

BITE PREVENTION

1 de 6



CoghilCartooning.com

Why do dogs bite?

The dog

- ✓ is protecting a possession, food or water dish or puppies;
- ✓ is protecting a resting place;
- ✓ is protecting its owner or the owner's property;
- ✓ is old and grumpy and having a bad day and has no patience for the actions of a child;
- ✓ is injured or sick;
- ✓ has not learned bite inhibition and bites hard by accident when the child offers food or a toy to the dog;
- ✓ views the child as a prey item because the child is running and/or screaming near the dog or riding a bicycle or otherwise moving past the dog;
- ✓ is of a herding breed and nips while trying to "herd" the children.



The child

2 de 6

- ✓ has done something to provoke or frighten the dog (e.g., hugging the dog, moving into the dog's space, leaning or stepping over the dog, trying to take something from the dog).
- ✓ has hurt or startled it by stepping on it, poking it or pulling its fur, tail or ears.
- ✓ and dog are engaging in rough play and the dog gets overly excited.



How do they warn us?

- ◆ There are **always** warning signs before a bite occurs.
- ◆ These can be very subtle and may be missed by many people.
- ◆ A dog may appear to tolerate being repeatedly mauled by a child, and one day bites, surprising everyone.
- ◆ Sometimes the warnings have gone on for months or even years before the dog finally loses its tolerance and bites.
- ◆ There are certain signs that you should take very seriously that indicate that the dog is saying "I have been very patient with this child, but I am nearing the end of my patience".



These warning signs include:

The dog

- ✓ getting up and moving away from the child;
- ✓ turning his head away from the child;
- ✓ looking at you with a pleading expression;
- ✓ yawning while the child approaches or is interacting with him;
- ✓ licking his chops while the child approaches or is interacting with him;
- ✓ suddenly starting to scratch, bite or lick himself;
- ✓ does a big "wet dog shake" after the child stops touching him;
- ✓ You can see the "whites" of the dogs eyes, in a half moon shape.

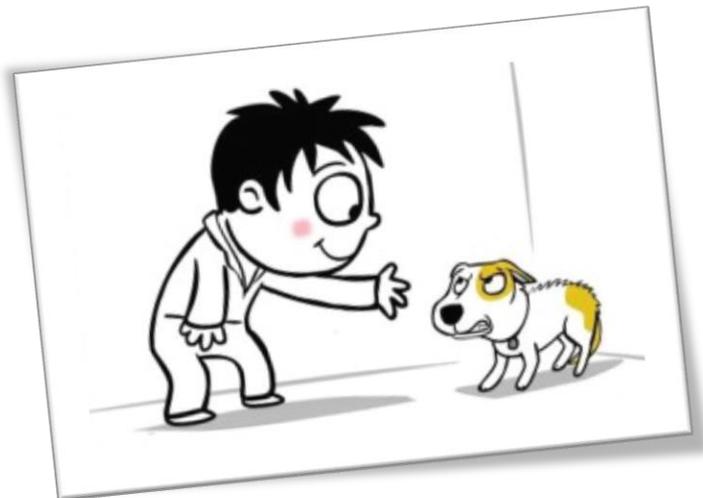


- ◆ You may think that your dog loves to have the children climbing all over him and hugging him, but if you see any of these signs, then you are being warned that a bite could occur if the dog feels he has no other way of defending himself.

 **Do your dog and your child a favour and intervene if you notice any of these signs.**

Safety tips for children

- ◆ To help prevent children from being bitten by dogs, teach the following basic safety tips and review them regularly:
 - ✓ Do not approach an unfamiliar dog.
 - ✓ Do not run from a dog or scream.
 - ✓ Remain motionless (e.g., "be still like a tree") when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
 - ✓ If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (e.g., "be still like a log").
 - ✓ Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
 - ✓ Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behaviour to an adult.
 - ✓ Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
 - ✓ Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
 - ✓ Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
 - ✓ If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.



Teach your children the W.A.I.T motto when meeting a new dog

- ◆ Wait to see if the dog is accompanied by an owner.
- ◆ Ask that owner for permission to pet the dog.
- ◆ If the answer is "yes":
 - ✓ Invite the dog first to sniff you, then,
 - ✓ Touch the dog gently to pet it.
 - ✓ If the dog does not come towards you it means he doesn't want to interact.

The video below demonstrates the ideal greeting

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ulHrRKvZtdk

◆ IN THE PRESENCE OF A DOG WITH NO OWNER

If the child is standing, he should **STAND STILL LIKE A TREE.**

- ✓ Stand straight with his feet together.
- ✓ Make fists with his hands and place them under his chin.
- ✓ He should not stare at the dog but instead look down at the ground.
- ✓ The dog will soon lose interest and wander off.
- ✓ When the dog is gone, the child should tell a familiar adult about the dog.



If the child is on the ground, he should **ACT LIKE A LOG**.

- ✓ Lie face down with his feet together.
- ✓ Make fists with his hands and place them behind his head.
- ✓ Cover his ears with his forearms.
- ✓ The dog will soon lose interest and wander off.
- ✓ When the dog is gone, the child should tell a familiar adult about the dog.



6 de 6

Ressources

<http://www.kidsanddogs.ca/>

<http://familypaws.com/>

www.doggonesafe.com

www.drSophiayin.com

<http://www.liamjperkfoundation.org/>

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the number below or contact Dr Vicky Sedgwick by email at vicky.sedgwick@hvovet.com .

☛ **Consult our website for more information on canine and feline behavior.**

