



DOG BITE PREVENTION

RECOGNIZE THE WARNING SIGNS



More than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs in the United States each year. Common reasons for a dog to bite include feeling scared, being startled or threatened, trying to protect something that is valuable to them, sickness, or injury. Dogs can also nip and bite during play.

All dogs can bite regardless of size, breed, or age if they are provoked. It is important to understand what a dog is trying to tell you from its body language and behaviors.

Signs of aggression:

- Ears positioned upward and forward
- Raised fur on the back/tail
- Vertical tail, may be wagging very quickly
- Stiff, straight-legged stance
- Staring, growling, lunging, or barking

Signs of fear or anxiety:

- Cowering/lowering of the head
- Repeated lip licking
- Tucked tail and flattened ears
- Yawning
- Avoiding eye contact

Socialization: By introducing your dog to other animals and people, you will help them feel more comfortable overall. However, you should let your pet go at their own pace.

Spay /Neuter: Studies have shown that altering your pet can help reduce their likelihood of biting.

Know when to leave a dog alone. Several situations can make a dog more likely to bite including, when they are eating, sleeping, sick, injured, or positioned on the other side of a fence from you. You should also never approach a dog you don't know without permission from their owner or any female dog who is with her puppies.

Supervise Children: Children are most likely to be the victim of dog bites, so never leave them unattended with a pet.



You can find more tips for child and pet safety by visiting vbspca.com/building-trust.