

SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

To help prevent dog bites, children should be taught these basic safety rules which should be reviewed on a regular basis:

- Refrain from approaching lone dogs;
- Refrain from running and shouting when you see a dog unknown to you or a dog on its own;
- Refrain from moving and bring your hands to your neck when a lone dog is approaching;
- If the dog knocks you down, roll into a ball and stay still;
- Refrain from playing with a dog without adult supervision;
- Immediately inform an adult upon seeing a free roaming dog or a dog displaying strange behaviour;
- Avoid looking dogs directly in the eyes;
- Avoid disturbing dogs when they are sleeping, eating, caring for puppies or playing with a toy;
- Avoid petting a dog without first letting them smell you.
- If you are bitten, immediately tell an adult about it.



AT CHU STE-JUSTINE,
AT LEAST 30 CHILDREN
ARE EVALUATED EACH YEAR
FOR DOG BITES.



49% OF THE DOG BITES
WERE IN THE FACE
AND 17% ON THE UPPER
EXTREMITIES.

CHILDREN MOST FREQUENTLY
SEEN AT THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
FOR DOG BITES ARE BETWEEN
5 AND 9 YEAR-OLD (34%),
10 AND 14 YEAR-OLD (30%)
AND 2 AND 4 YEAR-OLD (22%).



ALMOST 30% OF ALL
DOG BITES OCCUR AT HOME.



IN THE EVENT OF A BITE:

Superficial bites (a simple scratch):

- Clean the area with soap and water;
- Apply an antibiotic ointment and clean dressing;
- Watch for signs of infection (redness, swelling, pain) and immediately consult a doctor if one of these signs appear;
- Make sure the child has had a tetanus shot;
- Follow up on the dog's behavior and vaccines.

More serious bites (deeper than a simple scratch or any wound located on the face, ears, fingers and hands):

- Clean the wound with soap and water;
- Apply pressure on the wound in case of bleeding;
- Take the child to a doctor;
- Take the child's vaccination booklet;
- Follow up on the dog's behavior and vaccines and have the dog examined by a vet to determine if it is dangerous..

Additional information at:
www.cacestchiens.com



DOG BITES

Prevention and awareness



This flyer has been developed to help protect children against dog bites.



WARNING SIGNS

There are always warning signs before a dog bites. These signs may be subtle and go unnoticed by most people. The dog may display tolerant behaviour but could still bite one day to everyone's surprise. Several warning signs must be taken seriously.

THEY INCLUDE:

- LOOKS ANXIOUS**
Head down, flattened ears, tail between its legs
- Needs space**
Turns around and moves away
- STRESSED**
yawns
- STRESSED**
Licks his nose
- RELEASES STRESS**
Shakes himself
- STRESSED**
Scratches himself
- NEEDS SPACE**
Looks sad
- FEELS THREATENED**
Growls or barks

You may think your dog likes children to pet him, but if you notice any of these signs, your dog is trying to warn you that he is uncomfortable in the situation and that he might bite if he feels it is the only way to protect himself.

WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN APPROACHING A DOG

- DO NOT** Bend over the dog and put your fingers in front of his face. (Speech bubble: "Hey! Who are you?")
- DO NOT** Bend over the dog and pat or pet his head. (Speech bubble: "Ahh! Look at the cute doggie!")
- DO NOT** Grab or hug the dog. (Speech bubble: "AAARGH", "Cute puppy!")
- DO NOT** Stare the dog in the eyes. (Speech bubble: "Beware! Potentially harmful human!")
- DO NOT** Scream or talk in a shrill voice especially near the dog's face. (Speech bubble: "AAAAH! Are you ever cute!", "Wish I had ear plugs!")

THE RIGHT WAY

- *No visual contact
- *Let the dog come to you on his own
- *Place yourself at the dog's side or with your BACK to the dog
- *Pet the dog on his side or on the back

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN HOW TO SAFELY MEET A NEW DOG

When the dog is with its owner:

Ask permission to pet the dog. If the answer is yes:

- Call the dog to come using its name;
- Let the dog smell you first;
- Gently touch the dog's head to pet him
- When dogs refuse to come upon being called, they simply do not want to interact.

When encountering a dog on its own:

If the child is standing:

- Remain straight with your two feet together;
- Make fists with your hands and place them under your chin;
- Do not look the dog in the eyes, look down instead;
- Let the dog smell you;
- The dog will soon lose interest and leave;
- When the dog leaves, alert an adult.

If the child is lying on the ground:

- Roll into a ball;
- Hide your ears with your hands;
- Bring your chin close to your chest;
- The dog will soon lose interest and leave;
- When the dog leaves, alert an adult.