**Dog Bite Prevention**

Dogs can be great companions but even a gentle one will bite at times. According to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation:

- 4.5 million people are bitten in the United States every year.
- Children are the most common victims of dog bites.
- Most bites come from a dog that the victim knows (or a dog that the victim is familiar with).
- 1 in 5 bites need medical attention

Here are some tips to keep you and your little ones safe around dogs.

**General Public Do’s and Don’ts**
- **Do** ask for permission before touching someone’s dog.
- **Do** allow a dog to smell you before touching and stay still when a dog smells you.
- **Do** teach kids not to pull dog’s ears and tail.
- **Do** curl into a ball if you are knocked over by a dog and cover your face and neck with your hands.
- **Don’t** bother a dog if it is sleeping, eating or caring for its puppies.
- **Don’t** reach through a fence to pet a dog.

**Dog Owner Do’s and Don’ts**
- **Do** socialize your dog.
- **Do** keep your dog’s shots up to date.
- **Do** obey leash laws and train your dog to sit and stay.
- **Don’t** leave dogs and child(ren) alone together especially if the child(ren) are under the age of 10.
- **Don’t** let children take the dog’s toys.
- **Don’t** run past a dog.
- **Don’t** let dogs near your face.

**What to do in case of a dog bite**
- Restrain the dog(s).
- Check on the person bitten. Call 911 if needed.
- Be able to provide current shot record if the dog is yours. If the dog does not belong to you, look for tags or the owner to find shot record.
- Obey local laws regarding dog ownership.
- Call your vet.

Source:
1. American Veterinary Medical Foundation