

Shenandoah County
Animal Shelter

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DOG BITE PREVENTION

Think this picture is cute?

Look closely.



Each year more than 4.5 million people in the United States are bitten by dogs. More than 800,000 receive medical attention for those bites – at least half of them are children.

Most dog bites affecting young children occur during everyday activities and while interacting with familiar dogs. Learn how to keep your family safe!

Strays & Unfamiliar Dogs

- Never approach a stray dog!
- Avoid direct eye contact.
- Never put a stray in your car – **Call Animal Control 540-459-6101**
- Do not run past a dog and do not ride your bike or rollerblade close to a dog – dogs naturally love to chase.
- If threatened by a dog, *remain calm*. Do not scream. Do not run. Avoid eye contact. Stay still or back away slowly.
- Always ask an owner if you may pet their dog before doing so.
- Remember that one dog wagging its tail might mean that the animal is happy. The same gesture by another dog may mean that it is anxious or nervous.

Family Dogs

- Do not play aggressive games (like wrestling or tug-of-war) with your dog.
- Never allow children to rough house with the family dog. Always supervise them. Dogs cannot vocalize when they have had enough!
- Do not disturb a dog that is eating, sleeping, or caring for puppies.

