



# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT **Dog Bite Prevention**

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Approximately **4.7 million Americans are bitten by dogs each year**, with small children and the elderly among the most frequent victims.
- **885,000 of those injured require medical attention**, with dog-bite victims accounting for up to five percent of all emergency-room visits.
- Most dog bites **occur in the home** of the victim's family members or friends.
- **Children** (especially boys age 5-9) are three times more likely than adults to be seriously bitten.
- Dogs bite young children (age 4 and under) most often on the **face, head and neck** because kids are around the same height as a dog and because they can crawl into small, low spaces where the dog can reach.
- **50 percent** of all children in the U.S. will be bitten by a dog before their 12th birthday.



## **DOG BITE PREVENTION TIPS**

### **How to Stay Safe When a Dog Approaches**

- Don't turn and run—dogs naturally love to chase and catch things.
- Stand still, with your hands at your sides. In most cases, the dog will go away when it determines you are not a threat.
- Don't put your hand out—just allow the dog to approach you to sniff you.
- Don't scream. If you say anything, speak calmly and firmly.
- Face the dog at all times, but don't stare. Avoid eye contact.
- Back away slowly, watching the dog from the corner of your eye until the dog is out of sight.

### **Safety Tips for Parents**

- Never leave a young child or baby alone with any dog.
- Never allow your young child to discipline a dog.
- Never allow your child to feed or walk a dog unsupervised.
- Never allow your child to pull on a dog's collar, ears or tail.
- Never allow your child to play aggressive games (like wrestling) with any dog.
- Never allow your child to pet a dog that is in someone else's car or truck.

**Dogs are wonderful companions and respond well to consistent training and leadership. By acting responsibly with your dog, you not only reduce the number of dog bites but also enhance the relationship you have with your canine companion.**

### **Note to Parents:**

Since dogs are such an important part of many kids' lives, Bark Busters Home Dog Training believes every child should be educated about dog safety. Our Bark & Buster Buddy Dog Safety Program™ is designed to help kids stay safe using fun games and activities to teach them to make the right choices around familiar and unfamiliar dogs. For more information about dog safety with kids, visit

[BarkBustersBuddy.org](http://BarkBustersBuddy.org) or call Bark Busters at 877.500.2275.

This information is brought to you as a public service by Bark Busters Home Dog Training—the world's largest, most trusted dog training company. Bark Busters is the only international dog training company that offers guaranteed lifetime support. Find more information by contacting your local dog behavioral therapist at 1-877-500-BARK(2275) or by visiting [www.BarkBusters.com](http://www.BarkBusters.com).

