



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.