

## If YOU are the Bite Victim.

**If your own dog bites you**, restrain and confine your dog. Treat your wounds then call your veterinarian to check your dog's vaccination records

**If someone else's dog bites you**, collect the owner's name, address, and phone number. Next contact authorities and provide details on the dog. Be sure to note the dogs color and size, where the incident occurred, and if you have seen it before. These details will be important for helping animal control officers locate the dog. Then treat the wound. An easy way to remember what to do is by remembering the word **ACT!**

**A:** Acquire the owner's information

**C:** Contact local authorities

**T:** Treat the wound

## Dogs Make Great Companions!

Dogs make great companions. Being a responsible pet owner can reduce the likelihood that your dog will bite someone, and enhance the relationship you have with your dog.



## Who We Are

### About Us

Canton City Public Health works to improve the health of the local community by providing comprehensive services utilizing a well-trained and qualified staff.

### This Program is Offered by:

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# Dog Bite Prevention

*What you need to know to protect yourself, your family, and your pets!*





## Who Let the Dog Bite?

Even the cutest, softest, sweetest dog can bite. Most people who get bit are bitten by their own dog or a dog they know. Whether a nip, a bite or an actual attack, dog bites are a very serious problem. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, more than 4.5 million people in the United States are bitten by dogs each year. Countless more bites go unreported and untreated. Fortunately, there are steps we can take to address this problem.

## Who is Being Bitten?



Of the millions of people who are bitten by dogs each year, over half are children. Children are by far the most common victims of dog bites and are far more likely to be

severely injured. Dog bites that affect young children usually occur during everyday activities while interacting with the family dog or familiar dogs.

## What's a Dog Owner to Do?

**Choose your pet carefully.** If you have children, keep their age in mind. Do some research on traits of different dog breeds. Talk to your veterinarian. They are a good source of information on behavior and suitability.

**Socialize your pet!** Dogs are social animals, therefore exposure to other dogs and animals as well as people is important. Socialize your pet as a puppy so it feels at ease around new people, new animals, and in new situations. Continue this exposure on a regular basis as it gets older.

**Spend time with your dog.** This allows your dog to get to know you and learn to trust you.

**Train your dog.** The simple commands of “sit”, “stay”, “no”, and “come”, incorporated into fun activities, can build a bond of obedience and trust between pets and people. House, crate, and leash training are also important steps in obedience training.

**Keep your dog healthy.** Have your dog vaccinated for rabies and preventable infectious diseases. Treat for parasites. Maintain a healthy diet and make sure your dog gets regular exercise. Get your dog neutered. Neutered dogs are less likely to be aggressive.

**Be aware!** Know your dog. You may naturally recognize when your dog is sick or injured, but also watch for signs that your dog may be feeling uncomfortable or aggressive. Do not put your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.

## Prevention Starts at Home!

You and your family can avoid bite incidents by being cautious around strange dogs and treating your own pet with respect. Since children are the most frequent victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:

- **NEVER** leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.

- Teach children **NOT** to approach strange, injured, or sick dogs.
- Teach children **NOT** to approach a dog that is eating, sleeping, or nursing puppies.
- Do **NOT** run past a dog. Dogs love to chase things. Don't give them a reason to.
- Teach children to **ASK** permission from a dog's owner before petting them.
- If you are threatened by a dog, stay calm. **DO NOT** scream.

## What If My Dog Bites?



Even if a dog bite can be explained, it is important to take responsibility for your dog's actions by

following these steps:

**Restrain your dog immediately.** Separate your animal from the scene of the bite and confine it in a safe place.

**Check on the bite victim's condition.** Wash wounds with soap and water and encourage them to seek professional medical care. Call 911 if emergency help is needed.

**Provide important information.** Provide the bite victim with your name, address, phone number, and information about your dog's most recent rabies vaccination. If your dog does not have a current vaccination, it may be necessary to have it quarantined or euthanized for rabies testing.

**Obey local laws** regarding the reporting of dog bites.

**Consult your veterinarian** for advice about dog behavior that will help prevent similar incidents in the future.