

dog bite

INJURY PREVENTION

WHO'S AT RISK?

Each year, over 4.5 million Americans are bitten by dogs. Among children, injury rates are highest for children ages 5-9 years. Most dog bites affecting young children occur during everyday activities and while interacting with familiar dogs. Almost one in five of those who are bitten—a total of 885,000 per year—require medical attention for dog bite-related injuries.

DOG BITE PREVENTION TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

- Teach children basic safety around both familiar and unfamiliar dogs:
 - Do not approach an unfamiliar dog. Ask permission from the dog's owner before petting the dog. Approach slowly and quietly, and then let the dog come to you while allowing the dog to sniff the back of your hand.
 - Dogs don't like hugs and kisses—hugging the family dog or face-to-face contact are common causes of bites to the face. Instead, scratch the dog on the chest or side of the neck.
 - If a dog growls or chases you, be very still and quiet. Stand still like a tree while holding your hands (your branches) at your side and look at your feet (your roots). If you are on the ground, be still like a rock with your knees into your stomach and hands over your head and ears. Once the dog loses interest, slowly back away until the dog is out of sight. Visit doggonessafe.com to learn more about "Be a tree."
 - Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
 - If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.

- Supervise your children around dogs and NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.
- Be alert for potentially dangerous situations.

DOG BITE PREVENTION TIPS FOR OWNERS

- Spayed or neutered dogs are much less likely to bite.
- Socialize your puppy/dog to different people and situations. Positive experiences will help the animal feel at ease around people.
- Train your dog.
- Supervise your dog at all times around children.



Resources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Veterinary Medical Association, The Humane Society, and doggonessafe.com



The Regions Only Verified Level II Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center