



University of Michigan
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

Dog Bite Prevention

The CDC reports that each year 885,000 people who suffer dog bites make emergency room visits . Dog bite prevention is important and includes learning to care for your dog and how to interact with other dogs as well.

What can I do to help prevent a dog bite?

- ☑ **Do** talk to your children about dog safety.
- ☑ **Do** have your dog on a leash when outside of a fenced yard or going for walks.
- ☑ **Do** ask the owner if it is okay to pet their dog first.
- ☑ **Do** be calm with dogs. Dogs are playful and like to chase and catch things.
- ☑ **Do** let a dog smell you before you pet or play with the dog.
- ☑ **Do** stay calm, quiet, and still if a strange dog approaches you.
- ☑ **Do** avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- ☑ **Do** get in a safe position if you are knocked down by a dog. Try to curl into a ball, bring your hands up to your head and lay still.

What should I avoid with dogs?

- ✗ **Do not** leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.
- ✗ **Do not** approach a strange dog that is loose.
- ✗ **Do not** reach through a fence to pet a dog.
- ✗ **Do not** bother a dog that is caring for puppies, sleeping, or while they are eating.



What if my child or I get bitten by a dog?

- ☑ **Do** kindly and calmly restrain the dog, remove them from the area and confine them.
- ☑ **Do** clean the wound with soap and water.
- ☑ **Do** report your information to first responders and police. Be honest about your dog's vaccination status. Consider asking about the rabies status of the dog if it is not your own.

How can I help as a responsible dog owner?

- Help reduce dog bites by obeying leash laws.
- Make sure to keep regular visits to the vet to keep up to date on all immunizations.
- Train your dog to follow commands such as “sit”.
- Keep your dog active, healthy, and happy. Avoid rough or violent play like tug of war or wrestling.



Reference:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Dog Bite Prevention*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Dog-Bites/biteprevention.html> on 12/12/12.

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