



Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust

INJURY PREVENTION

# Quick Review of Safety

## Dog Bite Prevention

### WHEN SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS

- Inquire as to whether an individual has dogs.
- If there is a pet, ask the owner to secure the dog regardless of how friendly the owner says the dog is.

### BEFORE EXITING VEHICLE

- Check for dogs outside of the home or nearby.
- Look for food bowls, dog houses, worn paths in the grass, feces, toys or other indications of a dog.
- If signs indicate dogs may be present, whistle or call out for the dog to draw the animal out.
- Carry a soft object that can be used as a shield between yourself and the dog.

### ONCE A DOG HAS BEEN OBSERVED

- Determine if the dog is safely secured. Beware short fences, and long leashes or chains.
- Observe the dog for signs of aggressive behavior including head/tail up, ears erect, lips puckered, tense body, staring with direct eye contact, hair standing up on the back or growling.
- If signs of aggressive behavior are identified:
  - Do not make eye contact or turn your back on the dog. Slowly back away turning your side to the dog.
  - If the dog approaches, stop and wait, and then slowly start to retreat again.
  - Keep a soft object at waist level between yourself and the dog.
  - Call the owner to restrain the dog.
  - If no signs of aggressive behavior are identified keep plenty of space between yourself and the dog, and monitor the dog closely should the behavior change. (Over)



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**IF ATTACKED**

With a soft object:

- Present the soft object for the dog to grab.
- Shake and pull the object while the dog attacks and back away.
- Let the dog have the object when you enter the vehicle.

Without a soft object:

- Stand quietly, and do not attempt to fight. This will likely provoke the dog to continue to attack.
- Place your hands in fists around your head and neck for protection, turn your side to the dog and slowly back away to safety.

If knocked down:

- Lie prone in the fetal position and remain quiet with hands and fists around the head and neck.
- Wait until the dog leaves or you are rescued.

**IF BITTEN**

- As soon as you are able, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
- Seek medical attention if necessary, if the bite is deep or if the dog was acting strangely.
- Report the incident to your supervisor and fill out any applicable forms.

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