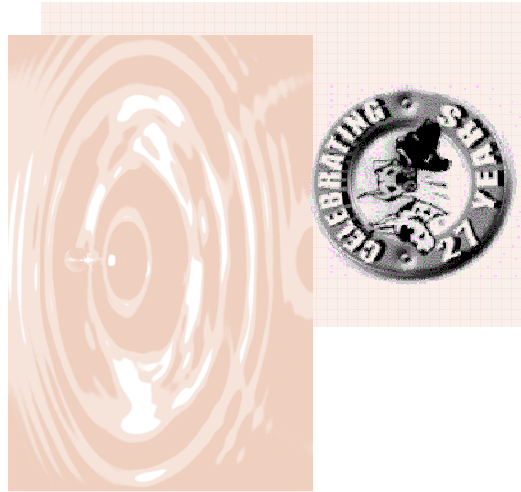


*Mid-Atlantic
Great Dane
Rescue League*

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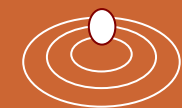


**Mid-Atlantic Great
Dane Rescue League**

**TIPS TO
PREVENT
DOG
BITES**

See us online at: www.magdrl.org

FACTS ABOUT DOG BITES



Remember “THE WIZARD of OZ?” It begins with Dorothy running away from home because her beloved dog Toto bit a neighbor. Toto was going to be destroyed because of the bite.....

There are approximately 4.5 million reported dog bites annually in the United States, but the majority of dog bites are never reported to local authorities.

According to the American Medical Association, dog bites are the second leading cause of childhood injury, surpassing playground accidents.

DOG BITES CAN RESULT IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LIABILITY FOR OWNERS

Many home insurance companies will not insure owners of certain dog breeds or dogs with a bite history. Over the past 15 years, more than half the states have passed laws with stiff penalties for owners of dogs who cause serious injury or death.

The Insurance Information Institute estimates that insurance companies pay roughly \$345.5 million in dog bite liability claims. It's a liability that most companies are unwilling to accept.

A GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the law, guardians can be held liable for their dogs' actions—including bites. You can reduce the likelihood of your dog biting someone by taking proactive measures:

Socialize and positively train your dog. Most dogs can be socialized to not be aggressive;

Do not let your dog run loose. Provide a fenced yard and leash your dog when off your property. Do not allow young children to walk dogs that they cannot control.

Teach children to observe the simple rules of safe and considerate behavior around dogs. In particular, teasing, chasing and yelling should be discouraged. Your dog may tolerate it, but others may not.

HINTS AND TIPS TO TEACH CHILDREN:

- 🐾 Recognize a dog's warning signs: barking, growling, snarling with teeth showing, ears flat, tail up, legs stiff, hair standing on dog's back.
- 🐾 Never stare a dog in the eyes.
- 🐾 Dogs do not like to be teased and may bite in self-defense.
- 🐾 Never turn and run away from a dog.
- 🐾 Never try to hug or kiss a strange dog.
- 🐾 Stay away from chained dogs and those behind fences.
- 🐾 Do not shout, run around or stick hands at dogs through fences or open car windows.
- 🐾 Never approach a strange dog without the owner's permission.
- 🐾 Never disturb a dog while it is sleeping or eating.
- 🐾 Never grab bones, balls, or other pet toys from a dog.
- 🐾 Never stick your hand into a dog fight. Get an adult to help.
- 🐾 Do not play aggressive games with a dog (wrestling, tug of war, chase.)
- 🐾 If a child is threatened or bitten, tell them to remember what the dog looked like and where it went.

REASONS DOGS MAY BITE:

Most children's dog bite injuries occur during play with a dog they know. A dog that is excited or nervous can bite by mistake.

Children should be taught never to play fight, tease, yell at, or chase dogs or other animals. Dog owners should never teach their dogs that biting is an acceptable form of play.

Cornering, crowding or standing over a dog may make it feel defensive. Children should stand back and never put their faces close to a dog. The face is the most common site of serious dog bite injuries.

REGARDLESS OF SIZE OR BREED, ALL DOGS CAN BITE IF PROVOKED.

There is no such thing as a good or bad breed of dog. All dogs can bite if provoked.

Carefully consider your pet selection. Consult your veterinarian for advice. Dog breeds with a history of aggression are inappropriate in households with children.

Dogs living with or around children need to be able to tolerate a degree of rough treatment without resorting to biting. Choose your dog carefully and discourage play-biting by puppies to avoid problems later.

NEVER leave infants or toddlers alone with a dog.

Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and other common diseases. Be alert to signs that your dog is uncomfortable, in pain, or feeling aggressive.

Socialize your dog so that it feels at ease around strangers and other animals. Positively train your dog to respond to the basic commands. Don't put your dog in a position where it feels threatened.

Stray dogs may be dangerous. Any dog that is loose may be lost, frightened or injured—and more likely to bite. Call your local Animal Control office to report all strays.

Sick or injured dogs may be frightened or irritable, and should be avoided by children. Elderly dogs may have impaired vision or hearing, or more sensitive to touch which can cause them to be more easily startled.

Please share the enclosed Humane Society Bite Prevention coloring page with your children.

