

# HOME MATTERS: PREVENTING DOG BITES



**A dog may be considered man's best friend, but unfortunately, dog bites can still happen. Bites from a friend or stranger's dog can be a traumatic experience and lead to painful injuries, whereas instances in which your dog bites others can lead to costly and complicated liability concerns.**

**Review the following guidance to lower your risk of getting bitten by a dog, as well as how to keep your pet from biting others.**

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## **How to Avoid Getting Bit by a Dog**

- Never pet dogs without allowing them to smell you first.
- Do not approach a dog that you do not know.
- Do not turn your back to a dog and start to run away if you feel threatened, because their natural instinct is to chase and catch you.
- Avoid disturbing a sleeping or eating dog, as it may bite out of fear.
- Always leave dogs alone if they are playing with toys or caring for their puppies.

## **How to Keep Your Dog from Biting Others**

- Introduce your dog to various situations and people so that it will not be nervous in new social circumstances.
- Teach your dog to act properly at all times. When the dog exhibits signs of aggression, even in a playful manner, put a stop to it.
- Do not bring your dog into social situations if you are unsure how it will react.
- Spay or neuter your dog to reduce its desire to roam and become aggressive with other dogs and humans.
- Secure adequate personal liability coverage to ensure proper protection in the event that your dog bites someone.

## **When a Dog Tries to Bite**

If you are in a situation where you feel threatened by a dog, do not run away. Instead, avoid looking the dog in the eye and remain motionless with your hands at your sides. When the dog loses interest in what you are doing, slowly back away. If a dog tries to bite you, place an object between yourself and the dog, such as a jacket or purse. If the dog forces you to the ground, curl up into a ball and cover your ears with your hands until someone comes to assist you. For more personal risk management guidance and homeowners insurance solutions, contact us today.