



## Dog-Bite Prevention

**PARENTS: PLEASE TAKE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR CHILDREN AGAINST DOG BITES!!**

Statistics show that one-half of all children in the United States will be bitten by a dog before they reach the age of 12. Most bites are from a dog that the child knows: the family's dog, a friend's dog, or a neighbor's dog. You can help keep your children safe by teaching them the following simple, but very important, "DON'Ts" (most apply to all animals). Knowing the right way to act around dogs can help prevent dog bites!

- **DON'T** stare directly into a dog's eyes
- **DON'T** run past a dog
- **DON'T** go near or touch a dog while it is eating, drinking or sleeping
- **DON'T** go near or touch a dog until you ask its owner if it is okay to do so; if the owner says okay, **DON'T** run at the dog, reach over its head, pet it roughly or pat it on top of its head or on its nose. Instead, walk calmly to the dog's side, speak to it quietly, let it sniff the top of your hand for a moment, then touch it gently under its chin or on the side of its neck
- **DON'T** go near or touch a dog that is loose outside or one that seems to be hurt, even if you know the dog, and **DON'T** forget to tell an adult if you see a loose dog or one that seems to be hurt
- **DON'T** run or scream if a loose dog comes near you. Instead, stand very still (pretend to be a post), look away from the dog, and be very quiet until it moves away
- **DON'T** go near or touch a dog that is inside a car or truck, in the back of a truck, trailer or other vehicle, or one that is chained or tied to anything
- **DON'T** ever tease or hurt a dog or any other animal and **DON'T** forget to tell an adult if you see someone teasing or hurting any animal

Approximately 4.7 million people in the United States are bitten by dogs each year and about 60 percent of them are children. Making sure that all children know the above "DON'Ts", and always having an adult supervise any interaction between young children and dogs, could prevent them from becoming part of this tragic statistic!

*Statistics from the Center for Disease Control and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*