YOUCANAYOD A DOG BITE.

written by Rufus



Rufus is our Dog Bite Prevention mascot. If you would like more information about the College of Veterinary Medicine's Dog Bite Prevention Program, visit us at: www.vet.utk.edu/dogbiteprevention

College of Veterinary Medicine

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT A DOG BITE?

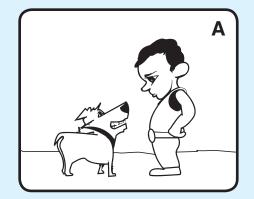
Respect dogs. They communicate differently than you. Realize that a dog may not understand your actions and become angry or scared.

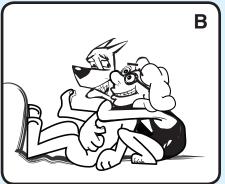


- Run away from a dog.
- Hug a dog, especially around the neck.
- Stare at a dog.
- Play rough or pretend to fight with a dog.
- Tease a dog.
- Yell or throw things at a dog.

Parents:

Many dog bites in children occur in the absence of adults. When an adult is present, many of the situations that lead to biting can be avoided.









Which of these actions could lead to a bite and why?





YOU CAN PREVENT DOG BITES!

Stay away from dogs that are:

- Not with an adult.
- Appear to be sad, mad, or unfriendly.
- Behind a fence or in a car.
- Eating, sleeping, or chewing on a bone or toy.
- Injured or nursing pups.
- Working, such as a police dog or seeing-eye dog.



Did you know?

There are over 65 million dogs in U.S. households.

USE YOUR MANNERS...

Always ask the owner's permission before trying to pet a dog.

If you get permission to pet the dog:

- 1. First, let the dog sniff your closed hand.
- 2. Then slowly pet the dog on the side of the neck. Do not attempt to pet a dog on the top of the head.





Did you know?

Most dogs that bite are males, and bites occur more frequently during the warmer months, in late afternoon or early evening.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If a strange dog approaches you while you are standing...

Stand still like a tree!

- Stand straight, with your feet together.
- Make fists with your hands and place them under your chin.
- Do not stare at the dog.



Parents:

Explain to your child that if he or she stays still, the dog will likely lose interest and go away.



Act like a log!

- Lie face down, feet together.
- Make a fist with your hands and place them behind your head.
- Cover your ears with your forearms.

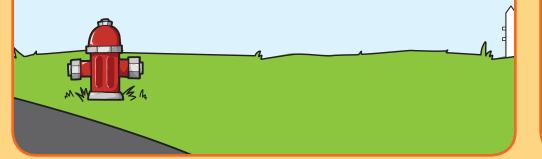
If you ever have a problem with a strange dog, tell an adult.



WHAT CAN A PARENT DO?

When you are thinking of getting a dog:

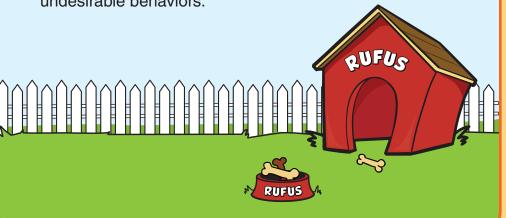
- Consider what kind of dog (age, sex, breed) will fit your lifestyle.
- Consult a veterinarian or other animal professionals for advice on the kind of dog for your family.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it.



Once you own a dog:

- Ask your veterinarian for tips on socializing and training your dog.
- Teach your dog obedient behavior.
- Never leave infants or young children alone with any dog.
- Consider the fact that dogs that have been spayed or neutered are less likely to be aggressive.

 Immediately seek professional advice if your dog develops aggressive or undesirable behaviors.



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For more information, games and activities related to dog bite prevention in children please visit our website:

www.vet.utk.edu/dogbiteprevention

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