

Avoiding Dog Bites

More than 800,000 Americans receive medical attention for dog bites each year. Seventy-eight percent of animal-caused injuries to parcel delivery drivers are puncture wounds. These can be life-threatening injuries. Infections, blood loss, permanent nerve damage, rabies, and other secondary complications can come from this type of injury.

Think only certain dog breeds bite? Think again. All dogs are capable of biting. Learn how to prevent this from happening.

Know why dogs bite

- To defend their space or something they are protecting.
- If they are afraid or startled.
- When they feel threatened.

Signs that a dog is aggressive

- Yawning, lip licking, or panting shows the animal is nervous.
- Flattening ears, tucking the tail, eyeing you, or crouching means the dog should be left alone.
- Growling or bearing teeth is the last warning before a potential bite.

How to avoid a dog bite

- Remain calm
- Avoid direct eye contact with the dog.
- Say "NO!" in a loud and deep voice.
- Don't approach loose dogs.
- Never assume a dog is secure behind a fence or door.
- Plan your path of escape before you need one.

What to do during an attack

- Fight back by hitting the dog on the nose, throat, or back of the head.
- Call out for help.
- Make hands into fists to protect the fingers.
- Use your body weight to press the dog into the ground.
- Immobilize the dog's head to avoid the mouth and teeth.
- Let the dog run away if it's scared.
- If you are knocked down, curl up in a ball to protect your face, neck, and head.

What to do if bitten

- Wash your wound with soap and water, and bandage it.
- See a doctor. Even if the attack results in a small scratch or no mark at all, it's important to remember that animals can have deadly bacteria or possibly rabies, which can quickly lead to an infection or fatal consequences.

Remember to keep vigilant during deliveries. Make sure you don't become another statistic.



The above evaluations and/or recommendations are for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for medical advice or legal compliance purposes. They are based solely on the information provided to us and relate only to those conditions specifically discussed. We do not make any warranty, expressed or implied, that your workplace is safe or healthful or that it complies with all laws, regulations or standards. For more information, visit: www.SafeAtWorkCA.com