

What Can I Do to Reduce My Chances of Being Bitten?

Many biting and scratching incidents are preventable. Follow these tips to protect yourself:

- Don't approach strange dogs when out in public.
- Stay away from wild, stray, or unknown animals.
- Never leave small children unattended in the presence of an animal.
- Don't disturb an animal that is eating, sleeping, or caring for its young or is exhibiting signs of illness.
- Avoid running past a dog as they like to chase things.
- Never reach through a fence or enter a home unannounced as dogs may be protective of their territory and may feel you are a threat.

What Can I Do If I Am Threatened by a Dog?

If threatened by a dog, avoid eye contact, speak firmly, stay still until the dog leaves, or back away, don't turn and run.

- If you are knocked down, curl up in a ball and cover your head and neck.
- If you are bitten, clean the wound, seek medical attention, report the incident to the Animal Protection Code Enforcement Services.
- Try to determine the owner of the animal and get contact information.

What Can I Do as a Pet Owner?

Be a responsible pet owner:

- Vaccinate your pet against rabies, it is the law.
- Keep them under your control when out in public spaces.
- Fence your yard.
- Speak to your veterinarian or local Animal Protection Agency.
- For further information on dog bites, please visit these websites at:
 - [American Veterinary Medical Foundation](#)
 - [Preventing Dog Bites – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)