

AVOID THE BITE DO IT RIGHT

According to the American Medical Veterinary Association (AMVA), most dog bites are preventable and yet more than **4.5 million** people are bitten each year. Children are the most common victims and are far more likely to be severely injured.

Any dog can bite – even yours.

Tips to Prevent Dog Bites

- 🔑 **Be a responsible dog owner.** Socialization with people and animals, training, and regular exercise build a foundation for dog bite prevention. **STAYING CONSISTENT IS KEY!**
- 🔑 **Always use a leash in public.**
- 🔑 **Never leave a child unattended with a dog.** Don't let a child ride or sit on a dog.
- 🔑 **Avoid risky situations.** Don't try petting a dog if the dog is sick or injured, growling or barking, a stray, on the other side of a fence, sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- 🔑 **Always ask permission** to approach, pet, or touch someone else's dog.
- 🔑 **Do not** run toward, bark at, or growl at a dog.
- 🔑 **Stay calm**, don't run, keep both hands at your sides, and avoid eye contact when approached by a strange dog.
- 🔑 **Educate** yourself and your family on dog behavior.



DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK 🐕 **SECOND FULL WEEK OF APRIL**

Learn more about preventing rabies at scdhec.gov/rabieseducation

