

## How to tell when a dog might bite

\* The dog may stand stiff and still, maybe with its hair up. \* It may stare at you. \* The dog may hold its tail stiff ( a friendly dog will wag its tail ). \* It may growl, snarl, show its teeth or bark. \* Some dogs may not give any signs—when in doubt, be careful.

Spay or neuter your dog. It will reduce aggression, the need to roam and other behavioral problems as well as decreasing the over population problem.

Information provided by:  
The Humane Society of the  
United States.

Danbury Hospital Trauma Service



The best prevention is to have a good understanding of dog behavior.

## Preventing Dog Bites

Every dog has the capacity to bite. Everyone, particularly children, should learn some basics about dog behavior and safety around dogs.

Danbury Hospital Trauma Service

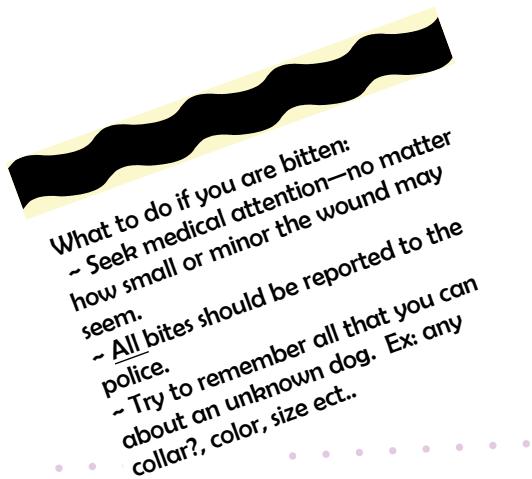
The mission of Danbury Health Systems is to advance the health and well-being of the people in the community.

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Always ask permission to pet a dog!

## ► Why dogs bite.

1. When they feel threatened and, sometimes, when they are afraid.
2. When they are protecting their territory, food, toys, family and pups.
3. When they are excited, even in play.
4. When they don't know you.
5. When their "chase response" is triggered.
6. When they have been bred or trained to be aggressive.
7. When they are in pain or irritated.



### Do's & Don'ts around dogs:

- If owner says it is OK to pet a dog—do so slowly and gently. Stand quietly and still. Let the dog sniff the back of your hand with your fingers curled into palm.
- Never sneak up behind or startle a dog without letting him see you.
- Don't make fast, jerky movements, especially around a dog's head.
- Never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating or taking care of puppies.
- Don't pick up or handle a dog that has been injured without taking precautions. Move slowly, and get help moving the animal.
- Never "sic" a dog on anyone (even in play) this teaches the dog that it is OK to attack.
- Always assume that a strange dog sees you as an intruder or a threat.
- Use common sense and caution around any dog.



Be a responsible dog owner—know your own animal.

What to do if you are threatened by a dog:

1. Stand very still and try to stay calm. Don't scream and run.
2. Be aware of where the dog is. Don't ever turn your back to it or stare at it in the eyes.
3. If a dog comes up to sniff you allow it, most dogs will go away when it decides you are not a threat.
4. If you say anything, speak calmly and slowly.
5. Try to stay still until the dog leaves, then back away slowly.
6. If you are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over head and neck.
7. If you are attacked try to give the dog something else to chew—purse, jacket ect.



Dogs should be securely fenced or walked on a leash.

