



Any Dog Can Bite



Safety Guidelines for Prevention of Dog Bites

Always ask the owner before you approach or pet a dog.

Do not assume all dogs are friendly.

Once given permission from the owner, always approach the dog calmly and from a slight angle - allow the dog to sniff you.



Do not allow children to climb on a dog or pull at a dog's face, ears and tail.

Never leave babies or small children alone with a dog.

Do not take food or toys away from a dog – dogs can be very protective of these items.



Be mindful of waking a sleeping dog – you may scare them and they may bite.

Do not break up a dog fight - you may be bitten.

Be mindful of touching a dog that is sick or injured - they may bite out of pain, fear or confusion.



If you are approached by an unfamiliar dog, don't run away, scream or panic, move calmly away from the dog.

Know dog body language – often the signs a dog may bite are there.



Avoid any dog you don't know. Even if the dog is on a leash, it's safer to step off the sidewalk or cross the street.

If you can't avoid an unfamiliar dog and they approach you, allow the dog to sniff you; stand still "like a tree" and avoid eye contact.



If you believe a dog may attack, place an item between you and the dog like your back pack, jacket, purse or bike.



For more information, call 1-800-660-5853
or visit www.healthunit.org