



Here are some tips to prevent dog bites from occurring.

Never leave children alone with pets. Younger children need more adult supervision. Most children are bitten when an adult is not around! Teach children to **NEVER** go into a dog's kennel or crate! Do not disturb a dog while it is sleeping.

Teach children to be gentle around pets.

Never tease or provoke a dog by:

- taking away their toys or treats
- pretending to hit, kick or make sudden movements around the dog
- pulling the dog's ears or tail, or attempting to ride the dog
- poking the dog
- staring the dog in the face
- hugging the dog around the neck
- yelling at the dog

Leave dogs alone when they are:

- eating
- playing with or chewing a toy
- sleeping
- caring for puppies

Make sure your yard is secure by ensuring that gates close and lock, the fence is in good repair, and high enough so that your dog(s) cannot escape.

Always keep your dog on a leash when you go out for a walk.

Be a Responsible Pet Owner by Doing the Following:

- Spay or neuter your pet dog
- Keep your pets rabies vaccinations up to date (current)
- Spend time with your dog as they are social animals
- Walk or exercise your dog on a regular basis



Regina
Humane
Society



Dogs are part of our daily lives and make wonderful pets. However, dogs can and do bite for many reasons. It is important to try and prevent bites before they happen.

According to the Canada Safety Council, children are the most common victims of dog bites and are more likely to be severely injured. The majority of these bites happen in and around the family home. Typically, the biting dog is a family pet or belongs to someone the family knows.

In the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region 400 to 500 bites are reported each year by Emergency Department and community doctors. The vast majority of animal bites (70 to 75%) are caused by dogs! Most bites occur during warmer months.

Be  Dog  Smart

 Regina Qu'Appelle
HEALTH REGION

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What to do if my Pet Dog Bites Someone.

Take responsibility for your pet dog's actions, even if the bite was provoked (e.g. victim hit the dog with a stick).

Do not destroy (euthanize) the animal. Speak with a public health official if your dog has been involved in a biting incident. If you have not heard from a public health inspector within 24 hours, call the Environmental Health Department to report the incident at (306) 766-7755.

Tell the victim to thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water.

It is **very important** that you provide your **name, address, telephone number, and the rabies vaccination status of your pet** so that a rabies follow up investigation can be carried out. This is done to ensure that the dog did not have rabies at the time of the biting incident.

The victim should see a health care provider to receive treatment and report the incident to the Environmental Health Department for follow up.

If rabies is suspected, the rabies vaccine is given to the victim. Rabies vaccines are very effective and relatively painless. This is rarely necessary as the risk of rabies is very low.

How to Act Around Dogs You Do not Know

Never approach a strange dog that is not with its owner, even if it looks friendly!

Never:

- pet a dog that is not with the owner
- pet a dog before asking the owner
- pet a dog that is tied up, behind a fence, or in a vehicle
- run past or ride a bike close to a dog, even if it is on a leash

Report stray dogs and dogs that continually get loose in the City of Regina to Regina Humane Society Animal Protection Services at (306) 777-7700, or contact the local animal control in your community. Visit the Regina Humane Society website at www.reginahumanesociety.ca.

How to Safely Pet a Dog

Only pet a dog when it is with the owner.

Before petting the dog, always ask the owner if it is **okay**.

After the owner says it's **okay** to pet the dog, slowly show the dog your fist and let it sniff the back of your hand.

When the dog has finished sniffing your hand, slowly pet the dog under the chin or on the side of the neck.

How to Act When You are Approached by an Aggressive Dog

Remain calm. Do not yell or scream. Do Not run away or hit the dog as it may think you want to play or chase you. **Do not** stare at the dog. Try to avoid eye contact.

Slowly back away from the dog. If this does not work remain calm and **"Be a Tree"**

- stand still, and
- place your hands low and hold them together in front of your body.

If you are knocked to the ground, cover your head and neck with your hands and roll into a ball by bringing your knees to your chest. Look at your knees and not the dog.

What to do if You are Bitten by a Dog

First, thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water.

It is **very important** that you get the animal owner's **name, address, telephone number, and the rabies vaccination status of the biting dog** so that a rabies follow up investigation can be carried out. This is done to ensure that the dog did not have rabies at the time of the biting incident.

See a health care provider who provides treatment and report the incident to the Environmental Health Department for follow up.

If rabies is suspected, the rabies vaccine will be given to the victim. Rabies vaccines are very effective and relatively painless. This is rarely necessary as the risk of rabies is very low.

For more information call the Environmental Health Department at:

Regina (306) 766-7755 Fort Qu'Appelle (306) 655-4015 Indian Head (306) 695-4016

Visit the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region website at www.rqhealth.ca/bedogsmart