



Dog Bite Prevention: 10 Tips

1. Always ask, “May I pet your dog?”:
Some dogs have never met children, don’t live with children, or just don’t know what a child is, and may think that the child is scary. You want to make sure it is okay with the owner, that you pet their dog.
2. Slowly present the back of your hand first for the dog to smell:
Never reach right over the dog’s muzzle or top of their heads to pet them, unless you have first presented your hand and are getting positive feedback from the dog.
3. Do not run towards the dog:
Dogs can be startled easily, and by running at a dog (no matter how excited you may be), can further spook them, and can lead to issues.
4. Never bark or growl at a dog:
Whether a dog is alone or in a crate, by barking or growling at them, this is teasing the dog.
5. All dogs can bite because all dogs have teeth:
It is important that you know and understand how to read a dog’s body language, because things can change at any moment.
6. Never leave young children and dogs unattended:
Do not assume that a dog is ‘safe’. It is important that an adult continues to supervise children and dogs as things can change at any moment.
7. Teach proper manners around the dog for everyone in the family:
Do not allow your child to ride or sit on your dog no matter how well behaved the dog is. Don’t pull the dogs ears or tail, and never bother them when they are sleeping or eating.
8. ‘Stand like a tree’ around loose dogs:
It is important that children know to tell an adult when they see a loose dog; but if you or your child is ever faced with a loose dog, it is recommended you ‘stand like a tree’
9. Service dogs are working and should not be bothered:
If you see a service dog, it is important to understand that they are working and need to keep their attention on their owners.
10. A dog is not a person:
A dog may bite when they feel threatened, are cornered, or scared. We must respect that and get to know the different expressions of a dog as much as possible and be able to anticipate how they are feeling.