

DOG BITES & PREVENTION

Prevention of Dog Bites

Children are more likely to be bitten than adults because of their size and immaturity. To protect your family, it is important to educate family members, especially children, on gentle behavior and play with pets. This is important as most dogs will bite because they are scared, have been startled, or wish to protect something valuable to them like food or a toy.



Follow these Tips!

- **Get your pet vaccinated for Rabies.** Keep proof of vaccination readily available.
- **Socialize your dog.** This will help your dog feel at ease in different situations, especially when it's introduced to people when it's a puppy.
- **Be a responsible pet owner.** Be careful in selecting the right dog for your family and ensure proper training, regular exercise, and neutering or spaying your pet.
- **Educate your family.** Practice gentle play and show children how to approach a dog.
- **Avoid risky situations.** Do not pet a dog without an owner or without the owner's permission if they are present. Do not pet a dog that is sleeping, sick, resting with puppies, playing with a toy, growling, or is agitated.

Treatment

- Immediately wash your wound with warm soap and water. Slow any bleeding with a clean, sterile cloth.
- Contact your healthcare provider or visit the ER if it is after hours.
- If the wound is deep and is potentially life-threatening, call **9-1-1 immediately**.

Post-Bite



Evaluation and Disposition of the Dog	Post-exposure Recommendations
Healthy and available for 10 day observation	Person should not begin vaccination for Rabies unless animal develop clinical signs of rabies
Rabid or suspected	Immediately vaccinate
Unknown (escaped)	Consult Public Health

Always report a bite to your health care provider or to animal control.