

Beware of Dog Bites

Use canine caution to avoid injuries

More than two million dog bites are reported each year in the United States. Kids are the most frequent victims, but it's a serious problem for everyone. Here are some safety tips for you and your family:

Avoid being bitten:

- Don't run past a dog. Its instinct is to chase and catch prey.
- If a dog threatens you, don't scream. Avoid eye contact and try to stay still until the dog leaves, then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.
- Don't approach a strange dog, especially one that's tied or confined.
- Always let a dog see you and sniff you before you pet the animal.
- Never leave infants and young children with an unsupervised dog, even one that's generally friendly.

Be a responsible dog owner:

- Don't let your dog roam the neighborhood.
- Never let your leashed dog jump on passers-by.
- When service or delivery people come to your home, keep your dog inside, away from the door in another room or on a leash.
- Obedience training can teach your dog proper behavior and help you control your dog in any situation.
- Make sure your dog is properly licensed and vaccinated against diseases.

In case of dog bite:

- If you don't know the dog, try to have it caught or at least identified.
- Call a doctor immediately.
- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water. Give first aid as with any puncture wound.