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SOUTHERN NEVADA

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# Fact Sheet

## Dog Bite Prevention for Kids

### Dog bites and children

- 50% of dog attacks involved children under 12 years old
- 82% of dog bites treated in the emergency room involved children under 15 years old
- 70% of dog-bite fatalities occurred among children under 10 years old
- Bite rates are dramatically higher among children who are 5 to 9 years old
- Unsupervised newborns were 370 times more likely than an adult to be killed by a dog
- 65% of bites among children occur to the head and neck
- Boys under the age of 15 years old are bitten more often than girls of the same age

### What can parents do?

#### Educate your children.

- Studies have found that the number one dog-bite prevention measure is education. Children who understand how to act around dogs, how to play with dogs, when to leave dogs alone and how to properly meet a dog are much less likely to be bitten. To address this need, American Humane has created American Humane KIDS: Kids Interacting with Dogs Safely™, a dog-bite prevention program specifically for children ages 4 to 7.

#### Supervise your children.

- Unsupervised children may innocently wander too close to a dangerous situation. Eighty-eight percent of fatal dog attacks among 2-year-olds occurred when the child was left unsupervised.<sup>4</sup> Supervision of children, especially around dogs, is one way to help ensure they are safe.

#### Don't treat a dog unkindly.

- Never hit, kick, slap or bite a dog or pull on his ears, tail or paws.

#### Don't bother a dog when she is busy.

- Never bother dogs with puppies or dogs that are playing with or guarding toys, eating or sleeping. Always leave service dogs alone while they are working.

#### Don't approach a dog you don't know.

- Never approach a dog that is tied up, behind a fence or in a car.
- If you find an injured animal, call the police or animal control for help.
- If you want to meet a dog, first ask the owner for permission. If the owner says it's OK, hold out your hand in a fist for the dog to sniff. If he's interested, you can give him a little scratch under the chin (not over the head) and say hello.

#### Do be calm.

- Always talk in a quiet voice or whisper -- no shouting -- and take a "time out" if you feel angry or frustrated.

#### Do be still.

- If a loose dog approaches you, stand still like a tree. Keep your hands at your sides, and stay quiet and calm. Look away from the dog.
- If you are on the ground, curl up into a ball, like a rock. Keep your knees to your chest and your hands over your ears. Stay quiet and calm. Look down at your knees, not at the dog.
- Always make slow movements, set things down carefully and don't run when you're around dogs, as this gets them excited and they may accidentally hurt you.