

How to Avoid Dog Bites

There are several ways to help reduce the risk of a bite:

- If confronted by a dog trying to sniff you, stand still, don't try to run away. Most dogs will move away after determining that you are not a threat.
- Never interfere with a dog that is caring for its puppies.
- Never startle a dog, by waking it or throwing an object in its direction.
- Don't disturb a dog while it is eating or drinking.
- If you feel threatened by a dog, do not run. A dog's instinct will likely be to give chase. Stay calm. If you speak, talk in a firm voice without screaming.
- Be very mindful of your children around all dogs, including family pets. Most dog bites occur to children.
- If you think a dog may attack, remain motionless with hands at your sides. Once the dog loses interest in you, slowly back away until the dog is out of sight.
- If the dog does attack, "feed" the dog your jacket, purse, bicycle, or anything that you can put between yourself and the dog.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and remain motionless. Do not scream or roll around.

Despite the best preventive measures, bites can occur. If you or a child are bitten, seek emergency medical attention immediately.

See the "Dog Bite Law Center" - <http://www.dogbitelawcenter.com/pages/avoidbites.cfm>

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