

PET SAFETY: A Guide to Dog Bite Prevention



Dogs can be friendly and loyal companions, but they are still animals that can bite.

Each year in the United States there are 4.5 million dog bites, and 800,000 of them require medical attention.

Nearly half of dog bites occur in children between the ages of 5 and 9.

Here are important tips for adults and children to reduce the risk of being bitten.



If a dog is leashed:

- Ask the owner if it is OK to pet the dog.
- Let the dog sniff your hand.
- Pet the dog starting from the top of the back to the bottom.



If a dog is unleashed:

- Do not approach, even if the owner is with the dog.
- Remain calm.
- Slowly back away from the dog.
- Immediately let an adult know.



If you are being chased by a dog:

- Stand still like a tree.
- Stare at the ground.
- Do not make sudden movements.



If you are being attacked by a dog:

- Curl up into a ball with your face down to the ground.
- Cover your neck with your hands.

Remember: Never grab or pull a dog's tail or ears!
This can startle or hurt the dog and make them more likely to bite.

**For more information about dog bite prevention,
call 808-983-6800.**

**HAWAII'
PACIFIC
HEALTH**

**KAPI'OLANI
MEDICAL CENTER**
FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



1319 Punahou Street | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826
T 808-983-8681 | Kapiolani.org