but you must also watch for signs your dog is uncomfortable or feeling aggressive.

How can my family and I avoid being bitten?

Be cautious around strange dogs and treat your own pet with respect. Because children are the most frequent victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:

- NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a

dog.

- Start teaching young children— including toddlers— to be careful around pets.
- Children must be taught NOT to approach strange dogs.
- Children should be taught to ask permission from a dog's owner before petting the dog.
- Children should not be allowed to eat near a dog, as the dog may try to get the "free treat".
- Children should be taught to never look a dog in the eye. This can be seen as a threat by some dogs.

Other tips that may prevent or stop a dog attack:

Don't run past or away from a dog. Dogs naturally love to chase and catch things. Don't give them a reason to become excited or aggressive.

Never disturb a dog that's caring for puppies, sleeping or eating.

If a dog approaches to sniff you, stay still. In most cases, the dog will go away when it determines you're not a threat.

If you're threatened by a dog, remain calm. Don't scream. If you say anything, speak calmly and firmly. Avoid eye contact. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly until the dog is out of sight. Don't turn and run.

If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball. Put your hands over your head and neck. Protect your face.